



DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK  
GIRL ACADEMY

TERM 3 2023

ISSUE NO. 21



## IN THIS ISSUE

**“Cooee”**  
**Arts & Hospitality**  
**Open Day**



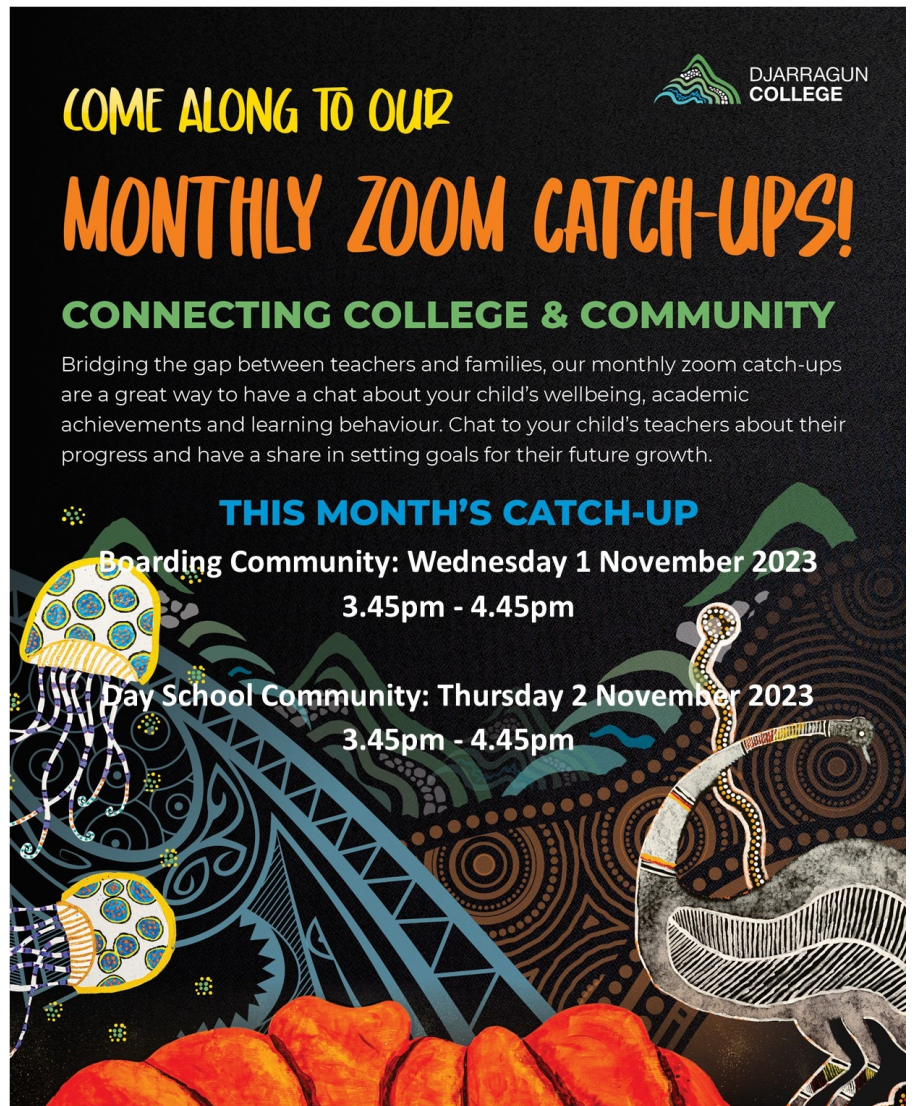



The College is committed to ensuring our students' education journey is a shared experience.

We welcome our day and boarding communities to join the 'Connecting College & Community' meetings; these are ongoing monthly face-to-face Zoom meetings (online).

The aim is for our day students' parents, boarding parents, families and communities to be able to have a chat with the College about their child/children.

Our Head of Campus, Community Liaison Officer, Deputy Head of Campus (Teaching and Learning) and Deputy Head of Campus (Student Services) will join the conversations.



 DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

# COME ALONG TO OUR MONTHLY ZOOM CATCH-UPS!

## CONNECTING COLLEGE & COMMUNITY

Bridging the gap between teachers and families, our monthly zoom catch-ups are a great way to have a chat about your child's wellbeing, academic achievements and learning behaviour. Chat to your child's teachers about their progress and have a share in setting goals for their future growth.

### THIS MONTH'S CATCH-UP

**Boarding Community: Wednesday 1 November 2023**  
3.45pm - 4.45pm

**Day School Community: Thursday 2 November 2023**  
3.45pm - 4.45pm

Our next meeting will be:

- **Boarding Communities: Wednesday 1 November 3.45pm - 4.45pm**
- **Day School Communities: Thursday 2 November 3.45pm - 4.45pm**

For our boarding families, the College kindly thanks the following schools, who have provided a space for these online meetings: Aurukun, Ti-Tree, Willowra and Minyerri (on Wednesday).

We would like to warmly welcome our day school families to attend the College in person (on Thursday).

**Both** of these meetings will be available to join online. If you have an internet connection at home and want us to send you the meeting link to join us online, please get in touch with the College T: 07 4043 3777 or [admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au).

