



Law Stories:

ABC Open, NAAJA and Clontarf documentary project

In the first week of April, North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency ('NAAJA') partnered with ABC Open, the Clontarf Foundation and Darwin High School to conduct an innovative one week filmmaking internship. The primary objectives of the internship were to provide these young men with practical film making skills using iPads and affordable film making software and to give the students a greater understanding of the criminal justice system. The conducting of interviews was also designed to develop the participants' public speaking skills and confidence. While the exposure to the ABC staff and the range of interviewees involved in the youth justice system, also provided an unique opportunity for the students to gain an insight to a range of career opportunities.

Image above: Superintendent Mark Christopher being interviewed by the 'Law Stories' team.



A call out was sent to schools and three students from Casuarina Secondary College's Clontarf Foundation (Joel Greenoff, Matthew Pollard and Peter Bamblett), and one student from Darwin High School (Leeroy Tipiloura), volunteered to take part. Three NAAJA CLE staff also participated in the training (Rohan Thwaites, Lydia Alexander and Will Crawford) as both students and supervisors.

On day one we commenced with workshops on the filmmaking software for the iPad tablets. Will Tinapple from ABC Open also provided an introduction to journalism, filmmaking and interviewing techniques. We then conducted a brainstorming session in which we discussed ideas for stories and ways to deliver them to our audiences. We then practiced shooting and editing using a number of tablets kindly lent to the project by Darwin Library's Digital Hub.

The second day involved creative workshops with the students to discuss story and interviewee ideas. The boys were presented with a list of available 'talent' and after a 'narrative arc' was identified by the boys, the group ultimately decided upon interviewing a magistrate (Mr Greg Smith), an interpreter/Court Liaison Officer (James Gaykamangu), a criminal defence lawyer (Franky Bain from NAAJA), a policeman (Superintendent Mark Christopher), a social worker (Terry Byrnes from NAAJA) and a youth detention centre prison guard/shift supervisor (Ray Church).

The group worked in teams. Peter was responsible for the camera work including the main footage and the 'making of' material. Leeroy, Joel and Matt shared the presenting/interviewing roles. The preparation

for interviews was meticulous. Peter and the camera crew of Rohan and Lydia scoped possible venues for lighting and backdrop, while Joel, Matt and Leeroy wrote the questions and prompts, welcomed the interviewees when they arrived, and later conducted the interviews.

and the quality and maturity of their interaction with the interviewees. It was a joy to work with such impressive young men.

A draft edit of several scenes was put together during the week of the program. Later on Will Tinapple

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During the week we were lucky enough to receive a visit from the ABC's Charlie King who spoke to the team about his experiences and career in Radio and Television journalism. Rico Adjrun, from ABC Radio National's Away, also spoke to us about his early career, current role and pathways into journalism through community radio. The boys even got the chance to be guests on Kate O'Toole's Afternoons program! The group also received a tour of the ABC offices, which included a tour of the news/7.30 TV studios, the ABC Local Radio studio, the hourly bulletins mini recording studio, and the newsroom. Many thanks to all the ABC staff who gave their time and showed our participants the inner workings of the ABC.

It was incredible how deftly the boys learnt how to use the hardware and software. We were impressed too by their enthusiasm, good humour,

gave the NAAJA staff some further training in editing and we were able to create a rough cut ourselves that Will was able to polish into an end product. The editing is now complete and the 'Law Stories' film is available for viewing on the ABC Open website at: <https://open.abc.net.au/explore/81937>

We all learned many new skills and found the process to be informative and engaging. Will Tinapple was an enthusiastic beacon and provided wonderful training, support and encouragement. The atmosphere during the training was both fun and productive. The young men were wonderfully engaged and attended all five days of training. The participants all spoke glowingly of the experience and we hope to once again have another opportunity to make film magic. The participants have enormous talent and we think that you may see more of them in the future! ●

