



**DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE**



**CAPE YORK  
GIRL ACADEMY**

TERM 2 2026

ISSUE NO. 26



## **IN THIS ISSUE**

**Wanggulay Official  
Opening**

**Athletics Carnival**









# DJARRAGUN COLLEGE NEWS



**DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE**







# GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to thank our students, families, staff and community for the support, encouragement and partnership you have shown throughout Term 2.

One of the highlights of the term was the official opening of Wanggulay, our new boys' boarding precinct. While students have been enjoying the facilities for almost a year, it was a privilege to officially celebrate this important milestone alongside boarding families, Elders, community members, project partners and supporters of the College. Wanggulay represents far more than a new building—it is a safe, welcoming and culturally responsive home away from home that supports the wellbeing, growth and success of our boarding students.

We were also delighted to welcome many boarding families to campus for our Semester 1 Parent-Teacher Interviews. These conversations are an important part of building strong partnerships between home and school, allowing families and teachers to celebrate each student's achievements and work together to support learning and wellbeing throughout the year. We greatly value the time families take to engage with their child's education.

Our annual Athletics Carnival was another highlight of the term, with students enthusiastically participating across a range of events while demonstrating teamwork, perseverance and great school spirit. It was wonderful to see students encouraging one another, celebrating personal achievements and proudly representing their house teams. Events like these play an important role in developing confidence, resilience and positive relationships beyond the classroom.

Throughout the term, we have continued to strengthen our commitment to providing every student with a safe, supportive and high-quality learning environment. Through ongoing professional learning and classroom observations, our staff have continued to refine their teaching practices, ensuring students experience consistent, engaging and effective learning across the College.

The safety and wellbeing of every child remains at the centre of everything we do. This term, staff also participated in professional learning focused on Queensland's new Child Safe Standards, reinforcing our shared commitment to creating environments where every student feels safe, respected and supported to learn.

One of the themes I have reflected on this term is the importance of strong partnerships between schools and families. Research consistently shows that when families are actively involved in their child's education, students are more likely to attend school regularly, engage positively in learning and achieve stronger educational outcomes.

At Djarragun College, we believe education is most successful when schools and families work together. Every conversation, every parent meeting, every phone call and every celebration of success helps strengthen these relationships. Thank you to all of our parents, carers and families for the trust you place in us and for the important role you play in supporting your young person's learning journey.



**Dr Michael Barton**

Executive Principal







# BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STRATEGY

## Board Update – Supporting the Future of Djarragun College

As Term 2 comes to a close, the Djarragun College Board has continued to work closely with College leadership to support the ongoing growth and success of our school community.

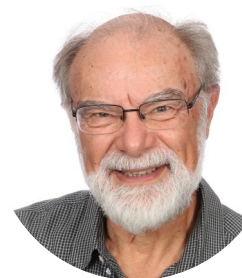
A highlight of the term was the official opening of Wanggulay, our new boys' boarding house. Board members were honoured to attend the opening ceremony alongside students, families, staff, Elders, community members and distinguished guests. The occasion marked an important milestone for Djarragun College and reflects our shared commitment to providing safe, supportive and culturally strong boarding opportunities for young people from across Far North Queensland.

The Board also continued planning for Stage 2 of the Boarding Precinct, taking another significant step by approving the next phase of the construction process. This important project will further strengthen the College's boarding facilities and support more students to access a quality education in the years ahead.

Throughout the term, the Board remained focused on student outcomes, receiving updates from leaders across the Primary, Middle and Senior Schools. These discussions provided valuable insight into teaching, learning and student wellbeing, reinforcing the College's commitment to delivering the best possible educational experience for every student.

The Board also reviewed a range of policies and governance matters to ensure the College continues to operate responsibly, sustainably and in the best interests of students and families. This work includes strengthening financial governance, reviewing student health service arrangements, and ensuring strong partnerships that support the College's long-term future.

The Board extends its sincere thanks to our staff, students, families and community for your ongoing support throughout another busy and successful term. We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday break and look forward to welcoming students back for Term 3.



**Dr Stephen Codrington**

Djarragun College Board Chair







# A NEW HOME, A NEW BEGINNING – CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF WANGGULAY

One of the most significant milestones in Djarragun College's history took place this term with the official opening of Wanggulay, our new purpose-built boys' boarding precinct.

