

# Young Indigenous Meatworkers Gazette

News letter of the Boys from the Bush Projects, Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS)  
Issue No. 12, Sunday, 18 July 2010



This space is reserved for the logos of those meat processing companies that engage RAWS workers

## Our Worker of the Month – Travis Mahoney



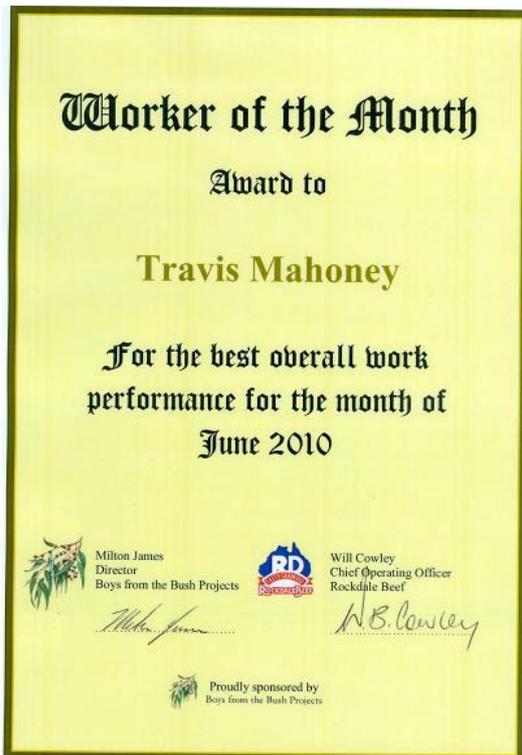
**Congratulations goes to Travis Mahoney from Alpururulam in the Northern Territory for receiving the Worker of the Month Award for June 2010.**



Travis Mahoney, aged 17, started work with Rockdale Beef on 4 March 2010 as a Labourer in the Tripe Room.

Travis who is pictured here, has now been working on the slaughter floor for a couple of months, and is going very well.

His achievement will be celebrated at a ceremonial dinner in Wagga Wagga next week.



Normally the JSA service provider “servicing” the recipient of this award, is invited to sponsor the ceremonial dinner as a motivational activity using the Job Seeker Accounts. In Travis’s case his JSA service provider chose not to assist without giving any explanation. Unfortunately this is the world in which we live.

BFTB Projects will sponsor his ceremonial dinner.

And what does Travis say about his selection for the Award?

*“I was surprised when I got Worker of the Month. I am looking forward going to Wagga and celebrating it. This is the first time I got something like this, and it’s really good. And I’m really loving my job.”*

Travis is another good example of what RAWS is all about.

Travis was a young person living in a remote community being groomed for a lifetime involvement in CDEP, and the endless number of rag-bag training programs that lead nowhere (welfare programs by another name).

But then by chance he heard about RAWS and the opportunity to escape this miserable existence and get a real job in the private sector with Rockdale Beef. And he has never looked back.

A point to note is that Rockdale Beef has never requested, nor does it receive, any wage subsidy for RAWS’ participants. What they receive are young people who are willing to work and learn.

## Michael reaches his level

Congratulations also goes to Michael Tabuai for reaching his level as our first fully-fledged boner for Rockdale Beef.

Boning involves cutting the meat off the bone in a very precise manner according to customer requirements.

This job requires very good knife skills, good hand and sight coordination, strength and fitness.



Michael can be seen in the picture below, position high up on the chain boning out T-bones and Rump.



Dean is our first participant from a rural town in NSW, as opposed to a remote community in the Northern Territory where there are no private sector jobs.

His inclusion in RAWS has been requested by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

This is what Dean has to say;  
*“I’ve never had a job before. I applied for a job with XXXX two years ago, but they knocked me back, but my boss at Rockdale Beef says I’m doing alright.”*

### Henry is also going alright

Pictured below is Henry, aged 17. Readers may recall Henry started with Rockdale on the 21 June on the packing floor.

### Our new guy from Wentworth, NSW

Pictured below is Dean Taylor, 19 years old, starting off in Rockdale Beef Offal Room.



It was always Dean’s dream to follow in the footsteps of his cousins, and to work in a meat processing plant.

After 2 years on welfare, it was left to BFTB Projects and Rockdale Beef to provide Dean with this opportunity.



