



DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK
GIRL ACADEMY

TERM 3 2026

ISSUE NO. 27



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NAIDOC Week

Tribalmania





DJARRAGUN COLLEGE NEWS



**DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE**





GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

As Term 3 drew to a close, it was wonderful to reflect on another busy and productive term at Djarragun College. Our students continued to learn, grow and embrace opportunities connecting their education with culture, community and future pathways.

One priority was preparing students for the next stage of their education. Our Year 10 students began considering their senior study pathways, while Year 8 students explored their Year 9 electives. These decisions encouraged students to consider their aspirations while helping the College plan for future education, training and employment opportunities.

We continued to provide practical, meaningful learning experiences. Our Year 11 and 12 Certificate II in Construction students travelled to Yarrabah to install a new sign for the Yarrabah PCYC, which they had helped manufacture. This was a great example of students applying their skills to a real project while contributing to community.

We also saw growing enthusiasm from students involved in a Cape York Partnership event held at Birrgal, our training restaurant, developing practical skills, confidence, teamwork, responsibility and workplace habits for life beyond school.

Term 3 also marked the commencement of Leaders of Two Worlds for our Year 10–12 students. Developed by Djarragun College and the Cape York Girl Academy, the program was built around a simple but important idea: be proud of who you are and be ready for where you are going.

The program brought together culture and identity, wellbeing, resilience, literacy and numeracy, careers, work readiness, leadership and practical life skills, alongside recognised QCAA Short Courses that could contribute towards students' Queensland Certificate of Education.

This term culminated in one of the most significant celebrations on our College calendar – NAIDOC Week. Students, families and our wider community came together to celebrate and recognise the histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Tribalmania Arts Day and our Hospitality Showcase were wonderful parts of the celebrations, giving students opportunities to share their creativity, learning and talents. It was particularly special to welcome our boarding families and their guests back to College.

As our Year 12 students moved closer to the end of their Djarragun journey, there was a strong focus on completing outstanding assessment and course requirements and achieving the best possible senior outcomes. Staff across teaching, Senior School, boarding and CARE worked together to support students through this important period.

During Term 4, I will represent Djarragun at conferences, professional learning activities and meetings across Australia. These engagements will provide opportunities to share our work, learn from others and bring new ideas and relationships back to our College community.

Thank you to our students, families, staff and community partners for your contribution throughout Term 3. The strength of Djarragun comes from the relationships between our College, families and communities.



**Dr Michael
Barton**

Executive Principal





BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STRATEGY

The Djarragun College Board met in August to consider a range of matters relating to the future of our College and, most importantly, the education, wellbeing and opportunities we provide for our students.

The Board continues to place our young people at the centre of its decision-making. During our meetings, we received updates from across Primary, Middle and Senior School, CARE, Cape York Girl Academy and Boarding, providing an opportunity to reflect on the progress being made across the College and consider our priorities for the future.

Supporting Student Health and Wellbeing

The Board was pleased to see further strengthening of the College's approach to student health and wellbeing during Term 3.

Having greater health support available within the College helps ensure our students receive timely, coordinated care when they need it and provides an important link between students, families, College staff and external health services.

This is another positive step in our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment where students can be well, engaged and ready to learn.

Investing in Our Boarding Community

Planning also continued for Stage 2 of our Boarding Precinct, an important investment in the future of our boarding community.

Following a comprehensive assessment and due diligence process, the Board progressed the project by selecting a preferred tender. We look forward to sharing further information with families and our community as this exciting project continues to develop.

Providing welcoming, safe and culturally supportive spaces for our boarding students remains an important priority for the College.

The Board was particularly pleased to receive positive feedback through external reviews of both the College and the Board during the term.

The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board (NSSAB) confirmed that the College met the accreditation criteria assessed, with positive recognition of improvements in areas including student behaviour, cultural engagement and boarding safety.

An independent review of the Board also recognised the strength of Djarragun's governance, Indigenous leadership and cultural knowledge, and the Board's deep understanding of education within Indigenous communities.

These outcomes are something our entire College community can be proud of. They reflect the commitment of our students, staff, leadership, families, Board members and community partners, who each contribute to making Djarragun the strong and unique community that it is.

As we look ahead, the Board remains focused on building on the positive progress being made across the College while continuing to strengthen the opportunities available to our young people.