Named after the white-crested cockatoo in Yidinji language, Wanggulay represents far more than a new building. It is a place where our young men from the Torres Strait, Cape York, the Northern Territory and other remote communities can feel safe, connected and proud while pursuing their education away from home.

The official opening ceremony brought together students, families, Elders, community members, Board Directors, special guests and supporters to celebrate this exciting new chapter. We were honoured to welcome Noel Pearson, members of the Djarragun College Board, representatives from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC), community leaders and many of the partners whose vision and support helped make Wanggulay a reality.

The ceremony featured a heartfelt Welcome to Country by Elder Ms Allison Halliday of the Malanbarra Yidinji people, followed by a powerful traditional dance performance led by Uncle David Mundraby from Yarrabah. We also heard from College leaders and students, whose stories highlighted the importance of providing culturally strong, supportive boarding environments where young people can thrive; these interviews can be seen and heard on our Facebook page.

Designed in collaboration with Elders, students, parents, staff and boarding experts, Wanggulay reflects the voices of the communities it serves. Each student has their own private bedroom and ensuite, providing dignity, independence and personal space, while shared recreation areas, yarning fire pits and communal spaces encourage friendship, cultural connection and a strong sense of belonging.

For many of our boarders, moving away from family and Country to continue their education is a significant step. Wanggulay has been thoughtfully created to ensure students feel at home, supported not only in their learning but also in their wellbeing, identity and personal growth.

The opening of Wanggulay marks more than the completion of a building—it represents a long-term investment in the future of our young people. It stands as a symbol of what can be achieved when communities, families and organisations work together with a shared vision: to provide every young person with the opportunity to succeed while remaining proud of who they are and where they come from.

We thank everyone who contributed to bringing Wanggulay to life and look forward to seeing generations of young men grow into confident leaders, proud cultural ambassadors and positive role models within this very special place.











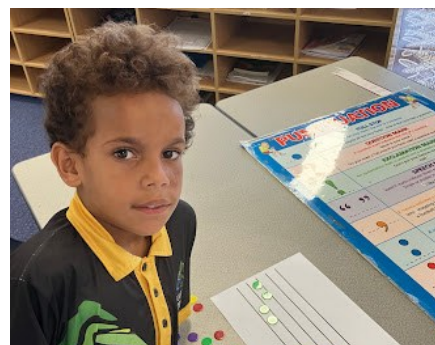




# PRIMARY & SECONDARY NEWS

Term 2 has been another exciting and rewarding term in our Primary School, with students embracing opportunities to learn, lead and connect with their culture and community.

A strong focus this term has been on building a love of reading. Across the Primary School, students have been encouraged to spend more time enjoying books, listening to stories and expanding their vocabulary through rich language experiences. Reading every day plays a vital role in developing confidence, communication skills and a lifelong love of learning, and we thank our families for supporting reading at home.



Students have also continued to celebrate their learning achievements through the IXL Snapshot assessments in English and Mathematics. These assessments help students recognise their strengths, identify areas for growth and take greater ownership of their learning. It has been wonderful to see so many students proudly receiving certificates and celebrating their progress throughout the term.



Our student leaders have represented the College with pride, demonstrating confidence, respect and responsibility at several important community events. On National Sorry Day, our Primary leaders joined Community Elders for a special morning tea and commemorative cake-cutting ceremony, recognising the Stolen Generations and reflecting on the importance of truth-telling, healing and reconciliation. The event was made even more special by our Hospitality students, who prepared and served a delicious morning tea for our honoured guests. Our School Captains Peter Levi and Casey Bounghi, in conjunction with Djarragun College's Chairperson Dr Stephen Codrington, also cut the ceremonial cake to officially kickstart National Reconciliation Week "ALL IN".

Our Indigenous Leaders of the Future (ILF) students also participated in leadership development activities this term, connecting with fellow student leaders and preparing for their upcoming leadership camp in Term 3. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow as confident young leaders within our College and community.



**Liz Thomas**

Deputy Head of Campus  
(Primary)







## DJARRAGUN STUDENTS COMPLETE DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRIDGE AWARD

Djarragun College proudly congratulates one Year 10 and two Year 11 students who have successfully completed level one of The Duke of Edinburgh's Bridge Award.; Xavier Dodd, Tyrhell Ryder and Kaiiso Dita.