# DJARRAGUN COLLEGE NEWS



**DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE**





# GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

As we approach the close of another term at Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy, it is the perfect time to pause, reflect and celebrate the tremendous achievements of our students. This term has been a testament to the dedication, passion, and resilience that our students possess, and their accomplishments hold special significance for our entire community.

Every achievement, whether big or small, is a step forward in a student's journey. From academic achievements in challenging subjects to successes in the arts, sports, and cultural activities, our students have shown that with commitment and the right support, anything is possible. The progress they have made not only boosts their confidence but also sets a benchmark for what can be achieved in the future. They are the role models for themselves, their families and their communities.

But beyond the individual accolades, these achievements tell a broader story. They underscore the strength of the Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy ethos, where every child is encouraged to aspire, believe, and succeed. As a community, it reminds us of the pivotal role that families, staff, and supporters play in nurturing the potential of every student.

Furthermore, the achievements of our students this term are a source of pride for the entire community.

Our students serve as an inspiration to their peers, a source of joy for their families, and a beacon of hope that illuminates the rich potential inherent in our next generation. The milestones reached by our students also strengthen the cultural ties and values that we hold dear, showcasing how tradition and modern education can come together in a harmonious blend.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, let us also take a moment to express our gratitude. To the staff who work tirelessly to impart knowledge and support our students in areas, to the parents who support their children's dreams, and to the students themselves, who continually rise to the challenge and make Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy places of excellence.

Let's head into the next term with the same passion and commitment, knowing that together, as a community, we can achieve great things. Here's to the stars of today, the leaders of tomorrow, and the bright future that lies ahead for Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy.



**Dr Michael Barton**  
Executive Principal



# GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

Dear Families and Communities,

Djarragun College recognises the importance of building strong relationships with local communities, parents, and educational stakeholders. Our NAIDOC Celebrations and Community Summit has been re-scheduled to occur on 13 – 14 November 2023. This date has been selected to coincide with Presentation Day on 15 November 2023, which provides a great opportunity for Summit participants to celebrate student achievement for 2023.

The purpose of the Community Summit is to engage with representatives from each of our students' home communities to contribute to discussion about identified topics to inform College planning and processes.

Two of the topics from key areas of the 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan, will be tabled at this year's Community Summit for consultation to inform planning.

1. Strengthen Community Engagement and Partnerships
  - *Community Engagement Plan*
2. Foster Cultural Understanding and Identity
  - *Indigenous language pilot program*
  - *Cultural Connection Advisory Committee composed of representatives from boarding students' home communities, boarding staff, and students to guide the development and implementation of cultural connection initiatives.*

For more information you can contact Allison Halliday, Community Liaison Officer on [allison.halliday@djarragun.qld.edu.au](mailto:allison.halliday@djarragun.qld.edu.au)

Partnering with Ngak Min Health, Djarragun College hosted a successful, productive visit by the local Family Responsibilities Commissioners (FRC) and Registry staff members in Term 3. It was a pleasure to meet Local Commissioners representing a diversity of Clan groups from Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge and Doomadgee.

I acknowledge and sincerely thank Charmaine Nicholls, Ngak Min Health General Manager, and her dedicated staff for conducting a tour of the Health Centre facility and information sessions about the therapeutic, medical and wellbeing service and supports they provide for our students. Djarragun College VET teachers, Bevan Singleton, Colleen Mene and Juliet Felix presented information about the Certificate III Construction, Certificate III Education Support and Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care courses. This was also an ideal opportunity to talk about the improving student attendance in class.



**Mrs Stephanie  
Savage**

Head of Campus - Gordonvale



# 'COOEE'

On Thursday 7th September, the whole College came together to enjoy Arts & Hospitality Day. This year, our Academy Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts student exhibition was aptly named Cooee, which means 'come here' in the Dharug language from the South Western areas of Sydney. And come here they did, we had many visitors to the school that morning, all coming to delight at the art works on display in our gallery. There was a wonderful atmosphere as visitors walked into the Hub; there really were some outstanding pieces of work on display, most of which were keenly sought after and sold that day. We have some amazing artists at Djarragun College, our students should be extremely proud of the work that they have produced this year.

We also have some incredible chefs! Our talented Academy Certificate II and Certificate III Hospitality students showcased their cooking skills this day by serving up some absolutely scrumptious platters of canapés to visitors and guests to the gallery. The food looked fantastic and received many well deserved compliments.

Meanwhile, our students from Prep to Year 12 were outside enjoying a range of activities from clay modelling with our guest ceramist, Linda Bates, to damper making, cupcake decorating, face painting, bead making, boomerang painting and mask painting. If students had any energy left after all that, there was a game of volleyball being held in the MPA! Thank you to all the staff who made this such a great day for our students.











# PRIMARY & SECONDARY NEWS



Ditto from Bravehearts visited our Year 1 and 2 students in August. He worked with the children to learn the 'Ditto's 3 Rules':

- We all have the right to feel safe with people.
- It's ok to say NO if you feel unsafe or unsure.
- Nothing is so yucky that you can't tell someone about it.