We are grateful to our families and wider community for the trust, support and connection you bring to Djarragun. By continuing to work together, we can ensure our students are supported to learn, grow, celebrate their culture and identity, and look confidently towards their futures.

**Dr Stephen
Codrington**

Djarragun College Board
Chair





CELEBRATING CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY at DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

As part of our NAIDOC Week celebrations, Djarragun College proudly brought students, families and community members together to celebrate culture, connection and community through a series of special events.

The celebrations commenced on Monday, 14 September with a traditional Kup Murri feast held on campus. Students, families, staff and visitors gathered to enjoy this special cultural experience, sharing a delicious meal while celebrating the traditions, stories and connections that are such an important part of our community. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for people to come together, strengthen relationships and celebrate the rich cultural heritage that makes Djarragun College unique.

The celebrations continued on Tuesday, 15 September with the College's annual Arts and Hospitality Day, TRIBALMANIA 2026, themed "Many Communities, One Tribe."

TRIBALMANIA showcased the incredible talents, creativity and cultural pride of our students. Students participated in a range of engaging Art and Hospitality workshops. Students who preferred a different experience enjoyed a sports program coordinated by our Sports Coordinator, ensuring every student had the opportunity to be involved in the day's celebrations.

A highlight of the event was the exhibition of 70 outstanding artworks created by students from across the College. Displayed in the Gallery Hub, the exhibition celebrated students' stories, identities, culture and connection to Country. Families and guests were invited to view the collection and appreciate the remarkable artistic talent within our school community.

Guests also enjoyed a selection of delicious canapés prepared and served by our Certificate II Hospitality students. Under the guidance of Hospitality teachers Penny and Franco, students demonstrated their developing industry skills while providing exceptional hospitality throughout the event.

The afternoon concluded with performances from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance troupes, whose traditional dances celebrated culture, storytelling and community spirit. These performances were a powerful reminder of the importance of preserving and sharing cultural knowledge with future generations.

TRIBALMANIA continues to be one of the most anticipated events on the College calendar, bringing together the many communities that make up Djarragun College. It is a celebration of creativity, culture, pride and belonging, and reflects the spirit that unites us all — *Many Communities, One Tribe*.



Noel Mason

Dean of Academy of Creative &
Performing Arts









PRIMARY & SECONDARY NEWS



Term 3 was a busy and rewarding term for our Primary and Middle School students, filled with opportunities to learn, grow, build confidence, connect with culture and celebrate success.

Throughout the term, our Friday assemblies gave us an important opportunity to recognise students demonstrating the Djarragun Way through their positive attitudes, effort and behaviour. We also celebrated students achieving 80% or higher attendance, with certificates and rewards recognising their commitment to being at school and ready to learn.



Celebrating Improved Attendance

It was wonderful to see encouraging improvements in Primary School attendance throughout the term. In Weeks 1–3, an average of 16% of Primary students attended school for four or five days each week. By Week 6, 20% of students were attending all five days.

We also celebrated some students who maintained 100% attendance, an achievement that reflects not only their commitment, but also the important support of their parents and carers.

Every extra day at school means another opportunity to learn, build friendships, develop confidence and experience success. Thank you to our families for continuing to encourage regular attendance – this positive progress is something our whole school community can celebrate.





Growing Our Young Leaders

Our Primary student leaders had a fantastic opportunity to attend the Indigenous three-day Leaders of the Future Leadership Camp at Daradgee Environmental Education Centre, joining students from other schools for activities designed to build courage, resilience, teamwork and cultural connection.

Jaleesha and Avarie embraced the experience, challenging themselves through activities including crate climbing, tasting bush tucker and fossicking for candle nuts, while exploring what leadership means and how culture helps shape strong leaders. They returned to Djarragun inspired and ready to put their new skills into action.

One of our young leaders' first projects was helping to create the new Djarragun Shop, where students can select rewards for achieving 80% or higher attendance. Our leaders designed an inviting display, completed a stocktake and even identified popular items that needed to be reordered – a wonderful example of initiative and responsibility in action.





Our Secondary leaders Peter Levi, Casey Boughni, Shanita Highfold and Caedence O'Burns represented Djarragun at the Indigenous Leaders Training (ILT) Camp at Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre, joining 55 students from schools across the region.

