



DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK
GIRL ACADEMY

TERM 4 2023

ISSUE NO. 22



IN THIS ISSUE

**Presentation
Day & Year 12
Formal 2023**





DJARRAGUN COLLEGE NEWS



**DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE**





GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

Dear College Community,

As we bid farewell to 2023, it is with immense pride and anticipation that I share with you the landmark achievements and future endeavours of Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy. This year has been pivotal, marked by the launch of our new Strategic Plan and the commencement of construction for the new boys' boarding buildings at Djarragun College, slated for completion in 2025.

The Strategic Plan: Dreaming Futures – The Djarragun Track

Our new Strategic Plan, developed with extensive input from our community, staff, and students, lays a strong foundation for the future. It embodies our commitment to providing exemplary education tailored to the unique needs of our students. The plan focuses on:

1. Nurture Leadership Development: We are committed to nurturing the inherent leadership potential in our students and staff, providing them with opportunities to develop the confidence and skills needed to lead in a global context.

2. Cultivating Excellence in Indigenous Boarding: Our aim is to set a benchmark for excellence in Indigenous boarding, offering a culturally supportive and academically stimulating environment for our students to thrive.

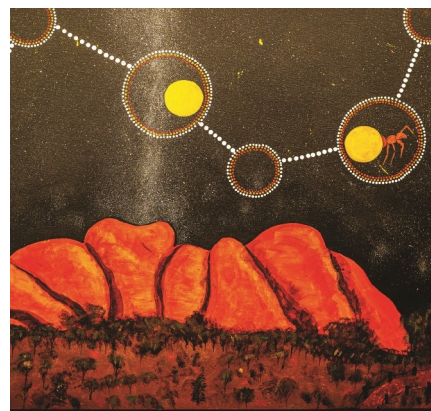
3. Foster Cultural Understanding and Identity: We're deepening our dedication to respecting and incorporating Indigenous cultures and languages in our pedagogical framework, fostering a strong sense of cultural understanding and identity among our students.

4. Enhanced Academic Excellence: By enhancing our curriculum with innovative teaching methods and technologies, we're ensuring our students are well prepared for their future endeavours, both academically and in life.

5. Ensure Financial Sustainability and Growth: We are working diligently to ensure the financial sustainability and growth of our College, allowing us to continue providing quality education and to expand our reach and impact.

6. Strengthen Community Engagement and Partnerships: We're committed to strengthening our ties with local and remote communities, building partnerships that provide holistic support to our students and their families, enriching the educational experience and fostering community development.

This Strategic Plan is not just a roadmap for the coming years; it represents our ongoing dedication to empowering our students to reach their full potential. A copy has been attached to this newsletter.



DREAMING FUTURES

THE DJARRAGUN TRACK
2023-2027





Boys' Boarding Buildings: Expanding Our Horizons

The commencement of the construction for the new boys' boarding buildings at Djarragun College marks a significant expansion of our facilities. These state-of-the-art buildings, expected to be ready for students in 2025, will offer:

- 1. Modern Accommodation:** Comfortable, safe, and conducive to learning environments for our male students.
- 2. Enhanced Facilities:** Equipped with the latest amenities and learning tools to support the educational and personal development of our boarders.
- 3. A Supportive Community:** A nurturing space where boys can grow academically and personally, guided by dedicated staff and a supportive peer network.

These developments are not just physical expansions; they are symbolic of our commitment to inclusivity and providing equal opportunities for all our students.



Looking Ahead with Optimism

As we look forward to the completion of the boys' boarding buildings and the implementation of our Strategic Plan, we remain committed to our mission of nurturing future leaders who are confident, culturally grounded, and globally aware.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to these endeavours - our staff, students, families, and community partners. Your support and involvement are the cornerstones of our success.

As we step into 2024, let us carry the momentum of this year's achievements and continue to work collaboratively towards realizing our shared vision for Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



Dr Michael Barton
Executive Principal



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STRATEGY

Schools are always busy places. We would not want it to be any other way because we are engaged in the most important of all tasks – shaping the future of our society through the education of our next generation of leaders.

Schools are not only busy places – they are also challenging places. This is to be expected because whenever anyone tries to make worthwhile changes they must expect to encounter obstacles, opposition and resistance. No worthwhile change in our world has ever been achieved without overcoming challenges.

The Djarragun College Board works hard to support the College to overcome challenges as it plans for a long-term, sustainable future that creates a bright future for its students. This year, the Board has been especially focussed on planning for significant improvements to our infrastructure.

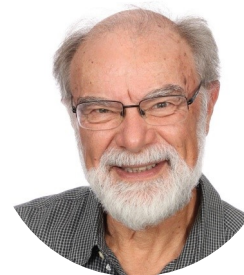
We are delighted that the extensions to the Girls' Boarding House on the Gordonvale campus have been completed and will accept additional students from the start of 2024. We are about to begin construction of an all-new Boys' Boarding House on the Gordonvale campus which we hope will be completed for the start of 2025. We have other exciting plans in the pipeline for both the Gordonvale and Girl Academy campuses in the year ahead.

Significant building work makes huge financial demands upon the College, especially during these times of slow growth in enrolments. The Board is very grateful to Dr Michael Barton, his management team, and all the staff for the solid efforts they have all made to work within the tight financial framework imposed upon us. Their commitment to the mission and vision of Djarragun College is what keeps us going – we could not achieve the great outcomes for our students without the wonderful contribution of each and every one of our staff.

Of course, the Board has been involved in much more activity than planning buildings and managing finances. We have worked closely this year in partnership with NSSAB (our accrediting authority) to improve the quality of our curriculum. We are exploring further options for courses and programs that we hope will be of huge interest to our families, especially those living in remote communities.