The Bridge Award is designed to introduce students to the core elements of the Duke of Edinburgh framework, including skill development, service, physical recreation, and an Adventurous Journey. It provides students with opportunities to grow in confidence, responsibility, and leadership through practical, real-world experiences.

As part of their Adventurous Journey, the boys travelled from Gordonvale through Cairns and across to Fitzroy Island. They worked together to navigate walking tracks, manage equipment, share meals, and support one another through physical and environmental challenges.

Throughout the program, students demonstrated:

- Strong teamwork and cooperation
- Persistence when faced with fatigue and changing conditions
- Respectful behaviour in public settings
- Responsibility for their personal and shared equipment
- Positive representation of Djarragun College

The Bridge Award provides an alternative pathway for students to experience success outside the traditional classroom setting. Our participants demonstrated emerging leadership qualities, encouraging peers and modelling calm, steady behaviour during challenging moments.

This achievement reflects the students' commitment, resilience, and willingness to step outside their comfort zones. We commend them for their effort and look forward to supporting their continued participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award program.

Well done to all involved.



**Jason Rushton**

School Counsellor







# State AFL CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are incredibly proud of our students Patrick Matasia-Wano, Lacenzo Tipungwuti, Malakei Adams and Patricia Garadji, who travelled to Townsville this term to represent Peninsula at the State Championships for AFL 13–15 years.

The team enjoyed a great start to their trip, settling into accommodation, relaxing by the pool, and taking in a visit to the Castle Hill lookout. The following morning included an early cruise up Mount Stuart before heading to the grounds for a 10:30am kickoff.

Both teams started strongly in competition:

Boys vs Darling Downs – Peninsula leading 7 goals to 2 at one stage

Girls vs Wide Bay – Peninsula leading 5 goals to nil in the third quarter

Final updates from the carnival saw outstanding efforts from both teams across their matches. The Boys recorded a strong win against Norths (Peninsula 39 – Norths 1), and both the Boys and Girls teams finished 5th overall in their divisions.

A huge congratulations to all students involved for their effort, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the week.







# ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE NEWS

Term 2 has been another exciting season of sport at Djarragun College, with students proudly representing the College across a range of competitions, trials and carnivals.

Our students have continued to demonstrate outstanding commitment, resilience and sportsmanship while competing at local, regional and Peninsula levels. We congratulate all students who represented Djarragun College at TCS and Peninsula trials in sports including touch football, cross country, AFL, rugby league and volleyball. Simply earning the opportunity to trial is a wonderful achievement, and we are incredibly proud of every student who stepped onto the field, court or track wearing the Djarragun colours.



A special congratulations goes to Piiramu Wilson, who was selected as a shadow player following the Peninsula Touch Football trials, and to Patricia Girdja, Cenzo Tipungwuti, Malakai Adams and Patrick Matasia-Wano, who represented the Peninsula team at the AFL State Championships in Townsville.

Our cross country runners also enjoyed an outstanding term. Winston Davidson, Shaleish Yeatman and Gregory Dick all finished in the top ten at the TCS Cross Country Championships, with Winston and Shaleish progressing to the Peninsula Trials in Atherton. Their dedication and perseverance throughout the season were outstanding.



Our Open Boys Rugby League team once again represented the College with pride in the annual School Boys Rugby League competition. The team enjoyed several impressive performances throughout the season, including strong victories over Smithfield State High School and Cairns High School to finish second on the competition ladder and secure a home semi-final. While not every result went our way, the team's determination, teamwork and resilience were evident in every match.







One of the highlights of the season was the outstanding sportsmanship displayed by our players. During one match, Billy David and Pheonix Kulla Kulla volunteered to play for the opposing team when they were short on players, ensuring the game could go ahead. Their willingness to put fairness and respect above the scoreboard reflects the values we strive to develop through sport at Djarragun College.

Students also embraced opportunities to participate in lunchtime House competitions throughout the term, building school spirit, encouraging healthy competition and earning valuable points for their House teams.

Congratulations to every student who participated in sport this term. Whether representing the College at regional competitions, trying a new sport, or supporting teammates from the sidelines, each student contributed to another successful sporting term. We look forward to seeing our students continue to grow, compete and achieve in Term 3.



**Kimberley Tate**

Head of Sporting Academies of  
Excellence







# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS

Term 2 has been filled with exciting opportunities for our Vocational Education and Training (VET) students, who have continued exploring career pathways, developing workplace skills and building valuable industry connections.

