



## 2008 Rivers Region Try a Trade Evaluation Report

8<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Katherine

“Trade Careers can be challenging, lasting and lucrative”

Proudly Supported by:



Funded By:



DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING



WORLD SKILLS  
AUSTRALIA

### Try'aTrade – Background:

Try'aTrade is a Worldskills Australia interactive program that allows students to “have a go” at various trade areas. Professional Tradespeople and Apprentices provide accurate career information and interactive skill focused activities directly relating to the trade.

Try'aTrade has been a success in the Northern Territory since commencing in 2003 and is organised by a consortium of organisations comprising of Charles Darwin University, Group Training NT and Department of Education and Training (DET). The Try'aTrade consortium supports the development of regional committees to assist with the expansion and delivery of the program across the Northern Territory.

### 2008 Rivers Region Try'aTrade Committee:

Fiona Smith:	Rivers Region Youth Development Services
Jim Bitossi:	Rivers Region Youth Development Services
Terry Radford:	Rivers Region Youth Development Services
Trisha Kohlweg:	Charles Darwin University (CDU)
Natalie Ellis:	Charles Darwin University (CDU)
Mim Smith:	Group Training NT (GTNT)
Lisa Dodds:	Group Training NT (GTNT)
Bill Daw:	Department of Education & Training (DET)
Cathy Preddy:	Department of Education & Training (DET)
Alice Hammonds:	Department of Education & Training (DET)

### The Event:

2008 Try'aTrade event was held at the Charles Darwin University Katherine Rural Campus, Stuart Highway on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 from 8.30am – 2.30pm.

The event hosted 128 students from 8 Northern Territory High Schools and Community Education Centres. Try a Trade offered Students the opportunity to partake in 19 Trade Activities.

Try'aTrade Industry Activity Areas	
Butchery	Commercial Cookery
Construction	Conservation & Land Management
Council and Civic Operations	Childcare
Electrical	Hairdressing
Health	Horticulture
Rural Operations	Information Technology
Emergency Services & Policing	Mechanical Automotive
Machinery	Paramedics
Plumbing	Welding

Included in the daily activities was a career information session by:

The Australian Apprenticeship NT, where students could discuss options, ask questions and gather information sheets on a variety of Trades.

### Program Aims:

The program aims to address the critical skill shortage currently faced by our trade industries, by providing a variety of educational initiatives, which introduce students to general concepts and skills associated with employment within the trade industries. It also provides an opportunity to facilitate partnerships between schools, industry, employers, local community partnerships, government departments and training organisations.

## School Invitations:

All Secondary Schools and Community Education Centres across the Northern Territory were personally invited. An open invitation was posted on the DEET site. Try'aTrade notifications were also posted on the Charles Darwin University's Calendar and announced on Katherine Community FM Radio. Schools interested in participating needed to complete a registration and media release form.

Participating NT Secondary Schools / CEC's	
Katherine High School.	Katherine (42)
Numbulwar School	Numbulwar (8)
Maningrida School.	Maningrida (14)
Katherine School of the Air.	Katherine (10)
Ngukurr CEC.	Ngukurr (16)
Minyerri CEC.	Minyerri (17)
Jilkminggan CEC.	Jilkminggan (8)
Barunga CEC.	Barunga (13)
<b>Total Student Attendance:</b>	<b>128 Students.</b>

\* Note: Kalkarindji Community Education Centre and St Josephs College, Katherine unfortunately had to cancel due to internal school restraints the week prior to the event.

Students were separated into groups of up to ten (10), and rotated through eighteen (18) industry sessions, with each session lasting 20mins. Industry sessions were delivered by qualified tradespeople and apprentices. Sessions provided engaging practical, hands on activities, up to date career information and OH&S requirements for their industry.

