

Young Indigenous Meatworkers' Gazette

News letter of the Boys from the Bush Projects, Rural & Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS)
Issue No. 16, Thursday, 5 May 2011



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

Boys from the Bush workers expanding into feedlot positions

Good news. Our good friends JBS Swift has offered Boys from the Bush Projects 5 additional positions in the Riverina Feedlot and 5 additional positions in the Yambinya Feedlot, near Griffith, New South Wales.



Tasks will include moving cattle in and out of yards, cleaning out yards, and washing down cattle prior to slaughter.

Jason Pyro and Keiran Isaac from Borrooloola are the first two young people to be placed into these positions in the Riverina Feedlot.

We are now driving back to the Northern Territory on a new recruitment drive (pictured below) looking for young people interested in either meat processing work or feedlot work.

Milton will be paying particular attention to the Borrooloola and Barkley Tableland area – good cattle (and stockman) country. He also hopes to visit the Yuelamu, Yendumu and Papunya area.



On his way to the Northern Territory he will call into Walgett in northern New South Wales, and on the way back, Menindee and Wilcannia in western New South Wales.

Update on Reggie Peters from Walgett in northern New South Wales

Reggie Peters from Walgett, pictured below, started with JBS Swift on the 21 of March 2011, and is going well.



Video footage of Reggie at work will soon be available on the Boys from the Bush website.

Our good friends Best Employment continue to look around for other young people from Walgett.



New worker: Jason Pyro from Borroloola in the Northern Territory

A big welcome to 16 year old Jason Pyro (pictured below) from the remote Northern Territory community of Borroloola.

Jason's father is from Wada Wadalla outside Borroloola and his mother is from Mornington Island.



Jason left school in Alice Springs in 2009 and spent all last year back home in Borroloola with nothing to do. He said he was bored at home; walking around the streets all day and night with nothing to do, apart from hanging around the shop asking people for money.

Jason said; *"When my dad was young he was a stockman. He also worked on a barra fishing barge out from Borroloola. He then went on CDEP and is now on Centrelink, but he still hunts and he is a very good hunter and fisherman. My mum tried to get a job, but she is still on Centrelink."*

"I have 5 brothers and 4 sisters. My older brother did have a job working on Station, but he is now on Centrelink. I have 4 sisters. One sister had a job at the clinic one time, but they are all on Centrelink now."

Jason's message back home is; *"I love you mob family. I got a good job here and everything is going great down here. I am living with some good buddies and the fellas at work spoil us."*



New worker; Keiran Isaac from Borroloola in the Northern Territory

A big welcome to 16 year old Keiran Isaac (pictured below) from the remote Northern Territory community of Borroloola.



Keiran said his family had no money and his Grandfather took him out from school and sent him to work on Kiana Station. He said he was paid \$100 per fortnight for doing different jobs; mustering, fencing, putting out lick, cleaning up the community area and airport.

Keiran's message for people back home is; *"I like it down here. I like my job, and do my job good. I do washing cows, and hunt them cows up. They are good fellows. They make joke at us. They teach us how to work cows."*



JBS Swift Riverina Beef is a modern integrated Feedlot and Meat Processing Plant facility.

Jason and Keiran are our first workers to be given the opportunity for fulltime employment in the Feedlot facility. Jason and Keiran are pictured below moving cattle between pens.



This is a new dimension of RAWS. In 2005 we had one young person from Aurukun on Cape York Peninsula placed in the holding yards of Tatiara Meats, pictured below.



However, this is nothing like what JBS Swift is now offering Boys from the Bush Projects.

JBS Swift has now offered Boys from the Bush Projects 5 positions in the Riverina Beef Feedlot facility and 5 positions in their Prime City Feedlot (Griffith) facility, in addition to the meat processing jobs.

These are indeed good times for disadvantaged Aboriginal youths wanting to enter the meat processing industry.



