

Weekend of Weaving - Feedback

Friday Night . . . before we start

CHECK IN . . . whole group, individual responses

How are you feeling?

- Excited
- Connected
- Exhilarated
- Excited
- Good and excited
- Happy, honoured
- Very relaxed
- Excited to host
- Excited
- Loved / appreciated / privileged
- Shy
- Curious
- Privileged
- Connected and excited
- Good
- Absolutely fantastic
- Tired
- Great
- Wonderful – haven't been in the bush for a long time
- Feeling good

What do you expect to get from this weekend?

- Looking forward to taking some knowledge
- Squeeze the elders dry of knowledge
- Knowledge and taking it
- To talk to Aunties and weaving
- Knowledge to pass onto children and cousins
- Network with others – privilege to meet lots of ladies
- Reconnecting stories from Mum born at Cherbourg; knowledge sharing with each other; Wrote a song "Big Sister, Little Sister & baby sister coming together"
- Tired / excited, passing on from Rhonda our teacher
- Love women getting together
- Good, scared about 30 women
- Proud and lucky to be here, to be asked to come
- Networking and meeting young ones
- Learning stories and passing stories on
- Happy to be here
- Get away from drama and social media /
- Basket weaving
- Full of your happiness, opportunity given to meet women of all ages
- To have a ball
- Privileged to host and walk with local people – looking forward to weaving

- Love being in country
- See it as a special privilege to learn stories from TS Islander women – touch my heart
- Basket weaving time with girls
- Heart full of new relationships
- Aboriginal / TS / SS open to getting to older women together; our women nurture and bring the next generation through. Walking in both worlds
- Excited to meet with other ladies
- Stories / share weaving / healing space
- Excited
- My first time down here
- Experience is overwhelming
- Hoping to learn to make baskets and enjoy the weekend
- A lot better / pleased to be here / caring is sharing
- Peaceful / absorbing vibes
- Sharing with all, great week end
- Full of love, good to be with old friends
- Good times, hoping to learn to weave
- Learn to weave properly
- Excited to learn something new
- Want to make some baskets
- Enjoy
- Meet everybody and join in
- Meeting new Aunties
- Just be in the bush

Then we wove our fibres and our stories.....

Weekend of Weaving Feedback

SUNDAY LUNCH . . . before heading home

SMALL GROUP INTERVIEWS

What are two things that you learnt about this weekend?

- Weaving knowledge and skills and connectedness
- Weaving and connection
- How to add the weaver; Stories from other participants that involved cultural backgrounds and connections
- Family connections and reconnections
- I learnt how to source a variety of fibres - how to prepare them for weaving and the technique needed to make a basket from nil; I also learnt new stories from different Elders on different country
- Meeting new friends; weaving with plant material instead of raffia
- Weaving, fibres and **learning to respect**
- Getting to know wonderful people; learning new things
- Weaving, cooking; Caring and sharing
- Observing and listening; Who's who and what's what
- Slime is fun; compliments are nice; sometimes inhibitions are different or separate stories in our minds – **we are all connected, you always find sisters**
- Weaving, jewellery making
- **Yarning, surviving without social media**
- **Learnt about commonality, of women – compassion, don't matter about age or culture, women are love**
- Patience – you have a lot of patience to weave; taking time out to help the old people – not just be in your own circle
- Very calming & relaxing – related to one of the weavers
- Basket weaving; its ok to be late for breakfast
- Emu feather strings; great when women are together of all ages; learnt Butchella (Badtjala) language
- Learnt about Barambah Environmental Centre.; great when women are all together no matter the ages

What did you most enjoy about the weekend?

- The belly laughs and yarning
- The environment
- Women from different areas coming together to share their knowledge connections and stories
- I enjoyed being reconnected to country and **having my heart sing** – I am going through trouble at the moment, being torn between two choices, **this weekend I realised that I NEED to chase MY dreams to help MY People** – the weaving was a bonus
- The whole weekend – everything / loved meeting up with old friends
- Sharing stories and all the Aunties and Elders
- Hearing all the stories from the Elders
- The whole experience; reconnecting
- Weaving and yarning
- A very quiet time – no arguments; being able to talk aloud and with openness
- **feeling safe and reconnecting** with family and friends (blood lines)
- love sharing; loved that everyone was here and enjoying (weaving of people)
- Thoroughly enjoyed being surrounded by nature – birds singing all day – it settles you; meeting new, beautiful people

- **everyone wants to come back / very inspiring**
- away from life and everyday reality; nice and quiet, stress free
- Enjoyed the networking; enjoyed seeing all the women together
- **loved seeing the young ones looking after the Elders**
- **Loved the combi oven and meeting all the new faces**

Were expectations met?

- Yes more than expected
- More than
- Very much so
- Arts & craft & sewing but learning to weave with natural fibres – it was hard but it was enjoyable
- Yes more than met
- much, much more than I thought it would be / enjoyed most of everything for the duration of the weekend
- Expectations were met with accommodation and food
- Expectations were met and exceeded

What is something from the weekend you will share with your family and friends?