Throughout the term, students participated in a range of industry visits and career immersion experiences, providing firsthand insight into the many employment opportunities available across Far North Queensland. Students visited organisations including Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ), Brothers Leagues Club, the Cairns Convention Centre and Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation, where they gained a behind-the-scenes look at careers in logistics, hospitality, health, events, community services and business operations.

Our students also attended the Cairns Careers Expo, where they connected with universities, training providers, employers and industry representatives to explore future study, apprenticeship and employment pathways. Students were also pleased to welcome representatives from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to the College, learning more about university courses, scholarships and opportunities available after school.

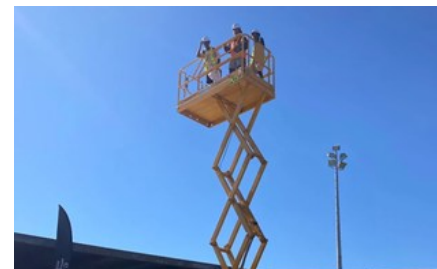
Several students had the opportunity to attend a Careers in Manufacturing Breakfast, hearing directly from industry leaders, apprentices and employers about the wide range of rewarding careers available within the manufacturing, engineering and aviation sectors. These experiences help broaden students' understanding of the many pathways available beyond school and encourage informed career planning.







A highlight of the term has been the continued success of our students securing work experience, traineeships and employment opportunities. Congratulations to David Tomich, who commenced a prestigious Commonwealth Bank Indigenous School-Based Traineeship, allowing him to gain valuable workplace experience while completing his senior studies. We also congratulate Sharntel Evans, who secured casual employment with Gulf Youth and Community Services, and Peter Levi and Joy Dumoo, who undertook work experience with UMI Arts, gaining valuable insight into the creative industries through exhibition preparation and gallery operations.



These experiences are an important part of our commitment to ensuring students graduate with the confidence, skills and knowledge to successfully transition into further education, training or employment.

We thank all of our industry partners for their ongoing support and generosity in providing our students with meaningful learning experiences and career opportunities. Their willingness to share their knowledge and open their workplaces to our young people continues to make a lasting difference in preparing our students for successful futures.



## Rio Tinto Inspires Future Career Pathways

Our senior students recently welcomed representatives from Rio Tinto for an engaging careers information session, exploring the many pathways available after school. Students learned about apprenticeships, traineeships, university graduate programs and the diverse range of careers available across mining, engineering, technology, environmental science, business and community services.

The session also highlighted Rio Tinto's strong commitment to supporting Indigenous employment through dedicated mentoring and career development opportunities. Hearing firsthand from Indigenous employees about their career journeys gave students valuable insight and inspiration as they begin planning their own futures.



**Jill McIlwain**

VET Teacher







## Another great day for Construction

On Friday 15 May, Certificate II in Construction had a site visit from Makita tools, organised by our partners at Cairns Hardware, showcasing innovation in modern tools alongside BBQ and iced coffees for students.

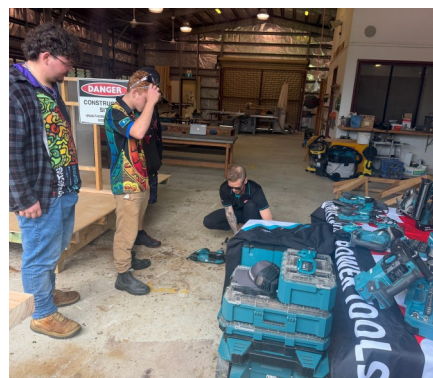
Students then got stuck into finishing their plaster joints before ending the day with a full clean-up of the Horticulture area.

A huge congratulations to all students who were fully engaged, hands-on and actively participating across the day's activities — fantastic effort!



**Arnaud Gohier**

VET Teacher







DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE

# Year 12 Formal & Dinner

NOVEMBER

SAT

28

AT 5 PM

2026

Pullman International, 17 Abbott St, Cairns







# BOARDING NEWS

Term 2 has been another busy and rewarding term in Boys' Boarding, with students enjoying a wide range of activities while continuing to build friendships, independence and a strong sense of community.

At the beginning of the term, students worked alongside boarding staff to plan the term's activities, ensuring their ideas and interests helped shape the boarding program. A significant highlight was the official opening of Wanggulay, our new boys' boarding precinct. While this important milestone is featured elsewhere in this newsletter, it was a proud occasion for our boarding students and families to celebrate together.

