

Young Indigenous Meatworkers Gazette

News letter of the Boys from the Bush Projects, Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS)
Issue No. 13, Monday, 6 September 2010



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

BFTB Projects and Summit Employment & Training working together to establish a residential school for work and training

BFTB Projects and Summit Employment & Training are collaborating to establish the first ever school of work and training, for young Indigenous people entering the meat processing industry.

The key to this very exciting venture is acquiring a building named Bungoona, pictured below.



Bungoona is situated in the main street of Narrandera. It is a well preserved

Victorian building erected in 1883, as the Australian Joint Stock Bank. It could accommodate up to 20 residents with 2 residential supervisors.

This is the future of RAWS; providing a home for rural and remote Indigenous youth who need assistance to leave home for work in the meat processing industry, whilst they acquire the knowledge and skills for independent living.

For too long Aboriginal youth have been restricted from accessing the opportunities that others access through mobility. It is a fact that **all** the non Indigenous staff, and many of the Indigenous staff working in the remote communities, originate from other locations. They are taking advantage of employment opportunities, whilst receiving good salaries and enhancing their resume.

Ironically though, when it comes to young Indigenous people wanting to access employment opportunities in various

locations across Australia, some of these service providers are often the first to thwart the aspirations of these young people.

Summit is the ideal organisation with which to collaborate to achieve this outcome. Apart from being a major Job Network Provider in southern NSW, Summit is a recognised provider of short and medium term affordable accommodation in the Riverina.

Summit has existing accommodation facilities in Griffith, Leeton, Hay, Hillston and Temora. They have the relevant insurances, policies and procedures required to manage and support the centralised group accommodation model, that we have refined in Narrandera. Summit also understands the importance of helping young people living in remote western NSW towns, where there are minimal employment opportunities, to move to other places where there is work.

All residents of Bungoona will receive the theoretical component for Certificate II in meat processing work (abattoirs), to be delivered by FGM Consultants. The physical training occurs in the workplace, and it is conducted on site by Rockdale Beef.

Graduates will have the opportunity to remain with Rockdale while living independently. Alternatively, they may request to be transferred to another abattoir located elsewhere in Australia whilst living independently, or to return home.

The development and operation of Bungoona is an exciting opportunity for all its key stakeholders, and we look forward to the journey that lies ahead.

Another new guy from Wentworth, NSW

Pictured below is Jesse Roberg, aged 17 years old, from Wentworth in NSW.

RAWS has zero tolerance of drug and alcohol

Jesse began with Rockdale Beef Tripe Room on the 3rd August 2010.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has requested that we include in the Scheme, a number of young people from New South Wales. Jesse is one of these young people.



Jesse left school half way through Year 10. This is his first real fulltime job. Jesse says: *“My job is really neat ... I love it ... its easier than I thought.”*

And what would you have done if you stayed in Wentworth, Jesse? *“If I stayed in Wentworth I would probably stay on the dole.”*



To get a good job, Jesse has demonstrated that he is quite willing to pack his bag and leave home for work in another area, just like other young people from remote northern communities. They leave home with their parents' permission, who know that their child will receive good support

and supervision. Jesse is proving to be a formidable challenge.

Jesse was referred to BFTB Projects – Remote Area Work Scheme by Madec Employment Services



The results of our earlier trial groups showed that participants who came directly from the communities, usually performed better than those who have been raised in urban environments (WPS Update for 2005/06). We realised there is a significant difference in the general attitude of young people from urban environments, when compared to the attitude of young people from the communities.

Early indications are this observation may also be true of participants from NSW. Summit Employment & Training have indicated that they will be referring young people from Wilcannia and other outlying areas of NSW.

These trials of young people from different parts of NSW, are likely to increase our understanding of attitudinal differences between participants, corresponding to their geographic location of origin

Another new guy from Alpururulam in the NT

Pictured below is Daniel McDonald, aged 19, from Alpururulam in the Northern Territory.

Daniel left school in Year 7, when he was 14 years old. He says the only thing he has done since leaving school is to

attend training courses. This job with Rockdale Beef is his first real job.



And what does Daniel say about his first real job? *“It’s really good. It’s a good job and I hope to stick with it. ... It’s also good to get away from the grog and the fights back home.”*



So far we have had a 100% success rate with young people from Alpururulam. Let us hope that Daniel will also be successful.

Kenneth Philomac from Alpururulam has been here for over 6 months. He says the reasons the Alpururulam boys are successful is because, *“We are serious about wanting a job, and there was nothing there for us young fellas.”*

And what about all these training courses that Daniel had done, did any of these courses helped him prepare for this job? *“No, not really. I can’t see how they have helped me.”* says Daniel.

