



# NEWSLETTER

**Indigenous  
JOB CONNECTIONS**

## BUNDARRA LAUNCH SUCCESS AT LAURA

Written and photographed  
by Margaret Bending



### WHAT'S INSIDE...

**AUGUST 2011**

: NEW CONTACTS

: SUPPORTING IJC  
PROJECTS

: CAP FUNDING  
DEVELOPEMNT

: GUIDANCE AND  
SUPPORT THE KEY

: PRACTICAL MENTOR  
TRAINING

: LEGACY LEFT IN  
COEN

: GOOD NEWS  
PHOTOS FROM  
WUJAL WUJAL

The newly established sportswear business, Bundarra, was successfully launched at the 2011 Laura Dance Festival, 17-19 June.

Bundarra is a unique sportswear and promotional company aimed specifically at Indigenous peoples of Australia. The new business was the brainchild of the Board and its inception has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Board members of the company.

I was privileged to meet the Board at the festival and hear their stories. The Board consists of seven individuals, Tommy the Chair, the two Rhonda's, Andy who proudly showed us the Split Rock Site, Maria and Buddie, and Victor.

Four of the Board members are from the Djabuguy tribe who originate from the Kuranda rainforest. They proudly explained to me that "Bundarra" means Cassowary, cleaner of the rainforest and in their words, "a clean rainforest makes for healthy rainforest people".

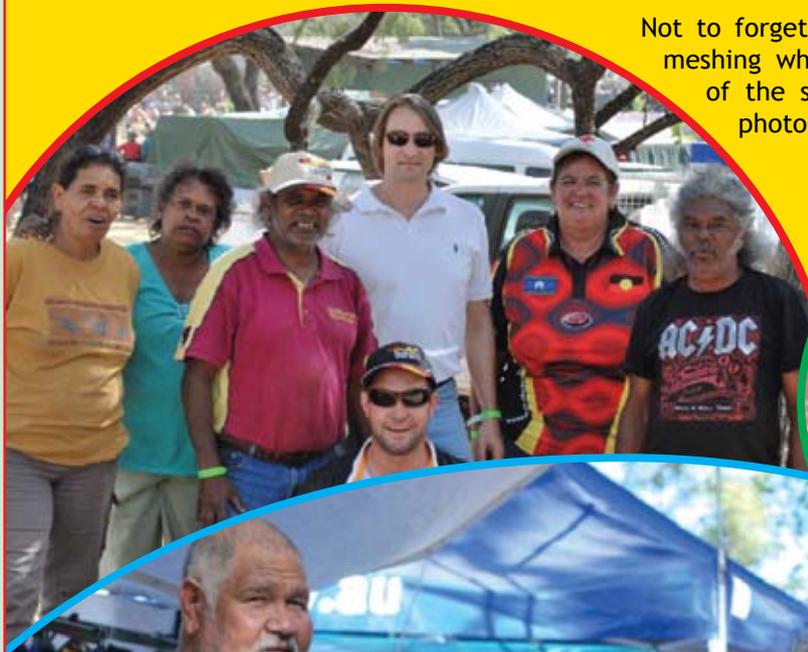
The public loved the Rugby shirt design and the T-shirt of the same design. The concept of Bundarra being indigenously owned and self supporting was also very well received.

The local Indigenous peoples of North Queensland, encompassing 20 different tribes, hold the Laura Dance Festival every two years as a celebration of their unique culture.

I was very lucky to be invited to this event which I had never heard of before. I am from Brisbane. I loved the whole event from watching the sun rise over the hill to the soul-moving dances and rhythms of the different tribal dances.

The website for Bundarra is under construction; for future reference it is [www.bundarra.org.au](http://www.bundarra.org.au) I'd like to thank Tommy George the Elder of this country for his presiding over this event, and all the wonderful tribes who made my soul dance.

Not to forget Troy Drasdo's impressive fence meshing which stood out around the sides of the stage, which it was my task to photograph.



## NEW CONTACTS

With the new and colourful website launch for IJC, contact email addresses will also be changing. Now everyone will have an @ijc.org.au email - such as patty@ijc.org.au

But don't worry, all the current email addresses with @warrama.org.au will remain live.

## SUPPORTING IJC PROJECTS

All the great commercial activities we fund and run require support from us. To maintain our economic strength, don't forget to pay your membership fees soon. At the November AGM there will be a review of membership.

