



# NEWSLETTER

**Indigenous  
JOB CONNECTIONS**

## BOARD MOVES FORWARD



(Back left to right) Chris Martin, Alf (Budi) Richards and Maria Richards.  
(Front left to right) Rhonda Duffin, Tommy Brim and Rhonda Brim

**THIS  
ISSUE...**

**SEPTEMBER  
2010**

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FORWARD**

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FOCUSED ON POSITIVE  
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AWARDS**

The current Board of Cairns Regional CDEP (trading as Indigenous Job Connections) had their positions confirmed at a special General Meeting in Cairns on 4th August 2010.

The previous 10 member board was reduced to five with Tommy Brim (Chairman), Rhonda Duffin (Secretary/Treasurer), Alf Richards, Maria Richards and Rhonda Brim uniting in their commitment to advancing the organisation with practical and useful programs for their people. Bevan Ahkee, Julie Go Sam, Vanessa Tongs, Kali Sailor and Libby Morgan are no longer Board members.

Chairman Tommy Brim said the Board has complete confidence in CEO Chris Martin and his team of field officers, support workers and administration staff to implement the support programs and operate the business units Cairns Regional CDEP has previously committed to.

"We are looking forward to making strong, considered, timely decisions and communicating effectively with our communities, funders, employers and staff", he said.

"By keeping abreast of changes in government programs, community needs and project outcomes through our Board participation; we will be able to keep Cairns Regional (CDEP) on track".

"It is an exciting time and we will be making sure that we and our team stay focussed on achieving our objectives".

## NEW IJC CHAIRMAN FOCUSED ON POSITIVE PROGRESS

Tommy Brim is no stranger to the responsibilities that come with being a member of a Board. Performing on the Tjapukai Tribal Council Board from 2004 to 2008, the last 2 years as Chairman; and as Board Member of IJC for the past 3 years and recently voted in as Chairman.

Tommy said, "Something I have learned over the years is how to be a good communicator." He is at ease liaising with Government Departments, something he did regularly in his previous role as Chairman, dealing with traditional land rights.

This is one skill he believes will be valuable in his vision for IJC.

Tommy has a strong history with IJC, working

as the Supervisor of Kuranda CDEP from its start up and continuing to work with the organisation, involved with Indinji after Kuranda was regionalised.

A bit of a shift in direction is something Tommy believes is needed. He said, "Staff numbers have grown and positions have changed. These changes need to be managed through processes that will help to make the progress smooth and efficient."

He added, "Part of getting this right is focusing on getting the right people in the roles of Community Development Officers and Mentors - an important part to the progress of assisting people to move into meaningful employment, not just a job."

Tommy is positive that with the great team they now have it won't take long for things to start rolling along. He said, "Once I know all this is under control I am looking forward to hopefully doing a little more fishing. I was brought up on the river and this is my favourite past-time."



Tommy Brim takes a positive position in the progress of Cairns Regional (CDEP).



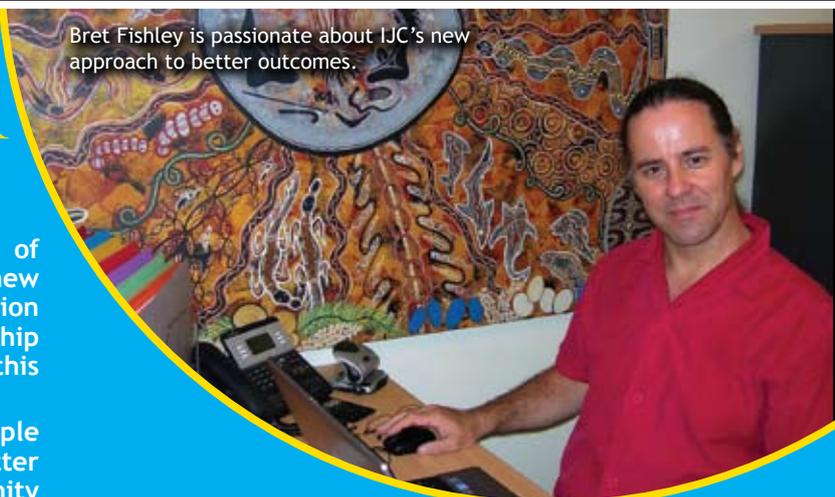
## A NEW LEVEL OF SERVICE SET TO OFFER REAL OUTCOMES

IJC is very excited to be introducing a new level of personalised service to CDEP participants by way of a new Case Management approach. Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) and IJC are working together in partnership to deliver an effective approach that will achieve this aim.

This method will include approaches that give people personal pride and dignity and ultimately a better quality of life. It is a first in terms of using a community framework supported by an approach that aims to ensure the best possible outcomes for participants - allowing them to have more control over their social and economic future.

Community Development personnel are currently in the field speaking to people about what they would like to do and how we can work together to get there. IJC's Field Officer, Bret Fishley said, "The next step from here is to employ mentors to compliment and assist this process to ensure the best chance of success." IJC is in the process of recruiting staff to take up these positions.

Bret Fishley is passionate about IJC's new approach to better outcomes.



Jeff Shallies and Bret Fishley both agreed, "The Community Development process and the ethics that support it are the key to the success of this project."

"We are going to be in there at the community level making sure we are listening to people and working in ways that empower people to take control of their future. It is only through this approach that we can be effective and community residents can be assured of our good faith in them to be able to know best what the solutions are and we intend to work with people to support them in their endeavours."

## MARIA RICHARDS IS A HERO AT TRAINING AWARDS

The value of Maria's hard work and belief in herself has been justified with her recognised last month as Far North Queensland's Vocational Student of the Year at the 2010 Queensland Training Awards Regional Final.

Now an Assistant in Nursing at Mareeba Garden Settlement, Maria's efforts are making her ambition of helping Indigenous people see the benefits aged care facilities can offer them. As a result of being focused on learning more about aged care and with the help of mentors and trainers, Maria overcame negative school experiences and literacy problems to successfully complete a Certificate III in Aged Care Work.

Maria now proudly admits, "I have never felt so fulfilled in anything as I do now." "It wasn't an easy road but when I worked up the courage to keep going, people saw that I wanted to work hard and do well and they were so positive towards me."

Maria strives to support members of the community with this positive perspective through her role as a Board Member of the Cairns Regional CDEP.

### Mareeba nurse wins top training award

A MAREEBA nurse has been awarded one of Queensland's top training awards.

Maria Richards, an assistant in nursing at Mareeba Garden Settlement, was named as the Far North's vocational student of the year at the 2010 Queensland Training Awards Regional Final on Saturday.

Ms Richards, who lives at

Kuranda, overcame negative school experiences and literacy problems to successfully complete a Certificate III in aged care work.

"I have never felt so fulfilled in anything as I do now," she said.

"It wasn't an easy road, but when I worked up the courage to keep going, people saw that I wanted to work hard and do well

and they were so positive towards me.

Ms Richards, a board member of the Cairns Regional CDEP, said she was extremely passionate about her indigenous culture, her family and her people.

She believes if you want something in life, whether it's a car or an education, then you have to work for it.

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**Indigenous**  
**JOB CONNECTIONS**

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