

Indigenous Careers Expo

Sponsored by FOGS (Former Origin Greats)

Wednesday 29 July was an excellent opportunity for twenty of our indigenous students to have a look at what careers professional indigenous people are currently pursuing.

The Expo was set up at the Cairns Convention Centre with over thirty stalls which provided information and career directions ranging from Defence Force, agriculture, tourism, retail, entertainment and emergency services.

The students were given heaps of freebies (waterbottles, pens, showbags, etc.) from the people running the stalls. They got to talk to fellow indigenous people already working and training in these industries.

Whilst our students got to listen to and meet former greats such as Gene Miles, Sam Backo, Arthur Beetson, Greg Dowling and Alan Langer this was not the focus of the expo. The focus was for our young indigenous students to gain confidence and inspiration to pursue a career. Just seeing that there are already indigenous people out there in these industries was an excellent learning experience for our students.

They participated with interest, asked questions, displayed exemplary behaviour and were a credit to Smithfield State High School.

Maureen Sweeney
Community Education Councillor



Poetry Night

With considerable trepidation the Year 10 Extension English class launched Smithy's third annual poetry night. As T.S. Elliot would have said, "you may say it was satisfactory".

India was perfect as the charming hostess. Karina was her inimitable self and Christina was, well ... Christina! The boys surprised themselves and everyone else – they were great! It is rumoured now that Georgia is into leopard skin and that Annika is considering becoming a poet rather than a hairdresser.

Thanks to the parents, teachers and families for being such a great audience. Everybody contributed and the night was a success.

Mr Arch Van Slooten
English
Teacher



QUESTACON

On Monday 17 August we were fortunate to be visited by a team from QUESTACON.

QUESTACON is from the National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra. They presented to all Year 9 and Year 10 students and the senior students who are studying science.

As well as promoting exciting career opportunities in science, they aim to inspire students to

invent and innovate, giving guidance on how to go from "ideas" to "enterprise".

Students were shown exciting current innovations such as how chicken feathers are being used to store hydrogen fuel, research to stop the spread of cane toads, as well as novel water saving shower mats, and much more besides.

Rob Callin
Acting Head of Department –
Science