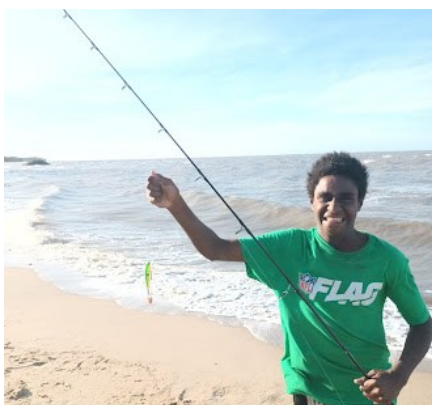
Sport has once again been a major focus, with many of our boys representing the College and local clubs throughout a busy AFL season. It was fantastic to see so many students committing to training each week, supported by our dedicated boarding staff, and even better to have families in attendance to cheer on the boys during their final games of the term.

We also congratulate four of our students who joined the AFL Umpiring Program, developing new skills and gaining valuable leadership experience.

Outside of sport, students enjoyed fishing trips, swimming at local creeks and beaches, evening volleyball, watching the State of Origin series together, caring for the community garden and sharing yarns around the fire pit. These experiences continue to strengthen the connections that make boarding feel like home.

This term also marked the retirement of Uncle Tamati. We sincerely thank him for his years of care, guidance and dedication to our boarding students and wish him every happiness in his retirement.

As the term came to a close, it was wonderful to welcome many boarding families back to the College for the Wanggulay opening and Parent-



**Michael Finau**  
Head of Residential Life







Our Girls' Boarding community has enjoyed another wonderful term filled with learning, connection and memorable experiences.

The term began with students working alongside boarding staff to plan activities for the months ahead, ensuring everyone had opportunities to participate in experiences that support wellbeing, friendships and personal growth.

A highlight this term has been the girls' participation in AFL, with many students proudly representing the College and local clubs throughout the season. Their commitment to training, teamwork and supporting one another has been outstanding, with boarding staff providing encouragement every step of the way.

Students also took part in a variety of recreational and cultural activities, including fishing trips to Holloways Beach, visits to Kur-Cow Farm in Kuranda, beach walks, swimming outings and plenty of dance practice with Uncle Ray. Evenings often finished with volleyball, conversations around the fire pit and time spent together building friendships and a strong sense of belonging.

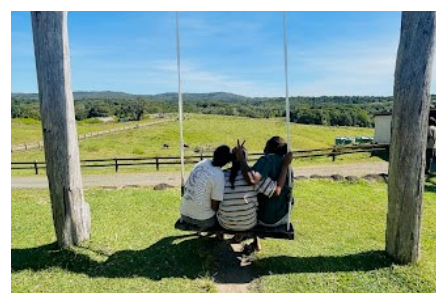
Another valuable initiative this term saw students participating in healthy relationships discussions with Aunty Brenda. These sessions encouraged thoughtful conversations, helping students build confidence, resilience and positive relationships for the future.

As families visited the College for Parent-Teacher Interviews and the Wanggulay opening celebrations, it was wonderful to see parents reconnect with students and staff before everyone headed home for the holidays. We thank our boarding families for their ongoing support and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term.



**Hannah Rosalski**

Head of Girls' Boarding







# CAPE YORK GIRL ACADEMY NEWS

Term 2 has been another exciting and rewarding term for our young women at Cape York Girl Academy, with students embracing opportunities to learn, grow and connect both in and outside the classroom.

Supporting the wellbeing of every student continues to be a priority across the Academy. Throughout the term, our College Counsellors have worked alongside teachers, boarding staff and families to ensure students feel safe, supported and ready to learn. By helping students build resilience, confidence and positive relationships, our wellbeing team plays an important role in supporting both personal growth and educational success.

Boarding students have enjoyed a wonderful range of weekend and evening activities, including trips to Mossman Gorge, fishing adventures, beach walks, swimming outings, volleyball and valuable conversations around the fire pit. These shared experiences continue to strengthen friendships, independence and a sense of belonging within our boarding community.

Learning beyond the classroom has remained a strong focus throughout the term. Our senior students have continued to excel in their Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs, developing practical skills and exploring future career pathways. Certificate II in Engineering students have been mastering precision machining techniques, while Certificate III in Community Services students visited the Spinal Life Health Centre to learn about rehabilitation, patient care and careers within the health sector. We are also excited to see our Community Services and Health simulated learning room continue to take shape, creating an engaging space for students to build industry-ready skills.