## CAP FUNDING DEVELOPMENT

The development of office and training infrastructure at a number of locations is well underway thanks to the Australian Government Capital Acquisition Program. At Wujal Wujal the office complex is almost near completion.

Operations manager, Jeff Shallies, said he was pleased to see the great results from the funding provided by this development and support program.

"Finally we can give people at these sites the support infrastructure that they need. David and Jason have been operating out of their utes, so this is good news for them."

Preliminary site investigations have started at Chillagoe while final interior installations are well progressed at Wujal Wujal and Mt Garnet. Work is completed and the building already in use at Croydon.



## GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT THE KEY

### PATTY NAKATA Administration Officer Parramatta Park

Patty Nakata not only wants to make something of herself, she also wants to give back to her people.

The administration officer for Indigenous Job Connections since February 28 this year, Patty took over the reins from Yvonne Coghlan.

Patty said she can see how hard it is for people who grew up in a remote area going into the outside world.

"I grew up in a remote area and I am most proud of that, but it's important to realise we need support in every aspect of life."

Patty grew up on Thursday Island and believes her mother instilled the importance of providing guidance and mentoring to others at a very early age.

Patty provides administration support to the CEO, Chris Martin, staff and community development officers as well as to other administration staff in the region.

She provides general office support, is currently learning payroll utilising MYOB while also studying a Diploma of Management with Upskilled which covers areas including management skills and project management.

"It's all at management level and it was a bit daunting because all the other participants are in management roles.

"We should finish in December and I'm hoping it will eventually lead to a management role.

"My long term goal is to manage my own business and to give back to my community.

"I want to help young indigenous kids in years 8 to 12 get ready for work programs."

Patty believes it's the younger generation that should be our focus.

"As part of this I would hope to train other indigenous workers to be mentors and facilitators and to receive the encouragement that I have.

"I'm very grateful to be in this position and for my managers to give me the opportunity to do this Diploma Course.

"I was out of work for three months before I started here so I can understand how hard it is. I'm a single mother and the bills were really starting to pile up. "But it never stopped me from looking for work. I didn't give up."

Patty has four children, Toshio 17, Kadisha 16, John 13 and Christina 4.

IJC Operations Manager, Jeff Shallies said it was important everyone realised Patty provides the same great service that Yvonne did.

"Patty goes the extra yard. She even organised the catering for the Mentor Program when it was running in here including making the morning and afternoon teas herself,"

Jeff said.



# PRACTICAL MENTOR TRAINING



Making training work for each individual community is the aim of the Mentor Training currently underway.

Mentors from the communities at Chillagoe, Coen, Croydon, Laura, Mt Garnet and Wujal Wujal are participating, with on-site assessment for the course including components from the Certificate III in Business and the Frontline Management program.

The four accredited units are: Participate in OHS processes, Work Effectively with Diversity, Deliver and Monitor a Service to Customers, and Contribute to Effective Workplace Relationships.

The current mentor training is being provided by The Learning Workshop and started with an intensive workshop for community mentors at the Cairns office from 17-19 May conducted by TLW's Sue Muller and Trish O'Donnell.

Sue said the idea was to be very practical and to make the training work for each individual community, with the mentors and teachers interacting with field staff as part of the course.

"The CDO's attended the first day of the workshop so everyone had the same understanding of the mentor role and how that would be rolling out in each community," Sue said.

"In addition to being the link between people and the community - the connection point - mentors have a bigger role to support everyone through training."

The mentor training will operate in conjunction with the WELL programs (Workplace English Language Literacy) already in place in those communities.

"Part of the WELL program is the ongoing professional development for the mentors as well as additional training."

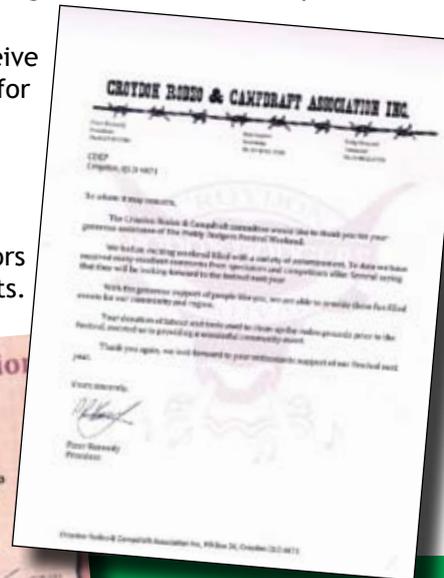
Sue said The Learning Workshop has three WELL teachers mentoring the community mentors into their role.

