

Young Indigenous Meatworkers Gazette

News letter of the Boys from the Bush Projects, Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS)
Issue No. 8, Wednesday, 3 February 2010



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

Another new arrival

Our first recruit from Santa Teresa

Pictured below is 16 year old Anton McMillan from Santa Teresa.

Santa Teresa is a small community about 80 kilometres south-east of Alice Springs. It is a community much like every other remote community throughout northern Australia; there is no work for young people and there never will be. They are simply left to wander the streets.



Pictured below is Anton McMillan now working on the Rockdale Beef packing floor.



Anton left school last year and this is his first ever real job. He and his family put a lot of thought into joining this scheme and to pursue a career in the meat processing industry.

We will follow his progress with great interest.



Like all new workers, Anton must start at the bottom; making up boxes and packing pieces of meat.

Our thanks to April Campbell

A big thanks to April Campbell of Ti-Tree (pictured below) for getting behind this scheme and spreading the word.



Two mistaken placements from Ti-Tree Six Mile

A disturbing situation occurred this week with two young people from Ti Tree Six Mile.

Two young people aged 18 and 20 years old, from Ti-Tree Six Mile joined the Remote Area Work Scheme at great

expense to the Boys from the Bush Projects, and a lot of hard work by Samantha Woods and Arthur Freckleton of the Job Find Centre in Ti-Tree and Alice Springs.

Shortly after these young people arrived it was clear that something was terribly wrong.

It turned out that the 20 year old was sent down to us to escape possible family ramifications from some recent murders in the area (pay back). Ordinarily this would not be a problem for the scheme, but the young man refused to go to work, claiming that his family had forced him to come down against his will.

The other young man made the same claim.

Neither I nor the staff at the Job Find Centre detected any reluctance from them to join the scheme during their community based suitability assessment, preparation process or while being transported to the Alice Springs airport.

Their claim that they were forced to join the scheme was made after their first day at work. Thereafter, they caused us no end of trouble, culminating in their choice to leave the scheme and head back home.

Our message to all the families interested in referring young people to the scheme is that *this is a strictly voluntary scheme.*

No young person will be accepted into the scheme against their will, nor will any young person be held in the scheme against their will.

Furthermore, should a young person choose to join the scheme and later

discover that work is too hard for them and wish to return home to a life of dependency and idleness, they must find their own way back home at their expense. This is clearly stated in their Participation [Responsibility] Agreement. **Great care is taken that all applicants and their families fully understand the agreement before they sign.**



Good money can be earned from Rockdale Beef for those willing to work.

Our first worker on the slaughter floor

Elroy Raymond joins the team on the Rockdale Beef slaughter floor.



Pictured below is Elroy (aka 50¢).

Elroy is our first worker to be placed on the slaughter floor under the tutelage of qualified butchers and the watchful eye of Kevin Murray, night shift slaughter floor supervisor.





Mitchell Mahoney soon to be promoted to a trainee knife hand on the boning floor



Here is Mitchell Mahoney thinking about his most promising career in the meat processing industry (or maybe he is just trying to show off his muscles to the pretty girls that just walked past).

Looking for volunteer cook/homemaker

Our Narrandera group urgently needs a volunteer live-in cook/homemaker.

The primary duty is to cook the evening meals for up to 8 young people. Free board and keep is provided.

Discussion taking place with the Northern Territory Correctional Services

Discussions have begun with the Social Worker/Counsellor at Alice Springs Correctional Centre after a number of inmates had expressed an interest in joining the scheme.

It's the same old story. Inmates feel that if they go back to their community they will just be dragged back into doing stuff which they don't want to do, and could end up in trouble with the Law again, even end up back in Prison.

This is what young people have been telling me for years.

To illustrate the point, I will again quote what a young person said to me years ago, in relation to alcohol.

“You can't stop the drinking here; it's too strong. If you want to stop, others will force you into it. You can't say no, they will make you. If you don't drink with them they think bad of you. The only way to stop is to get out of this place.”

This is what RAWS is about; giving young people the opportunity to get out of these unhealthy environments and into real meaningful work.

Meaningful work not only provides an income, it provides purpose, an identity and an avenue for creativity. It structures our time and space. It enlarges our social experience and broadens our outlook. It is the means by which most people play a full and active part in community life.

EDUCATIONAL SECTION FOR RAW'S WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Beef mince – 2 different ones

Which mince has less fat?

How can you tell?



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

