

schools



# Following St Joseph's footsteps



**WOODWORK:** Indigenous students from Sacred Heart College, (from left) Fraser Oliver, Gibson Turner, Lachlan Wallace, Bernie Conway and Darren Hayes with lecturer Graham Smith during a carpentry lesson.

Five Sacred Heart College students from the Northern Territory have handcrafted a wooden altar as part of a carpentry course at Marcellin Technical College.

The indigenous students, boarders at Sacred Heart, come from Santa Teresa, a remote community about 100km south-east of Alice Springs.

Part of their studies includes a weekly exchange program of trades such as construction, automotive and engineering with Marcellin Technical College, at Christie Downs. They recently completed carpentry and after eight weeks of learning basic skills, created an altar for the technical college.

"I enjoyed learning new things (which are) different to the usual stuff that we do at school," said student Fraser Oliver.

The students are this term training at Marcellin's fully equipped automotive workshop.

Marcellin Technical College Principal Jim Fenoughty said the training provided students the opportunity to learn new skills and gain relevant trade experience while in school.

"It's great to have indigenous students work on their projects here and also interact with our training personnel at the college," he said.

Sacred Heart director of boarding Shane Hennessy said the students were performing "beyond expectations".

"Coming from a remote community to such a large school at Sacred Heart was a huge effort for them and we're quite proud of what they've been able to achieve in such a relatively short time," he said.

Marcellin Technical College was originally named the Australian Technical College – Adelaide South in 2006 – when it was funded by the Australian Federal government. The college is supported now by Catholic Education South Australia and was renamed after St Marcellin Champagnat – founder of the Marist Brothers community and known for his simplicity, deep concern, open-mindedness, trust, strength of character, family spirit and practical wisdom.

# Free Hearing Tests