## Trade Activities

In each of the areas the students worked on a variety of practical activities; for example:

- **Butchery:** Students experienced how to make sausages (which were then used as part of the BBQ lunch), identify and prepare a variety of cuts on a side of beef.
- **Commercial Cookery:** Students discussed safe food handling practices and learnt how to make crepe batter, cook and decorate the crepes, as well as cooking the sausages on the BBQ for lunch.
- **Construction:** Students were able to participate in the assembly of a roofing truss, and discuss general entry level tasks within the construction industry.
- **Conservation & Land Management:** Students learnt about the duties of a Ranger, and how best to manage and use crocodile traps.
- **Childcare:** Students participated in a range of activities designed for 0-5yrs, including making play doh and setting up an outdoor play arena.
- **Electrical:** Students were able to participate in the use of the high bucket truck used for electrical power line repairs and maintenance. Students were provided wiring diagrams and assistance to complete wiring systems that operated a series of switches and electrical circuits.
- **Hair Dressing:** Students were guided and performed professional up styles using professional salon products, bobby pins, hair bands and clips. Students also learnt about colouring and the safety precautions when using these chemicals.
- **Health:** Students were able to participate in a variety of activities performed in remote community health centres on a daily basis including how to measure and take blood pressure.

### Trade Activities Cont'

- **Horticulture:** Students participated in the planting of seedlings and grafted cuts of Mangoes and were able to experience how best to test and fertilize the soils.
- **Rural Operations:** Students were able to work with a farrier and practice how to shoe a horse. Students also had the opportunity to learn and practise how to fit a saddle and work a horse in a round yard in preparation for work and mustering.
- **Information Technology:** Students were able to view inside a computer's main frame and practice how to remove and install a mother board and additional memory.
- **NT Police:** Students practiced how to take fingerprints and participated in basic self defence and tactical manoeuvres.
- **Mechanical Automotive:** Students were guided through a visual and interactive display of engine performance, electronic ignition, emission control and mechanical systems, whilst being provided the latest information on technology advancements. Students practiced how to perform general maintenance functions such as checking oils etc.
- **Machinery & Council Operations:** Students were able to experience sitting in a variety of heavy machinery and discussed the functions and daily tasks of town council operations.
- **Paramedics:** Students were able to work inside an ambulance to do a stock take on a variety of equipment and supplies, as well as practice basic first aid and CPR following the DRABC (Danger, Response, Airways, Bleeding, Circulation).
- **Plumbing:** Students learnt how to remove and replace taps and tap washers, checking for water leaks. Students also learnt and practiced how to install and repair a household septic system.
- **Welding:** Student used an electronic simulated welder to learn and understand the methods and techniques. They were also introduced to safety equipment and a variety of different welders and their applications.

### **Promotion and Media Coverage:**

The Try'aTrade event information was posted on the DEET website, DEET Enews, GTNT Website, GTNT Newsletters and in a media release given to the NT News & Katherine Times. A local Katherine photographer was present at the Official Launch of Try'aTrade and videoed a variety of trade exhibits throughout the day. Rivers Region Youth Development Services committee members directly contacted and invited each Secondary School and Community Education Centre. Katherine Community Radio featured a press release following the event. Charles Darwin University posted the information on the CDU website and Calendar. Follow up media coverage included feature articles in both the NT News and the Katherine Times newspapers.

### **The Official Launch:**

Her Worship the Mayor of Katherine Mrs Anne Shepherd officially opened the Rivers Region Try a Trade.

### **Official List of Invitees:**

Honourable Paul Henderson MLA  
Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA  
Mr Kon Vatskalis MLA  
Hon Rob Knight MLA  
Hon Malarndirri McCarthy MLA  
Mrs Wendi Masters  
Ms Sandi McCue  
Ms Cathy Preddy  
Mrs Sandy Dobell  
Miss Alice Hammonds

Chief Minister  
Deputy Chief Minister, Minister Education & Training.  
Minister for Business & Employment.  
Minister for Public Employment.  
Minister for Young Territorians  
Department of Education & Training  
Department of Education & Training  
Department of Education & Training  
Department of Education & Training  
Department of Education & Training