As board chair, I have made a special effort this year to continue visiting the remote communities that send students to the College, backing up earlier visits to Torres Strait, Central Australia and Yarrabah with visits this year to Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, and Wujul Wujul. I love visiting our remote communities as I invariably come away with a deeper sense of our parents' aspirations for their children and a renewed sense of wonder at the grace, wisdom, optimism and hospitality I encounter. It is a powerful reminder of why Djarragun College and the Cape York Girl Academy are such essential places in the lives of our students and their families.

In conclusion, as 2023 draws to a close, it is my pleasure, honour and privilege on behalf of the Djarragun College Board to wish everyone in our College community a very happy and blessed Christmas, and to thank you for everything you have contributed to the life of our school in 2023.



Dr Stephen Codrington

Djarragun College Board Chair



GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

This term, we hosted two of our largest events of the year; the Nerkep Boori Summit and our Presentation Day.

Nerkep Boori Summit 2023

Parents and community members from Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and Northern Territory travelled to Cairns to participate in this year’s Summit. The event provided the opportunity for participants to discuss and share information to inform the development of a comprehensive community engagement plan and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander language program to promote language revitalisation and cultural awareness. Workshop sessions were informative in relation to protocols when entering and visiting community, protocols to be aware of in a boarding setting, community expectations of Djarragun College and how we can improve our performance. A panel of selected participants representing first language learners, second language learners and language revival learners shared their stories about learning language and the environmental factors that supported or hindered language learning. These insights stimulated discussions that raised important considerations for implementation of the Australian Curriculum—Languages.

Presentation Day

A huge congratulations to all the award recipients that proudly accepted their certificates and sponsorship trophies in recognition of their achievements in 2023. What a heartfelt moment to see our Year 12 graduates walk through the guard of honour as they take their next steps into the next chapter of their life’s journey. We wish them all the very best for their future.



Mrs Stephanie Savage

Head of Campus - Gordonvale





CELEBRATION WEEK!

The busyness of Week 6 is hard to describe but it is definitely all worth it to see the happiness and pride shared by the students and their families. It is such an exciting time and an emotional couple of days for our Year 12 students, in particular.

The week commenced with the Summit event offsite, organised by Aunty Allison Halliday, which provided us with some opportunities to connect with visiting families and carers on-site here at school as well. Wednesday was our College Presentation Day onsite, where we celebrated the achievements of all our College students. Our Year 12's were presented with their Djarragun College folders, which of course include all their Vocational Education & Training (VET) Certificates that they have worked so hard to achieve over the past 3 years.

Thursday night, our Year 12 Formal at the Pullman International; a delightful evening of celebrations.

Every year, there are the special stories of students who receive awards and graduate from Year 12. The student who:

- is the first person in their family to finish Year 12;
- completed their Certificate II or III with literally only hours to spare;
- had many behaviour issues but accepted support
- struggled with attendance but with improved attendance, experienced great results and completed;
- showed resilience and commitment throughout and was a true shining light in senior school
- was a consistent achiever

Congratulations to all our 2023 leavers, the staff of Djarragun College wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.









Have your say...

take part in the

Next Step

survey!



- Who?** All students completing Year 12 in 2023
- What?** The Next Step survey will ask you about your activities since finishing school like study and work.
- How?** Expect to be contacted by phone, mail or email. To help us reach you, please check your contact details are correct in your learning account by logging into the student portal at <https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>
- When?** March to June 2024
- Why?** Your answers to the Next Step survey help schools and further education providers improve their services for future students.

More info at www.qld.gov.au/nextstep



Queensland
Government

2024 Next Step Year 12 Completers Survey

A reminder that our Year 12 students will be invited to participate in the Next Step Year 12 Completers survey starting in March 2024. The short confidential survey will ask questions about graduates' activities since finishing school, like study and work.

Graduates can expect to be invited to the survey via a letter from the Minister for Education or an email or phone call from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office on behalf of the department. Please check your contact details are correct with your school and your learning account by logging into the student portal at <https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>



PRIMARY & SECONDARY NEWS

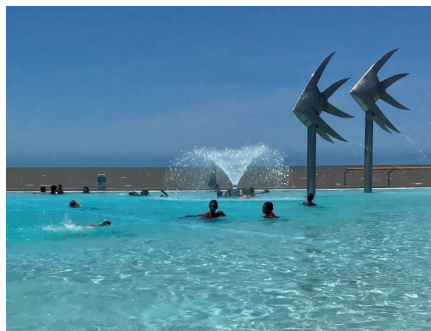
Primary has been a hive of activity, as always, this term. Swimming lessons have been a highlight as students learned about water safety and how to assist others safely if needed. They have also learned how to ensure they are safe in the water.

It was a proud day when, on Presentation Day, we watched our Year 6 students lead the procession and recession of our graduating students from Primary and Secondary. Dressed in their crisp white shirts, the Year 6 cohort looked confident and strong. We wish them well as they move into the Secondary School next year.

The end of year excursion was a day to remember as all of the primary students went bowling and then to the Cairns Lagoon. Some of our students had never bowled before and were full of stories of their getting their first 'strike'!



Liz Thomas
Deputy Head of Campus
(Teaching & Learning)



Our Middle School students have enjoyed making pinch and coil pots during their Art lesson with Ms Elizabeth this term. They also enjoyed a very successful and informative visit from the Deadly Choices program, as well as exploring chemical reaction by making rocket ships for their Science class.

Along with their teacher, Ms Bettina, Middle School students also enjoyed a visit to our Certificate II Horticulture student's working garden, exploring from the farm to the table, fresh food.





2024 Students Leaders Have First Engagement

Our five Student Leaders had their first engagement in Week 6, only one day after being invested as leaders. Looking smart in brand new uniforms, they assisted in conducting a tour for members of the Paul Ramsey Foundation.

Our Leaders chatted to members of the Foundation and Cape Your Partnership. You would not know that only 60 minutes earlier, they were almost too nervous to speak! As the morning progressed, they became more and more confident, opening doors, smiling and talking about their college. Their leadership skills have started to shine already.



