

IMPACT Make Your Mark

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 37
July 2007

July will see a number of celebrations at IMPACT to mark beginnings and endings of a range of programs.

IMPACT will launch the **LINKS parent support program** for parents with a disability or parents who have a child with a disability. The current **Green Corps team** will celebrate the end of a their 6 month program where they have created an Environmental Park at Childers and restored the South Kolan Cemetery.

Judi Heard
Business Development Manager



HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome to new staff at IMPACT
- IMPACT Centre for Learning: Cert II in Retail Operations
- Mental Health Carers Support service
- IMPACT Centre for Learning: Tourism Industry Training

SPOTLIGHT ON....

Learning Together & Making it Happen

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LEARNING TOGETHER & MAKING IT HAPPEN

Kerry, Robyn & Esme Fisher take a break from training

Fourteen trainees from Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander backgrounds came together to learn administration skills.

The highlight of the course was a trip to the Dreamtime Cultural Centre in Rockhampton as part of the cultural aspects of the training.

A big winner for the group was the opportunity to spend time with guest speaker Graham Tanner who motivated everyone with his talk on setting and achieving goals, releasing potential and being consistent - his big message was "what you value, you commit to".

The group was composed of several different family groups which allowed them to provide encouragement and support for one another. One family group included three sisters and two daughters and the transformation was amazing, watching confidence grow and an eagerness to learn develop. On many days participants came in early for an extra hour before class to give themselves more practice.

Nine participants are now out on paid work placements at local community organisations.

This program is funded by the Department of Employment & Industrial Relations' *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative

☺ **IMPACT welcomes our new staff**



Janelle

Employed in the **Mental Health Carers Support Service**, Janelle has worked in mental health for some 10 years in administration and as a Support Worker and Personal Carer.



Amanda

Joining our staff as a Case Manager in the **Personal Support Program**, Amanda brings to this program extensive experience as a Court Support Worker and Direct Care Worker for youth.



Danny

Danny will be busy helping support clients in the Disability Employment Service into work as a Training & Placement Officer. His recent experience has been with Toll Transport and the 8 years before that as the Project manager for the Burnett Sugar Experimental Station.



Julia

Our **Disability Employment Network Service** has welcomed Julia as a Training & Placement Officer supporting people with a disability into employment. She brings to the organisation her experience as a qualified teacher from NSW as well as her background as the Director of a local child care centre.



Sharelle

Sharelle will undertake a range of roles at IMPACT such as **Disability employment Network, Disability Employment Assistance** and **Post School Services**. She brings to IMPACT a background in retail and hospitality.

☺ **IMPACT Centre for Learning: Cert II in Retail Operations (full qualification)**



Productivity Places

An Australian Government Initiative funded by the Dept of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

www.deewr.gov.au

FREE training - Eligibility:

- An Australian Citizen or Australian Resident
- 15 years of age or older
- Not currently in employment
- Intending to use the qualification to seek paid work

TRAINING OPTIONS

Face to Face Training – **Starts Tuesday 15th July** or

Self Paced study from home (access to computer with CD ROM required)

INCLUDES Work experience & Job search assistance

PHONE IMPACT Centre for Learning on 4153 4233 for more information

☺ **Mental Health Carers Support Service**

Bob and Janelle's primary focus will be to provide support for families, carers, young people and children living in households with mental illness. They will focus on personal mentoring, education, counselling, advocacy and referral to community agencies, services and other support groups.

As well as personalised support available, Bob and Janelle will undertake community education to improve public awareness and help reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. A range of workshops and forums are planned throughout the coming year.

The service has already started with some interesting activities:

TALK OUT LOUD

Delivered in May in partnership with the Australian Red Cross and Beyond Blue Twelve young people between the ages of 15 and 18 participated in this free event.

This peer education program covered such topics as:

- Introduction to mental health and young people
- Mental illness
- Risk Situations
- Substance use and mental health
- Looking for options to support your peers

The young participants commented that they had increased their knowledge and understanding of mental health and the differences between mental health problems and mental illness.

They now also understand the importance of recognising the need to seek help when a peer/family member/loved one may be experiencing mental health issues or a mental illness.

The program was so well received that another session is planned in the coming months.

Call Bob or Janelle on 4153 4233 to place names on the waiting list

CUPPA CLUB

The "club" provides an opportunity for family members, carers or friends who support a person with a mental illness to meet other people and have a cuppa and a chat.

Building a network means you are not isolated and alone but feel secure in the knowledge that others are going through similar situations.

Friendship and assistance is available in an amiable and non-judgemental atmosphere.

The "club" will be a key source of education and information on mental illness.

Next meeting
Wednesday 16 July
10.00am to 12 noon at
IMPACT

Phone Bob or Janelle on 4153 4233 to find out more

NAIDOC WEEK

Bob and Janelle will be down at **Alexandra Park on 17th July** at the **NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS**.

Anyone who is interested in talking to them about the services and support they provide can come down to the Park for a chat.

CHILLIN

Supporting school children who are living in households with mental illness and needing support to cope with school, homework, family relationships, peers and their social life.

Call Bob on 4153 4233 if you know of a student who needs some confidential personal assistance.

Support for people living in household with mental illness is only a phone call away



☺ **IMPACT Centre for Learning: Training for the Local Tourism Industry**



IMPACT is currently running an exciting and innovative program for workers in the local tourism industry. The training has been VERY well received by industry with 62 participants participating in the 8 courses delivered so far.

Courses have been delivered in Bundaberg, Bargara, Gin Gin, and Mount Perry. The most demand has been in the areas of housekeeping and the service of espresso coffee.

People working in the tourism industry are welcome to contact **IMPACT on 4153 4233** to book places in the **Tour Guide and Preparation and Service of Non-Alcoholic Drinks** which are soon to be delivered.

The local industry has embraced this opportunity to up-skill existing workers which will guarantee delivery of the best possible service to locals and visitors to our region.

A celebration at the end of the program is planned for **25th of August at IMPACT**.

This program is funded by the Department of Employment & Industrial Relations' *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative

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

Location

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MISSION STATEMENT

IMPACT Make Your Mark provides support, employment and learning opportunities for disadvantaged people in the community

VISION

To be a Bundaberg based not for profit organisation providing support, employment and learning opportunities for the Bundaberg & District community, for the benefit of disadvantaged, unemployed persons and people with a disability by providing:

- **Innovative and dynamic responses to our clients' needs**
- **Assisting clients to overcome barriers to learning and employment**
- **Supported employment opportunities for clients with a disability**
- **Quality training in a supportive environment**

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