

New owners of Hairhouse Warehouse going to great lengths to improve business

Hair's a growing market

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THE owners of DFO Cairns Hairhouse Warehouse have high hopes for their new business venture.

Chris and Tracey Johnson moved to Cairns from Western Australia in January with the goal of taking an already-thriving store to new heights.

Buoyed by the \$40 million sale of Cairns' DFO Shopping Centre to Sentinel Property Group in April, they hit the ground running upon officially taking the reins on May 17.

"We realised it was time for a change," said Mr Johnson, who has a background in business management.

"It was our plan to buy into a franchise because of the amount of support it allows you."

Formed by Melbourne brothers Joseph and Tony Latouf in 1992, Hairhouse Warehouse has about 130 stores nationwide.

Open seven days a week, DFO Cairns Hairhouse Warehouse has more than 2700 hair and fashion products on offer.

Mr Johnson said he and his

wife had a vision to grow the business, which employs six staff members.

"We have confidence in the Cairns economy and believe we have come in at the right time," he said.

"With the current level of construction as well as planned developments and the improved tourist numbers, we think the local economy will continue to grow.

"With the new shopping centre owners and management in place, there are a lot of improvements under way and being planned for the near future.

"We think the new owners have a clear vision, which will hopefully take the shopping experience to another level."

Mr and Mrs Johnson, who have two teenage daughters and live at Trinity Park, are in Cairns for the "long haul".

With extensive experience in retail, Mrs Johnson said she was enjoying getting to know the customers.

"I've always had an interest in beauty and hair," she said.

"If people want something we will try and go above and beyond to help them."



LONG HAUL: New Hairhouse Warehouse DFO Cairns owners Chris and Tracey Johnson.

Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY



GOING PLACES: Daniel Bradley with Hastings Deering apprentice training supervisor Shane Whalley.

Daniel sets sights on well-tuned career

A YOUNG Far North handyman is on track to fulfil a career goal while following in his father's footsteps.

Gordonvale local Daniel Bradley, 18, was one of 22 new recruits accepted into the Hastings Deering 2016 apprenticeship program.

He is set to become a diesel

fitter like his father Richard, who owns Far North business RJ Bradley Tractor and Equipment Repairs.

"Being around dad all the time I was helping to fix things, so I guess I was drawn to it," the teenager said.

"A lot of young people worry about finding jobs -

given the resources sector downturn - so it's great to be part of the program.

"You can work practically anywhere in the world as a diesel fitter, so I hope to travel one day."

Mr Bradley has been in Brisbane for two weeks of induction training before begin-

ning his new apprenticeship.

Hastings Deering general manager of people Jo Best said it was crucial to keep offering apprenticeships despite the resource sector downturn.

"Australia needs to remain agile and on the front foot for when the resources and construction sectors pick up."



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