

Media release

Tuesday, May 14, 2019



Aboriginal cultural celebration at Dalby South

Ochre painting, boomerang throwing and emu feather decorations will be subjects of choice at Dalby South State School in the build up to NAIDOC Week 2019.

Backed by Arrow Energy, the school will bring in an Indigenous presenter for workshops that engage the students in local Aboriginal culture.

“The aim is for our students to be actively involved in sharing the traditions of Indigenous culture through music, dance and ceremony,” said Deputy Principal Genevieve Hansen.

“Through education, we hope to build a further step towards reconciliation and achieve greater understanding that will bring all Australians closer together.”

The presenter will visit the school over several days, providing individual workshops to each class in the Prep-Year 6 school.

The culmination will be a senior school performance at the school parade during NAIDOC Week.

“Our whole school community, including families, will be part of the NAIDOC Week celebrations on our whole-school parade,” Ms Hansen said.

Arrow Energy’s Vice President External Relations and Tenure Management, Leisa Elder, said the company was excited about helping students understand Indigenous heritage.

“Our company has a strong commitment to promoting Indigenous contribution, supported by the many international staff at Arrow,” she said.

“Coming from more than 20 overseas countries, including from multi-millennial cultures, they are fascinated about the 60,000 years of history behind the First Australians.

“It’s a wonderful story that our Indigenous staff enjoy sharing, which is why we’re very pleased to get behind Dalby South’s NAIDOC Week education activities.

“It’s a story that all Australians – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – can be proud of.”

Arrow’s support has come from its [Brighter Futures](#) community investment program, which assists local organisations with health and safety, education and environmental activities.

Other groups to receive Brighter Futures funding in this round are:

- Jandowae Kindergarten Association, for its *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle for Little Minds* project. The Kindergarten will buy a worm farm, compost bin and classroom recycling bins to extend its present food collecting system to show the children how their food scraps can make a difference to the kindergarten gardens. It is part of an educational program about our planet, environment and how to look after it.
- Dalby and District Pony and Hack Club, to pay for professional instructors at a pony club camp in October. The two-day camp will include instruction in several riding disciplines, from high-level instructors who will include Olympic competitors. The club is open to riders of all ages but, predominantly, children, and includes several members with disabilities.
- Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Parents and Friends Association, to support the college's Biannual Musical Theatre Performance. Students, from years five to twelve, will stage a production of *The Wiz*. Parents and staff volunteers will make up the band and support crew, including costuming, make-up, choreography and sound. Arrow's backing will allow the school to engage former student Hamish McGovern to train students in acting and stagecraft, and parents in makeup and costuming. The P and F anticipates selling 1000 tickets to the July 26 and 27 play.
- Mater Foundation for its ovarian cancer research fundraiser, Cocktails for a Cure. The event, now in its fourth year, is held at Jimbour House and draws guests from both regional and metropolitan areas.
- Tara Festival, to involve school children in promoting the tenth Tara Festival of Culture and Camel Races. A song writer, music producer and film maker, Josh Arnold, will visit small schools in June, working with the students to produce an original song and music video to promote the festival. The students and Josh will also present a live, 45-minute performance at the festival.
- Bell and Districts Memorial Bowls Club, for a social bowls day to raise money for a water pump. The club is a community hub, and the lawn watering project involves commitments by locals to supply the club with water from their own water tanks and bores, to keep its greens healthy. The water pump will be used to irrigate the greens.
- Jandowae Pony Club, for professional trainers to assist young riders at the club's monthly rallies. The extra trainers will assist two-in-house instructors to deliver a training plan that covers all aspects of horse sports, including barrel racing, polocrosse, show jumping and dressage.
- Chinchilla Agricultural and Pastoral Association, to support the cattle competition at this year's Chinchilla Show on May 24 and 25.

Arrow's Brighter Futures program supports local, not-for-profit groups to build community capacity in health, safety, education and environmental awareness. Brighter Futures has contributed more than \$25 million to community projects across Queensland since 2011.

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Arrow Energy Pty Ltd

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