- Reviving knowledge and skills
- Stories from connecting with family (old stories)
- Highest percentage of positiveness
- Weaving skills/ knowledge / family connections /
- **embedding cultures from Djabagai to Badtjala people** (new skills learnt)
- Handing onto younger women to continue through stories.
- From collecting fibres etc, preparing and produce a basket
- I will take back the techniques to teach our young mob so it doesn't get lost.
- **I want to use this weekend so I can connect with mob in a new way**
- Everything; take home plants and fibres
- To go and show them how to weave
- Share stories
- Show them how to weave
- The great memory of this week end - everybody together as one
- Sharing my experience; carry on showing weaving
- **I will say stop the nonsense/ fighting; togetherness across all ages / the photo of the group & photos will tell story and unity.**
- **Excited to share with bushmen mob in Africa; telling them what is happening & what I can do**
- Basket weaving; teach Granddaughter how to make emu feather jewellery.
- Will absorb it all myself for a while then will share.
- Bought the recipe book & will be sharing recipes
- How to weave baskets

CHECK OUT:

How are you feeling?

- Really accomplished, very blessed
- Privileged, more relaxed
- Happy, relax, overwhelmed, honoured, privileged mostly
- feeling the connection
- I am feeling empowered, reconnected and my visions are clear once more
- **Feeling good - any other times I am sick – on top of the world, enriched, sore**
- Good
- Happy, peaceful, relaxed

- Sad, laughter, love
- Myself again
- **The best weekend I've had – deep joy and happiness**, full of unconditional love to receive and give – have yearned for something like this – I have dreams in my head
- thankful to be here with my friends
- freedom to be
- peaceful, satisfied excited and inspired at a deeper level - can't explain – **this is the knowing - the pathway to travel**
- Feeling like it is coming to an end and it has been so good to bring everyone together to share and now time for everyone to split and go home, but free.....we will do it all again.
- **Feeling really good, healing place – didn't get sick over the weekend.**
- Feeling really good, a bit tired this morningcan't stop thinking about how much peace there is here.
- Great amazing, so much to reflect on
- Feeling really satisfied and really glad I came
- Feeling knackered and tired but invigorated and inspired

Feedback from Weavers from Kuranda

VENUE

- Great accommodation
- Good food
- Great hospitality
- Lots of fibre close by – allowed women to learn how to gather and pick this for themselves
- No connection to outside – totally focused on what doing at the time

THINGS YOU ENJOYED

- Everything
- Great experience
- Hearing stories from women
- Seeing people engaged about their perspectives on things
- Having links to other areas and groups through those represented
- Having both Elders and Younger women there
- The young people were beautiful
- Sharing stories about life journey with others – just beautiful to be part of this
- People connect with others when they face struggles in life
- The meditation – away from everyday world
- Healing
- The many stories – good yarns – some good ones at the smoking area

YOUNG PEOPLE

- Must be included in these types of things
- Must be treated with respect – they want to learn – but also have knowledge to take us forward

BOTH WORLDS

- Women are leading the way in adapting to “walking in both worlds”
- Education is key – including learning of cultural knowledge
- Must find a balance

WEAVING

- Great to teach their skills
- The weaving takes time – but everyone stuck at it
- The emu feather exercise gave everyone a quick return on time – good fun

FEELING & EXPECTATIONS

- Welcomed and Settled
- Women connecting – Women Nurturing
- Much more than expected!

DO IT AGAIN?

- Absolutely!
- In a 'heart beat'!
- Love to weave with other ladies and other cultures *eg the Arnhem Land Ladies*
- Learn different ways
- Suggestion:
 - Bring weavers together for a couple of days – Master Class maybe
 - Then they work with participants to teach a range of skills and weaving techniques
 - Help build networks with the weavers

FEELINGS from BOX

"Thank you so much for allowing me to be part of this amazing weekend. The love, knowledge and strength from all the women here is amazing.


I have loved hearing all the stories and listening to different perspectives.

For me this has been a healing and safe place and a place to gather strength.


My world is a better place knowing that womanhood is without colour, age or circumstance.


When I say knowing I mean seeing. I have always known this but the opportunity to see it is priceless"


" The Weekend . . .

- *Great venue*
- *Yum Food*
- *Comfy beds*
- *Love the hot showers*
- *Birds and Wildlife are amazing*
- *Gardens and grounds to die for*
- *Teachers, weavers and all planning were the best, so patient and tolerant*
- *Please come again !!* 

"I really enjoyed weaving with the ladies, also the accommodation, right environment to do weaving, meeting all the ladies was awesome, need more meeting place so all the weavers can come together and the food was lovely. Thanks to Dale. Hope we meet together again."

"Many thanks Zona and Stepping Black for this weekend. It has meant so much to me on so many different levels - community, family, health, healing, love. I would really love to be a part of more experiences and to keep contact with all the beautiful ladies I have shared time with." Nikki 


"Wonderful connection. Really enjoyed meeting with everyone, the yarns, the stories, such inspiration and more than anything - the Love Thank you" 

"I've found that it can be very fun learning everything but especially culture." Kether 

"I feel peaceful, happy, at ease. New friends, new family. Lovely joyful gathering."

"I would love to come again. I had an excellent weekend. It was very special everyone are very loving and caring, sharing. I am leaving with a new skill. I think weaving is very relaxing and calming. Really enjoyed myself immensely."

"very Blessed."

"Firstly thank you to organising team. Secondly thank you to Aunty Joy Bonner for inviting me and my beautiful Mum. Fantastic to meet the beautiful women from surrounding areas. First time here - will definitely come back. Feel glorious and had the bestest time ever." 

"I really connected this weekend. I enjoyed myself - to meet all the ladies. To me this feels like living. Thanks to each and everyone from the bottom of my heart."