**Official List of Invitees continues:**

Ms Sharni Wilson	Department of Education & Training
Ms Jen Coad	Department of Education & Training
Mr Barrie Goedecke	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Ms Jann Buckland	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Ms Ginny Maidment	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Mr Graham Newhouse	Northern Territory Government
Ms Morag Dwyer	Northern Territory Government
Ms Kerri Watkins	Northern Territory Government
Mr Robin E Smith	Northern Territory Government
Ms Caryn Chalk	Northern Territory Government
Ms Bernadette Dulihanty	Northern Territory Government
Ms Sharon Hillen	Northern Territory Government
Ms Debbie Young	Northern Territory Government
Mr Paul Blare	Northern Territory Government
Mr Tony Freshwater	Northern Territory Government
Ms Ursula Carolyn	FACSIA
Mr Mark Ridgeway	Indigenous Coordination Centre
Ms Teresa Cummings	Indigenous Coordination Centre
Mr Geoff Brooks	CEO Katherine Town Council
Mr Trevor Ford	Alderman Katherine Town Council
Mrs Jodi Locke	Alderman Katherine Town Council
Mr Bill Daw	Alderman Katherine Town Council
Ms Toni Tapps Coutts	Alderman Katherine Town Council
Ms Chrissy Harris	Alderman Katherine Town Council
Ms Samantha Hohn	Katherine Town Council
Ms Terri Jackson	Victoria Daly Shire
Mr Michael Berto	Roper Golf Shire
Lara Brennan	Roper Golf Shire
Robin Files	Roper Golf Shire
Mr Wayne Buckley	Roper Golf Shire
Mr Ian Lackington	Australian Apprenticeships Northern Territory
Ms Trisha Kohlweg	Charles Darwin University
Ms Natalie Ellis	Charles Darwin University
Mr Brian Heim	Charles Darwin University
Mr Tim Biggs	Charles Darwin University
Mr Bronte Cooper	Charles Darwin University
Ms Josephine Buck	Charles Darwin University
Ms Chrissy Harris	Charles Darwin University
Mr Sam Tapp Coutts	Charles Darwin University
Ms Nicole Hoffman	Charles Darwin University
Mr Neil Williams	Charles Darwin University
Mr Paul Fitzsimons	Charles Darwin University
Mr Peter Rose	Charles Darwin University
Mrs Fiona Smith	Rivers Region Youth Development Service
Mr Jim Bitossi	Rivers Region Youth Development Service
Mr Terry Radford	Rivers Region Youth Development Service
Mr Mike Harrison	Group Training Northern Territory
Ms Mim Smith	Group Training Northern Territory
Ms Lisa Dodds	Group Training Northern Territory
Ms Marilyn McPherson	Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory
Ms Belinda Green	

**Official List of Invitees continues:**

Roxane Lancaster	Charttes
Mr Joe Berner	Cycad International Gardens
Mrs Karen Berner	Cycad International Gardens
Mr Andrew Oliver	Taminmin High School
Ms Bernadette Greg	Beauty Works
Ms Pauline Meehan	Jobfind
Ms Peta Romeyn	Katherine Isolated Children's Service
Mr Clive Pollack	Nitmiluk Tours
Ms Tessa Pollack	Nitmiluk Tours
Mr Wes Miller	Jalwyn Association
Mr Preston Lee	Jalwyn Association
Mr Rick Fletcher	Kalano Association
Mr Barry King	Northern Land Council
Mr John Cummings	Northern Land Council
Ms Judith Locke	Katherine Community Radio
Ms Tegan Fodder	Katherine Times
Mr Craig Lambert	Katherine Mitre 10
Ms Cherise King	Katherine Regional Arts
Mr Gary Giles	Starfish
Mr Kevin Grey	NT Technology
Mrs Brenda Miles	NT Technology
Ms Mel Raynor	Territory Craft Katherine
Mr Gregory Dowd	Police, Fire & Emergency Services
Warren de With	Rod & Rifle
Samantha Kuze	ANZ Bank
Mr Denis Coburn	
Ms Fluer Parry	
Ms Kim Jenkinson	
Ms Kim Cook	
Mr Mick Jarram	
Mr Rodney Cryer	
Ms Holy Shaw	
Mr Craig Baxter	
Joyce Candermaas	
Michael Wyatt	
Margaret Massey	
Paul Rider	
Lindsay Ross	
John Hassid	
Robin Smith	

**Katherine High School**

Principal	Mr Ken Barnes
VET Coordinator	Mr Noel Van Kleef
Careers Adviser	Ms Pam Kahl
Senior Teachers	Ms Rae Brown
	Ms Taryn Schultz

