



# Indigenous JOB CONNECTIONS

# NEWSLETTER

## CERTIFICATE III IN ATSI CULTURAL ARTS AT WUJAL WUJAL



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Seven artists have been recognised, following 12 months ATSI Cultural Arts training at the Wujal Wujal Arts Centre.

The arts training was an Indigenous Job Connections activity which included a rich and diverse curriculum including art history, ATSI arts, colour, technique, printing and exhibition planning. The course was led by Arts Trainer Jane Heraghty and included field trips to galleries and exhibitions as well as workshops with visiting artists.

In one workshop contemporary Indigenous artist Elisa Carmichael shared her skills and experience as a Fine Arts graduate and working artist, with the participants on the course. Elisa introduced contemporary and abstract Indigenous art techniques and related them to the wearable art featured by Bundarra Sportswear. You can see a video of Elisa at the Wujal Wujal arts course on the IJC website [www.ijc.org.au](http://www.ijc.org.au)

Participants visited galleries in Cairns and Cardwell and attended the Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair to interact with artists and their work. The course wound up with an exciting workshop on spray painting techniques, and has produced a collaborative Graffiti Wall. This activity was voted by students as the most fun and engaging part of the course because it gave the artists a voice in the community as well as a positive profile.

Some of the artwork produced during the course was accepted for exhibition at the Bana Yirraji Arts and Cultural Centre and has been sold. Congratulations to Jarrett Bassani, Doreen Creek, Carmel Haines and Charmaine Nandy who have qualified for Certificate III in Aboriginal and TSI Cultural Arts; and to Cedric Friday, Jason Smith and Faron Conway Nunn who achieved Statements of Attainment.



Elisa Carmichael  
Indigenous Artist

## A NEW DIRECTION FOR IJC

IJC's new business unit will focus on delivering culturally appropriate training services for Indigenous and non-Indigenous trainees and staff of Health and Community agencies that have Indigenous clients.

The training services strengthen and enhance our ability to carry out our vision to serve the remote Indigenous communities of Far North Queensland.

For a number of years Indigenous Job Connections (IJC) has been diversifying into new programs and commercial activities with a goal of achieving sustainability. Partnerships with organisations who share IJC's vision for the future.

In the first stage of the new training service, IJC will partner with leading RTOs to deliver accredited training in Health and Community

Services. Under current partnership arrangements, IJC can provide culturally appropriate training (full qualifications and additional skill sets) in a number of areas, including:

- Aged Care
- Disability
- Mental Health
- HACC
- Horticulture
- Commercial cleaning

The new training service will also work closely and in a flexible way with employers to deliver training that meets industry requirements.

If your organisation needs staff with culturally appropriate training to care for your Indigenous clients, you can participate in a survey to give feedback that will be used in developing programs. Contact Kate Hine at IJC on ph 4041 8800 or check the IJC website at [www.ijc.org.au](http://www.ijc.org.au).



Bundarra is now on Facebook! Visit [www.facebook.com/Bundarra](http://www.facebook.com/Bundarra) to check out all the latest designs. Don't forget to Like the page.



## WINDING UP CDEP

The next stage of the federal government's ongoing restructure of ATSI community services has finally been activated. The long standing Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) in remote areas has been bundled into a larger community services contract being delivered in remote communities under the banner of Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP).

Although IJC submitted to deliver the new RJCP community program, we were not selected. This validates our efforts over the last four years to grow our business to be less reliant on such programs to deliver benefits to our communities.

The Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) activities delivered by IJC in Wujal Wujal, Laura, Croydon and Chillagoe have been finalised with handovers of assets to the agencies who will deliver the new RJCP program, and the Mount Garnet program is due for final handover in 2014.



## IJC THROWS OPEN THE DOORS TO NEW TRAINING AND MEETING ROOMS

Stylish new training and meeting facilities will soon be available for hire at Indigenous Job Connections in Victoria Street, Cairns.

The spacious ground floor venue will have two rooms available for hire for full and half day sessions, and also on an hourly basis.

One training room can be set up boardroom style or U shape for meetings, seminars and workshops for 20 participants, while the other is a specialised PC training venue with a capacity for 16 trainees plus trainer.

Included in hire fees are a data projector, electronic whiteboard, and large flat screen TV with computer and DVD capability, plus internet access for the trainer or facilitator's laptop.

In the computer training facility, up to 16 laptops with internet access and Microsoft Office 2013 are included.

Morning and afternoon tea and lunch can be catered and there is a covered outdoor area that can be used for breakout sessions as well as for breaks.



A separate open air seating area at the rear of the building is a Designated Outdoor Smoking Area.

Additional services such as printing, binding, copying, faxing, scanning and telephone calls can be provided. The venue is easily accessed, being just 50 metres from public transport, and a short walk from Cairns Central Shopping Centre.

Full details of the venue, its facilities and hire fees, and a copy of the hire contract, are available from Kate Hine at IJC ph 4041 8800 or check the IJC website [www.ijc.org.au](http://www.ijc.org.au)

## SIGN UP NOW FOR AGED CARE AND HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE QUALIFICATIONS

Indigenous Job Connections (IJC) with partners in training ACE Community Colleges, is currently offering a double qualification in Aged Care and Home and Community Care.

Work opportunities for aged care and home & community care workers are expanding as the Australian population ages. People with empathy for the elderly and a desire to assist them to maintain their well-being and independence are needed to train for work in this sector.

