



January Newsletter

Issue # 44

Welcome to 2009

Welcome to 2009 the year of the Ox (actually after February 4 it will be Brown Earth Cow year) so "Kung Hei Fat Choi" -- Happy New Year!

IMPACT Board Christmas Party

The final Bundaberg Skills Centre Inc. board meeting for 2008 was combined with a celebration for Christmas. This was a memorable night as, apart from the end of year festivities, Gwen Coulthard announced her retirement from IMPACT's board after 16 years of dedicated service.

At the last AGM, Mary Wilkinson announced her retirement due to her commitments to the Bundaberg Regional Council.

Barbara Matt, Chairman of the Board thanked both Gwen and Mary for their contributions. They were presented with gifts and best wishes for the future.



The Deputy CEO, Tanya O'Shea gave an overview of the operational aspects of the organisation and expressed her appreciation of the hard work, often under difficult and trying circumstances, of the Program Managers and staff.

Dorothy Cox, the CEO, outlined the achievements of the Board during 2008, thanked the Directors for their valuable contribution and presented them with Christmas gifts.

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IMPACT

Centre for Learning

2009 Semester 1 Training Schedule now available!

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Aged Care Graduation

After 4 months study, determination and training 13 Aged Care students graduated from IMPACT Centre for Learning last month with a presentation ceremony. This training continues to have success, with an average of 80% of participants moving into work directly from the training course. Already 6 graduates from this course have taken up full time employment with the rest, all keen for work, soon to follow.

The sixteen week course included two weeks industry placement at an aged care facility in the Bundaberg area which enabled participants to put theory to practice in a real work environment.



Café/Kitchen Hand Graduation

Another graduation, the Cafe/Kitchen Hand course was also celebrated in December. From 12 successful students, 4 were offered employment opportunities during the last stages of the course and the others will no doubt take up a position in the very near future.

The participants had an opportunity to participate in 13 weeks on-the-job training at hospitality venues around the Bundaberg area to really hone their skills. They have taken the first step to employment - by gaining valuable skills for work in the hospitality industry, particularly in cafes or behind the scenes as kitchen hands.



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The overall goal of all the training programs at IMPACT is to assist people from all backgrounds and with all manner of difficulties in life to overcome their barriers to find suitable and sustainable employment.

Cuppa Club

Come, relax, chat and have a cuppa with the Mental Health Carers Support Service Cuppa Club at IMPACT Make Your Mark.

Cuppa Club is resuming on the 21st of January and is now looking for new members to be involved in this 'time-out' session.

The invitation is open to community members who are caring for, or have an association with someone who has a mental illness.

The first session is on the 21st of this month at 10am.

Options and plans for the year will be discussed over a cuppa as well as the general socialising.



New Staff

Hayden (the boomerang) is coming back to join IMPACT as a Green Corps Team Leader. This will be his third time, he just keeps coming back, so a big welcome to Hayden.



Also not new staff... Lynet is back after an exotic trip to South East Asia for 6 months! Lynet snorkelled in glass clear waters with tropical fish, manta rays and sharks, shopped, relaxed on a beach

having a manicure and sipping on a cocktail. But, for Lynet, laying with baby elephant 'Nadia' was the highlight of her vacation.



Lynet, if she could have had her way - would have played with the elephants the whole time she was there! Although it must be difficult to come back to something as mundane as work, her holiday is over.

She said, "It's great to be back, and I'm looking forward to 2009".

Get Set for Work

Finished school? Want to get into the working world? A whole new Get Set for Work program is starting on 29th January. This course is specifically designed for 15 to 17 year olds who have left school and want to get into the work force. This program allows participants to gain work experience, qualifications, confidence and further training.



But that's not all GSFW does! This program also includes social, sports and fun events, such as 'learn to surf' to improve social, sporting and networking skills. This is a great opportunity to gain life-long skills, confidence, qualifications and friends! Do you know anyone who may suit this?!

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