## Big Kids and Little Kids Together

Having little people on-site is really handy when studying how to work with little people. Our Certificate III in Early Childhood Education students have been working with our Year 1 and 2 students. The big kids get the experience and the little kids have one-on-one assistance sometimes. Everyone wins!



## The Great Outdoors

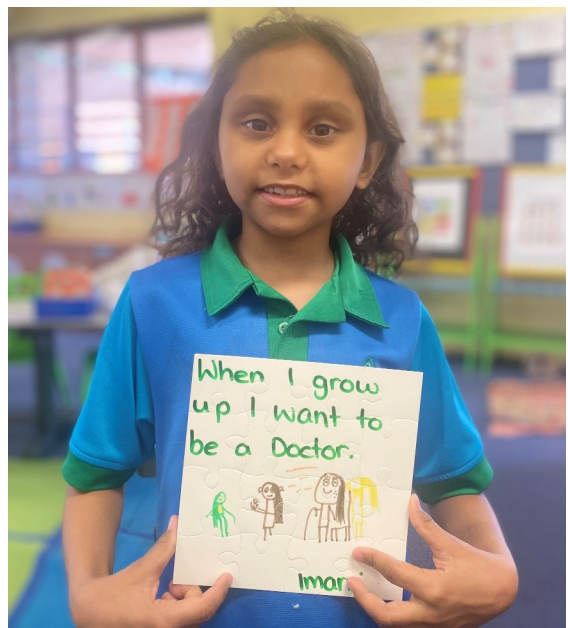
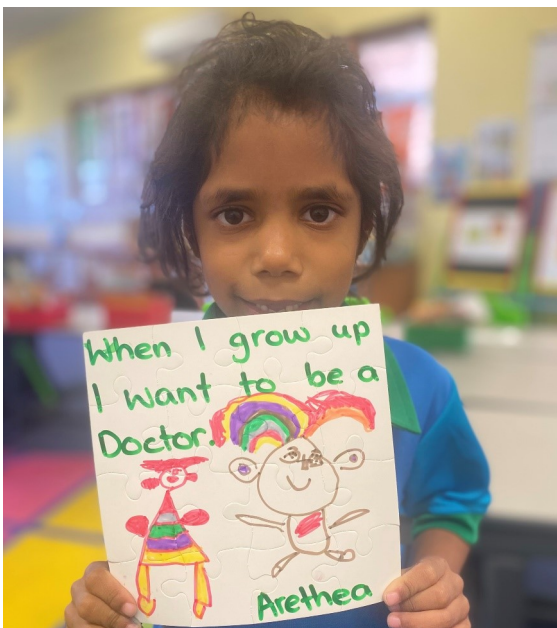
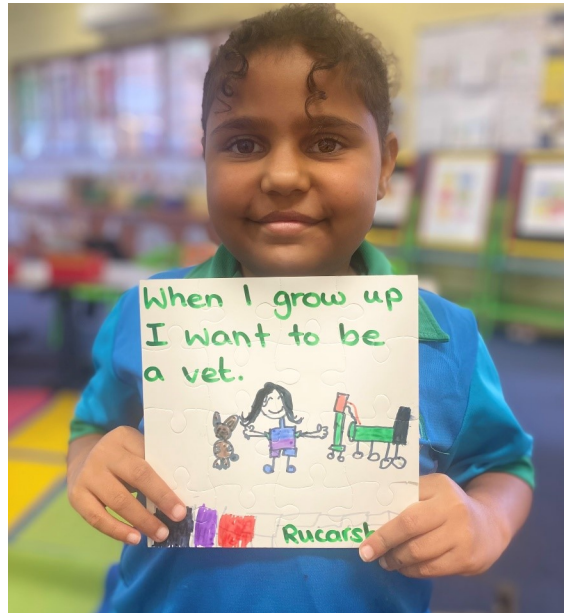
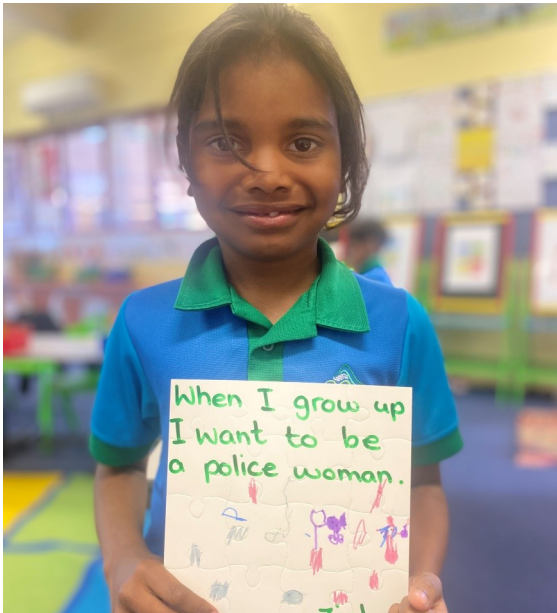
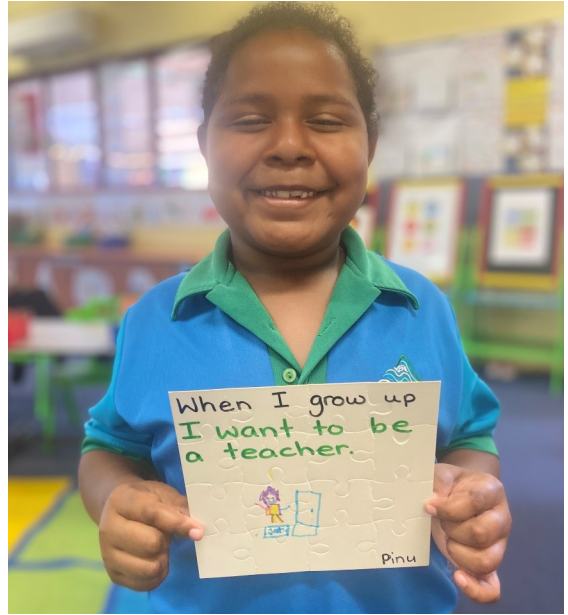
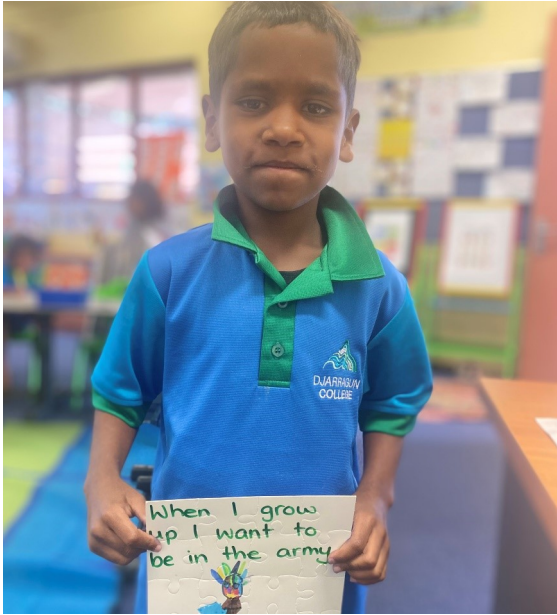
Our students have spent some quality learning time outdoors this term. We have sent students off site to visit the Rainforest Station to look at Biomes for Geography. We have participated in more NRL matches than I can count. Our AFL students haven't been far behind. The Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation students continue to venture into the Great Outdoors as they work towards achieving their Certificate II, with a number of students completing the course this term.