Henry is pictured here with one of his work mates on the packing floor.



## **Another great donation towards our work bus**

Pictured below are Steve Rothfield and Jackie Yowell. They have just donated a whopping \$4,000 towards the BFTB Projects work bus.



Their donation completes the purchase of our work bus. It is now fully owned by BFTB Projects.



Jackie and Steve have stood behind the BFTB Projects from its very beginning, helping out in all sorts of ways. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

## **BFTB Projects will be making our own induction video**

It has become clear to us that the meat processing industry could greatly benefit from a promotion-induction video, that targets specifically young indigenous people.

RAWS has zero tolerance of drug and alcohol

Milton knows exactly what is required and will be the camera man, script writer and director.

The cost of hiring the camera and the editing process will be approximately \$1,500.

BFTB Projects is a member of the Innovation Fund Panel, and we did consider submitting a proposal to the Panel for funding. However, it would take too long and the process is too cumbersome. It is much quicker and easier to turn to the general public for assistance.

Here again, Steve Rothfield and Jackie Yowell were the first to step forward and donate \$1000.00 towards the cost of hiring the equipment.

We now only require an additional \$500.00 and we should be okay. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Remember that BFTB Projects has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a public benevolent institution and a deductible gift recipient.

The main star of our show will be Jarvis Johnson, for he is the most photogenic of our no nonsense meatworkers.



## The life and times of RAWS' meat workers outside of work

Here we have Anton McMillan preparing our meat for a weekend barbeque up the river.



You may be wondering where we got this roo. .... Its best you don't ask.



Anton knows how to cook a great roo tail.



We also have our very own Men's Shed.



And what do men get up to inside their shed?



They get up to really important stuff.

They even have their own barbeque out back, with marshmallows on a stick.