Weekly lessons at the Gordonvale pool provide a great opportunity for our Primary students to learn essential swimming skills and enjoy physical activity. Swimming not only promotes water safety but also contributes to overall health and well-being. It's fantastic that the students are thoroughly enjoying their lessons, as this positive experience can help instil a lifelong love for swimming and physical fitness.





This term was a bit quieter on the Sports front than the last few terms. That doesn't mean, however, that our students didn't shine. Whilst there have been minimal sporting excursions, there has been plenty of learning happening from our students.

Mr Brodie and Mr Aaron have been leading the way in the Academy, getting through a couple of their Certificate III in Sports Coaching Units. To help put theory into practice, the students have been learning new skills and a new football code – NFL (on the gridiron). The engagement and excitement that has been heard (probably up to the Middle School) has been so incredible. I can see this course reaching new heights next year.

Miss Godfrey and myself had the privilege of taking the Year 5/6 class to the Indigenous Games in Week 6 this term. The engagement, encouragement, sportsmanship and skill our students had, particularly combining with students from another school, was second to none. All students followed the Djarragun Way the whole day.

The Primary students have been participating in swimming lessons every week this term with Mr Mark and Miss Nicole. The students have been highly engaged and have loved to cool off every week in the pool. Their swimming talents are shining through and we have some real fish in the classes!

During our Presentation Day, I was lucky enough to award 3 Students with the Sports Award for the year. These awards went to Harriet Tabuai in Primary, Ralph Bligh in the Middle School, and Victor Brown in the Senior School. These students have worked hard all year and have achieved amazing things in their sporting ventures.

Planning has been underway to organise all the sporting events and activities throughout next year. I cannot wait to share all the incredible achievements with everyone.

From the sporting team at Djarragun College, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



Kimberley Tate
Sports Academy Teacher



ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE NEWS

10 of our Academy of Arts students here at Djarragun College have become members of the UMI Arts Gallery, Cairns. This term, the member students, were invited to be part of the UMI Arts annual members exhibition, "The Summer Show". The exhibition is on show until the end of January 2024.

UMI Arts is an all-Indigenous managed organisation that is nationally recognised as the peak Arts and Cultural organisation for Far North Queensland.

The benefits of being an UMI Arts member gives the students opportunities to attend workshops, which engage member artists in a 3-day intensive professional development workshop for capacity building.



Noel Mason

Dean of Academy of Creative & Performing Arts



Students will also be part of a pathway program, where member artists create a body of works either through workshops (Exhibition-Ready) or independent studio use (Artist-in-Residence) which will be exhibited in one of UMI Art's exhibitions. The programs can be tailored to suit the individual learning and skill-building requirements of the participating artist, whether this focuses on upskilling art techniques or learning more about exhibiting and gallery operations. The members can also sell their art works in their gift shop as well as being promoted as an artist through their local and national print media.



Chyler Kohler, Solace Barnaby, Kaissia Dick, Eileen Williams, Gwen Thomas, Chloe McGilvary, Olivia Pootchemunka, Joyce Douglas, Timesha Sandy and Debbie Ludwick are now all members of the gallery. This will give these students the opportunity to continue their art practice when they complete their studies here at Djarragun College. This opportunity will help train these students for future employment and economic independence in the creative industries and create pathways for success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait artists.

The Summer Show is an annual exhibition of UMI member artists, whose works reflect the dynamic, electrical energy of a northern summer. The Summer Show reflects this time of replenishment, with a collection of creations inspired by Nature, Culture and Country.



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS

Congratulations to the Year 12 graduates for 2023!

On Wednesday, 1st November, the last of the assessments for all courses were done and dusted for this cohort.

The end has come with the traditional rush and, with it, the odd hiccup or two, but we got there.

For myself, like many of the Year 12 teachers, this time of year is also an absolute highlight. Celebrating the student successes with both the students and their families at our Presentation Day is such a pleasure and something special to look forward to. Of course, the Formal has to be the feature event of the year, it's always with a great sense of pride that I watch our young women and men strut their stuff on the red carpet one more time before leaving our care.

Congratulations and thank you to the VET staff for your care and dedication in providing the opportunities for our students to achieve their best possible outcomes.

Of course, our work doesn't stop there and our focus now turns to our Year 10's and 11's to ensure a smooth transition into new year.

Planning is well and truly underway for course offerings for 2024 and I hope to share this information with everyone shortly.

Have a great break over the holidays everyone!



Lachlan McDonald
VET Coordinator

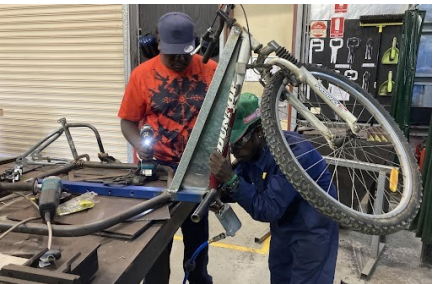


Mr Will's Certificate II Outdoor Recreation students have had a busy term. Here they are assisting with a snorkelling introduction session for some Middle School students.

They took a trip to The Reef this term, where two of our students even learned to use a 'sea bob' with Reef Magic staff. Certificate II Outdoor Recreation students also went paddling Lake Tinaroo earlier in the term; it was their first time paddling for a couple of the students, but they enthusiastically picked up the skills and got involved.



Despite the heat, Certificate II in Engineering Pathways students have been working hard on their engineering projects this term. Two of our Certificate II Engineering students finished off their push trike project. It was a fun project, and their teacher, Mr Brydon, is very happy with their efforts and skills.



First day of work placement for two of our Certificate III Early Childhood Education & Care students. They were both in the nursery room and loved playing with the little ones.

Certificate II Early Childhood Education & Care students have also been doing their swaddle and milk prep in class. Students have been demonstrating nappy changing and proper hand washing this term.



