

15/6/21

Dear Liwara Catholic Primary School,

Thank you for your supportive letters, they were thoughtful, kind & epic! Thank you also for the effort of your time writing the letters and donations of money. We really appreciate you guys going without technology and power to stand in our shoes.

We had no power for two weeks at the minimum, some people had no power for three weeks. We used generators, torches, candles, kettles on the gas stoves to heat water and lots of cold showers!

Some people lost their houses, like our English teacher. Most of us lost our fences, sheds, had holes in our roofs and lots of big trees and power poles were down, leaving live wires. The actual Cyclone Seroja night was extremely windy 220km/hr, it was loud, wet, and terrifying! You could hear tin getting ripped off roofs and folding backwards and forwards throughout the storm. You could hear glass shattering and to make it worse the power went out so we were in the dark. Our families were hiding in the hall way, toilet, lounge room, bedrooms and bathrooms in their bath with a mattress over the top of them. Some people had to move from room to room as the windows imploded or roof collapsed. It lasted for about an hour, if it went for longer there would have been lots more damage, we are so lucky no one was seriously injured or worse. Some of us are still not back in our houses and because there is no accommodation for trades people to fix things, we may not be re-built for another year.

The next day, there was debris everywhere; tin, bricks, plaster, metal and insulation batts were spread all over town like fairy floss. There was a king wave that rose 7m and wiped out the beaches, carparks, jetties, hotels and smashed cars and one landed in a tree. It flooded the Marine Rescue building. The army came and helped us clean up and we all helped each other. There was a van that gave us free food for breakfast, lunch & dinner which was really helpful to lots of people who had no house. There was food bank which gave us boxes of supplies.

We had to go to school at the town hall for the first two weeks but we are back to our normal routine. It has left lots of us a bit traumatised and sad but, we are all going OK now. We learnt from Seroja, that if someone needs help, that people are really caring and supportive of each other and look after each other in our small community in rough times.

Thanks again for your thoughts and care, much appreciated.

Regards,

Year 7 Kalbarri DHS