



Bensen wows Torres Strait student

Detector dog Bensen and his handler Ash Downs thrilled many of the students attending Tagai College's careers market on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait in July.

Biosecurity officers from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry ran a stall during the annual careers market, where Bensen soon attracted wide interest. The event promotes quarantine awareness and compliance with Australian Government quarantine requirements in the Torres Strait. Detector dogs are regularly used to assist in Torres Strait quarantine clearance operations.

Barrie Goedecke, the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy Manager for the Torres Strait/Northern Peninsula Area, said: "It was a great day for us. We had a lot of student enquiries about career opportunities with DAFF and I wouldn't be too surprised to see some budding quarantine officers in the near future."

Tagai State College is the largest educational institution in the Torres Strait island chain with facilities on all 15 inhabited islands, including preschools and primary schools and a secondary school and TAFE on Thursday Island.

Less than a year ago Bensen made the front page of the Cairns Post when he befriended television icon Oprah Winfrey during a quarantine inspection on her private jet.