This is just a taste of what our students have been doing this term. We've also done surveys to inform learning on sustainability and famous speeches. We've learned fractions through cooking, we've trained in gyms around town. We've had students participate in Book Week during their work placements. We've had students doing work experience with the Hilton!

Term 3 has been a very busy one for the students of Djarragun College.

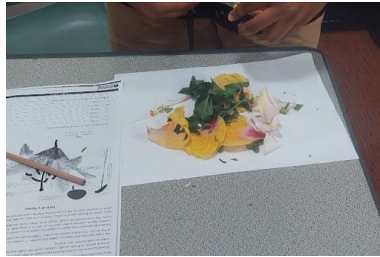


**Liz Thomas**  
Deputy Head of Campus  
(Teaching & Learning)





Middle school science students have been dissecting flowers as part of their biology lesson.



Our Year 9 students on an excursion to the Kuranda Rainforest Station as part of their Geography lesson.



Our Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation students on their excursion to Fitzroy Island, as part of the practical element to their course. It was a beautiful day. The experience for the students is priceless, as some have not been to the beach, let alone a beautiful tropical island.

Ms Elizabeth's Year 7-9 class have been learning about fractions and ratios in Mathematics. They enjoyed baking chocolate cake as they applied fractions in real life. They also used their knowledge of ratios to make cordial. These lessons combine food tech, mathematics and life skills.





On a very chilly day in Cairns, Ms Bettina's Year 7, 8, and 9 students warmed up by joining in with our senior Certificate III in Fitness students for their gym session



Getting fit for all their football games this term, our Certificate III in Fitness students got plenty of training in at the local gym in Edmonton, as well as using the gym at College.



Ms Juliet's Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care students got the chance to be the educators and taught Lower Primary students some basic football skills this term. Looks like everyone had some fun!



Our Lower and Middle Primary students got up to some more fun in their HPE lesson with Ms Kim.





This term has been action packed with sporting events.

The first half of the term allowed our athletes to showcase their incredible talent at Trinity South Coast (TCS) track and field trials, with five of our students qualifying to represent TCS and try out for the Peninsula team. Whilst our students just missed out on the qualifying times, it was a great privilege to be able to watch these students compete in their element.

The second half of Term 3 saw Mr Brodie take a number of our students to participate in Rugby League, with a Rugby 9s competition. A team from each of our year levels participated from Year 7 through to Year 10, coming up against a number of other schools in Cairns. Each year level did exceptionally well and played their hearts out.

Wes, from Aspire Hockey, has been out and about on the grounds of Djarragun taking our Primary students through the techniques of hockey. This is definitely a sport of choice for some of our students, with most loving the game.

Looking forward to next term and the sports we have coming up!



