



WUJAL WUJAL CDEP PARTICIPANTS VOLUNTEER AT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT CULTURAL CAMPS

Indigenous Job Connections Wujal Wujal Community Development Employment Program participants have been volunteering their time and skills to help run the Community Youth Camps.

Organised by a number of local organisations including the local Women's Centre, Justice Group, Gungarde Aboriginal Corporation, the Bana Yarralji Bulka Rangers and the Healthy Communities Initiative, the youth camps are designed to engage young people in team building activities and teach them responsibility.

Wujal Wujal Community Development Officer (CDO) Rebecca Early said "the youth camps are a fantastic way to get the CDEP participants involved and often their younger family members come along to attend the camp.

"Our participants help with everything from preparing and setting up the camp sites, to cooking food, supervising activities and cleaning up after the camps."

Activities at the camp include art workshops taught by Wujal Wujal artists, along with cultural languages and environmental workshops.

Rebecca continued "many of the skills young people are learning at the camp have inspired them to explore careers in tourism as well as working with the Bana Yarralji Bulka Rangers.

Held in different locations throughout the region, the community has run five different camps with more than 50 participants and their families attending.

Rebecca explained "the camps offer an opportunity for young people to come together and learn from the Elders. During one of the camps the Bana Yarralji Bulka Rangers brought along American environmental conservation university students on an exchange trip. This was a really fun experience and all attendees found it interesting to share their different cultures."

The CDEP participants have enjoyed volunteering at the Community Youth Camps and hope to continue using their skills to help community events and activities.



Indigenous JOB CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

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Five Certificate III in Rural Operations participants from Chillagoe and Laura graduated from the course held on Indigenous Job Connections (IJC) Bilwon Farm recently.

The participants completed the 13 weeks course in fortnightly blocks taking a total of 26 weeks.

IJCs Chillagoe Community Development Officer (CDO) Tanya Whiting explained how the participants learned a wide range of skills throughout the course.

"The training covered a vast range of skills, some of which taught the participants how to poison weeds, build fences, handle and maintain a chainsaw, and operate a backhoe.

"As part of the course the participants also built a barbeque from scratch and then erected a shed over the barbeque to provide shelter."

Negotiations for jobs at stations and traineeships are now underway to ensure the participants can put their new skills to work.

In the mean time participants' skills will be used to help the Chillagoe community.

Tanya explained "we will be using our Rural Ops participants to help assemble a community BBQ at the Chillagoe touch football field.

"The BBQ will be used by local families and at weekly touch football games held on the field."

Chillagoe Primary School have been providing a free sausage sizzle every three weeks at the field and currently have to transport the school BBQ to the football field every time. The new BBQ will simplify this process.

IJC has kindly donated funds for the materials to help with construction of the community BBQ.



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Indigenous JOB CONNECTIONS

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BAAL GAMMON MINING PROJECT FOR CDEP

Eight Community Development Employment Program participants have been working on a part time contract with Kagara Pty Ltd at the Baal Gammon mine site near Herberton.

The CDEP participants assisted the Kagara environmental team to prepare and secure the mine site against the wet season run off.

The management team from Kagara was very excited about the project and pleased with the results.

The project ran very smoothly with participants attending every day. Everyone demonstrated loads of enthusiasm; enjoying the work so much they wished it was a permanent position.

For many of the young participants this was their first paid job.

KAIZI'S COCONUT OIL THRIVES

Indigenous Job Connections (IJC) has been actively involved in helping local Torres Strait Islander, Robert (Kaizi) Gutchen develop his own family run, small business - Kaizi's Coconut Oil.

Kaizi's Coconut Oil has grown into a successful business operating out of Mareeba and distributing their wide range of coconut oil based products throughout Australia in retail outlets, regional markets and via their website.

Owner, Kaizi Gutchen described how the company went from a hobby that sat on the backburner to a thriving small business.

"Kaizi's Traditional Coconut Oil & Essential Blends has been born from traditional knowledge passed to me by my Mother. As a result I started to make pure Coconut Oil some 20 years ago."

Kaizi said "six years ago CDEP encouraged me to attend an IBA Small Business workshop in Cairns and after the workshop I decided to become the first, commercially sold, unrefined Coconut Oil producer in Australia.

"From there IJC helped us lay the foundations of starting a business and we began experimenting with our product by blending it with other essential oils and creating a larger product range.



We now produce a wide variety of products for cooking, healing, soothing and overall health where coconut oil is the key ingredient."

Kaizi's Coconut Oil encourages indigenous self-employment and on a few occasions over the past four years has assisted high schools with education workshops.

Kaizi explained "we really enjoy hosting and have had student groups visit to help inspire indigenous students to go as far as they can with their education and not be frightened of the idea of self-employment.

"We have also opened our home to an Organic Experience - a tour of 20 people visiting the Tablelands, specifically stopping at organic features and operations."

Kaizi's Coconut Oil understands their distinct market advantage but also appreciate how keeping good records are essential to success, especially with regards to business operations & budgeting,

Kaizi said "We always work very hard with the quality of our product as we like to be proud of each bottle we make. We have come so far in the last six years and appreciate IJC's contribution in helping us present a regional brand of Premium Coconut Oil."



MT GARNET PRODUCES FRESH MUSTARD AND MANGO CHUTNEY

Mount Garnet Community Development Employment Program participants worked hard producing mustard and mango chutney for Christmas. The produce was grown locally on trees in the CDEP grounds allowing participants to harvest and produce the fresh gifts at the CDEP site.

Indigenous Job Connections (IJC) Community Development Officer (CDO) Lindsay Jones described how the Mt Garnet Community Project Leader Rob Swain organised and led the event with CDEP volunteer Julianne Hartmann.

"Rob saw there was plenty of fruit on the CDEP mango tree so he decided to measure the interest of CDEP participants in making some chutney. There was plenty of interest and over the two chutney making sessions 10 participants helped out" Lindsay said.

He went on "participants were involved in the whole process including picking, preparing and combining the fruit and ingredients. Once the chutney was complete the participants also put their skills to use creatively preparing a meal which incorporated the chutney."

Overall the chutney making activity was a success and the CDEP participants were able to take some home for their family and friends.

The Cairns IJC staff were also lucky enough to sample the freshly made chutney.



BILWON FARM HEAVY MACHINERY COURSE SUCCESS

Indigenous Job Connections (IJC)s first Heavy Machinery Course held at Bilwon Farm was a huge success with 15 participants completing the hands on training.

Throughout the two week course participants achieved an Operating Certificate for heavy machinery vehicles including bulldozers, road graders, backhoes and bobcats.

IJC Community Development Officer (CDO) Lindsay Jones said "IJC are extremely proud of the participants who travelled from Mt Garnet, Croydon, Wujal Wujal, and Chillagoe. Every person completed the course. A great outcome for the participants and their future job prospects"

As part of the training participants were able to develop their skills by fixing roads, regulating fire breaks and helping with underground pipework and irrigation on site at Bilwon Farm.

The course was delivered by training organisation M-Sec ITS Pty Ltd who provided two trainers on site throughout the course.

Lindsay explained "M-Sec have extensive experience in delivering courses in the Far North Queensland region and the trainers said this was one of the best groups they have ever trained."

The participants will now follow through for outcome employment opportunities in the construction industry.