I'm not sure where to start. It was an emotional day for many of our Year 12 students on Presentation Day and at the Year 12 Formal. Everyone has different feelings about leaving school. It is normal to be feeling scared and excited all at the same time.

I thought I would give an update on what plans some of our Year 12 students have for 2024:

- Stacey Bosuen - Continue her study in the health industry.
- Braiden Courtney - Studying a Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program with Australian Training Works Group.
- Albert Dwyer - Study to become a personal trainer.
- Jeremy Hall - Has put his name/resume in with Decked Out Fabrication in Gordonvale for an apprenticeship.
- Chyler Kohler - Wanting to start a hairdresser apprenticeship.
- Keshayarne Noble Wason - Has registered to start a traineeship at Gurriny Health Service in Yarrabah.
- Ronaldo Jr Paguirigan - Registered with Queensland Police Service Academy.
- Macwadie Shortjoe - Rio Tinto LAP (Local Aboriginal Program) Trainee.
- Mahalia Spratt - Registered for a traineeship with Regional Arts Service Network, will be based in Mossman. Will be working with Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre.
- Kayla Wilson - Applied for Defence Force - Navy.
- Stephen Wilson - Has registered with Rio Tinto.

We in the Vocational Education and Training team are sad to see our Year 12 students go. But happy at the same time. Something is ending, but something is also starting.



Jill McIlwain

VET Teacher







BOARDING NEWS

What an amazing end to the 2023 year we had, being able to send off the graduating Year 12 students into the world, to explore and achieve their dreams. This was met with many tears, with students reminiscing on some great memories that were made over their school years here at Djarragun College.

It was a great sight watching the young men and women who have created a life long connection and friendship with their peers from communities all over Australia, from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia all the way to the Torres Straits.

We all wish our graduates the very best for their future.

This year has been a learning experience, not just for myself, but for the new staff, new boarders and our seasoned boarders. We each had to adjust and learn with new changes. This year we saw our boarding community double in size, which brings challenges, but it has been great to see all of the new connections and friendships form. I just want to say thank you to all the staff for their amazing work, supporting and taking care of the young men through the thick and the thin, thank you to the parents for your support and to the older senior boys' boarders, mentoring and supporting the younger boys and helping them to settle into this environment.

Please enjoy the break, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Richard Bignell
Head of Boys' Boarding



Girls Boarding has been eventful over the last 12 months with an increased number of students arriving mid year which kept staff and students busy with activities and lots of getting to know each other. Where we are all from different cultures and different ways of living.

Some of the activities our boarders participated in were things our central desert students had never experienced before in their lives such as going to the beach, cable skiing, exploring the Barron Falls and visiting small towns and their Sunday markets.

I thank all the staff in Boarding for working together as a team to support our students, whether it's boys or girls, we have all come together on a lot of occasions to be there for "our young people".

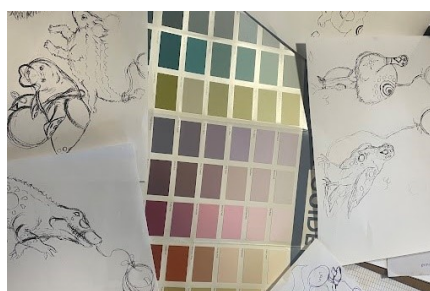
Next year, being 2024, is exciting for us as we will have access to our new Girls' Boarding extension, which means we have more room for hopefully some brand new faces that we will be able to welcome to the family of Girls Boarding.

Once again, thank you all for the support throughout the year and I hope you all enjoy a well deserved break and Merry Christmas.



Hannah Rosalski

Head of Girls' Boarding



CAPE YORK GIRL ACADEMY NEWS



CAPE YORK
GIRL ACADEMY





GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

As we bid farewell to Alexis Mau-Horn, who has completed her Year 12 journey at Cape York Girl Academy, we celebrate not just the end of an academic chapter but the blossoming of an extraordinary individual. Alexis's story is one of remarkable resilience and determination, a narrative that has touched and inspired us all.

Alexis has been a shining example of what it means to focus relentlessly on one's goals. Despite facing personal and family challenges that would have deterred many, she remained steadfast in her pursuit of education. Her unwavering commitment to her studies has been nothing short of inspirational. It is this dedication that has not only earned her the admiration of her peers but also made her a role model for her younger nephews and nieces back home. Alexis has shown them, and indeed all of us, that with perseverance and hard work, barriers can be transformed into stepping stones to success.

Alexis leaves the Academy with the following qualifications and has met the course requirements for a Queensland Certificate of Education:

- Certificate II in Hospitality
- Certificate II in Community Services
- Certificate II in Active Volunteering
- Certificate III in Community Services
- Certificate III in Health Services Assistance

Our staff, both teaching and boarding, have played an integral role in supporting Alexis through this journey. Together, they have ridden the rollercoasters of high and low moments, always striving to provide the nurturing and

guidance needed to help Alexis reach her potential. It's a testament to the collective effort and the supportive environment here at the Academy that we see our students, like Alexis, thrive and overcome obstacles.

The crowning achievement in Alexis's journey is her acceptance to Central Queensland University in Cairns, where she will begin her studies in February 2024. This accomplishment is not just a personal victory for Alexis but a proud moment for all of us who have been a part of her journey.

As Alexis steps into this new chapter of her life, she carries with her the lessons, experiences, and memories from her time at Cape York Girl Academy. We have no doubt that she will continue to excel and be a source of inspiration wherever she goes.

To Alexis, we say: Your journey has been a beacon of hope and a reminder of the incredible strength of the human spirit. You have left an indelible mark on the Academy, and we are immensely proud of you. Go forth and shine your light on the world.

Congratulations and all the best for your future endeavours!



