

Students strut their stuff

AS THOUSANDS of their peers raced around at the Maryborough Tech Challenge on the weekend, some students took part in a different kind of challenge that may form their future careers.

More than 120 students took part in the inaugural Wide Bay and Burnett Career Challenge on the weekend.

As part of the challenge, students spent more than six weeks working on various projects that were designed to prepare them for life after high school.

Organisers themed the ongoing event Designing Your Own Future.

Wide Bay Burnett Career Challenge Steering Group spokeswoman Connie Woodberry said they

eventually hoped to get similar results to a program started in South Australia, which now had thousands of entries each year.

Each group showed off their hard work throughout the weekend, including one successful Maryborough group.

Kahwan Wooga employee Jamie Lovall helped seven students to form a women's indigenous dance troupe named Dreamtime Girls.

The troupe has been a long-term



HANNAH BUSCH

Hannah Busch's Facebook profile picture

dream of Ms Lovall and her sister, Jodie Collin, to give local young indigenous women an opportunity to learn about their heritage.

With only six weeks notice before the performance, the group practised furiously with local indigenous dance teacher and singer Elston Blair.

"We started meeting every day," Ms Lovall said.

Offers poured in for the group, which was set to perform at Carols By Candlelight, Maryborough

Special School and at Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Ms Lovall said the group would hold a performance for indigenous elders and the community soon.

"We didn't realise it would happen so quickly," she said.

Their next mission was to recruit more young people from Maryborough's indigenous community.

"It's about them knowing their culture," Ms Lovall said.



CAREER CHALLENGE: The Dreamtime Girls prepare for their performance in the Wide Bay Burnett Career Challenge held last weekend. They will continue performing across the Fraser Coast.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED