HITTING THE BOOKS
Cowboys star Ray Thompson prepares for life after rugby

BACKSTAGE WITH
International music star Will Kepa

FASHION FRENZY
North Queensland steps out in style

WIN $1000 VOUCHER FOR A COURSE OF YOUR CHOICE!*
SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS.
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WELCOME FROM TAFE

As we head into another great year at TAFE Queensland North, we would like to welcome you to our first edition of MAKE Magazine!

MAKE is here to celebrate the success of some of our extraordinary past and present students who are MAKING GREAT HAPPEN. We are interested in how YOU are making great happen in your life. Please send us your stories and feedback to marketing.north@tafe.qld.edu.au or visit our Facebook page!

It's time we celebrate the doers. The builders, the bakers, the fancy clothes-makers. The picture takers and flower bunchers, city makers and number crunchers. The protectors, the nurturers, the entertainers, and the people who make us all look beautiful. The upskillers, the room chillers, and the all-important pollution killers. The mariners and miners, mechanics and medics, the graziers and glaziers, and people who just amaze you. You're the people who make the world turn. You're the people who make great happen.

CONNECT WITH US

87% of TAFE Queensland North graduates go straight into work or further study.

96% of Queenslanders recognise TAFE, many of who may be your future boss.
AT LIBERTE

Liberte Hair of Townsville is approaching its fifth year of business, and former TAFE Queensland North Hairdressing student Fabian Morris is Liberte’s successful business owner at the young age of 32.

Fabian describes Liberte as a boutique salon with styling that focuses on the fundamentals.

“The entire salon is me and my apprentice from TAFE. I can do fun and funky hair, but my specialty is classic as I am a big fan of clean lines and longevity. For me the thought process is, if someone can’t achieve the same look at home that they received at the salon then what’s the point?”

It wasn’t always clean lines and fundamentals for Fabian.

“At the age of 20 I was a Uni student when I realised that Uni wasn’t for me. It was around this time that I realised that I could make my passion my career. I fell into a traineeship with Queensland Hairdressing Academy before quickly transferring to what is now TAFE Queensland North where I completed my apprenticeship.”

Fabian was drawn to TAFE for its individualised learning approach. “TAFE lets you be as creative as you want while teaching the broad and basic scope. TAFE offered me more individualised learning, and it allowed me to learn in a boutique style salon that I prefer.”

Now a successful business owner, Fabian has remained loyal to TAFE and now has TAFE apprentices of his own.

“TAFE is the industry standard, and you know what you’re getting with TAFE state-wide and nationwide. The teachers are so present and personable, and they continue to teach the same techniques that I utilise at Liberte.”

Not only is Fabian proud to run a successful business in Townsville, but one of his TAFE apprentices has moved on to open their own salon in Townsville as well.

“As a hair stylist it appealed to me that I could work anywhere in the world, but I love Townsville and North Queensland. There are just so many opportunities for growth here and it is an exciting time to be a business owner.”

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE WHEN STUDying A DIPLOMA OF HAIRDRESSING OR DIPLOMA OF BEAUTY THERAPY.

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The three-day festival starred North Queensland designers, among which were 18 TAFE Queensland North Beauty and Hairdressing students.

Hairdressing teacher Patricia Nielsen said the festival was a huge success and an awesome opportunity for TAFE students.

“It is wonderful that TAFE is at the forefront of the fashion industry. Not only did the Fashion Festival allow for my students to display their abilities, but it confirmed that TAFE is up to date with its knowledge of fashion.”

Certificates III Hairdressing student Madonna Richards was one of the students responsible for hair and costume design in two diverse events across the weekend: the glamorous runway show at the Townsville Entertainment Centre and the Fashion on Flinders parade.

Madonna said she found great use of all of the skills learned at TAFE.

“I really enjoyed the hands on experience working in such a fast-paced environment, and I was really happy with our overall model results,” she said.

“Our model for Saturday’s fashion event was dressed as the Queen of Hearts and as Alice in Wonderland for the event on Sunday.”

THE BUSINESS OF FASHION

Not only does talented TAFE Queensland North student Natasha Essam study a Diploma of Business and Commerce Studies at TAFE, but she also models for RFT Models in her spare time.

“I want to start my own fashion business in the future, and while my passion is fashion and modelling I recognize the importance of having my qualifications so that one day I really can have the necessary knowledge to start my own business within the beauty and fashion industry.”
FROM SCRUM TO STUDY

North Queensland Toyota Cowboys player and TAFE Queensland North student Ray Thompson spills the beans on his constant quest for self improvement.

Working, living and playing outdoors has always been a major part of life for Ray Thompson. The 24-year-old has played for Australia in the Rugby World Cup and has played more than 50 games with the Townsville-based team.

"I can’t remember exactly, but I think I was probably about five-years-old when I first started playing rugby," he said.

"My dad took me down to the junior club in Brisbane and I loved it."

"I think I knew that I actually wanted to play NRL professionally when I was 15 and I got my first contract.*

Ray was born in Cairns, but his family moved around for a number of years until they settled in Townsville.

"I was never really a troublemaker in school, but I was always somebody who preferred to be outside and work with my hands," he said.

"I started doing a plumbing apprenticeship in Year 11 and 12 with what’s now TAFE Queensland North – my dad really encouraged me to finish and get a qualification."

"I finished the trade at the end of last year and I’m really glad that I did it."

"After that I looked at doing some study at university, but I decided to go back and study another course with TAFE.*"

Ray said players are always taught to think about their career after rugby. He’s now studying a Certificate IV in Management and said he uses study as an escape when he isn’t training.

"It’s funny, I go on tour and study at the same time," Ray said.

"When you’ve had a tough day at training or things get full on with the media, I know I can go back and just hit the books.*

Ray recently proposed to his long-time girlfriend Sabrina in New York City and said she was always supportive of him, whether he was studying or playing rugby.

TAFE + UNIVERSITY

Natasha Nelson has come a long way from the small community of Thursday Island - she’s now a star student at James Cook University (JCU), and she owes it to TAFE Queensland North.

Natasha, 23, studied a Certificate III and IV in Accounts Administration and finished with a Diploma of Accounting, all with TAFE Queensland North in Cairns.

*I always had an interest in finance but I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do when I left school. That’s why TAFE was the best option for me - I decided to do a Certificate and I loved it. It could also progress through other qualifications at my own pace. Not only did I get credit toward a university degree, but I learned really good study habits and time management at TAFE.*

Natasha is now studying a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Accounting, at James Cook University and has received both distinctions and high distinctions for her work. She plans to complete her degree next year, but said she is open to the idea of further study.
THE CUBAN TEA PARTY
By TAFE Queensland North Diploma of Hospitality student Teddy Wong

As entered into the Queensland state finals of the Bacardi Legacy Cocktail Competition.

INGREDIENTS:
40ml Bacardi Superior
20ml Homemade tea syrup
10ml Lemon juice
10ml St Germain Elderflower Liqueur
5ml Lillet Blanc
1 sprig of rosemary, about 10cm long

HOMEMADE TEA SYRUP
IN THE DRINK:
150ml Hot water
5 Twinings English Breakfast tea bag
45ml 2:1 syrup – 2 parts sugar, 1 part hot water

Soak the tea bags in the hot water for half an hour, and then mix with the syrup. Simply done!

METHOD:
Chill the martini glass.
Pour all the ingredients into a shaker.
Break rosemary stick in half.
Put the lower half of the rosemary into the shaker.
Shake until well chilled.
Double strain into a martini glass.
Garnish with the remainder of the rosemary for 30 seconds on high then sprinkle on top.

ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE

When Will Kepa first started playing guitar, the thought of performing overseas was just a distant dream.

Now a Diploma of Music graduate, the Cairns-born guitarist has toured across Australia, America, Europe, Malaysia, and Samoa – as well as a recent tour of New Caledonia in December 2014.

“I played here and there when I was in primary school and then really got into music when I was in high school,” he said.

“I went into study music with the local TAFE straight after I finished school in 2000.”

“I really loved being surrounded by people who had the same kind of interests as me.”

Will wanted to complete a Diploma of Music to gain “behind the scenes” skills like sound engineering and audio production.

Completing his Diploma took eight years, but Will stuck with it to give himself the best opportunities.

“I actually got a lot of work touring and playing in a house band and I let my studies fall by the wayside a bit,” he said.

“I decided to finally finish it all off in 2008 and I’m glad I did.

“The Australian music industry relies a lot on grants from state and even federal government, so it looks good to have that official qualification on your resume.”

Will said the TAFE teachers were one of the biggest inspirations and always encouraged him to finish his qualification.

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