

Young Indigenous Meatworkers' Gazette

News letter of the Boys from the Bush Projects, Rural & Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS)
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This space is reserved for the logos of those meat processing companies that engage RAWS workers

Another successful recruitment drive

Milton has just returned from a long recruitment drive, having visited a number of communities for the first time, including Ampilatwatja and Yuelamu.

On behalf of Boys from the Bush Projects, Milton extends our greatest appreciation to the Ampilatwatja CDEP Coordinators, Andrew and Christine Lush, for their tremendous support of RAWS.

Andrew and Christine had actively promoted RAWS throughout the Ampilatwatja community prior to Milton's arrival. They had facilitated the interviews and the community based preparation workshop for the young applicants. They organised their paper work, including Tax File Numbers, Bank Account Numbers, Job Seeker Identification Numbers, parental approval, etc.

Milton was particularly impressed with their idea to prepare young people for **real** life and work away from home and the community, where they are allowed

to live in the community guest house to receive real life skills training that is **directly relevant** to leaving home and community for life and work in a mainstream community. Skills such as punctuality, making their bed, keeping the house clean, personal cleanliness, dental hygiene, placing rubbish in the bin, making nutritional meals, etc.

Boys from the Bush Projects is opposed to the continuation of nonsensical training courses that are so often delivered to these young people at great expense to tax payers that do not, and cannot, translate into **real** jobs, for example the *work in confined spaces* training course to young people that are largely incapable of performing the most menial of tasks. What is the point in providing these courses? The point of providing these courses is to give the **appearance** that government and the organisation is doing something.

We also wish to thank the Job Find Centre at Mt Isa, for it was they who helped the latest young people from Borroloola and Doomadgee to fly down to Narrandera.

We must also thank Marita McKenzie, the Principle of Kiana Station School, pictured below with young students, for her support in promoting RAWS to the residents of Kiana Station, and providing food and accommodation to our young people in transit.



Pictured below are few scenes depicting life on the recruitment trail.



Pictured above; resting under a shade of a tree on the Barkley Tableland.



Pictured above; the morning campsite on the Mulga Park Road; a few hours before facing a bush traveller's worst nightmare - burnt out bearing and a

badly damaged axil on the recruitment van.



Fortunately for Milton, he carried a hammer, chisel, punches, files, emery paper, and spear wheel bearings, which enabled him to carry out roadside repairs.

Our new worker; Doyle Burnard from Doomadgee

Pictured below is 16 year old Doyle Burnard from Doomadgee.



This is what Doyle has to say:
"My name is Doyle Burnard from Doomadgee. I came down here because there is no job for us in Doomadgee and my Grandfather talked to Milton to let me come down. Now my cousins are asking if they can come down. I really like it down here. The people are kind to me, and they love to see us here. I have a really good job, and I work very hard. I work as a meat packer. I pack thick flank, rump, and chuck ribs, and some other ones. When I get home from work I have dinner, wash dishes, mow the lawn, clean up, and kick around the football."

Pictured below is Doyle on the job. See the Boys from the Bush website

www.boysfromthebush.org.au for a film clip of Doyle. You will be very impressed.



Our new worker; Laurie Barrett from the Borroloola region

Picture below is 19 year old Laurie Barrett.



This is what Laurie has to say:
“My name is Laurie. I am from Limmen River. Its pretty good down here; a good lifestyle. The work is really good. I like a challenge, and I am looking forward to how much I can learn over the next year, before my time is up. They are really friendly out there. I have made a lot of good mates. If you do the right thing by them, they really help you out. We eat plenty of good food, because it’s cold in there and we work hard.”

Pictured below is Laurie on the job. He is already in training as a boner. A film clip of him will soon be placed on our website.



Our new worker; Lazarus Grant from Kiana Station

Pictured below is 23 year old Lazarus Grant, recruited from Kiana Station.



This is what Lazarus has to say:
“I have come from the Northern Territory to get more experience at life. In the two months that I have been here I have learnt how to use the bone saw. Now they have moved me to boning. And I am really happy with the way things are going. It hurts the fingers sometimes, but I just get on with it. There was no other jobs like this in the Northern Territory that can give us this sort of experience. I now work for the biggest meat processing company in Australia and the world, JBS Swift, and this makes me feel proud of myself. And I know when I get my qualifications I can work anywhere in Australia or the world to do this sort of work.”

Pictured below is Lazarus on the job. A film clip of him will soon be posted on our website.



A really thoughtless comment about the banning of the live cattle trade to Indonesia

Much has been said about the ABC Four Corners program showing the shocking treatment of Australian cattle in some Indonesia abattoirs.

A really thoughtless comment I heard when travelling around the Territory was the view that our suspension of the live cattle trade to Indonesia was nothing short of “**cultural imperialism**”. In other words, it is not for us to judge the Indonesians on how they treat **their** cattle.

A serious problem with this view is that the natural progression of this argument means that it would be equally wrong for us to judge child slavery in Bangladesh, child prostitution in Cambodia, child soldiers in Rwanda, systematic gang rapes of females in the Democratic Republic of Congo, chopping off voters hands in Sierra-Leone, female genital mutilation in Sudan, stoning adulterers to death in Iran, acid burning of women in India, the apartheid system in South Africa, the Nazi's exterminate of European Jews, the disabled, gypsies, and homosexuals.

Truly, people who apply cultural relativism to the needless infliction of

pain and suffering to humans and animals are losing the plot.

By Milton James

Don't judge the youth on how they perform at home

A recently released report on a review of the effectiveness of the current array of Commonwealth Indigenous programs, titled; *Strategic Review of Indigenous Expenditure, February 2010*, had this to say:

“Despite the concerted efforts of successive Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to address Indigenous disadvantage, progress has been mixed at best: modest improvement in some areas have been offset by static or worsening outcomes elsewhere. Even in the few areas where clear improvements have been made, the outcomes for Indigenous Australians remains far short of those for non-Indigenous Australians. Past approaches to remedying Indigenous disadvantage have clearly failed, and new approaches are needed for the future.”

The report goes on to say; “*High rates of unemployment (especially long-term unemployment) led to high levels of welfare dependency, a loss of labour market competitiveness and an erosion of work incentives. In many communities, by 1995, patterns of welfare dependency has become deeply entrenched, such that younger people come to see reliance on government benefits as a normal way of life.*”

We understand what the authors of this report are trying to say, but their reasoning on cause and effect, in regards to their capacity to work, is not that simple. We know countless numbers of parents living in remote communities, who have never obtained or maintained a real job, yet their children do want a job, they are willing to leave home to get a job, and when they are away from the harmful effects of their community, most of them are good workers; some of them are excellent workers. See for yourself on www.boysfromthebush.org.au / Work Scheme Videos.

This month's special on Boys from the Bush products



Lemon-scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) Pure bush oil (hand harvested from the wild)

5ml bottle \$4.50 plus postage and packaging

10ml bottle \$9.00 plus postage and packaging



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY



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