**Kimberley Tate**  
Sports Academy Teacher



# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS

A huge thanks to all the VET and Academy staff for their efforts this term. Term 3 is always the dreaded last minute push as we try our hardest to get all our Year 12 students near the finishing line of their certificates. It felt a lot longer than 8 weeks, but the work being completed by our students attending class has been very positive and we've seen many great results. I look forward to seeing more of the same in Term 4!

Week 6 saw us head off to the Cairns Youth and Career Expo, organised by the Business Liaison Association, at the Cairns showgrounds. The BLA is dedicated to advancing career opportunities and pathways for secondary school students.

At Djarragun we offer a large variety of VET (Vocational and Educational Training), our students have the opportunity to start working on their interest areas and qualifications while still at school. Some of the benefits of our VET program to our students include:

- The focus on practical skills. "Learning by Doing" is the core of Vocational Education Training.
- An education that prepares students for the global stage.

- Building better relationships with classmates and professors.
- Awakening passions.
- Adaptable Programs.
- VET trained students often find it easier to gain employment.

All 33 students asked plenty of questions, sought out the stands that interested them and represented our school well.

Term 3 finished well for our Certificate II and Certificate III Hospitality students, who showcased their cooking skills on Thursday 7th September at the Arts and Hospitality Open Day. Congratulations to Ms Trisha and her students for an amazing job. The food looked fantastic.

Finally, I encourage all our Year 12 students to purchase their formal tickets as soon as possible. The committee is in full swing organising the event with input from the students to hopefully put on a successful event for our young men and women to send them off in style.



**Lachlan McDonald**  
VET Coordinator



Certificate II in Construction Pathways students have completed a quite few workbooks this term, as well as completing a few practical jobs, and the workshop had a good cleaning out!

There are now 3 picnic table and chair sets to move, which will hopefully be found a new home in Primary. We have also demolished the old fence and installed a brand new fence around the W Block garden for Mr. Glenn's Certificate II Horticulture students.



**Bevan Singleton**  
VET Teacher

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you an experience one of our Year 12 students had at the end of term. Tynisha Saunders was in Canberra from 3-10 September participating in a government work experience program called WEX.

The Work Exposure in Government (WEX) program is an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to learn about careers in the Australian Government and Tynisha made it through from 1000's of applications nation wide.

This is Tynisha at the Cairns airport on Sunday morning at 5am, it was an early start. This was a big step out of Tynisha's comfort zone, she has never been out of Queensland, never travelled by herself without family and as she has learnt - never been so cold!

But she thoroughly enjoyed herself. She "has learnt many new things and met lots of new people and is making the most of this opportunity".



**Jill McIlwain**  
VET Teacher



Throughout Term 3 the Certificate II in Engineering students completed plenty of practical assessments in the workshop. It was great to see students having a go and learning new skills. Another highlight of Term 3 was the career expo, where I witnessed our students re-assemble a conveyor bearing at the Rio Tinto display. It was great to see the systematic checking and problem solving of the 3 students working together to ensure it was put back together in working order .

It was a fantastic day at the expo and great to see our students engaging in the industries that they have an interest in.



**Brydon Pickup**  
VET Teacher



Miss Juliet celebrated Book Week at Natural Beginnings Childcare in Gordonvale with some of her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education students. Book Week is a celebration of books and the valuable learning resource they are. The week is about encouraging and supporting, not just children, but everyone to pickup a book and letting your imagination take over.

Some of the benefits of reading are:

- Reading is a form of (free) entertainment.
- Reading exercises the brain.
- Reading improves concentration and the ability to focus.
- Reading improves literacy.
- Reading improves sleep.
- Reading increases general knowledge.
- Reading is motivational.
- Reading reduces stress.



**Jill McIlwain**  
VET Teacher





DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE

# Class of 2023 Graduation Dinner & Formal

**MOTIVATED**  
**EDUCATED**  
*Graduated*



Thursday November 16th 2023  
5pm Arrivals ~ 10pm Finish | Pullman Cairns International  
Tickets \$100pp | Available from Reception

## Attention Year 12 Families!

Last chance to purchase Year 12 formal tickets, available through the College Office. \$100 per person (\$70 for children aged 12 years and under). To secure your tickets, please get in touch with the College on (07) 4043 3777. Please note that ticket payments must be made by Thursday, 2nd November 2023.



# BOARDING NEWS

Hello, my name is Richard Bignell and I am the Head of Boys' Boarding.

It has been great to see so many new faces arrive in Boarding this term, from so many tribal and cultural backgrounds around our country.

It can be difficult coming to Boys' Boarding for new students, as they try and find their way on foreign lands and new routines, but with the support and guidance from the Uncles, the seasoned students and the Djarragun staff, the boys were well supported in finding their feet.

During Term 3, the boys enjoyed some great trips away, exploring some great sites such as Lake Echam and Mission Beach.

A lot of the boys were playing AFL and rugby league with local football clubs, whose achievements were nothing but amazing.

The under 17's Lions AFL team made it to the Grand Final, with the whole boarding community coming to cheer them on. The rugby league boys were fortunate enough to make it to the semi finals, where they played such an amazing last game. All the boys should be very proud of their efforts and achievements

All of the boys have done an amazing job with coming together and sharing their stories and culture, it was great to see that the maturity level of the boys has hit an all time high.



