

the RITE training in agriculture

ON THE RITE TRACK

trainees Ellenore Lowdown and Destiny Ross with actor Jack Thompson

RURAL Industry Training and Employment (RITE) is the leading provider of agricultural training offering certificate II, III, IV through both school-based and full-time traineeships.

The RITE program provides young people with the opportunity to earn while they learn thus gaining qualifications while working in the rural sector on a cattle station.

Ellenore Lowdown and Destiny Ross are two students who are among the rapidly growing numbers of indigenous trainees finding training and working with RITE on the host employer program.

Like others, they are finding that completing certificate training in agriculture while working on a station is a wonderful way to learn, especially as the RITE program offers 80 per cent practical and 20 per cent theory components.

RITE field officer and mentor Joe Cooper said theirs was a great success story, not only for encouraging indigenous youngsters to gain qualifications but also for anyone who preferred the great outdoors to a classroom.

"Most of our training is done outside in the workplace environment," Mr Cooper said.

Trainees learn many skills from horsemanship, beef cattle production and general property operations. However, the work is not always dirty

and dusty. Last month well-known Australian actor Jack Thompson visited Crocodile Station where Destiny and Ellenore are employed, located near Laura, in Far North Queensland. He was there to shoot a film for the Stockman's Hall of Fame and both Ellenore and Destiny were included. Mr Cooper said Jack Thompson's visit was unusual but exciting for the trainees.

Ellenore and Destiny have completed their Level II traineeships within a 12-month period on their host property, Crocodile Station.

They are now moving on to another property and once again working for the Indigenous Land Corporation.

Mr Cooper said the girls' progress had impressed their superiors at the Indigenous Land Corporation so much that they had agreed to fund them for their Certificate III in Agriculture.

"The girls have remained on the one property for the entire 12-month period of the traineeship and have shown commitment to the industry and gained a lot of knowledge and experience in that period," he said.

People aged 15 to 24 wanting to gain qualifications in agriculture while also earning an income, should contact RITE on 4787 4933 or visit site 26 at the Careers Expo on Monday at Ignatius Park College.

