



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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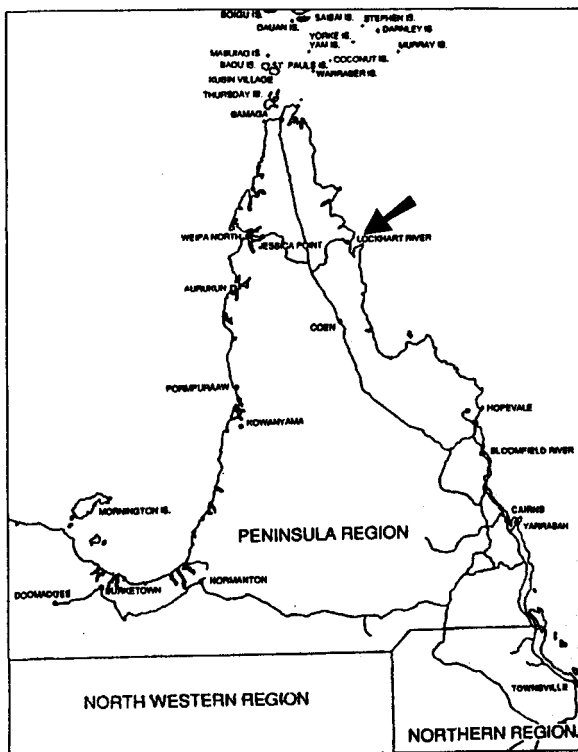
Steve Castley and Rose Cunningham

Retention rates for Lockhart River secondary students were not high. In 1992, of the 38 students from Lockhart River who began the year enrolled in a secondary school, only 10 (27%) finished the school year. The students who did not complete their secondary studies returned to the community and had very few prospects for future employment.

In an attempt to address this situation a trial post-primary program was undertaken at Lockhart River in 1994. The program has been designed to meet the needs of secondary school aged students as well as Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) workers, assistant teachers, teacher aides, off-campus James Cook University students, council workers, apprentices, community workers and child care workers.

The courses developed have either used Technical and Further Education (TAFE) material as a basis or have been fully developed by school staff and community members. All courses have been developed to skill students so that they can gain positions in the limited number of jobs available in our community or enjoy a more productive unemployed lifestyle.

Jobs and how our courses interrelate are shown in the table below.



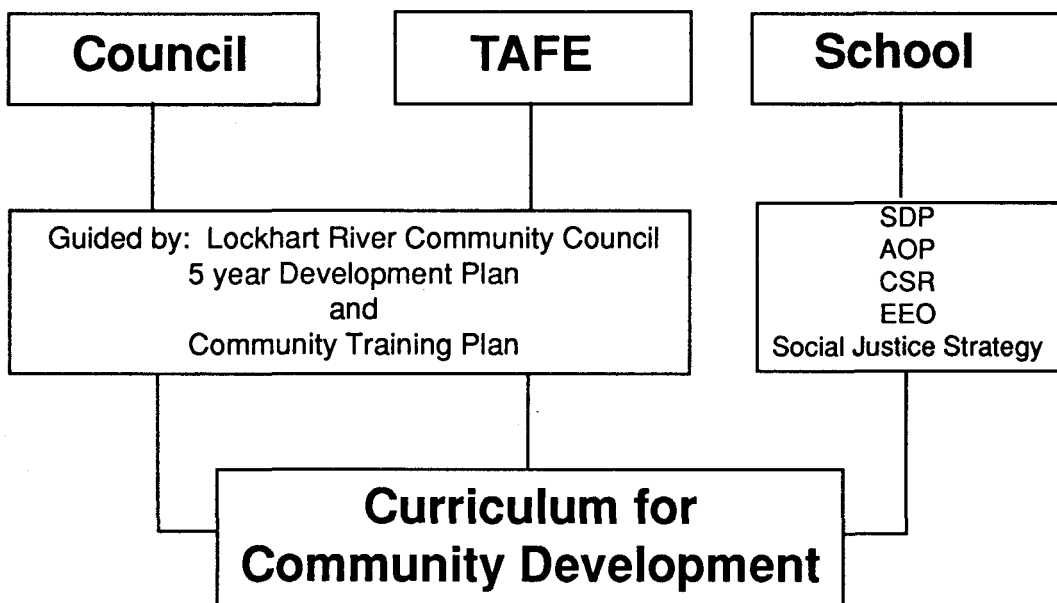
Council Training/TAFE/School Linkages

All courses listed in the table below pull together to meet the needs of:

- the Lockhart River Community Council 5 year Development Plan
- the Lockhart River Community Council Community Training Plan
- the Lockhart State School Annual Operational Plan 1993
- the Lockhart State School Collaborative School Review 1993

- the Lockhart State School Development Plan 1994-1996
- the Department of Education Social Justice Strategy and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, Peninsula ATSI Future Directions

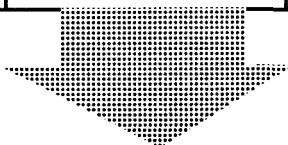
Jobs	Courses
Apprenticeships	Trade Training
Office Positions	Office Practices
Self Esteem/Cottage Industry/Eco Tourism	Culture and Language
Community Cattle Property	Agriculture and Stock Management
Recreation Pursuits	Recreation and Health
Cottage Industry/Eco Tourism	Visual Arts
Teaching/Child Care	Childhood Studies
All Jobs	Communications, Literacy, Numeracy



Post Primary at Lockhart River

CLIENTS

Secondary Students	CDEP Workers	Assistant Teachers & Teacher Aides	Off Campus JCU Students
	Council Workers	Apprentice	Community Workers



COURSES

Visual Art	Stock Handling	Trades	First Aid
	Commercial Studies	Teaching	Child Care
Publishing	Performing Arts	Culture	Media
	Recreation	Computers	Communication
	Literacy	Numeracy	Personal Development



SUCCESSFUL, SKILLED PEOPLE

1994 Offerings and Completion Rates as at 30 June 1994

Block 1

Subject	No. Enrolled	Passed	Will Pass	Fail
First Aid	10	0	6	4
OCTEP – Teacher Role	9	9	–	–
Art-Fundamentals of Painting	12	7	–	5
Office Practices B	5	4	–	1

Block 2

Subject	No. Enrolled	Passed	Will Pass	Fail
OCTEP – Computer	9	7	2	–
Office Practices A	4	4	–	–
Basic Literacy	6	3	3	–
Basic Numeracy	6	–	6	–
Aboriginal Performance Techniques	16	13	3	–
Traditional Body Painting	16	13	3	–

Block 3

Subject	No. Enrolled	Passed	Will Pass	Fail
Stock Management	14	–	–	–
OCTEP – Video Production	9	–	–	–
Traditional Principles of Painting	6	–	–	–
Acrylic Painting	6	–	–	–
Introducing Computer	4	–	–	–
Computer Keyboard	4	–	–	–
Emergency First Aid	10	–	–	–

The support of the Community Council has been vital to making the trial of this program possible. The Lockhart River Community Council gave a commitment to:

- employ four Assistant Teachers using CDEP funds
- assist in funding some courses through CDEP funds
- allow CDEP participants to undertake courses
- provide additional teacher accommodation
- make council facilities available throughout the community as classrooms as required

In order to provide the post-primary program some different staffing options were investigated. The current staffing model for the post-primary program is as follows.

Stock Courses

1 x Assistant Teacher
2 x Support Personnel } Funded through CDEP

Art

3 x Assistant Teachers Funded through CDEP
(Program coordinated by qualified teacher)

Trade and General Oversight of Secondary Program

1 x Qualified Teacher Department of Education

RATEP (part-time)

.5 x Qualified Teacher Department of Education
(Preschool Teacher)

After 6 months of the trial the following has been found:

- Most secondary aged students are now doing secondary studies whether it be away from Lockhart River or through the post-primary program.
- Students in the program are
 - providing a model of continuing education to younger children
 - gaining useful skills
- The program is attempting to offer what people are requesting, e.g. First Aid course for community police, store and council workers.
- Secondary staff are helping with full school responsibilities so there are more people to do jobs.
- Local Aboriginal people are positive role models as Assistant Teachers.
- All Departmental agencies in Lockhart River are starting to work more closely together as they provide input into the direction of the program.
- The creation of local industry and employment is being encouraged by the courses offered in the program, e.g. Art and Stock Management. □