Dr Michael Barton
Acting Head of Campus





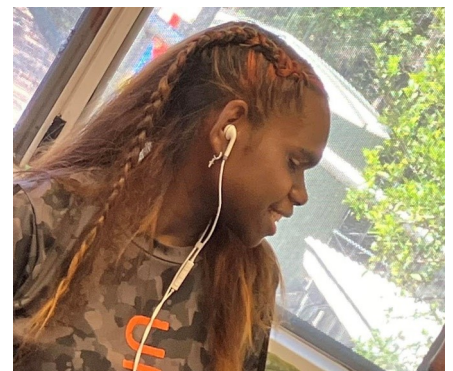
Fun in Early Learning

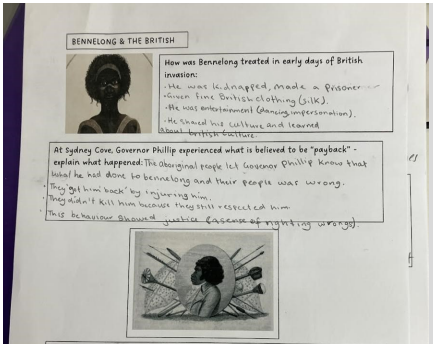
This term was filled with joy and laughter as our children embarked on a tactile learning journey, exploring the wonders of kinesthetic touch through creative activities. Their faces lit up with excitement as they dressed up in colourful costumes, embracing a world of imagination and play. The highlight of their adventure was delving into the sensory-rich experiences of manipulating playdough and sand. These malleable materials captivated their senses and enhanced their fine motor skills. As they squished, rolled, and sculpted, they expressed their creativity in unique ways, making this learning experience both educational and immensely fun. The room buzzed with energy as these young minds discovered new ways to express themselves, demonstrating the limitless possibilities of hands-on learning.



Big Girl Dress Ups!

Not to be outdone by our two cuties in the Early Learning Centre, the Secondary students had their dress-up opportunity for our End of Year Celebration, Presentations and Year 12 Farewell, adding their own twist to the fun as they prepared to bid farewell to Alexis, their beloved Year 12 student. Then off to the Thala Beach resort for the celebrations to begin.

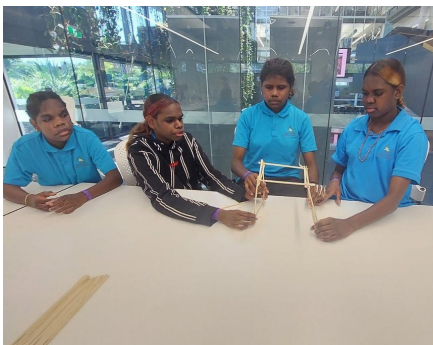




Junior Humanities and Visual Arts

Week 6 this term marked the much anticipated return of Ms Kirsten, who drove back into learning with the junior girls. Her enthusiasm was infectious as she began guiding them through their Humanities unit, blending history and culture with insightful discussions and interactive learning.

Ms Kirsten's passion for education shone brightly as she transitioned the girls into a unique project that fused Visual Arts with English. The classroom buzzed with creativity as the girls began creating watercolour paintings, each a vivid interpretation of the themes and emotions from their English short stories. This artistic endeavour enriched their understanding of the narratives and allowed them to express their interpretations through the fluid and expressive medium of watercolours.



Junior Students Head to University

Our junior secondary students had the remarkable opportunity this term to attend an Open Day at James Cook University, a day brimming with insights and inspiration. The university, renowned for its diverse range of disciplines, offered our students a chance to immerse themselves in various fields such as medicine, business, health, law, education and engineering. It was an eye-opening experience that broadened their horizons and sparked new interests. Particularly noteworthy was the performance of our girls' team in the bridge-making activity. Their innovative design and teamwork led them to win this challenge, a testament to their creativity and engineering skills.

The students were academically engaged and exemplified excellent behaviour throughout the event, making us proud. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ms Tina, whose meticulous organisation and dedication made this enriching experience possible. Her efforts in coordinating this event have undoubtedly left a lasting impact on our young learners, who returned with newfound aspirations and a deeper appreciation for the diverse world of study after school.



Juniors On Country Learning

The day began with a 15 minute boat ride across the Inlet to East Trinity. We spotted a croc just off the mangroves and heard about a 6 metre one that hangs out in Hills Creek. We were reminded to be smart on Croc Country as these incredible ancient giants can remain underwater for up to 7 hours, watching and interpreting movements of their prey.

On arrival we were welcomed to country through two ceremonies. A bus took us through the mangroves and we learned about the history of the area and the damage done to mangroves when the soil was contaminated to make way for cane and lychees. Thankfully, the hard work of the rangers alongside scientists meant that when land was handed back under Native Title in 2006, they set about balancing the mud and soil to help replenish the area we see thriving today.

Later on the tour we learned about the 7 clans of the area and the languages, and were shown how natural boundaries helped designate areas to particular clans and tribes long before fences and artificial territory markers were introduced. After a walk through a bush track learning about plants used as medicine and food, we were treated to an amazing morning tea where we chatted more with our hosts. On our way home to the boat, we saw their campgrounds and hope that in the future we can organise and overnight camp with the Mandingalbay guides and rangers!

Learning to the End

Two more seniors have completed their certificates this year - Maree and Vivienne have completed their Cert II in Community Services with Ms Leigh. This is a big achievement for our students and they will enrol in their Certificate III in Term 1, 2024.

Next year, several of our senior students will enrol in single university units in the area of health and social work to extend their study pathways, while at the same time earning additional QCE points - although they do not need them!

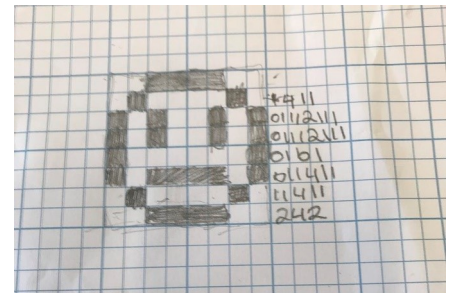




Our Next Hackers In the Making

In Mr Mark's class, there was a palpable excitement as the girls huddled over their computers, their screens illuminating faces of concentration and curiosity. Over the past few weeks, they've embarked on a journey into the world of coding, each line of code like a brick in the foundations of their digital literacy. Mr. Mark, with his patient and encouraging teaching style, has introduced them to the basics.

The Junior students have been engaged in a fascinating project that bridges the gap between the digital and visual worlds. They have been learning about how images are represented digitally by converting simple bitmaps into binary code. With "0" denoting a white pixel and "1" representing a black pixel, they've started to understand the binary system that underpins all computer operations. Armed with graph paper and a grid of pixels, they translate images into a series of zeroes and ones, a monochrome representation that feels like a secret code at first glance. This hands-on activity not only teaches them about data representation but also about attention to detail and the meticulous nature of digital processes, skills that are essential as they grow up in an increasingly technology-driven world.



Getting our Cook On

In the warmth of Aunty Annie's kitchen in boarding, the air is rich with the sweet scent of ripening bananas destined for a special treat. Flour dusts the air and countertops as we learn to bake banana scones, transforming the humble fruit into a delectable afternoon delight. Aunty Annie, with her deft hands and beaming smile, guides us through the process—mashing bananas, measuring out ingredients, and folding them together to form the perfect dough. The rhythmic patting and shaping of the scones become a culinary dance, punctuated by laughter and the occasional dusting of flour on noses.

Meanwhile, in the freshness of Ms Gale's presence, we venture into the colourful world of salads, where crisp greens, vibrant veggies, and the tang of dressing come together in a symphony of healthy flavours. With Ms. Gale's expertise, we learn to balance textures and tastes, creating bowls of nutrition as visually appealing as they are satisfying. Together, baking with Aunty Annie and making salads with Ms. Gale, we are not just preparing food but savouring the joy of creating and the anticipation of sharing these homemade delights with others.





Afternoon Activities

We have been careful not to give Aunty Annie's secret location away, but some of the girls this term have been again off to the water to catch themselves a meal!



Joy of Finishing Classes at 1:30pm

One of the joys of fishing classes at 1:30pm and then heading to the boarding house to make lunch, is that after lunch using the pool and getting into the afternoon program can start. This term we have felt the temperatures rise and Ms Em and a few of the girls were out and out in the pool. Lot's of smiles everywhere!

The Power of Independence

This term, two more students are on the road and ready to tackle the next phase of their independence journey, having secured their learning licences. Over the term, many of our students who have their licences commenced practical lessons with an instructor, thanks to an NIAA grant we received as part of our independent living skills program.

The move to having the students be responsible for their own catering, and learning new and important life skills continues to be embedded at the campus. Some new kitchen skills have been acquired - including learning how to cut a chicken thigh with a bone still in and how to combine various flavours to cook up a feast for themselves, and their peers.

While the actual skills are one thing, the life lessons our staff can engage with students about - such as, understanding which cuts of chicken (with or without the bone) suit which types of dishes are fundamental to the next phase, which is the teaching of their budgeting for meals and the buying of the items. Thanks to all the staff who are sharing their skills, and their hidden tricks, with our girls.

The mums worked on taking what they are eating and understanding how they can process or cook it slightly differently so that their children are eating the same solids as them, just prepared slightly differently. This is important as we help the mums understand how to adjust the meal prepping when they return home. This will also include preparing meals in advance and hiding all of those sneaky vegetables that we know growing bodies need!





Junior Secondary Updates

Students in our Junior years undertook a combined English/Art/History Team challenge in Week 4. Starting with Simile Pictionary, they had to draw random similes that were given to them to show understanding. Next, working like Historians to use clues, they worked together to complete jigsaw puzzles, while improving cognitive skills, logical reasoning and critical thinking. It was interesting to watch different team strategies, as well as who was willing to help other teams once they completed their own. This also gave insight into different learning challenges and those who excel in this space.

Finally, the Juniors completed another creative challenge to draw or use Lego to recreate an iconic landmark from the Cairns region.

Our Junior Secondary students have been busy in their science unit making bouncy balls to understand different chemical reactions. After a busy period of making the balls, it was time to test. Congratulations to Shakayla who was the winner with the bounciest ball. Thank you to Ms Tina for her creative idea to teach the students different ways to observe chemical reactions.

Ms Kirsten has been busy looking for practical ways to assist our Junior Secondary students explore their history and visual arts units this term—the History and Art field trip to Cairns Museum with Juniors.

Students learned more about the Traditional Owners of the Cairns area, discovered the impact of colonisation and learned how Cairns has changed since it was established as a settlement. They got to experience what it was like to be a cane cutter living in cramped conditions and the hard labour that went with it. They also looked at changes in transportation and saw how people lived before modern conveniences. Their feedback was that the museum was “Deadly!”





CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM
@djarraguncollege



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 19 January Boarders Travel In
- 22 January Term 1 2024 Commences
- 26 January Australia Day Public Holiday
- 6-7 February New Boarders Orientation
- 13-25 March NAPLAN
- 21 March Close the Gap Day
- 27 March Last Day Term 1
- Boarders Travel Out
- 15 April Boarders Travel In
- 16 April Term 2 Commences
- 25 April ANZAC Day Public Holiday
- 26 April School Photo Day
- 7-8 May New Boarders Orientation
- 26 May National Sorry Day
- 27 May—3 June Reconciliation Week

TERM DATES

- TERM 1** Monday 22 January (First day)
 Wednesday 27 March (Last day)
- TERM 2** Tuesday 16 April (First day)
 Friday 21 June (Last day)



DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK
GIRL ACADEMY



Have 85% attendance at
school for the first 5 weeks
of Term 1 and receive a
\$50 gift card!