The camp focused on developing leadership, teamwork and communication while strengthening students' connection to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Students learned about local cultural protocols and history from Traditional Owners and mentors and were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, build independence and connect positively with their peers.

The action-packed program included canoeing, high ropes, weaving, storytelling, painting, navigation and orienteering, along with a range of collaborative challenges. Our students embraced the experience, giving new activities a go, supporting one another and engaging positively and respectfully with students and staff from other schools.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to grow in confidence, strengthen their leadership skills and cultural connections, and discover just how much can be achieved by working together.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

There were plenty of opportunities for students to take their learning beyond the classroom during Term 3.

Our Year 7 students enjoyed a successful HASS excursion, while Year 8 students travelled to Lake Barrine as part of their HASS learning. Excursions such as these give students an opportunity to connect what they have been learning in class with the people, places, environments and stories around them.

Middle School students also welcomed JUTE Theatre to Djarragun. Selected Year 7–9 students participated in theatrical workshops designed to build confidence, creativity and self-awareness. The program concluded with a fantastic performance focused on road safety, with students even writing their own lyrics for a road safety piece. We were very proud of the enthusiasm and confidence they demonstrated.





Creativity, Literacy and Hands-On Learning

Creativity remained an important part of learning across Primary and Middle School.

In Primary classrooms, reading together provided opportunities to explore new vocabulary, ideas and stories while strengthening students' confidence with language. Students also learned to draw on the skills they had developed in English across other subjects. Our Year 3/4 Media Arts students, for example, worked together to use their knowledge of sounds and letter patterns to solve unfamiliar spellings rather than simply being given the answer – building both literacy skills and resilience along the way.

Arts and crafts also supported creativity, fine motor development, listening, problem-solving, teamwork and a sense of achievement.

Our Year 8 Food Technology students finished the term with an exciting practical assessment, challenging them to design and prepare a healthy – but, importantly according to the students, still “edible” – meal using a selection of ingredients.

The kitchen was filled with excitement, discussion, experimentation and plenty of tasting as students developed their dishes. There were some impressive results, including Justin Wosomo's fried rice!



Looking After One Another

In September, Djarragun marked R U OK? Day, providing another opportunity to remind our young people of the importance of checking in with one another.

Students received R U OK? wristbands and enjoyed some very popular cupcakes prepared by Dawna and our Kitchen Team – although judging by the number of students (and staff!) returning for seconds, thirds and even fourths, the cupcakes may have been the highlight of the day!

Behind the fun was an important message: looking after one another isn't something we do on just one day of the year. We want our students to know that there are people at Djarragun who care about





Finishing the Term Together

Term 3 finished on a high with a busy final week of NAIDOC celebrations, Tribalmania and our Art Gallery, bringing students, staff, families and community together.

Our Hospitality and Food Technology students also had an opportunity to put their skills into practice, working alongside staff in the kitchen to prepare, make and serve canapés for the celebrations. Experiences like these allow students to develop practical skills, confidence and teamwork while contributing to important College events.

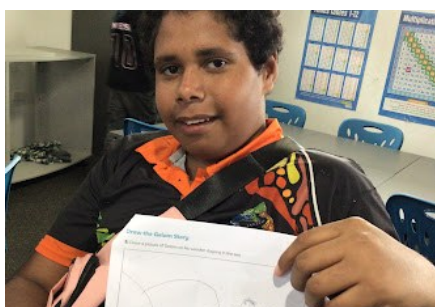
From leadership camps and excursions to theatre, cooking, literacy, creativity, cultural celebrations and achievements in attendance, Term 3 provided our Primary and Middle School students with many different ways to experience success.

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students made throughout the term and thank our parents, carers, families and wider community for the important part you continue to play in supporting their learning and encouraging them to be at school, do their best and embrace every opportunity.



Liz Thomas

Deputy Head of Campus
(Primary School)



Penny Ross

Deputy Head of Campus
(Middle School)





SPORTS NEWS

Term 3 was another fantastic term for sport at Djarragun College, with students proudly representing the College and Cape York Girl Academy at school, Trinity Coast South (TCS) and Peninsula level.

Athletics Age Champions

Following our Term 2 Athletics Carnival, we celebrated our Age Champions and Runners Up. Many students had competed in almost every event and demonstrated great determination, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the carnival.

