



# NEWSLETTER

## Indigenous JOB CONNECTIONS

### KEEN APPRENTICE KEEPS OPTIONS OPEN



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Chillagoe CDEP participant Cindelle Lee Cheu knows better than most that realising your dreams is a long process.

Cindelle joined CDEP last year, and got to know IJC Chillagoe area Community Development Officer (CDO) Tanya Whiting. As they explored work options together Cindelle realised that she really liked the sort of work a Diesel Fitter did.

Tanya encouraged Cindelle to follow this interest, so when Kagara Mining visited Chillagoe to perform pre-mine employment medical checks, Cindelle took the opportunity to pass this first step to working for a mine.

Having passed the medical, Kagara Mining came back and offered Cindelle an interview for a place in their Myuma pre-employment training course. Cindelle travelled with CDO Tanya to Cairns and with her support completed the interview. Although very nervous and shy, Cindelle succeeded in gaining a place with Myuma.

Cindelle was on the way to becoming an apprentice.

By October Cindelle had gained enough confidence to travel to Myuma's Camooweal Training Facilities to commence the 13 week training course. During this time Cindelle learnt how the mining industry worked and was shown various options of working within a mine including administration, shot firing, mechanics and operating.

Cindelle enjoyed her time with Myuma and made some close, lifetime friends. Her graduation saw her take home two major awards, one for the most improved overall, and the second was a safety award for the training workshop.

Kagara Mining then offered Cindelle the ultimate - an apprenticeship in Diesel Fitting.

Tanya explained what an amazing success for Cindelle this was.

"Cindelle was particularly shy and had no confidence when we started together. By the community, trainers, and the employer having faith and supporting her, Cindelle was able to blossom into a keen and committed young person, letting her personality and confidence show through", she said.

Throughout Cindelle's application process and training course she received support from the whole Chillagoe Community; with community members including the local policeman, trucking company, teaching staff and CDO's encouraging her with the training.

Unfortunately Karaga Mining has not been able to start Cindelle in her promised apprenticeship due to operational shutdowns at their FNQ mines. But that hasn't stopped Cindelle. She is still attending further courses to build her skills, particularly her communication and confidence.

She and Tanya have kept working together and Cindelle is actively looking for another employer to start her apprenticeship with as soon as possible.

The Chillagoe Community and CDEP are very proud of Cindelle and believe she is a great example of how determination, guidance and support can assist you achieve your goals.

## CHILLAGOE SCHOOL BREKKIE CLUB

Chillagoe State School has been running a successful 'Brekkie Club' with the support of IJCs Chillagoe CDEP program.

Currently Annette Grainer visits the school 3 days per week with breakfast provided by Kagara Mining, for children who have not eaten before coming to school. The average turnout for the 'Brekkie Club' is 15 students out of the 35 enrolled.

Teachers have noticed a difference in the children's attendance rates as well as their behaviour in class as the children are alert and can learn more.



## IJC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting held by IJC at the end of 2011 went extremely well and saw the company plan for 2012. Approximately 35 stakeholders joined the Board of Directors at the meeting and contributed to the discussions.

Starting his third year as chairman, Tommy Brim believed the meeting was a huge success with positive feedback from participants and well as good reception from community members.

"The team at IJC work really well together as we all have the same vision and strategic plan to follow".

With the first release of an IJC Annual Report the organisation aims to keep all community members informed of their progress and plans for the coming year. Copies of the 2011 Annual Report are available from each office of IJC.

Victor Maund, Tommy Brim and Alf (Budi) Richards released the IJC Annual Report



## LOCAL ARTIST DESIGNS FOR BUNDARRA

The Bundarra clothing range is moving forward with the first purchase of artwork coming from local Babinda artist Mona McKenzie. Mona creates many different types of cultural artwork ranging from artistic pictures to pieces that tell family stories and traditions.

Mona's beautiful designs are the type of work Bundarra will trial on its range of products. We expect that new designs will be required in the future and anticipate these will come from local indigenous artists.



## IJC CAIRNS RENOVATIONS

Recent renovations have upgraded the IJC Cairns office with all weather access to the front and back of the building and permanent shade for outdoor meetings and gatherings.



## BILWON WELCOMES STUDENTS

IJC Bilwon Farm at Bibbohra has kicked off the year hosting a pilot program for youth at risk. Six young people from Chillagoe trialled the four day youth camp in March learning skills to help them improve their life skills and employment prospects.

IJC's CDEP program and Northern Skills Alliance brought together respected locals including facilitator Jenny Petrich, motivational speakers Bram Collins and Trevor Tims, IJC Chillagoe Community Development Officer Tanya Whiting and Chillagoe mentor Edward Thomas to give these young people (aged 16-20 years) a hand to discover what they really enjoy doing and channel those skills toward life and work achievements.

Facilitator Jenny Petrich told the story most adults have lived through. "Which of us knew what we wanted in life at 16, or even 20", she said. "We knew what was fun and what we hated, but didn't really know how to put these feelings into actions and apply them in a job that produced a living."

They are typical young people who Chillagoe CDO Tanya Whiting identified as having great potential if given a helping hand and some strict guidance.

"These kids have made a few poor choices and haven't always followed the best example. This four day camp has given them the chance to strengthen the good choices they've been noticed making recently, and make the most of their natural talents", Tanya explained.

Tanya said she was very proud of the group. "They had to camp under canvas for the week, learn to cook and work as a



Four of the participants with Mentor Edward Thomas (2nd from left).

team, doing their chores and lessons, getting up on time and going without their usual social activities."

"There were some great footy battles fought to let off steam though!" she laughed.

A highlight of the week saw four of the six participants attend job interviews putting into practice all the skills they had learned. The applicants are all eagerly awaiting the outcome of the interviews.

Participants, trainers and corporate partners will now review the program planning, delivery and outcomes and this information will assist the IJC Board decide how best to progress the program into a regular course at Bilwon Farm for other at risk youth from areas such as Kuranda.

## TONY SOTERIOU JOINS THE TEAM



Tony Soteriou enjoys spending his spare time with his Piper Arrow plane which he laughingly refers to as his "second-hand Land Cruiser"

Tony Soteriou has been welcomed into IJC's community as the new CDEP Program Coordinator. Direct from Perth Tony has 10 years experience as a senior project officer.

With exceptional small business development skills Tony is hoping to bring some fresh ideas to IJC.

"I like to look at things as a big picture, and as a whole, that way I can work towards achieving my goals."

With a motivating approach to work, Tony isn't scared of pushing the boundaries and thinking outside the box.

"I like to let staff go off and get on with it because then they use their initiative which helps them learn and achieve more."

Tony's role at IJC is to manage the CDEP programs while also helping the IJC team to create a proactive and dynamic organisation.

Tony's overall goal is to create a dynamic organisation less reliant on government support.

"I want to look for different opportunities that could help IJC become more self-sufficient".

# MOUNT GARNET END OF YEAR KUP-MURRI

The end of 2011 saw celebrations for the completion of the Mount Garnet CDEP training building. To honour the new building and the end of a successful 2011, IJC and their Mount Garnet team organised a community gathering with local entertainment and a traditional Kup-Murri.

The new building will provide rooms for education and training purposes, as well as a flourishing market garden and plans for a nursery.

The fire for the evening's Kup-Murri was lit at 4.00am with all preparations planned in advance. The trench was dug and lined with special river rocks while timber was cut and ant hills smashed. Banana leaved were sourced to aid in the cooking process, and the hot coals were ready to cook by evening. The cultural feast included meats such as Kangaroo, Emu and Pork, all of which were prepared by community members.

The whole community was invited to the event and saw approximately 150 people attend including local Police, School, Information Centre, Health Care and Mine workers, Job Service Australia Providers and general community members.

Guest Speaker Danica Reisener gave a motivational speech about her successful completion of the Indigenous Entry Program for the Australian Defence Force. Capturing the audience with her determination, Danica described how rewarding finishing the program felt, and her eagerness for her future in the defence force.

The event was so successful the team are already talking about the next community gathering and Kup-Murri.



## NEW WORK VEHICLES FOR IJC

In a bright start to 2012 IJC were provided with new plant equipment from the ICC (Indigenous Coordination Centre). The equipment includes a brand new Tip Truck and Vehicle Trailer that is based in Croyden, and a Bob Cat and Digging Equipment in Chillagoe.

The equipment will be used across remote areas as well as for training CDEP participants.



**Indigenous**  
**JOB CONNECTIONS**

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