



## Bower Studio 2014 Titjikala, NT Day 6

Monday 05 May

After a weekend off we were all really excited to get back to Titjikala to continue with Stephanie's furniture and Mari's pavilion. We split into two groups with the students who had previously spoken to Stephanie about the furniture heading to her house, and the other group working at Mari's.

Upon arriving at Stephanie's it was great to see that Stephanie and several of her family members were ready to help us, and extremely excited about the prospect of the furniture. We spent the majority of the morning figuring out the logistics of all the pieces before we began building. Once the design was finalised, Stephanie's cousin Syddie Jacko helped out with all of the drilling and cutting, which meant that most of the fixed bench was finished by the end of the day.

While the furniture was being built at Stephanie's and the staples and Y sections were being raised at Mari's, I was fortunate enough to be invited to sit with Stephanie, her grandmother Nora, and her aunt Diane around the fire where they were making tapping sticks and wooden animals. It was an amazing opportunity to chat with the women about passing information and skills through generations of women, daily life in Titjikala, and going bush. After talking with the women Stephanie's aunt gave me a painted necklace and timber art piece. I was overwhelmed by their openness and generosity.

While building the furniture and pavilion was really satisfying, the highlight of my day was being welcomed by the women, holding one of the women's baby and learning about art and women's lives in a contemporary Indigenous community. We left Stephanie's with her family sitting together on the furniture that we had built with them today, which excited everyone for tomorrow's work at Mari's.

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