Congratulations to our Age Champions: Jahlaysias Swain-Yeatman and Lavhran Sexton-Kynuna (12 years), Caedence O'Burns and Jhai Friday (13 years), Jessie Murgha and Nulsa Neal (14 years), Zara Murgha and Winston Davidson (15 years), Shaleish Yeatman and Daniel Burns-Garret (16 years), Jamaya Bond and Gregory Dick (17 years), and Joy Dumoo and Jeffrey Miller (18 years).

Congratulations also to all of our Runners Up and every student who participated and gave their best on the day.



Kimberley Tate

Dean Sporting Academies of
Excellence





Trinity Coast South Athletics

Our students achieved some outstanding results at the TCS Athletics Carnivals in August.

Nine of our 10–12-year-old students represented Djarragun, with Calasia Mossman-Kynuna, Lavhran Sexton-Kynuna, Skyla-Rose Stafford, Jahlaysias Swain-Kynuna and Milian Yoren progressing to the Peninsula Trials.



A special congratulations went to Milian Yoren, whose outstanding performance in the 800m helped her become the 10-year-old Girls Age Champion.

Our older students also performed exceptionally well. Twenty-seven students represented Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy in the 13–19 years competition, with an impressive 15 students qualifying for the TCS team and progressing to the Peninsula Track and Field Trials at Barlow Park.

Peninsula Success

Our athletes continued to make us proud at the Peninsula Trials, with many competing at this level for the first time.

Milian Yoren improved her 800m time by three seconds and finished fourth in her age group, while Leo Callope-Loogatha placed third in javelin after improving his TCS throw by an impressive four metres.

Two students earned the opportunity to progress even further. Jhai Friday placed first in both the 100m and 200m, while Jeffrey Miller placed second in discus, earning both students places in the Peninsula Team to compete at the State Trials in October.



Congratulations to all of our students who competed throughout the athletics season. It was wonderful to see so many students step up, have a go and represent Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy with pride. We look forward to cheering Jhai and Jeffrey on at the State Trials in Term 4!





VOCATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS

Term 3 was full of opportunities for our Senior Secondary students to take their learning beyond the classroom, explore future careers and gain valuable hands-on experience in workplaces and industries across Far North Queensland.

From construction sites and manufacturing facilities to banks, health services and the great outdoors, our students were able to see where their studies could take them and develop skills that will help prepare them for life beyond school.

Learning on the Job

Our school-based traineeships continued to provide students with a fantastic opportunity to combine their senior studies with paid employment, nationally recognised qualifications and valuable workplace experience.

Jesseeka Cassidy commenced a school-based traineeship with Cape York Partnership (CYP) in its Communications Department and is completing a Certificate III in Business as part of her traineeship.

David Tomich continued to impress during his traineeship with Commonwealth Bank, with such positive progress that he increased his workplace attendance to two days each week – Thursday and Friday. David is also completing a Certificate III in Business and has been developing his customer service skills and confidence interacting with members of the public.

Lailanee also commenced her traineeship with Queensland Health at Cairns Hospital, attending the workplace each Thursday while completing a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance.





School-based traineeships are a wonderful way for our students to get a head start on their futures. Students can earn while they learn, gain a nationally recognised qualification and real workplace experience, and earn credits towards their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) – all while still completing high school.

Exploring Careers in Health

Our health students also had the opportunity to gain valuable workplace experience with Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation in Yarrabah.

Mylie Canendo, Jaykitta Davidson, Nykira Thomas-Kynuna and Jacintha Davidson participated in work experience and received positive and encouraging feedback.

The experience gave students an opportunity to see firsthand how a busy health service operates. They observed patient care and communication, reception and administration, workplace health and safety, infection control and the many different professional roles that work together to support patients and community.

Just as importantly, work experience helps young people develop confidence, communication skills and an understanding of workplace expectations, while giving them the chance to discover whether a career in health is something they may wish to pursue in the future.

Construction Careers Come to Life

Our construction students had some fantastic opportunities during Term 3 to see the industry in action.

Students visited the live Cairns Hospital Project, hosted by Construction Skills Queensland (CSQ) and Hansen Yuncken. Touring an active major development gave students an insight into how large-scale health infrastructure is built from the ground up and introduced them to the diverse range of careers involved in delivering a project of this size.

Students explored the development site, learned about large-scale construction operations and had the opportunity to speak directly with industry professionals and ask questions about their work and career pathways.

