

Young Indigenous Meatworkers Gazette

News letter of the Boys from the Bush Projects, Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS)
Issue No. 5, Tuesday, 24 November 2009



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

N.T. MEAT WORKERS ON THE JOB

Our first three meat process workers from Titjikala hard at work



Pictured above (centre stage) is young Moses Mulda, working as a meat packer in the Rockdale Beef boning room.

This is Moses first ever real job. It will take him awhile to overcome the bad

habits caused by 3 years on CDEP and three generations of welfare dependency.

Like many young people, the first thing Moses did when he got his first pay was to buy a new mobile phone.



Moses sends the following message back home.

"I love my family. I am doing very good work. I like Narrandera. I like the

It was a mighty effort to have these two young men from different parts of the Northern Territory, travel by road to Alice Springs to arrive exactly at the same time; one by the Bush Bus travelling along the Sandover Highway, the other by family car travelling along the Stuart Highway. They overnighted at Alice Springs and flew out the following day.

A big thankyou to April Campbell of Ti-Tree (mother of Damien) and Bruce Hein of Alpururulam Job Futures. Without their support this flawless exercise could not have been achieved.

Sharon Laing of Alice Springs Job Find also helped out by providing some assistance to Damien's mum.

Important new components to RAWs

Two important things have now been achieved, which could not be achieved with the author's earlier trial groups.

1. All new arrivals live with the Supervisor until their own flat/houses has been organised.

It's only when you live with someone do you truly get to know them.



Previously no WPS Supervisor would

agree to co-habiting with participants. I almost achieved this outcome with one particular Supervisor, who agreed to have one of our participants live in an old caravan out the back of his house.

It is now a mandatory requirement for both participants and Supervisors to live together in the main house, until their flat/house has been organised. This co-habitation is desirable, and it should have occurred long before now.

2. Real Estate Agent supporting the idea of our young workers entering their own rental agreement.

Previously this outcome could not be achieved, but with improved suitability assessments, community based pre-employment preparation, and vastly improved off-site support and supervision, it is happening.

You will read more about this in future newsletters.

Still looking for sponsor(s) to help purchase our new work bus

Dr Lara Wieland is the first of our friends to step forward with a generous donation of \$250 towards the purchase of our new work bus.

Thank you Lara. You are one of those special people who have a genuine concern for, and commitment to, young people born to disadvantage. Your donation will be noted permanently on the bus.

You can take comfort in knowing this vehicle will be kept in pristine condition, and it will be the envy of all the other meat workers.



Please keep the donations coming. We need to raise \$10,000, and we need this bus operating asap.

Another little piece of history

In WPS Developmental Note #49, titled “*Early trail blazers and where things went wrong*”, I referred to my discovery of a scheme developed in 1966 by NT Patrol Officers. They were the first authorities to place people from remote communities in the NT, into fruit picking in Victoria and NSW. See www.boysfromthebush.org.au under articles.

I ran across another story about this earlier scheme the other day.

While visiting the Narrandera Men’s Shed, I met an old bloke by the name of Keith Robinson.

Years ago, Keith and his brother had a fruit property outside Standbridge, on the Griffith Road.

Keith recalls employing about 8 of these NT fruit pickers.

From Keith’s point of view, the scheme was a bit of a disaster. He remembers one of them sitting under the trees all day telling others what to do. When he was asked to do some work, he got upset and pulled all the others out.



23. The first team of fruit pickers, Leeton, Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, January 1966. Standing: Keith Reynolds, J Higgs (Field Officer CES), WJ McCormack (Manager CES, Dept Labour & National Service), Eddie Turner (Orchardist). Seated: DA Stewart (Patrol Officer), Mark Oldfield, Bill Rennie, Peter Jurgola, Frank Lander. (Welfare Branch Collection, ATSIC, Darwin)

The above photograph taken in January 1966, shows some of these early fruit pickers from the Northern Territory at Leeton, close to where we are today.

After an absence of over 40 years, a new draft of employees from the NT are being employed locally. This time RAWs has the knowhow to get it right. My only concern is whether or not we have sufficient resources to achieve this desirable outcome.

FUN SECTION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Spot 19 differences



WORD SEARCH

Find and circle all the insects that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

Y M D B M Y R T F Z F V I Y S
 E Y O K U E C L N I P H G L T
 H D B R D T E W R A C T C F E
 U M E I F A T E O A D A T N N
 W O P P U G F E O R T F R O R
 A S N J I L E R R E X L J G O
 S Q C W Y T K L R F L L V A H
 P U L X Z C N P T H L W G R V
 H I H S O M I E A E S Y O D D
 O T E C E L N C C D E X X R P
 H O G M L C G T S J Q B L P M
 P K Q A R E P P O H S S A R G
 F B R W M X R A P H I D W N J
 B U M B L E B E E B Y N T U V
 Y T E K C I R C V E H T O M X

ANT	COCKROACH	HORNET
APHID	CRICKET	MOSQUITO
BUMBLE BEE	DRAGONFLY	MOTH
BEEBLE	FIREFLY	SPIDER
BUTTERFLY	FLEA	WASP

CATERPILLAR GRASSHOPPER WORM
 CENTIPEDE

Joke by Lorraine Watson

Wheelie Bins were delivered to a small community for the first time. After a week, the Rubbish Truck came around to pick up the rubbish.

It pulled up at the first house and the driver said to the lady out the front "Where your bin, lady?" The lady said, "I be use my bin to put flour". The driver sneered in disgust.

The driver moved onto the second house. He saw some young kids playing out the front. The driver said, "Where your bin kids?" The kids replied, "We be cut our bin in half to make Billy Cart". Again, the driver sneered in disgust.

The driver moved onto the third house and saw an old man sitting out the front. He said, "Where your bin old man?" The old man replied, "What you talking about? I bin here all the time."