**Richard Bignell**  
Head of Boys' Boarding



In Term 3 we welcomed a large number of new boarding students to our Girls' Boarding facility here at the College. This comes with excitement and challenges all in one, learning about all our new young ladies and the homes they come from, all while ensuring everyone is having their needs met.

We managed to attend lots of exciting activities around the Cairns region; visiting beaches, playing sports and eating amazing food all as one big family.

We are all looking forward to Term 4 which is going to be exciting, as our staff will be participating in 2 weeks of personal development and planning for Term 4 during the holidays

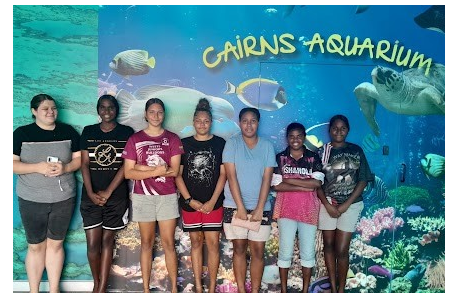
We wish you and your families the absolute best and can't wait to see everyone soon.

Take care.



Hannah Rosalski

Head of Girls' Boarding

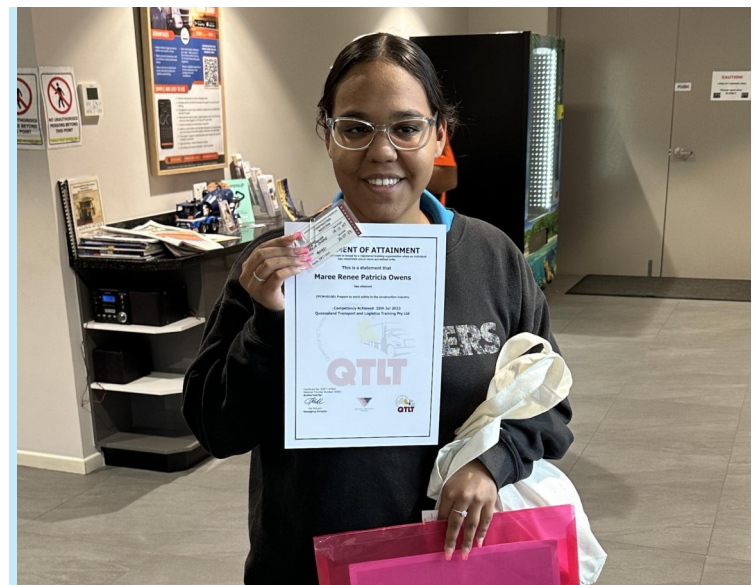


# CAPE YORK GIRL ACADEMY NEWS



CAPE YORK  
GIRL ACADEMY





# GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

This term marked a significant milestone with the Cape York Girl Academy reaching its capacity of 31 students enrolled and 3 dependents as part of our Campus. In total, there are 34 students enrolled at the Campus. We have an almost even split across our two sub-schools - 15 students in Years 7-9 (our Junior Secondary class) and 16 students in Years 10-12 (our Senior Secondary class).

What has been most impressive is the commitment the students have made to their studies and their continual focus of being in classes, engaged in learning and being both responsive, and proactive, in their requests from staff. I commend the teaching team - Olivia, Catalina, Leigh, Kirsten and Aaron - for developing teaching and learning activities for our students that are highly engaging, reflective of the course requirements and delivered in more practical and connected ways for our students. Each day we are building the solid foundations for a stronger academic culture on campus.

None of this success however could be achieved without the partnership between those caring for our students during the school day and the boarding team who take on the primary responsibility of this after the school day. Our boarding staff, led by Em, have made a remarkable difference to the overall feel and tone of the boarding house, balancing the needs of each individual boarder with the collective needs of the residential community. Em has been supported by Annie, Brenda and Ray - all working some longer days occasionally to cover for gaps in our roster as we wisely recruit the new staff to join our team.

Thank you to each and every one of you for giving space in your heart for each and every one of our young ladies (and little man) each day

All of our students are uniquely independent, yet collectively strong, when they have support wrapped around them through the partnership of everyone across the entire campus.

The success of the young ladies of the Cape York Girl Academy is not measured by the number of students enrolled or the academic success of each student, but rather, by the empowerment, personal development and capability of each and every one of our students. Each interaction our staff have with our students is the intervention and role modelling needed to support them.



**Dr Michael Barton**

Acting Head of Campus—Cape  
York Girl Academy





Maths, Science and HPE in one!

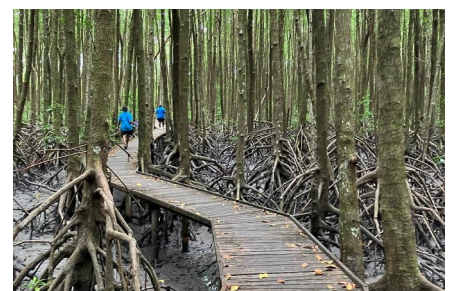
In Miss Cat's class we were learning about how the heart works and the impact exercise has on the heart. Girls learned how to measure their heart rate in BPM. As part of the activity they had to measure and record their resting heart rate before seeing if it would be affected by different exercises.