There has been very positive reaction to the course which offers 16 weeks training and assistance with local work placement. Our trainers have extensive experience

in training people for whom English is not their first language and we will be providing mentoring and a range of other support services throughout the course.

In a fantastic incentive for people already in the industry who are not yet qualified at a Certificate III level 'recognised prior learning' can be used as an assessment option.

The course starts in Cairns in November and will be available on the Tablelands at the Bilwon Farm Training Centre (Bibhoora) early next year.

Contact Kate Hine at IJC ph 4041 8800 for enrolment forms and a student handbook.

# GIMUY FISH AND FOOD FESTIVAL

An invitation to participate in the Gimuy Fish and Food Festival at Fogarty Park in Cairns in August demonstrated the wider potential of the Mount Garnet sustainable foods initiative, an activity of the IJC Mt Garnet Community Development Employment Program (CDEP).

Medicinal herbs and food grown in the permaculture garden were prepared by the team for display and sale. This involved them dehydrating, bagging, labelling and pricing the produce, and preparing samples to offer to festival visitors as a sales incentive.

The group created fact sheets to highlight the health benefits of each of the foods and herbs available, and promoted the fact that everything from their display was produced naturally. The artists within the group added value to the Mount Garnet sales stand for the Gimuy Fish and Food Festival by designing an original banner to attract customers.

With the back-up of this thorough preparation, the group set up their display and prepared to meet new customers. Stock sold quickly, the public were drawn to the natural produce and keen to hear from the knowledgeable gardeners.

Yacom also known

as the Peruvian ground apple was the big seller on the day. It is a probiotic with properties that help control insulin. As well as dried yacom chips and fresh yacom tuber for customers to taste, the stand sold guava leaf tea, dried basil, and two staple foods of the lowland tropics, cassava root and taro.

The festival was a valuable opportunity for the participants in the Mount Garnet sustainable foods initiative to showcase the produce from their permaculture garden. It was also another satisfying outcome for the CDEP program and the work done by the team.

Sixteen of the Mt Garnet gardeners participated in the festival. Spokesperson Betty Cashmere said “we were really happy with the day, and even had enquiries from customers about buying vegetables and herbs in the future.” Everyone involved enjoyed the experience of sharing their produce and their knowledge, and hearing the many positive comments from festival visitors.



# IJC RECYCLES LAPTOPS TO HELP THE INNISFAIL COMMUNITY

In October Indigenous Job Connections (IJC) donated three laptops to the Jilbay Bin Parents and Community Education project.

Jilbay Bin means “Becoming Clever” in MaMu, and the project has four main aims:

1. To provide support by helping families engage in their children’s education
2. To provide a common link between parents, the education system and the wider community.
3. Support cultural activities and awareness that build motivation and opportunities for our next generation.
4. Support parents and caregivers by providing workshops to help them succeed, understand, encourage the importance of their children’s education.

The laptops which were no longer required by IJC are a versatile resource for Jilban Bin PaCE project. They will be used in the Innisfail district for school work by children without regular access to computers, as well as in a work-ready program for seniors. The work-ready course includes training in the use of computers, accessing the internet, and resume writing, plus an option to learn to use the MYOB accounting software.

Chris Martin CEO of IJC presented the laptops to Lorraine Maund and Kellee Roberts of Jilbay Bin PaCE project on 14 October.



# MONA MONA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

In September 2013, the Mona Mona Community at Kuranda celebrated its centenary in a wonderful week of activities “remembering the past and creating the future”.

The celebration was a showcase of Indigenous culture which included workshops, food, storytelling, dance, music and the construction of a big biau (traditional shelter).

A signature event of the festival was weaving, with Djabugay Elder and Master Weaver Rhonda Brim. Rhonda teaches this beautiful art form, making traditional designs from natural fibres to share her culture from generation to generation.

There are some wonderful pictures from the event on the Facebook page ‘Mona Mona Centenary Celebrations’.



## IJC ON YOUTUBE

Video presentations on IJC’s people and projects have been uploaded to YouTube for you to enjoy. Go to the IJC website [www.ijc.org.au](http://www.ijc.org.au) to see the Mount Garnett Permaculture Garden; an art workshop at Wujal Wujal; Rural Operations training at Bilwon Farm; traditional weaving; an Indigenous Business Profile; and to meet a scholarship student, an ESQ Youth Leadership Participant, a Community Development Officer, a Community Project Leader and the Chairperson of the IJC Board.



## JOBS SECURED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Certificate II in Construction delivered at Bilwon Farm has resulted in work in the construction industry for participants from Wujal Wujal.

Marcus Christie and Dennis Jack were among the group who gained their certification through the course delivered by Northern Skills Alliance. They lived on-site at Bilwon Farm during 2 week blocks of practical experience constructing the Training Centre.

The completion of the Training Centre building in May was a significant milestone in the project which will when outfitted; provide accommodation, training facilities, an office and

workshop. Following graduation, both Marcus and Dennis were hired for a short-term contract as general labourers by Remote Staffing Solutions.

Marcus is now doing his apprenticeship with APN Cape York in conjunction with Remote Building Solutions. He has been working building houses in Cairns for Aurukun, Kowanyama, and Doomadgee. According to Employment and Training Co-ordinator for APN Cape York Ben Clifton, Marcus has displayed great enthusiasm and work ethic, and is very pleased to be doing his apprenticeship. Marcus has just received his first lot of power tools, and is starting to feel like a real worker with his own tools.



**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)