### **Katherine Group Schools**

Principal Mr Stuart Dwyer  
Asst Principal Ms Trish Hyland

### **Ngukurr Community Education Centre**

Principal Mr Ric Eade  
Senior Teacher Mr Robert Fullbrook

### **Minyerri Community Education Centre**

Principal Mr Neil Gibson  
Senior Teacher Mr Alex Duckett

### **Jilkminggan Community Education Centre**

Principal Mr Des Barritt

### **Wugularr Community Education Centre**

Principal Ms Sue Hearnden  
Senior Teacher Ms Alicia Holt

### **Barunga Community Education Centre**

Principal Mrs Anita Camfoo  
Senior Teachers: Mr David Arnold  
Mr Peter Carlson

### **Borroloola Community Education Centre**

Principal Mr Geoff Perry  
Senior Teacher Ms Rachel Kelly

### **Lajamanu Community Education Centre**

Principal Ms Nicky Fammartino

### **Kalkarindji Community Education Centre**

Principal Mr Michael Woods  
Senior Teacher Jeff Parker

### **Katherine School of the Air**

Principal Ms Jen Coad  
Asst Principal Ms Sally Thomas  
Senior Teacher Ms Kate Dixon

### **St Josephs College – Katherine**

Principal Mrs Anne Weygood  
Asst Principal Mr Kerry Lines  
Senior Teacher Mr Ron Green

### **Maningrida Community Education Centre**

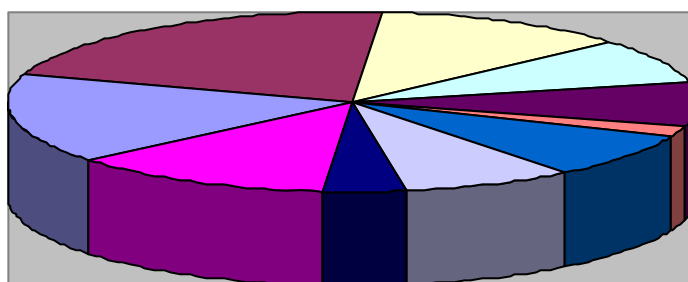
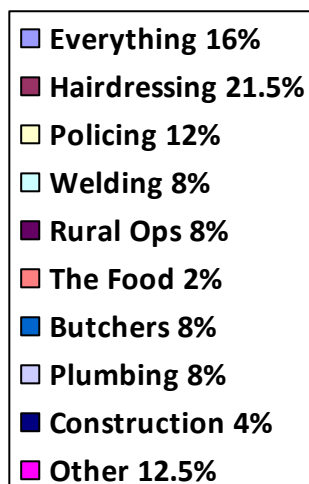
Principal Ms Pamela Hepburn  
Senior Teacher Ms Ruth Rynehart

**Survey Results** – At the end of the day student were asked to complete a Try'aTrade Survey. Of the students that attended, 87 surveys were correctly completed.

**Q1. What Trades & Activities Interested You the Most?**  
(Some students selected more than one response)

Butchery	33
Commercial Cookery	14
Construction	27
Conservation & Land Management	9
Machinery & Council Operations	9
Child Care	26
Electrical	17
Hairdressing	29
Health	24
Horticulture	6
Rural Operations	18
Information Technology	6
Policing	42
Mechanical Automotive	26
Paramedics	18
Plumbing	14
Welding	31
Australian Apprenticeships Talks	8