Learning on Yirrganydji Country. Girls explored the mangroves of the Jack Barnes Bicentennial Boardwalk looking for key characteristics of this marine ecosystem. We spotted mudskippers and fiddler crabs and mud mussels (or akul as Uncle Ray taught us in language).

We heard lots of popping and clicking sounds, which we think were from shells closing and crabs disappearing into their muddy holes. It was interesting to see how the mangroves changed as we walked along. Sometimes the trees were tall and skinny, and their leaves were quite small and only found at the top. At other times they were shorter and there seemed to be more of them, and the leaves were bigger and closer to the boardwalk.

We want to find out why the mangroves change like this. Some of us think it's to do with the amount of light that gets through, a bit like in the rainforest.







The mothers at CYGA, Daniella, Aaliyah, and Latavia are all now experienced in enrolling children into mainstream Early Childhood Services, liaising with Centrelink, and playing active roles in their children's health care needs and immunisations. The mums understand how important it is to follow through when health needs and concerns arise, understand that Centrelink requires patience, and that enrolments are a lot of paperwork! The mums will continue to face these scenarios whilst raising their little ones and hopefully can now approach them with more confidence!.

It's been a busy term for the mums and bubs, developing new routines and working with our Early Years Provider, Good Start Early Learning, in enrolling our youngest scholars on their programs. Along the way, we have learnt a few things and as we continue to build and refine our new approach to delivering a quality educational approach for both mum and bub.

We have watched all 3 bubs grow so much over the term. Whilst our mum's were nervous at first for their child's first day at their new Early Learning Centre, each infant has settled well and is adored by their new educators. A big moment in each of their little lives and their Mum's!

The Centre itself is vibrant and filled with colour, toys, and children's laughter. There are lots of different toys there and new children to interact with. So many positive stories coming from the Mum and Bub space here on Campus and from the children's new Centre. Now to get the routine down pat and the days will be like clockwork.

With the support of Anne-Marie from Ngak Min Health, our mothers also began The Circle of Security Parenting™ program this term. The objectives of the Program are:

- Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read the emotional needs
- Support your child's ability to successfully manage emotions
- Enhance the development of your child's self-esteem
- Honour your innate wisdom and desire for your child to be secure

Anne-Marie will be working with the mothers on a fortnightly basis and hope to complete the program by the end of Term 4. The program is based on decades of research on how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened. We are looking forward to hearing what the mothers take away from the program.





This term our senior students had record engagement in the sessions being conducted in partnership with Kick Academy, and for some of our senior students, they were able to have their practical sessions observed for their latest unit of competency in Certificate II in Sports Coaching.

While AFL is not everyone's preferred sport, it was the focus for this term for our students, who completed their weekly AFL training on the field and also some indoor coaching on the rules and knowledge of the game.

This term has been a big term in getting through our practical assessments in Sports Coaching, and for our junior students, their practical components of PE.



This term our students were able to meet and get to know Ms Trish, as she commenced as our new Certificate II in Hospitality Teacher.

Our Senior Hospitality students created a delicious chicken carbonara with homemade garlic bread and salad under the guidance of Miss Trish, as well as many other delicious dishes. Big things are planned for the type of food they will cook.





Juniors spent a morning exploring Hartley’s Crocodile Adventures and the animals that have adapted to different habitats across the world.

Their favourite crocodile was grumpy Gregory, who they were surprised to discover was only a medium-sized male, of 60 or so years old. They also loved the Tamarin monkeys who were showing off their acrobatics in their forest habitat and the chilled-out short-nosed wombats of the grasslands.



A great time was had when our students were lucky enough to grab some tickets to watch the mighty Rabbitohs defeat the Dragons 26 - 14 in a brilliant game.

This was a reward for meeting our expectations with behaviour and in-class attendance, and we got a selfie with Taane Milne!

As a way of bringing us all together as a community (and to keep warm), we had dinner by the fire. The girls all worked together and pitched in to create an awesome meal for us to share. Homesickness can start to feel a bit heavier towards the end of a term, so creating opportunities for connection as a boarding family is so important. Homesickness is a natural process of being away from family. What we have found is that we need to find ways to support our students, while acknowledging that this is a natural part of being away as a boarding student. It's not easy, for the student, the family or the staff member. Sometimes, we need to find creative ways to keep students focused.



Aunty Annie and Uncle Ray took students fishing (salt water and fresh water) so that our girls could connect to an activity that they miss from home. Having an activities program that allows young people to connect to their feelings is important.

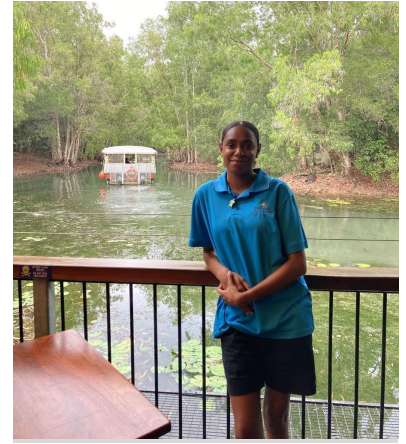
At Cape York Girl Academy, we do not penalise our girls for failing to manage their emotions and behaviours regardless of their abilities. We provide a safe space for our girls to sometimes fail and therefore receive support, encouragement and opportunities to try again, instead of punishment or a response cost. By doing this, we provide our girls with some breathing space, a respite from the stress and overwhelming challenges they can sometimes experience through their emotions. All our adults on campus have a primary task of helping our girls to develop and practice the necessary skills (emotional regulation, interpersonal skills, relationship skills, decision-making, conflict management and problem-solving skills) so they can grow, develop and flourish.