The learning continued with a behind-the-scenes tour of Cairns Hardware's manufacturing facilities, where students saw building manufacturing, truss and frame fabrication and supply chain operations in action.

Seeing timber framing, custom glass work and trade manufacturing happening locally gave students valuable context for what they have been learning and highlighted career opportunities available right here in Far North Queensland across trades, engineering, manufacturing and logistics.

A big thank you to the local businesses and industry professionals who generously shared their time and expertise with our students – and, of course, the lunch at Cairns Hardware was an added bonus!





Learning in Our Great Outdoors

For students completing their Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation, the classroom looked a little different during Term 3!

Practical excursions are an important part of the course, allowing students to demonstrate their skills while learning about safety, teamwork, the environment and our responsibility to care for the places around us.

Students had opportunities to explore some of the spectacular natural environments our region has to offer, with activities and locations including Fitzroy Island, Lake Tinaroo, Lake Eacham, Lake Barrine, Ivan Evans Track, Wangetti Beach, Crystal Cascades and Babinda Creek.

From paddling, canoeing and bushwalking to diving and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, students were able to develop practical outdoor recreation skills while gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of the unique environment in which we live.

Building Pathways for the Future

Term 3 demonstrated just how many different pathways are available to our Senior Secondary students.

Whether they were working in an office, bank or health service, exploring a construction site, learning from local industry or developing practical skills in the outdoors, our students were building much more than qualifications. They were developing confidence, independence, communication skills, workplace knowledge and a clearer understanding of where their own interests and abilities could take them.

We are very proud of the way our students have represented Djarragun in workplaces and throughout the wider community.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the employers, training organisations, local businesses and community partners who continue to open their doors to our young people. These partnerships provide experiences that cannot always be replicated in a classroom and play an important role in helping our students see the possibilities available to them beyond school.



Jill McIlwain

VET Teacher





CARE & CAPE YORK GIRL ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

Term 3 saw a continued focus on strengthening the wellbeing, connection and support available to our students across Djarragun College and Cape York Girl Academy.

At the heart of this work is a simple but important principle: every young person brings their own story, strengths, relationships, culture and connections with them to school. Understanding and valuing these connections helps us create an environment where students feel safe, supported, understood and ready to learn.

Welcoming Wakai Waian to Djarragun

This term, we were delighted to welcome Tayla Squires from Wakai Waian Healing to the Djarragun community.

Tayla, a registered psychologist with experience supporting children, young people and families, joined us onsite for two days each fortnight to work alongside our teaching and wellbeing teams.

Her work focuses on helping staff better understand the individual learning, developmental and emotional needs that may influence how students engage at school. By spending time in classrooms, observing students in their learning environment and working alongside teachers, Tayla provides practical strategies to help students remain connected, regulated and engaged in their learning.

Tayla also joined our College Counsellors' case review panel, adding another professional perspective as we consider the individual needs of students and coordinate appropriate support.

The partnership with Wakai Waian reflects our commitment to culturally responsive, relationship-based and student-centred practice, and we have greatly valued Tayla's contribution throughout the term.

Understanding the Whole Student

An important focus throughout Term 3 was continuing to strengthen our CARE – Children and Residential Experiences – approach across the College.

CARE reminds us that a student's experience at school cannot be separated from the wider world they are part of. Family and kin, Country, culture, language, community, Elders, friendships and relationships all contribute to a young person's identity, sense of belonging and wellbeing.

Sometimes changes or challenges within these connections can affect how a student participates in learning or interacts with others. Rather than looking only at the behaviour we can see, our approach encourages staff to consider the whole young person and what they may be communicating or experiencing.

This does not mean removing boundaries or expectations. Instead, it helps us respond in ways that maintain safety and accountability while also strengthening relationships, connection and trust.

Supporting the People Who Support Our Students

Our staff also commenced the Djarragun Professional Micro Learning Series during Term 3.





These short professional learning sessions focus on practical strategies that staff can apply in their everyday interactions with students. Topics included understanding how young people respond when they are experiencing stress or an unmet need, recognising the importance of students' essential connections, and using reflective practice to continually improve the support we provide.

One of the key messages throughout the series has been that supporting young people is a shared responsibility across our whole College community.