**Q2. What did you enjoy most about Try a Trade?**

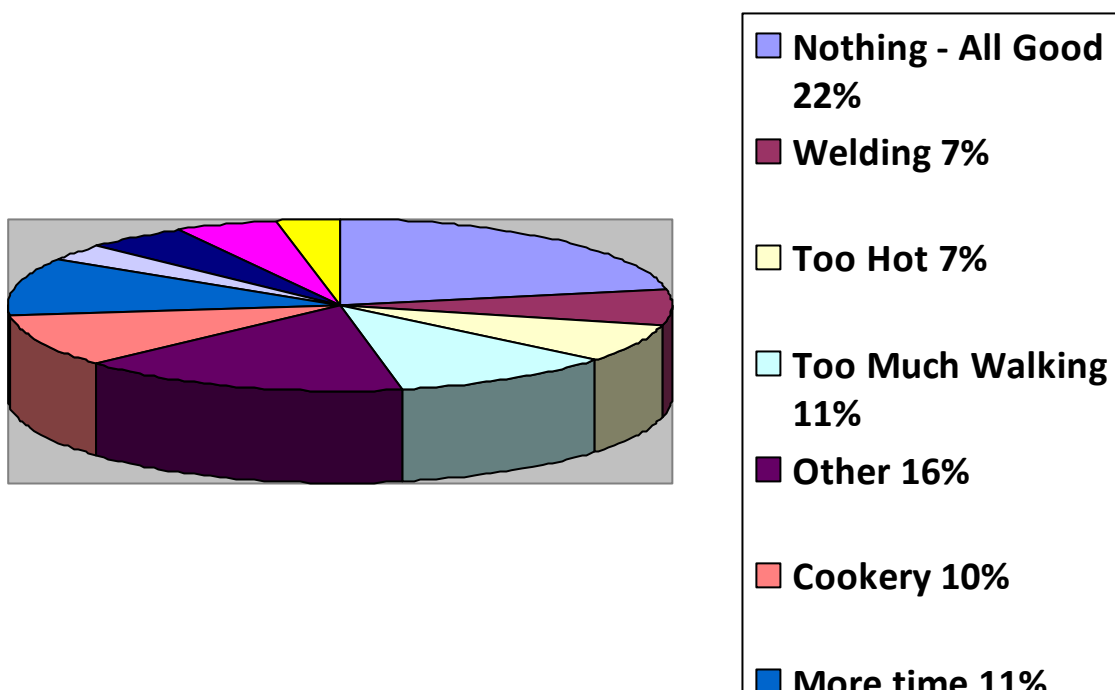


Comments from the students in relation to this question were as follows:

"The speed of the rotations was good"; "Getting to try new things"; "Getting to experience different trades and getting an insight into others"; "Trying new things"; "Working with equipment"; "All the people were friendly"; "Seeing other community schools"; "The hands on activities"; "The practical work";

"The activities were fun and interesting"; "Making new friends and new experiences"; "The good and fun atmosphere"; "It was fun and we learnt trades that turned out to be fun, even the ones I didn't like but now do"; "Working with tools"; "Got to learn new things and meet new people"; "The variety of trades we got to experience"; "Hanging with friends, having fun and learning about trades"; "Learning about skills"; "Being able"; "Hands on activities"; "Gave kids a chance to see lots of choices"; "Learning about different jobs"; "Learning how to get a trade and gaining a better understanding about the process"; "Really fun and people were nice"; "Got to know what different trades there are"; "Learning new things about trades"; "Got to try different trades"; "Learning about things that didn't interest me"; "The atmosphere and great selection of different activities"; "Having a go"; "Learning about different stuff"; "Having a go at it". 2 students say "getting the day off school".

Q3. What did you enjoy least about Try a Trade?



Comments from the students in relation to this question were as follows:

"Not enough time"; "All the walking around"; "Going home"; "People talking too much and kids behaving badly"; "Standing around"; "Kids who already has knowledge could of done new things, maybe choice/discussion with teachers"; "Some activities were boring".

**Q4. What Trade Activity taught you the most?**

Butchery	8
Commercial Cookery	2
Construction	10
Conservation & Land Management	3
Machinery & Council Operations	1
Child Care	1
Electrical	11
Hairdressing	3
Health	3
Horticulture	0
Rural Operations	1
Information Technology	2
Policing	19
Mechanical Automotive	5
Paramedics	2
Plumbing	6
Welding	8
All Activities	2

