

IMPACT Make Your Mark

NEWSLETTER

These past few months have been hectic - the Work for the Dole Team has established the new **Bundaleer Bush Tucker** Activity and revamped the Construction Activity to deliver a more rounded experience for participants. We are now providing shirt and trousers for outdoor workers as well as the normal PPEs and integrating some great workplace visits into the group activities to enable participants to talk directly to potential employers. We are currently really keen to attract participants into **Construction on the Go** – talk to Sue or Lynet, IMPACT's Work for the Dole Team.



Issue No. 4
October 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☺ Bundaleer Bush Tucker Activity
- ☺ Important Information for Sponsors & Hosts
- ☺ 2006 Work for the Dole Awards Success
- ☺ Outstanding Work for the Dole Participant

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

“Bundaleer Bush Tucker”

Bundaleer Bush Tucker



I am proud to be involved in this project. We all want and need to learn the old ways



Ralph points out the native Bees. I tell them to keep your eyes open and see what is around you



We're a young indigenous mob doing something positive. We're proud of our progress



Working has turned my life around

Bush Tucker and an outdoor learning centre is the focus of this new Work for the Dole Activity

A new Work for the Dole project set up by IMPACT offers an opportunity for local jobseekers to participate in a culturally focused activity. Fifteen local Indigenous job seekers are enjoying the work this activity is offering.

The project involves creating a bush tucker walk and a **Bush Learning Centre** at the **Salvation Army's Tom Quinn Community Centre**. It is expected that an area will be cleared, seating and a fire pit built, and an outdoor teaching area created.

Participants will also learn to propagate, plant & harvest bush tucker. After collecting the foods, participants will then learn to prepare them.

Response to the program has been positive with the first participants beginning work on 20th August. To date, they have constructed an impressive set of steps for easy access to the area (all from recycled timber from stockyards) and have gone bush to collect timber to be used in the construction of the furniture. Soon the planting will begin.

Participant attendance has been positive – a sign that the participants are enjoying the work. Feedback from the Salvation Army is that they are very happy with the group and particularly with the way they are interacting with participants from other programs.

While we're focused on creating a great community area, our Supervisor Ralph Chambers is also focusing on future employment for those involved.

To be involved in this great project just give Sue or Lynet, our Work for the Dole Team, a call on 4153 4233 – there is always room for more.

☺ Important information for hosts/sponsors & their supervisors

PARTICIPANT'S DRIVING VEHICLES WHILE ON WORK FOR THE DOLE PLACEMENTS

- A reminder to be aware that IMPACT's Work for the Dole participants are **not to drive vehicles** on behalf of your organisation. The two main reasons are insurance coverage while participants are driving, and the risk exposure for your organisation, should anything occur.
- If this causes any negative implications for sponsors or hosts please discuss with Sue from our Work for the Dole team.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS

IMPACT has delivered two Professional Development Workshops for sponsors and hosts as well as their staff since July 2006. The subject covered was **MENTORING** - giving your staff information on strategies for supporting Work for the Dole participants while they are on their placement.

IMPACT would like to offer another training opportunity for our community supporters (staff and volunteers), however, we need to know what your needs are. IMPACT has the capacity to deliver a range of training. Ideas could be: Mentoring Practices (a repeat for new staff); Computing - what type?; Providing Excellence in Customer Service etc. Let us know your ideas and we'll try and respond to the majority needs.

Phone Sue or Lynet and let us know your preferences!!!!!!!!!!

☺ “Highly Commended” achieved in Prime Ministers Work for the Dole Awards

IMPACT Make Your Mark, in conjunction with the **Burnett Shire Council**, celebrated their success in achieving a **Work for the Dole Highly Commended Awards**. This Award was in the category of “**Best Community Activity**” and was presented at IMPACT’s Annual General Meeting on Monday night by Paul Neville MP, on behalf of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister’s Work for the Dole Awards celebrated 10 years of Work for the Dole, marking a key milestone in the Department of Employment & Workplace Relations’ programme focused on providing work experience opportunities for unemployed job seekers.

The Award provided an opportunity to recognise local community collaboration between IMPACT Make Your Mark, Burnett Shire Council and Bundaberg Surf Life Saving Club to create a landscaped area in front of the Surf Club headquarters at Nielsen Park, Bargara.

Participants built retaining walls and fences, steps that can be used as seating along the foreshore, a concrete access ramp for surf club equipment and they created a large grassed area in front of the Surf Club building.

Work for the Dole participants took a great deal of pride and interest in this activity bringing friends and family down to view the work as it progressed. Five participants moved into employment from the project.

Brett Anderson and Phil Traynor, IMPACT’s Work for the Dole Supervisors, were recognised for their expertise and efficiency in ensuring the completion of the project in time for the summer season.

Mr Paul Neville MLA, Hinkler, congratulated the participants, supervisors, Burnett Shire Council and the Bundaberg Surf Life Saving Club on their support of the project to create such a welcoming area at Bargara’s main beach for both locals and visitors.



Mr Paul Neville MP, MLA Hinkler, Ron Hickman (IMPACT Board), Brett Anderson & Phil Traynor (Project Supervisors) & Cr Maurice Chapman (Burnett Shire Council)

😊 Work for the Dole participant shows huge potential.....

Kristen is a 24 year old, mother of 3 young children. She has worked in casual waitressing positions since the birth of her children but has never had **a passion for a career** or looked to do further training until she commenced her Work for the Dole placement 6 months ago with IMPACT.

Kristen was offered the opportunity to do her Mutual Obligation at the Salvation Army Tom Quinn Community Centre in the Timber Restoration activity – **Timber Time**.

During the last 6 months, Kristen has showed remarkable commitment to the activity. She manages to commence each day at 8am, after preparing the 3 children for school and day care. Sometimes you see her run from the car to sign in at 8am. Her commitment, willingness to listen and learn, neatness and attention to detail have made her an excellent participant in this activity and supervisors are quick to comment on her potential.

Kristen has been involved in many activities from sanding furniture to assisting qualified, experienced workers erect a 25m shed. Kristen has commented that “The Tom Quinn Community Centre is a great work environment for me; the people here are just unreal! The Centre gives me **hands on experience doing a job I love!**”

It is with this potential and attitude that the staff and supervisors at the Tom Quinn Community Centre have encouraged Kristen to apply for a Furniture Making Traineeship under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which may give her the opportunity for 16 weeks employment at the Centre – **a fantastic stepping stone to full time employment.**

Tom Osborne, Manager of the Tom Quinn Community Centre states that Kristen would make a fine apprentice and then an excellent tradesperson.



Kristen proudly displays the blanket box she has constructed from recycled timbers

More about our Programs & Services at www.impact.org.au

If you would like more information on any of the articles in the newsletter or on the Work for the Dole Program, please contact Sue or Lynet at IMPACT Make Your Mark.

Location	Postal Address	Phone
106-108 Bargara Road Bundaberg	PO Box 694 Bundaberg Qld 4670	(07) 4153 4233
E-mail: mail@impact.org.au	Website: www.impact.org.au	Fax (07) 4153 1181