Our junior students have enjoyed a hands-on and engaging term, participating in technology lessons, gym sessions, painting, Health and Physical Education, and strengthening their literacy and numeracy skills, including exploring fractions in Mathematics.

Health and wellbeing have also remained a focus, with regular visits from Nurse Mel, who provided health check-ins and practical learning experiences for students. These sessions help empower our young women to take an active role in caring for their own health and wellbeing.

Sport has once again played an important role in Academy life, with many students proudly representing local AFL clubs throughout the season. Their commitment to training, teamwork and healthy lifestyles has been wonderful to see, reinforcing the importance of staying active, building resilience and supporting one another both on and off the field.

As we finish another successful term, we thank our students for their enthusiasm and determination, our dedicated staff for their ongoing care and support, and our families for the partnership they continue to share with us. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday break and look forward to another exciting term ahead.

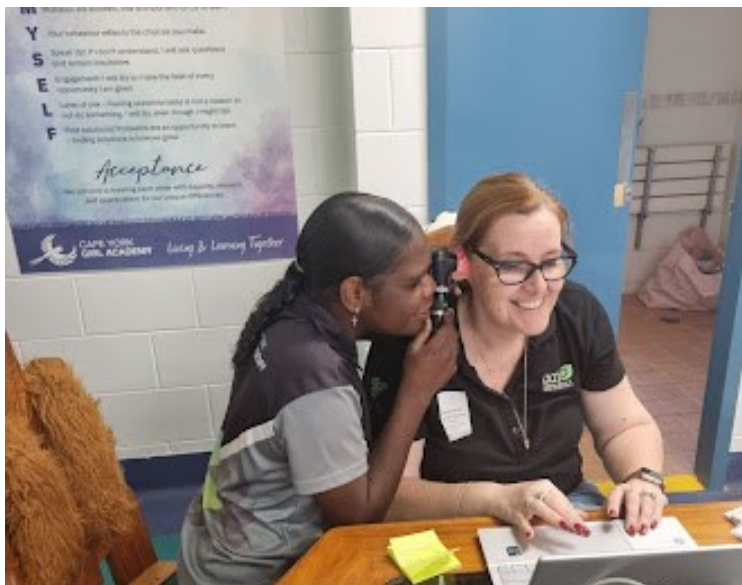


**Mrs Shonell Gohier**

Head of Program - CARE and  
Cape York Girl Academy











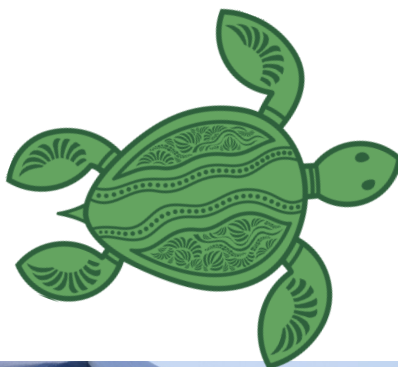
# ATHLETICS Carnival

Our annual Athletics Carnival was another fantastic day of fun, teamwork and friendly competition, with students from across the College proudly representing their House and giving every event their best effort.

It was wonderful to see so many students participating, encouraging one another and showing great sportsmanship throughout the day. We were also delighted to welcome parents and family members who came along to cheer on our students and share in the excitement.

Students proudly wore their House colours—Guyala (Blue), Waru (Green) and Kundii (Red)—earning valuable points towards the College House Cup through participation and teamwork. Congratulations to Waru House, who claimed this year's Athletics Carnival title!

A huge thank you to our staff, volunteers and student House Captains whose enthusiasm and support helped make the day such a memorable success.











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GIRL ACADEMY

# TRIBALMANIA

Many Communities, One Tribe

## NAIDOC Week 2026 – Expression of Interest

Parents, Carers and Families – We'd love your involvement!

**Monday 14 September**

Kup Murri Celebration

Help with preparations and join us for this special cultural experience.

**Tuesday 15 September**

Arts & Hospitality Activities

Can you help or run an activity for our students? We welcome ideas such as art, craft, cooking, weaving, storytelling, music, dance and more.

Share your skills, culture and knowledge with our students and community.

Interested?