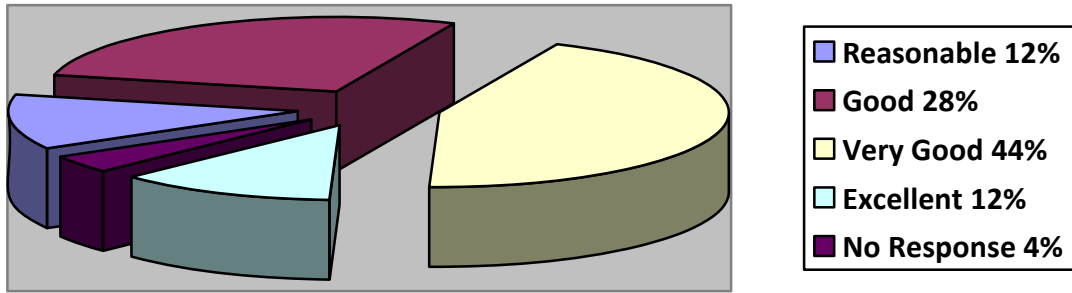
**Q5. Did the day assist you in understanding how to get a Trade?**

Yes	81 %
No	3 %
Undecided	16 %

**Q6. Are you considering a Traineeship or School Based Apprenticeship?**

Yes	56%
No	22%
Undecided	22 %

**Q7. Please rate the event on presentation, information and trade activities offered:**



Further Trade Information Requested and Dispatched to Students who attended Try a Trade.	
Plumbing	6
Welding	1
Horticulture	4
NT Police	11
Construction	14

**Feedback:**

The feedback received from the Teachers, Industry and Students was overwhelming positive, with several of the trade exhibitors discussing how they can build on the experiences and adapt their activities to incorporate more scope for the students to experience in 2009. Several school teachers made comment on the "Real" value of such an event for their students, with the most common feedback being how the Schools will be able to value add to this event and continue these discussions back in their classrooms. All of the organisations, tradespeople and skills coaches who participated in the 2008 Rivers Region Try a Trade said that they were very happy to offer their staff and resources to support for the event for the following year.

### Survey Prize Winners:

Apple IPOD

Miss Shari H..

Katherine High School Yr 9.

iTunes \$20 Gift Voucher

Mr E John F...

Ngukurr CEC Yr 10.

Drawn By: Ms Fiona Smith, Rivers Region Youth Development Service, in the presence of committee members.

### The Committee:

In 2006, the Darwin Try'aTrade CDU committee member was approached by the secondary schools to hold an event in Katherine, enabling all of the Schools and Community Education Centres in the Rivers Region to participate. It was discussed that the event would need to incorporate the Trades that valued and have employment opportunities within this region. In 2007 Mr Jim Bitossi the Local Community Partnership's Project Officer for Rivers Region Youth Development Services was invited and attended the Darwin event. From this formation and with the support of the Darwin Try A Trade Committee Members, Rivers Region Youth Development Service, Group Training Northern Territory and Charles Darwin University in 2008 the inaugural Rivers Region Try a Trade event was hosted in Katherine at the Charles Darwin University Katherine Rural Campus with great success. The enthusiasm, along with the high levels of participation in this Try a Trade by remote schools (some of which had to fly in to be able to attend due to distance and road conditions) indicates very heavily that there is an enormous need for this event to continue in the years to come. An opportunity for these students to be exposed to such an array of career pathways within the trades is an essential part of successful career transition planning.

### Recommendations for 2008

---

- Request a member from Department Education and Training Katherine Office join the steering committee.
  - Consider alternative venue's for 2009 (Less walking between exhibits)
  - Adjust the events timing and bring forward to the end of term 2 or early term 3.
  - Not to host the event in the first or last week of the school term due to student attendance.
  - Have the same number of trade exhibits as allocated student groups.
  - Consider 25 min for each exhibit as the minimum.
  - Review as a committee in 2009 if we should host the event over a period of 2 days.
  - Roster staff and committee members to set tasks on the day.
  - Have remote schools come into town the evening prior to assist with starting all events on time.
- 

### Special Acknowledgements: (in alphabetical order)

Advanced Training International – Darwin

Charles Darwin University

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Department of Education & Training

Group Training Northern Territory

Rivers Region Youth Development Service

Report prepared by:  
Survey Results done by:

Mrs Fiona Smith  
Ms Mim Smith  
Mr Jim Bitossi  
Mrs Fiona Smith  
Ms Lisa Dodds

Rivers Region Youth Development Service  
Group Training Northern Territory  
Rivers Region Youth Development Service  
Rivers Region Youth Development Service  
Group Training Northern Territory

---