



Bower Studio 2014 Titjikala, NT Day 1

Sunday 27 April

Today was our first day in Titjikala. The Bower staff and one of the students arrived a day early for community engagement, focusing our attention on the younger generation of the Titjikala community by building a cubby with the kids. The *Bower Cubby* was prototyped at Brunswick South West Primary School in Melbourne and the University of Melbourne's Early Learning Centre and we are very excited about the opportunity to test the success of the cubby in Titjikala. As we hoped the kids loved it!

When we arrived at Titjikala, as it was a Sunday, many members of the community were gathered waiting for the church service to commence. David spoke with the pastor, Phillip, an important member of the community who was happy to introduce us to the congregation after the service.

After the service, the parents and children joined us for a BBQ and we introduced the *Bower Cubby* to the kids. The kids were an inquisitive and enthusiastic bunch. Once they explored the contents of the cubby, they discovered how the panels joined together and set out to build. The panels were used to create space, shelter and shade and the kids especially enjoyed using them as canvases to draw on. They wrote their names and 'Titjikala' onto the cubby walls, drew numbers, love hearts, stars and flowers. Pipe cleaners became decorations or tying members, and rope and garden ties were used to secure the cubby formation. Fabric and tarps were used as curtains, rugs, blankets and to create shade.

The kids proved what excellent inventors, designers and builders they are by building a fabulous cubby, which was enjoyed by the community all afternoon. We look forward to commencing the build at Stephanie's house tomorrow and continuing to facilitate the *Bower Cubby* with the kids!

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