Students experience Djarragun through their interactions in classrooms, boarding houses, playgrounds, offices, vehicles, kitchens, dining spaces and throughout the College grounds. Every positive interaction is an opportunity to help a young person feel that they are known, valued and that they belong.

Strengthening Student Health Support

Term 3 also saw an important addition to our student wellbeing team with the arrival of Bri, our new Student Health Coordinator.

Bri is a Registered Nurse who supports the health and wellbeing of students across both our day school and boarding community.

Her role provides greater coordination of student health needs, including nursing care and health assessments, medication and individual health care plans, referrals & access to external

health services, and communication between families, College staff and healthcare providers.

For our boarding students in particular, having coordinated health support onsite helps provide continuity of care when students are living away from home.

Moving forward, Bri will also have a strong focus on health promotion and education, helping our young people develop the knowledge and confidence they need to make informed decisions and take greater ownership of their own health and wellbeing.

Connection at the Centre

Our work through CARE, Cape York Girl Academy, Wakai Waian and our broader wellbeing and health teams all contributes to the same goal – ensuring our young people have the relationships, support and sense of belonging they need to thrive.

We know that strong outcomes for students are built not only through what happens in the classroom, but through the relationships surrounding them.

We thank our families, carers, community members, health professionals and partner organisations who work alongside us. By keeping culture, connection, wellbeing and relationships at the centre of what we do, we can continue to create an environment where our young people feel supported to learn, grow and succeed.



Mrs Shonell Gohier

Head of Program - CARE and
Cape York Girl Academy





BOARDING NEWS

Term 3 in boarding was filled with plenty of activity, laughter, learning and time spent together – from homework sessions and cooking to football, fishing, swimming and trips around our beautiful Far North Queensland home.

Boarding is about much more than having somewhere to stay while attending school. For our young people, it is also about creating a home away from home – a place where they can build friendships, maintain important connections to family and culture, learn independence and know there are people around them who care.

Life After the School Bell

Once the school day finished, there was certainly no shortage of things happening!

Our boarders made the most of Cairns' beautiful dry-season weather with trips into town and walks along the Esplanade, visits to the beach – with Etty Bay remaining a firm favourite – and plenty of opportunities for swimming and fishing at some of our favourite local spots.

Towards the end of term, students also enjoyed the Cairns Children's Festival, taking in the spectacular light displays and entertainment around the Cairns Esplanade and Lagoon.





Back at boarding, everyday activities provided just as many opportunities for connection. Students spent time gardening, cooking supper and snacks for one another and simply enjoying each other's company. These everyday moments are an important part of boarding life, helping our young people develop independence, responsibility and the skills involved in living together as a community.

Supporting Each Other On and Off the Field

Sport continues to be an important part of life for many of our boarders, and throughout Term 3 students regularly headed out to support their fellow boarders playing for local girls' and boys' football clubs.

There was plenty to cheer about, including a fantastic end to the season for the Cutters, who took out the Division 3 Grand Final. A special congratulations to Ernest on receiving his medal – a wonderful achievement!

Seeing our young people turn up for one another is something we love about our boarding community. Whether competing themselves or cheering from the sidelines, these experiences build friendships, connection and a strong sense of belonging.

Learning Continues After Hours

While there was plenty of fun, our boarders also put in some great work academically during Term 3.

Regular after-school homework sessions provided students with dedicated time and support to complete their schoolwork, catch up on tasks and prepare for assessments. Developing good study habits and learning to balance school responsibilities with recreation and social activities are important skills as our young people become increasingly independent.

We were proud to see students making positive use of these sessions and supporting one another with their learning.

Culture, Community and Connection

Our end-of-term NAIDOC and Tribalmania celebrations were particularly special for boarding this year, as we welcomed boarding families who had travelled to the College to join us for the celebrations and Parent-Teacher Interviews.





Having family present is incredibly important for our boarding students. Our young people bring their family, kin, Country, culture and community connections with them when they come to Djarragun, and maintaining those connections remains an important part of their wellbeing and sense of belonging while living away from home.

Our boarders also played their own part in making the celebrations a success. Students rolled up their sleeves to help prepare fry bake scones for the NAIDOC lunch and took responsibility for helping with the Kup Muri.

It was a wonderful opportunity to contribute, share culture and food, and work together for an occasion that brought our College community and families together.

A Home Away From Home

Some of the most valuable parts of boarding life aren't necessarily the biggest events.