Prep-Year 4 Supermarket Gift Card
Years 5-9 City Beach Gift Card
Years 10-12 Event Cinemas Gift Card



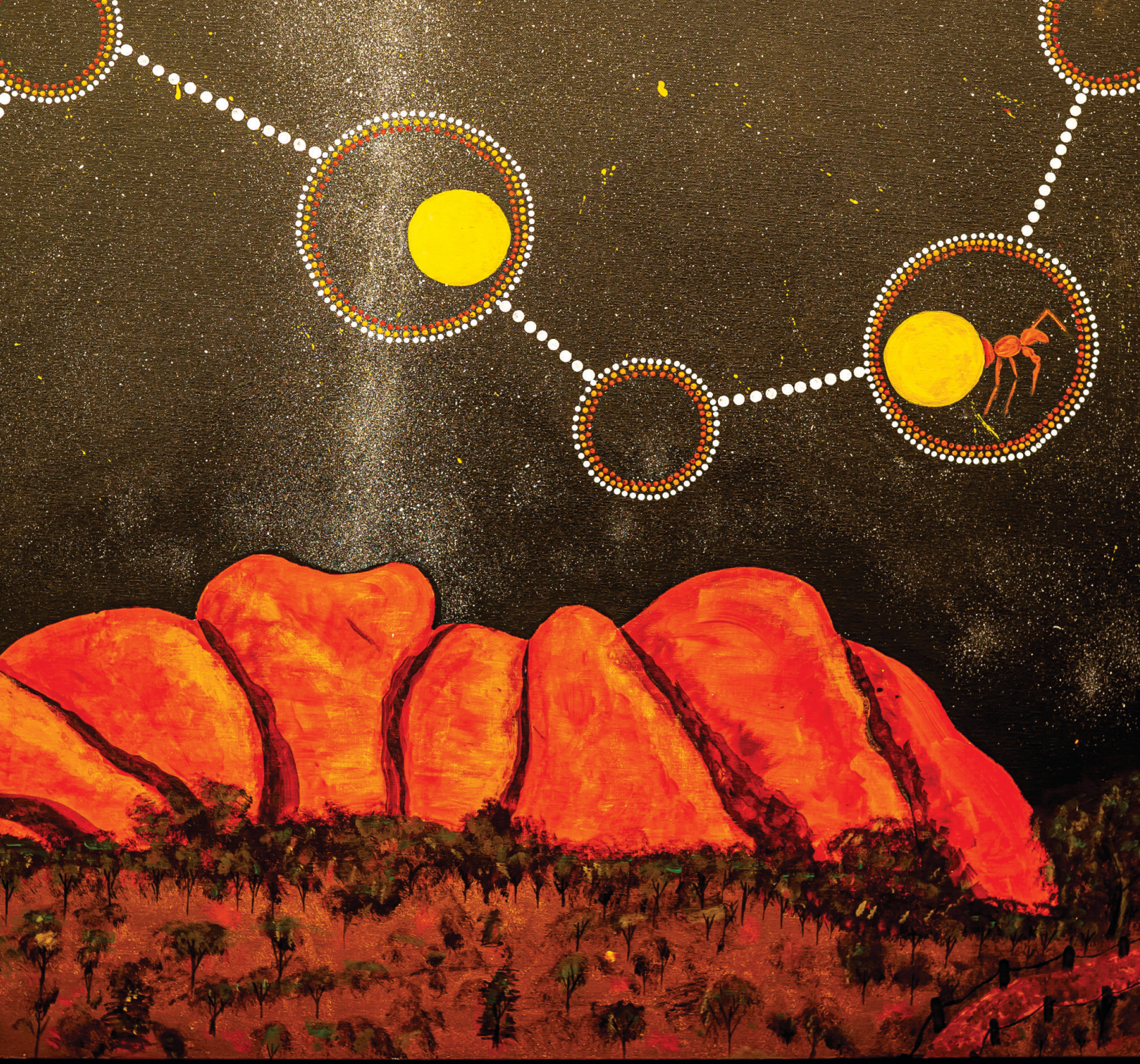
DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK
GIRL ACADEMY

djarragun.qld.edu.au





DREAMING FUTURES

THE DJARRAGUN TRACK

2023-2027



DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK
GIRL ACADEMY



STRATEGY 1

Nurture Leadership Development

- 1.1 Create a student leadership program that empowers students to take an active role in the College and develop essential leadership skills.
- 1.2 Provide students with opportunities to engage in decision-making processes, such as student councils and advisory committees.
- 1.3 Encourage students to participate in local, regional, and national leadership conferences and events.
- 1.4 Collaborate with other Indigenous organisations to provide internships, job-shadowing, and mentorship opportunities for students.
- 1.5 Recognise and celebrate student achievements in leadership and community engagement.
- 1.6 Strengthen the College's governance structure and leadership capacity, fostering a culture of accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement.

STRATEGY 2

Cultivating Excellence in Indigenous Boarding

- 2.1 Cultivate a cohesive boarding community that values cultural diversity and mutual respect.
- 2.2 Enhance boarders' transition to boarding school, and retention in boarding school, with structured study sessions, tutoring programs and critical life skills beyond the classroom.
- 2.3 Promote boarders' overall health, wellbeing and personal growth by providing nutritious meals, regular health checks, and access to mental health resources and personal development activities.
- 2.4 Strengthen the connection between boarding families and the College by maintaining open communication and encouraging family participation in events and decision-making.
- 2.5 Develop boarders' leadership skills and civic responsibility through targeted leadership programs including the Duke of Edinburgh Program.
- 2.6 Ensure a safe, secure and well-maintained boarding environment by regularly enhancing the living environments.

STRATEGY 3

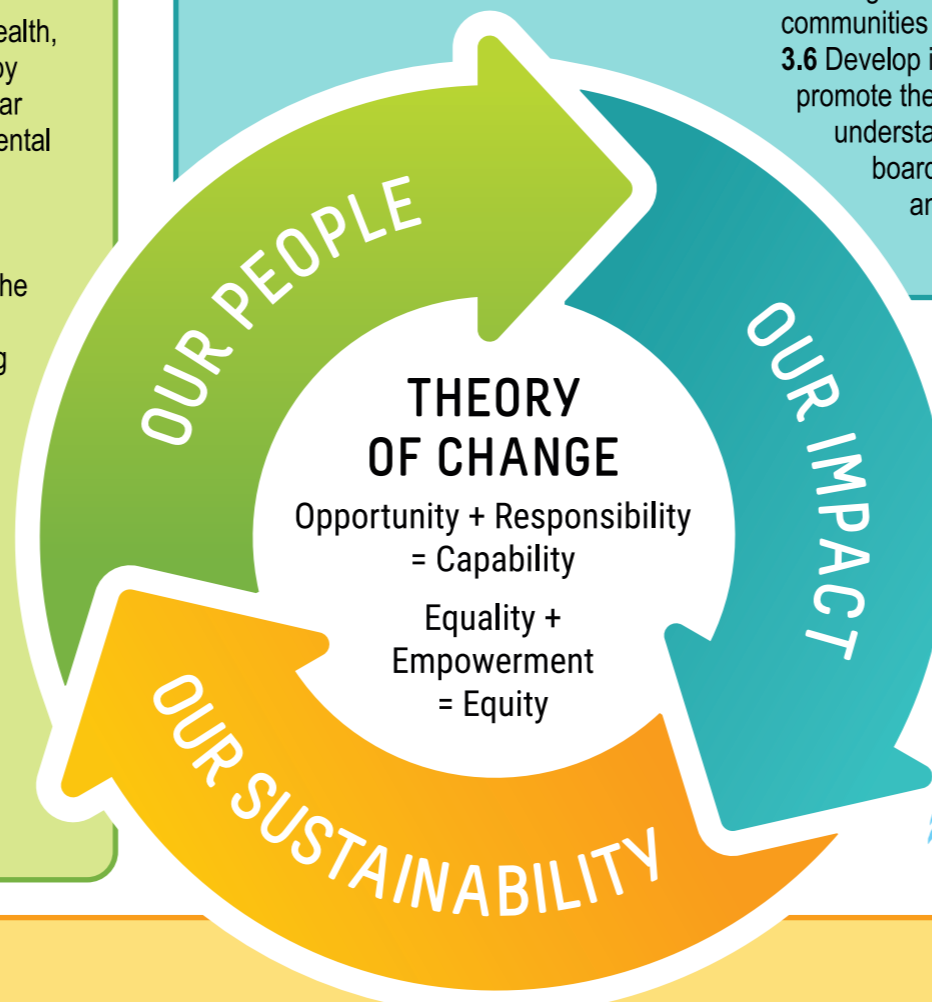
Foster Cultural Understanding and Identity

- 3.1 Incorporate traditional and contemporary Indigenous knowledge, values, and perspectives in all aspects of the College culture, curriculum, and programs.
- 3.2 Engage local Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers, and community leaders as guest speakers, cultural advisors, and program facilitators.
- 3.3 Establish partnerships with other Indigenous schools and organisations across Australia to create a network of knowledge-sharing and support through a National Alliance.
- 3.4 Develop an Indigenous language program to promote language revitalisation and cultural awareness.
- 3.5 Encourage students to participate in cultural exchanges and visits to other Indigenous communities in Australia and abroad.
- 3.6 Develop initiatives and programs that promote the exchange of cultural knowledge, understanding, and appreciation between boarding students' home communities and Djarragun College.

STRATEGY 4

Enhance Academic Excellence

- 4.1 Implement a culturally-responsive and inclusive curriculum that aligns with the Australian Curriculum and meets the unique learning needs of our Indigenous students.
- 4.2 Attract, retain, and develop highly-skilled staff with a commitment to Indigenous education and increase the number of Indigenous staff in the College.
- 4.3 Invest in state-of-the-art facilities and resources to provide a modern, well-equipped learning environment.
- 4.4 Develop strategic partnerships with educational institutions to provide opportunities for teacher education programs, student mentoring, and shared professional development.
- 4.5 Implement a rigorous assessment and evaluation system to continuously track and improve student achievement and teaching effectiveness through the DCPOET.
- 4.6 Establish an ATAR Pathway Program to support students interested in pursuing university education and to enhance their academic potential.



STRATEGY 6

Strengthen Community Engagement and Partnerships

- 6.1 Develop and implement a community engagement plan to foster collaboration with local Indigenous communities, and government organisations.
- 6.2 Increase awareness of Djarragun College and its achievements through targeted marketing, public relations, and social media campaigns.
- 6.3 Cultivate relationships with key stakeholders to secure funding and resources for College initiatives.
- 6.4 Establish an Alumni Association to engage former students and create opportunities for mentorship, networking, and community involvement.
- 6.5 Organise annual community events that celebrate Indigenous culture, showcase student achievements, and build relationships with the broader community.
- 6.6 Establish a comprehensive Career Development Program focused on providing students with resources, guidance, and exposure to a variety of career opportunities.

STRATEGY 5

Ensure Financial Sustainability and Growth

- 5.1 Develop a comprehensive financial plan that identifies and secures diverse funding sources for College operations, programs, and initiatives.
- 5.2 Implement cost-saving measures to ensure the efficient use of resources and maximise the impact of funding.
- 5.3 Pursue grant opportunities from government agencies, foundations, and private organisations to support strategic initiatives, outside of recurrent funding.
- 5.4 Engage the regional business community in fundraising efforts and explore opportunities for corporate sponsorship and partnerships.
- 5.5 Establish a building fund to support the long-term financial sustainability of the College for capital structure.
- 5.6 Develop a comprehensive Capital Works and Facilities Maintenance Plan, prioritising projects that support student success and enhance the overall learning environment.



**DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE**

(07) 4043 3777

djarragun.qld.edu.au