



RIVER CAMP – Glen

Every picture tells a story

This one which hangs at San Michel was painted by an aboriginal resident as a gift for the house. The picture tells the story of people who came to the river for water. They gathered around the campfire in the riverbed. The river is a gathering point where people find water and share their stories. It flows across the whole scene and the centre is the fire. Red represents the sand, blue the water and yellow the fire. The land is represented by the ochre areas etched with the tracks of people coming and going. San Michel is such a place for rest, refreshment, life and friendship. Red, black and yellow are the aboriginal colours of the land, the people and the sun.

Aboriginal HIV up...

HIV infection rates among aboriginals in Australia are on the rise. A study of cases from 1992 to 1998 found 127 aboriginals with HIV and 55 with AIDS. HIV increased among aborigines from 3.67 per 100,000 in 1992 to 6.06 in 1998. During the same time, the infection rate for all other Australians fell from 7.12 to 5.51. Source:Herald Sun, March 20, 2000.



Breaking down the barriers!

Meet Sen.Constable Melinda Edwards, Melbourne's police gay and lesbian liaison officer. Very much the operational police officer, Melinda has been a policewoman since '88. She's served at many metropolitan stations as well as with the crime department at both the Drug Squad and the Surveillance Unit. Her new job as Gay & Lesbian Liaison Officer is to liaise with the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community to ensure they receive an equitable police service and to provide a direct link between them and the Victoria Police. She says:

"Historically, police have been seen as a threat to the gay and lesbian and transgender community and my role is to give them the opportunity to report crime and have the matter investigated without fear of mistreatment by police." Her phone number is 9247 6944.

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A REQUEST

We invite those who receive The Red Ribbon in schools to pass this newsletter on to the SRC President, the Personal Development/Religious Education Co-ordinator and others within the school community.

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*"As long as AIDS exists somewhere in the world, it affects all of us."
(United Nations Program on AIDS chief Peter Piot, Herald Sun, 27th January 1997)*