

Business Liaison ASSOCIATION CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

It's Our 25th Birthday!

We are very excited to be having our 25th Birthday this year. Established in 1993 by Ms Angela Toppin, whose passion for opportunities for secondary school students in Far North Queensland far outweighed any challenges that may have stood in her way in getting this association up and running. Over the past 25 years the Business Liaison Association's program and vision has evolved along with the education curriculum to ensure that our competitions and opportunities align accordingly.

Over the last 25 years we believe that the Business Liaison Association has exposed, on average more than 250,000 students to competitions, events, speakers, exhibitions, careers programs, awards and bursaries. The reason we can provide these wonderful opportunities, is because of our very generous sponsors, teachers and supporters who also have a passion to provide pathways and opportunities for the children who live in our region.

We are looking forward to organising some special events this year to celebrate our birthday and show our sponsors

how thankful we are for their continued support. If you would like information on how to be a part of this wonderful organisation, please contact Kerrie Stanley on 0431 022 249 or email eo@bla.org.au.

CQU Breakfast – A Recipe for Change

We were very excited to have over 150 attendees at the annual Recipe for Change Breakfast which was organised in conjunction with the CQUniversity. Students attended from Gordonvale State High School, Innisfail State College, St Stephens College, St Mary's Catholic College, Woree State High School, Tully State High School and Cairns State High School.

Ms Claire-Marie Pepper shared her story and the opportunities that had presented themselves to her through her career to the students, and they were most inspired by her presentation. The students then participated in an interactive social innovation workshop, where the students worked with the team from CQUniversity and learnt how to recognise and action social changes. They came up with some great ideas.



VISITING EXPERT TESTIMONIES

Visiting Experts

This month we had two visiting experts come to Cairns and surrounding regions:

Ms Jordan Debono is a Toxinologist, Recipient of the QLD Women in STEM Award for 2017 and currently studying her PHD in Evolutionary Biology at UQ. Jordan visited six schools in the region from Innisfail to the Tablelands and Cairns. She presented to students on what it means to have a career in Science and how it has assisted her to achieve her dreams.

Testimony

"On Monday 30th April, 150 Year 8 and 9 Science students and 5 teachers from Mareeba State High School attended a talk from a visiting Scientist from the UQ. Jordan Debono works in the Venom Evolutionary Laboratory at UQ and was recently awarded the QLD Women in STEM award for her research into snake venom and its applications in medical treatments involving blood. Jordan spoke about her school life and how she got into her field of research. She was a very inspiring guest speaker who focussed on the importance of following your passions, working hard and being persistent and resilient in the face of obstacles. The students of Mareeba State High School were very interested in Jordan's presentation and asked her many questions about her journey and research and many may have been inspired to follow in

her footsteps.

Thank you to Jordan Debono for her time and to Angela Toppin and the Business Liaison Association for providing the students with this opportunity."

- Jason Richardson - Mareeba State High School

Our second Visiting Expert Matthew Eagle (Architect) was proudly sponsored by Master Builders Far North Queensland. Matthew also visited six schools in the area covering Cairns and the Tablelands.

Testimony

"The visit by Matthew Eagle and the ever, present Ron Bannah was well received by the students at RSC. Matthew completed 3 sessions with students today. He delivered 2 well presented information sessions to Senior Manual Arts, Graphics and Tech Studies students in class. Matthew also delivered a session to Year 9 Graphics, Mechatronics and Manual Arts students in our auditorium. A total of 125 students were able to see his presentation.

I would like to thank you, Angela, the BLA and the Master Builders for making this possible. Kristian Slait, Ian Jarvis (teachers) and myself gained a lot from the visit just like the students. We were more than happy to have both Ron and Matthew here at RSC for the day."

- Maurice Andrejic - Redlynch State College

