

I'm Makira Horner and was a recipient of the Friends of the Academy grant that enabled me to go on a secondment through WAAPA to Dance north in Townsville, QLD.

Firstly, thank you so much for approving my application - it was a massive help in funding this trip and I am very appreciative. The week itself was really eye opening. Seeing the everyday life of a company member was an interesting experience and taught me a lot about what to expect from the industry, and also about the differences in company environments. Since the dancers were in their final preparations before opening their new show, it was a very different structure to a usual secondment week - we were able to watch rehearsals of their work, as well as participate in and observe the tech, lighting, costume and sound plotting. Watching this unfold in an efficient and professional environment was nice - both to notice similarities and differences in the way everyone conducted themselves in comparison to my own personal experiences.

While it was a busy week for the dancers, they were very generous with any spare time they had individually; always offering to teach material, open to questions and queries, and contributing feedback to any showings we did. They were all a very inclusive, friendly and supportive group despite their chaotic schedule - and showed me the kind of hard working, innovative, and family orientated environment I would ideally like to find myself in within the industry one day.

Overall it was a wonderful week at Dance north and I'm very grateful that I had the chance to go and work with them.

Thank you again for this opportunity,
Makira