Please contact Reception to register your interest:

[admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au)







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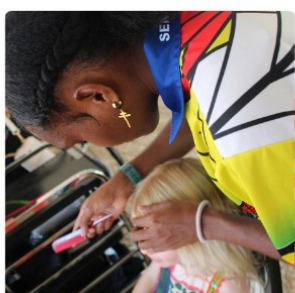
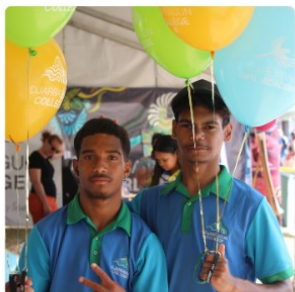
CAPE YORK  
GIRL ACADEMY



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# Come and See us at The Cairns Show

15 - 17 July  
2026



[www.djarragun.qld.edu.au](http://www.djarragun.qld.edu.au) | 07 4043 3777 | [enrolments@djarragun.qld.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@djarragun.qld.edu.au)

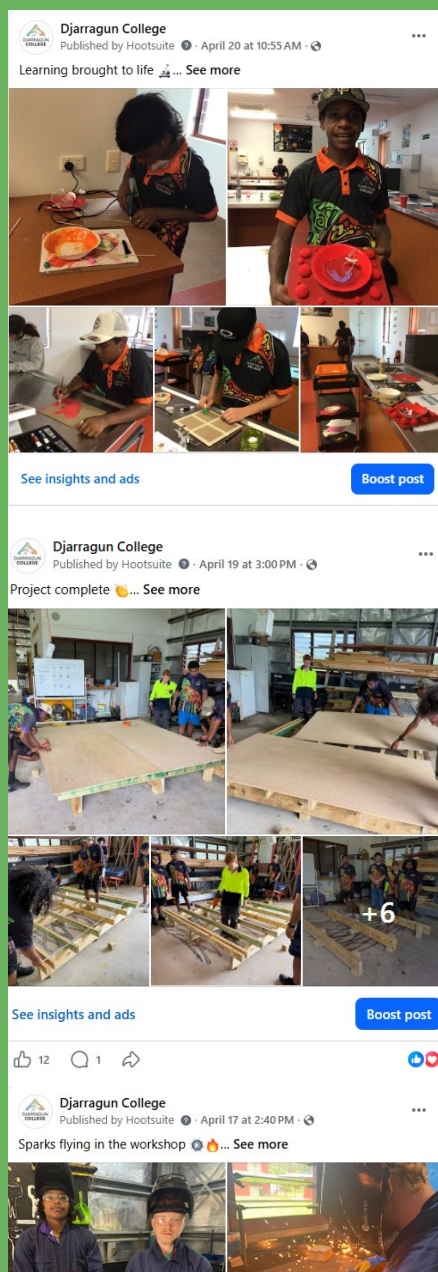






# CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

@djarraguncollege



# UPCOMING EVENTS

|              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 9 July       | Boarders Travel Day           |
| 13 July      | Term 3 Commences              |
| 15-17 July   | Cairns Show                   |
| 17 July      | Show Day Public Holiday       |
| 23 July      | Sports Coaching, Defy Gravity |
| 24 July      | JCU Open Day                  |
| 29 July      | Crazy Hair Day                |
| 29-31 July   | ILF Secondary TEE Camp        |
| 5-7 August   | ILF Primary DEE Camp          |
| 3 September  | Indigenous Leadership Program |
| 14 September | College NAIDOC Day            |
| 15 September | Tribalmania (part of NAIDOC ) |
| Date         | Event goes here               |
| 16 September | Boarders Travel Day           |

# TERM DATES

|               |                                                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TERM 4</b> | Wednesday 7 October (First day)<br>Tuesday 8 December (Last day) |
| <b>TERM 1</b> | Wednesday 27 January (First day)<br>Thursday 25 March (Last day) |







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# TRIBALMANIA

Many Communities, One Tribe

**Djarragun College  
Arts & Hospitality Day 2026**  
in conjunction with NAIDOC week celebrations



Vellington Lui, Ye

**Tuesday 15 September  
11.30am - 3pm**



*Join us*

**PRESENTATION  
DAY 2026**

**Friday 27  
November  
9.30am -  
12.30pm**

**Pullman Cairns  
International  
17 Abbott Street**



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GIRL ACADEMY







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