Jarvis, Virgil and Anton are all going well

Jarvis Johnson has been working for Rockdale Beef for nearly 6 months. Jarvis is pictured below on the band saw doing a great job.



Anton McMillan has been working for Rockdale for over 6 months, and he is going really well. He is a multi-skilled worker in the packing area.

Pictured below is Anton bringing out sides of beef from the chillier ready for boning.



RAWS promotion / induction video is well underway

Our promotion / induction video is progressing very well. Most of the filming is now complete. The next major job is the editing.

RAWS has zero tolerance of drug and alcohol

PVS Workfind donates the remaining \$500 towards the making of the video



Many thanks go to PVS Workfind for their generous donation of the remaining \$500 for the cost of making the film.

Discussions underway about MINTRAC training

FGM Consultants have been engaged to deliver the MINTRAC Certificate in Meat Processing i.e. Certificate II or Certificate III level as determined by their training program.



Michael Grogan of FGM has been a long time supporter of the BFTB's Projects. He was the person who negotiated the original agreement with Tabro Meats at Wonthaggi in 2006. He continues to promote RAWS to other meat processing companies operating in Australia..

RAWS is a strictly enforced drug and alcohol free scheme

There are always a few young people who say that they will respect our rules about alcohol. However, once they are accepted their respect for this rule is ignored, along with their respect for the rule makers who have the right and responsibility to make it.

It is factual that alcohol is destroying Indigenous people, their families and community. It is also true for those who express their right to drink, are usually the same people who abrogate responsibility for the harm it causes.

We have a procedure for when young people break the alcohol rule, which can and does ultimately result in the young person being told that they are no longer welcome on our leased properties and that they must find their own accommodation.

A great night out without alcohol

Here we are on our way to Wagga to celebrate Travis's *Worker of the Month* award.



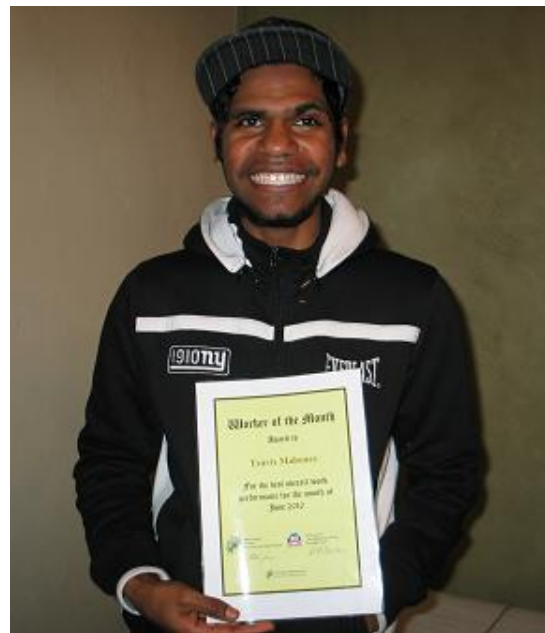
Dinner for all at Hogs Breath Cafe



A big bowl of ice cream for the celebrity



A big cheesy grin from the star of the month



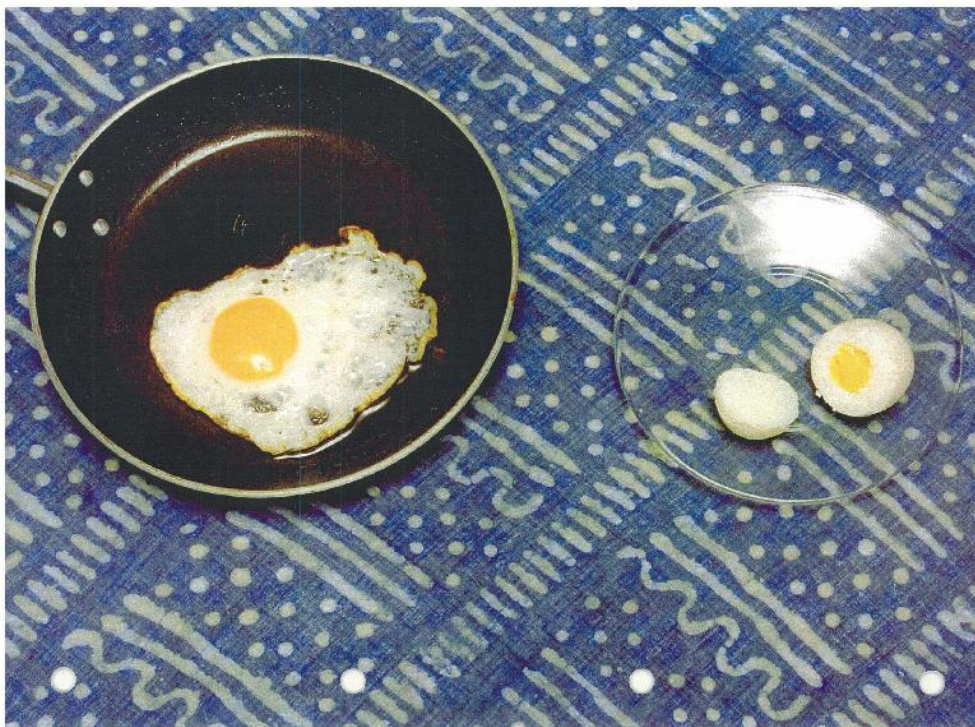
Within a few weeks you can watch a video scene of our night at the restaurant on: www.boysfromthebush.org.au click on "newsletters" click on "a great night out".

