



## Bower Studio 2014 Titjikala, NT Day 4

Wednesday 30 April

After a treacherous night of wind and rain we woke from our bush camp just before sunrise. We watched the landscape change as the sun rose; the shadows shrunk behind the trees and the colours of the land became more vibrant.

Back on site, we spilt off into groups for the day. One group fixed the roof sheeting to the purlins to finish the pavilion structure, another group went to the Art Centre to visit some of the women of Titjikala, while another group went to the health centre for a chat with the nurses.

At the Arts Centre, the women began taking us around the gallery explaining their artworks and the stories they told. The artworks were an interesting mix of dot painting, landscape paintings, wire and grass weavings and ceramic pieces.

At the health centre, we learnt what services were offered to the community. It was a valuable discussion which reiterated the importance of consultation with the community when community infrastructure is designed and built. The health centre alone has meetings with the community every three months to talk about many issues, including health. This information is vital to deigning for an appropriate and meaningful outcome.

Back at Stephanie's house, James from ARUP gave the students an engineering lesson, at times rudely interrupted by the local horse (called "Ere Boi") who was trying to eat our food scraps. James fashioned an example of a portal frame from bits and pieces salvaged from the Tijkala tip and gave us a demonstration of how the pavilion transfers the load to the foundations. He also explained the importance of the correct location and amount of tech screws in each connection, silencing our questions about why the structure requires so many tech screws.

In the afternoon some staff and students carried the *Bower Cubby* over to the after-school care centre for the kids to play with. We brought with us some beautiful drawings and books made by the kids from the University of Melbourne's Early Learning Centre. The kids in Titjikala loved them and were excited to create some fantastic drawings for us to take back to the kids in Melbourne. The drawings illustrated what the kids had made with the *Bower Cubby* and all the various things the Cubby could become such as a "play ground", a "hiding place" and a "house" to name a few. Leoma and Ida told us they were making a *Wali Wali*, an indigenous word that translates to cubby or a temporary shelter. Leoma, Ida, Jamie, Sharaya and Tom made two *Wali Wali*'s from the cubby materials. One was a big circular *Wali Wali* with openings and the other a teepee shaped *Wali Wali*.

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