"The teachers are very excited about working with the mentors."

"There is a bit of formal training done on site and then practical application of these skills."

"The mentors will then receive a Certificate of Attainment for the units completed, to be credited towards a full qualification."

IJC Operations Manager, Jeff Shallies, said the Mentors all started as IJC participants.



# LEGACY LEFT IN COEN

A number of successful Community development projects and employment training programs had been completed by CDEP before finishing their contract in Coen.

The projects - which range from the little school house renovations to the construction of Jolly Rogers' nursery - have provided interesting and exciting projects, training and services for CDEP participants.

The little schoolhouse was both renovated and upgraded and enabled CDEP to provide training and assessment in Certificate 1 in Construction with Northern Skills Alliance, with participants gaining their qualification in June.

Jolly Rogers' nursery has been built and a number of different plants are already growing. A hydroponic system was installed to allow the nursery to grow strawberries, cherry tomatoes, lettuce and other produce for school lunches and snacks.

Community plant sales are already happening with all profits from plant sales donated to Coen School and PCYC.

At Coen Cemetery participants completed ground maintenance and the building of a pergola for community Elders and members to use. Crosses were also made by participants for funerals. Cleaning and grounds maintenance of the LPO grounds was also undertaken.

The former Coen CDEP CDO Zachary Phillpot said he would like to thank all the organisations and local businesses that supported and contributed positively to the projects. "I would also like to thank all CDEP participants and the CDEP supervisor Les Baker for all your commitment, dedication and hard work."

Thanks go to Cape York Partnerships, Cape York Australian Aboriginal Academy, Northern Skills Alliance, Mulley's Paint, Coen Corner Café, PCYC, Royal Flying Doctors Wellbeing Centre, Ambrust Store and local community members.

During a woodcarving/woodwork training exercise provided in Coen by the Indigenous artist Kel Williams, Coen CDEP participants produced

The Bench, which was donated to the community and is now located outside the Armbrust General store in Coen.



# GOOD NEWS PHOTOS FROM WUJAL WUJAL

A footpath was just one of the practical outcomes completed by the five participants of the Certificate I in Construction. The course ran for six months commencing in November 2010 and finishing in May 2011. Out of the five participants, three completed the course while two received Statements of Attainment. *Pictured in the photo are - Back L-R: Gordon Homer (Jobfind), Michael Phillips (Jobfind), Robert Howard (ITEC). Front L-R: Catherine Cowe (ITEC), Ellie Starkey (CRCDEP CDO), Glen Williams, Harold Tayley, Jermaine Creek, Claudia Doughboy (CRCDEP Mentor).*



Eight participants have recently completed a Certificate II in Asset Maintenance at Wujal Wujal funded by IJC. Practical and theoretical training for the course has been undertaken at the new Arts & Culture Centre which opened late last year. Participants learnt all aspects of cleaning including how to clean a kitchen to how to use a pressure washer. Part of the practical training for the five-week course also included a vacate clean of a house at Ayton.



Local artists - such as Faron Nunn pictured - are now able to use the studio at the recently opened Arts & Culture Centre to work on their pieces. The Centre is open Tuesday to Thursday from 8.30am to 4pm and also includes a gallery and a cafe. Two participants from the Asset Maintenance course, who had previously completed a Certificate I in hospitality, are currently undergoing work experience in the cafe which is operated by Island & Cape. Community Development Officer Ellie Starkey said local ladies also do jewellery making in the studio with everything they make for sale in the gallery. "They can't produce their jewellery fast enough, it's selling so quickly."



**Indigenous**  
**JOB CONNECTIONS**

**Cairns Regional Community  
Development & Employment  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Corporation**

ICN 3976 ABN 33 400 628 824

23 - 25 Victoria Street,  
Parramatta Park Qld 4870  
PO Box 5072, Cairns Qld 4870

T: (07) 4041 8800 F: (07) 4041 8899

E: [info@ijc.org.au](mailto:info@ijc.org.au)

[www.ijc.org.au](http://www.ijc.org.au)