### Work Experience for Senior Students

This term our senior students had the opportunity to participate in work experience across a range of fields for 3 days. This was arranged in partnership with Vocational Partnerships Group (VPG). Each student received their certificate of completion from VPG for Participating in Workplace Learning at the Sheraton Grand Mirage, Port Douglas Catering and Events and the IGA Port Douglas. Congratulations to these students!



### Adventures To Green Island

Our Junior and Senior students enjoyed a curriculum experience at Green Island where students were engaged in a range of activities including snorkelling and seeing the biomes of the Island. While some students were a little apprehensive at first, they had a very enjoyable day.



### HASS Excursion to the Cairns Aquarium

Our Junior and Secondary HASS class went on an adventure to the Cairns Aquarium this term. Our girls explored a range of biomes from the Gulf Savannah to the Coral Sea in just over 2 hours. Along the way, they met sawfish, baby crocodiles, pythons, moon jellyfish, sharks and rays, and learned about threats to our ecosystems and future food sources. Their trip concluded with a tour of the turtle hospital where they got to meet some residents and learn how and why data is collected through turtle trackers after their patients are released.





## Classrooms Without Four Walls and a Worksheet

One of the biggest changes on campus this term is that the students (Years 7-9 and Years 10-12) have been actively involved in shaping changes to their learning environment and taking responsibility for establishing two new learning zones.

One of the changes being developed this term is transforming the previous administration and Head of Campus office into the new Senior Learning Space. This space will have two classrooms and an intentionally designed wellbeing and sensory space for the students to access within their learning environment, without the need to leave their learning space. This is an extension of the sensory room developed in 2022 on the campus. The new learning space also has its own internal toilet and small kitchenette so that students can be actively supervised and connected to their learning

The Junior Secondary students will relocate their learning to the previous library and staffroom, so they have access to a larger learning space and a similar wellbeing and sensory space to access without having to leave the classroom.

## Empowering Young Women

Another change has empowered our young women to have greater choices over their breakfasts and morning tea and be actively involved in embedding independent living skills into the living and learning community. This means, rather than walking to the dining room for a continental breakfast each morning, students are involved in cooking and making their own breakfast in the boarding house, and this has made a big difference to how their morning starts. While we are still getting our timing right to make sure we are out of the door and on time for school, this very important life skill is something that will become important for other aspects of their lives.

Morning tea is also not produced by the kitchen staff, rather, the girls are responsible for buying morning tea items from their allocated weekly budget, and then they prepare their morning tea each day in the Academy Cafe (which was fitted out last year). Given the larger breakfasts in the boarding house in the morning, our students are not nearly as hungry as before, which means they do not need such a large morning tea. They enjoy their frozen fruit smoothies, with a good portion of ice cream, which has become a fast favourite.

Aside from the change in the amount and style of food for the students, the embedding of financial literacy and the practical skills of budgeting and being responsible (and accountable) for their allocated budget has been very helpful. While still in the early phase and evolving each week as we consolidate this approach, the early indication is that with a boutique campus structure like the Academy, suspending the expectations and operations of a mainstream campus can yield improvement.





# CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

@djarraguncollege



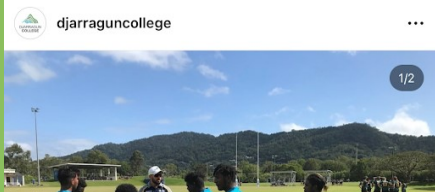
62 likes

**djarraguncollege** Here's some fabulous photos of our Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation students on their excursion to Fitzroy Island. Many of these students... more



23 likes

**djarraguncollege** Our Certificate III in Early Childhood Education students did a great job with our Lower Primary kids last week; they had great fun with them 😊... more  
8 September



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9 October Term 4 Commences
- 17-18 October New Boarders Orientation
- 6-10 November 2024 Boarders Orientation Week
- 10 November Deadly Fives Hockey
- 15 November Presentation Day
- 15 November Cape York Girl Academy Formal
- 16 November Djarragun College Year 12 Formal
- 17 November Indigenous Games
- 4 December End of Term Event (TBC)
- 7 December Last Day of Term 4
- 7 December Boarders Travel Day
- 8 December Staff Day

# TERM DATES

- TERM 4** Monday 9 October (First day)  
Thursday 7 December (Last day)
- TERM 1** Monday 22 January (First day)  
Wednesday 27 March (Last day)



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

# PRESENTATION DAY 2023

Wednesday 15 November  
10.00am - 12pm

Djarragun College  
1 Maher Rd  
Gordonvale



DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK  
GIRL ACADEMY



DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK  
GIRL ACADEMY

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