New worker: Wesley McDinny from Borroloola in the Northern Territory

Pictured below is 22 year old Wesley McDinny from the remote Northern Territory community of Borroloola.



This is Wesley's very first job in the mainstream. He said he was on Centrelink payments for a while and on CDEP for a while.

Wesley said; *"When I was on Centrelink I was just walking around. I couldn't find any job. I didn't like it; it was boring, just sitting around all the time. When I was on CDEP I was doing some fencing and cleaning up rubbish around the Outstation, but this was boring too."*

Wesley says; *"This is my first real job. It's great. I like it and it's really interesting. I like seeing new places."*

Wesley is pictured below. He has started off with JBS Swift working in the boning room, packing bones.



Do remote communities need a sole for profit Job Service Agency?

Currently sole for profit Job Service Agencies service a number of remote communities which means there is no competition nor alternative to these agencies for providing these services. In reality these Job Service Agencies have a monopoly in relation to the communities they service.

The Aboriginal recipients of their service delivery are a captive consumer group whose needs may or may not be best met by these Job Service Providers. In some cases the quality of their service delivery is questionable.

Some clients are referred to other sister services owned by the same professional interests that own the Job Service Agency. In other cases clients are not receiving the full range of assistance that the Job Service Agency has agreed to and is expected to provide to them, corresponding to their contractual arrangement with the relevant

government department from which it receives funding to do so.

A possible and practical solution to resolve this problem could be to engage not for profit organisations to provide services to remote community members that are currently being provided (but not quality assured) by sole Job Service Providers. If this alternative service provision was implemented, then by removing the incentive to pursue profit would most likely result in better service delivery for clients. This new service provider could focus on optimising its service delivery to clients corresponding to its contractual obligations without the limitation of having to return a profit to the agency's owner.

Perhaps the Australian Government needs to amend its policy and practice in relation to sole Job Service Agencies operating in remote communities, to ensure that its members receive the best service possible. Currently in some instances they are receiving an inferior service that is inhibiting, rather than closing, the gap for Indigenous Australians.

Our first trial of a young couple - Warren McDonald and Justyna Sampi

The RAWs' community based suitability assessment screens out those young people with partners or girlfriends. Experience has shown that these young people are a high risk; meaning that they are unlikely to commit themselves to their agreement to remain in the scheme for at least one year.

In our previous newsletter we spoke of Barry Campbell, a family man, who left his wife and child in Titjikala while he went to work for Rockdale Beef / Riverina Beef for 12 months. Barry was an exception to the rule.

In the middle of last year we had a situation where Daniel McDonald from Mt Isa left his partner and child in Mt Isa while he came down to work for Rockdale Beef / Riverina Beef for 12 months. However, for Daniel things did not go as well as it did for Barry. He returned home after 8 months for family reasons.

The fundamental differences between Barry's and Daniel's situation was that Barry's partner was backing him 100%.

Inspired by the success of Barry, we accepted an application from Warren McDonald, aged 23, and Justyna Sampi, aged 21, from Camooweal, to join the Rural & Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS).

They applied to enter RAWS after hearing about the scheme from people in Alpururulam.

Warren and Justyna are a young couple who have both signed up with RAWS and the offer of fulltime employment with JBS Swift so that they can build up their finances and acquire skills and work experience that will ensure they are never again left unemployed or unemployable.

They have chosen to live outside of our group home in Narrandera and RAWS support and supervision structure for an independent life in Leeton. We will follow their progress with great interest.

Warren and Justyna were assisted to join BFTB Projects by our good friends, Job Find Centre.



EDUCATIONAL SECTION FOR RAW'S WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

1 can of Coke
1 can of Diet Sprite

How many teaspoons of sugar
are in each can?



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

**Coke and other regular soft drinks have about
10 teaspoons of sugar in each can!**

Diet soft drinks have no sugar in them.

Water is still the best refreshing drink.



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY



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• We also buy caravans-free valuations • Store your caravan \$50 per month