

March 2018

A Weekend of Weaving, Wellbeing and Wonderful Women

Friday 9th March to Sunday 11th March at Barambah Environmental Education Centre

REPORT

Thirty four amazing women came together in a beautiful mountain landscape to learn new skills, reconnect with families and meet new people on the weekend of 9-11th March.

Three Djabagai weavers came down from the rainforests of Kuranda and were supported by 2 weavers from Maleny and a well known Aboriginal Chef, Dale Chapman who shared her skills with those present.

The women were shown how to harvest the fibre (which they did), split the leaves and begin weaving with fresh product. Not only were they weaving the fibres but also weaving their stories and their connections.

There were Elders, aunties, sisters and young people who all expressed their gratitude for having been involved in such an inspirational and healing event.....no mobile phone reception and no social media.....just the bush, the birds, the resident goannas and the peace.

A most excellent weekend, in fact nobody wanted to go home....however, they all left with a native plant from the education centre's nursery and a lot of hope, joy and aspirations.

Aunty Joyce from the Badtjala mob shared language, writing and performing a song for 3 women who were long-time friends..."Yabbin, Gammigan, Wolbi" (Big sister, little sister, baby sister).

We heard from one high school that one of their students came back transformed. The young girls have been sharing their skills with other young students and have been truly inspired. Dale, our Chef has also offered to mentor another young lady, Maylene who has a deep love of cooking and sharing.

We have a lot of very positive feedback which included comments like "I have not been sick at all this weekend" to feeling "peaceful, inspired and loved"....and summing up, "Feeling excited and inspired at a deeper level; can't explain....this is the knowing, the pathway to travel".

We are definitely doing this again.

A big thank you to our weavers Rene and Myra from Weavery.com.au and our Djabagai weavers Rhonda, Coralie and Sandy. Thank you also to Dale, to our valued sponsors and to the BEEC for providing a most excellent venue.

This cultural exchange and Weekend of Weaving is proudly supported by



Group Photo



The Weavers' sample baskets – what we can aspire to.



Beginnings of a basket and a new journey



Industrious weavers – Gloria and Rene



In the beginning.....splitting the fibre



Harvesting fibre