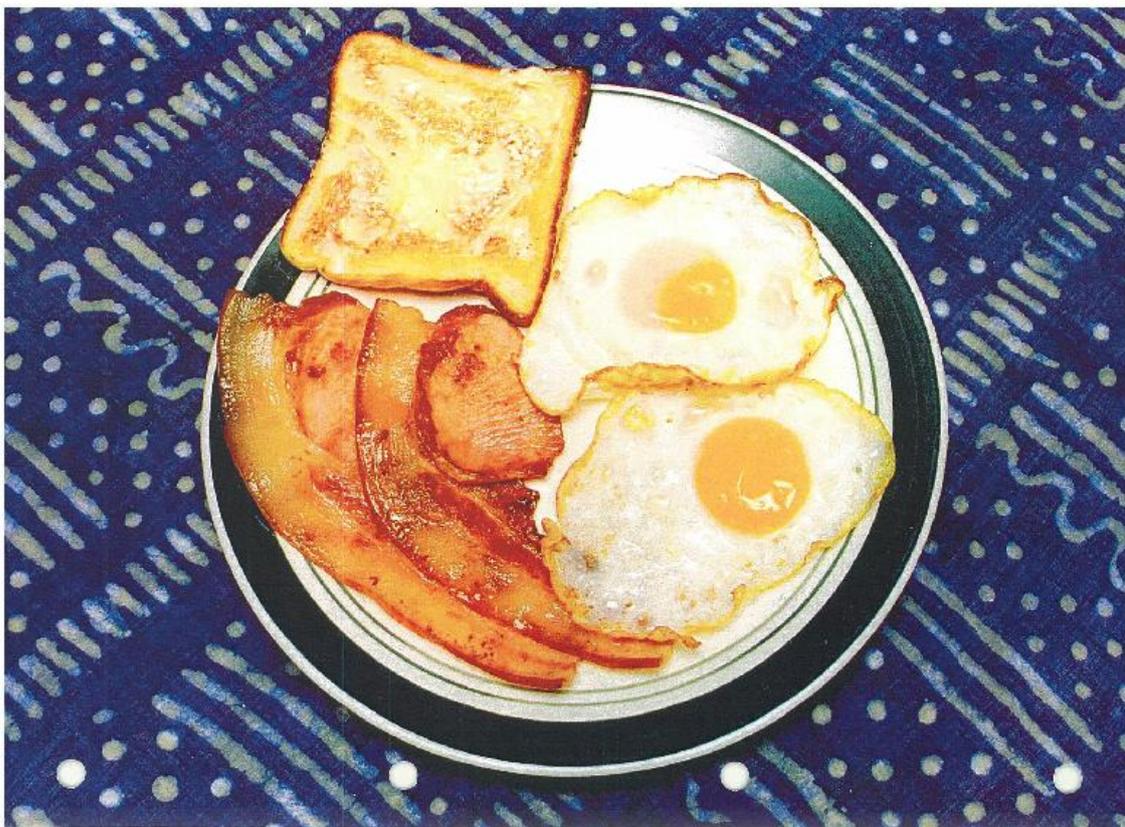


# EDUCATIONAL SECTION FOR RAW'S WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

## Breakfast

2 pieces of bacon  
2 fried eggs  
1 toast with margarine

**How many teaspoons of fat are in this breakfast?  
Where is the fat coming from?**

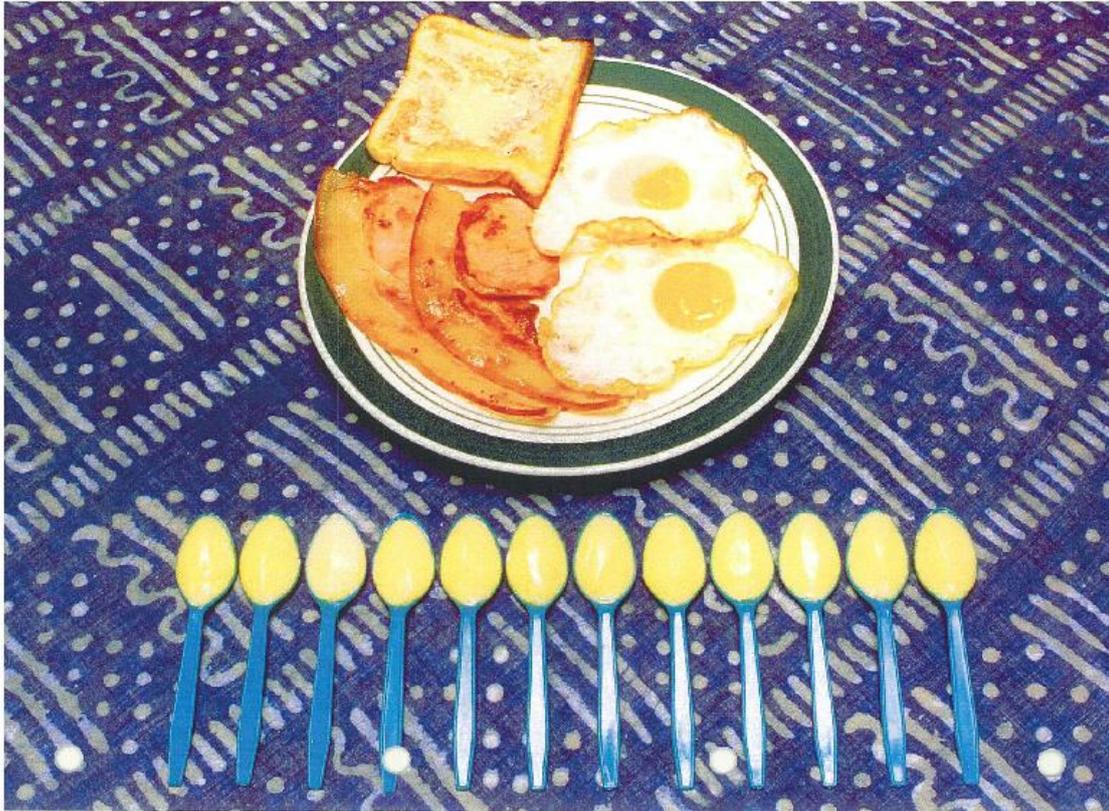


**Look at the next page for the answer in  
teaspoons of fat**

This fried breakfast is very high in fat (12 teaspoons).

The bacon has a lot of fat on it and the eggs have been fried in oil.

Too much margarine has been spread on the toast.



## THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY



**Australian Government**

**Soad & Jacqueline James  
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Ted & Rosie Sherwood  
Lara Wieland**



**FRRR**  
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