They are the fishing trips, afternoons at the swimming hole, cooking something for everyone to share, tending the garden, helping another student with homework, supporting a friend at football or sitting together at the end of a long school day.

These experiences help young people learn how to live alongside others, contribute to their community, manage responsibilities and build relationships. Just as importantly, they create the sense of connection and belonging that helps make boarding feel like home.

As Term 3 came to an end, we were proud of the many ways our boys and girls continued to grow – academically, socially and personally.

A big thank you to our boarding staff, families and community for the care and support you provide our young people, and especially to those families who were able to travel to Djarragun and spend time with us during our end-of-term celebrations. We loved having you here and look forward to welcoming all of our boarders back for another busy term.



Hannah Rosalski

Head of Girls' Boarding



Michael Finau

Head of Residential Life





Does my child start kindy or school in 2027?

Born in blue, school is for you.
Born in grey, kindy is the way.

2021

2022

2023

School



Kindy

You can also use the kindy calculator
to see when your child starts kindy or school.
www.qld.gov.au/KindyAgeCalculator



Together for Online Safety

Smart choices today, safe futures tomorrow.

The online world is full of opportunities to learn, connect and have fun. By staying safe and respectful online, we protect ourselves and look out for others.

For Parents
and Students
Prep - Year 12

BE SMART ONLINE



KEEP PERSONAL INFO PRIVATE

Don't share your full name, address, school, passwords or location online.



THINK BEFORE YOU POST

What you post today could stay online forever. Be kind and respectful.



BE KIND ONLINE

Treat others how you would like to be treated. Kind words build others up.



CHECK YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make sure your accounts are set to private and only share with people you know and trust.



BALANCE IS IMPORTANT

Too much screen time can affect your sleep, mood and wellbeing. Take breaks and enjoy real-world activities.

GET HELP. YOU'RE NOT ALONE.



TALK ABOUT IT

If something online makes you feel worried, uncomfortable or unsafe, talk to a parent, teacher or a trusted adult.



REPORT & BLOCK

Use report and block buttons if someone is being mean, scary or inappropriate.



TRUST YOUR GUT

If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Step away and get help.



WE'RE ALL CONNECTED

We all have a role in keeping our community safe online. Look out for your friends and be an upstander, not a bystander.



PARENTS: YOU MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Stay involved, have open conversations, set boundaries and lead by example. Your support helps children make safe and confident choices online.

WHERE TO GET HELP



Kids Helpline

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au
24/7 support for young
people aged 5-25



eSafety Commissioner

esafety.gov.au
Tips and resources to help
keep children safe online



Report Abuse

reportonline.com.au
Report serious online
abuse, harmful content
or illegal activity



Your School

Speak to your teacher,
guidance officer or any
trusted staff member.

BE SAFE. BE KIND. BE YOU.



Let's create a positive online
community where everyone
can learn, laugh and belong.



**CONNECT
WITH US ON
FACEBOOK &
INSTAGRAM**
@djarraguncollege



UPCOMING EVENTS

6 October	Boarders Travel Day
7 October	Term 4 Commences
16 October	Try a Trade Civil (Seniors)
16 October	Year 8 HASS Trip to Lake Barrine
23 October	Indigenous Leadership Program
27 October	Year 8 Day at CQUni
24 November	Services Australia (Seniors)
27 November	Presentation Day
28 November	Year 12 Formal
8 December	Boarders Travel Day
8 December	Last Day Term 4
9-11 December	Student Free Days, Staff Professional Development

TERM DATES

TERM 1	Wednesday 27 January (First day) Thursday 25 March (Last day)
TERM 2	Monday 12 April (First day) Friday 25 June (Last day)





Join us
**PRESENTATION
DAY 2026**

Friday 27 November
9.30am - 12.30pm

Pullman Cairns International
17 Abbott Street Cairns



DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK
GIRL ACADEMY

Peter Levi, Year 12

DJARRAGUN
COLLEGE

*Year 12 Formal
& Dinner*

NOVEMBER

SAT

28

AT 5 PM

2026

Pullman International, 17 Abbott St,
Cairns

*Remembrance
Day*

11 NOVEMBER 2026

Lest We Forget



*Parents
& Carers,*

do we have
your correct
email and
contact details?

Make sure we have your
correct contact details,
so you can keep up to date
with newsletters and events.





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