EDUCATIONAL SECTION FOR RAW'S WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Breakfast

Fried egg
Boiled egg

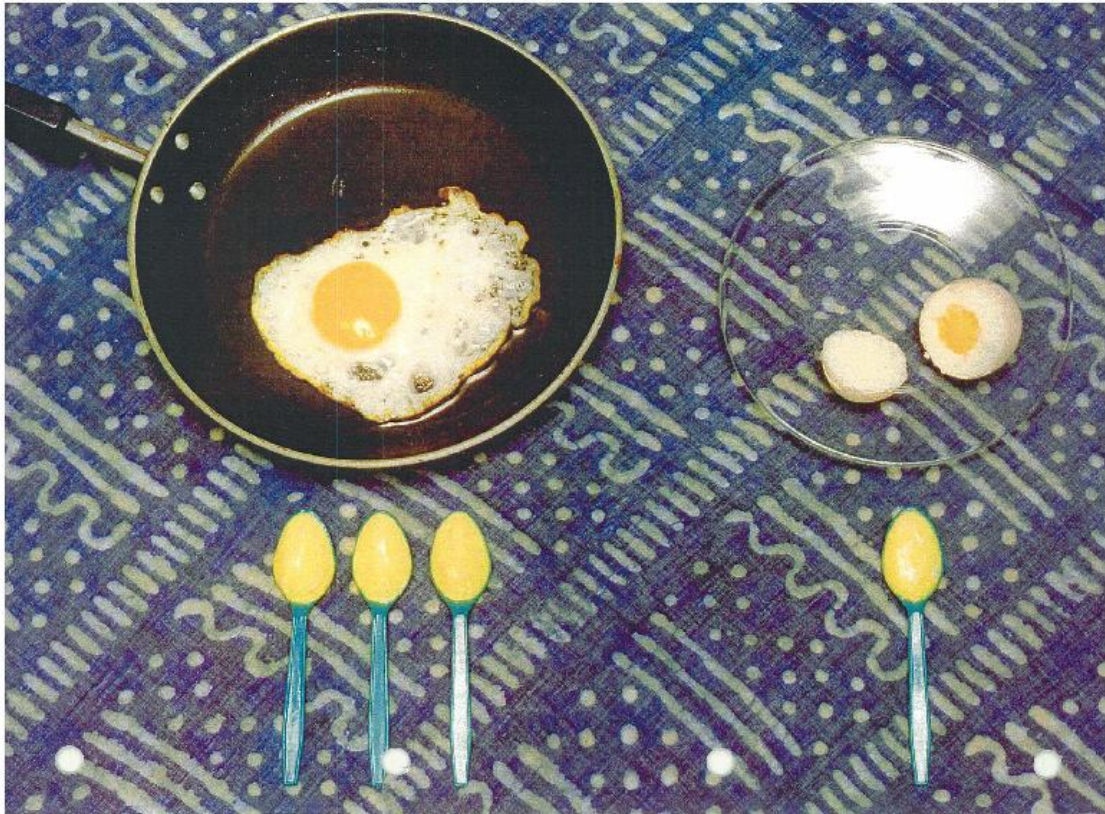
How many teaspoons of fat are in each egg?



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

The fried egg is high in fat because it has been cooked in lots of oil.

Boiling and poaching are low fat ways to cook eggs.



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Australian Government

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• Largest caravan yard in SA • The consignment specialists • 150 caravans & camper trailers
• We also buy caravans-free valuations • Store your caravan \$50 per month