



Amoonguna resident David Fatt cuts a steel beam, working with Melbourne University architecture students Lilian Szumer, Katherine McDonald and Llewellyn Vardon-McLead.

Picture: BARRY SKIPSEY

Students build on their learning

Hannah Muir

RESIDENTS of two small communities have had help in creating a new weapon to stand up against the scalding sun of Central Australia.

The Bower Studio program brought 12 architecture students to the region this week to assist in creating new shade structures for Areyonga and Amoonguna communities.

The students, working in two teams of six, have con-

structed a multipurpose shade structure in each community as part of the University of Melbourne initiative.

Senior architecture lecturer David O'Brien said it wasn't until after students have built the structures that they can design future works.

"It's only after they have done the building and talking and working alongside people that they do their design work," he said.

The program also enlists

the skills of local construction workers.

"The aim of these studios is to develop systems and training for local communities that other building teams can replicate, providing a benefit to the community that continues long after we've left."

Having students on the ground and working in communities through the Bower Studio program allows them to use the building process as a stage of consultation.