

# Young Indigenous Meatworkers Gazette

News letter of the Boys from the Bush Projects, Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS)  
Issue No. 9, Thursday, 25 March 2010



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

## Our Worker of the Month – Elroy Raymond

**Congratulation goes to Elroy Raymond (aka 50¢) on the Rockdale Beef slaughter floor. Elroy has been chosen to receive our first Worker of the Month Award**

These days you will hear privileged people talking about how they want to see more Aboriginal Magistrates, Lawyers, and Doctors and more Aboriginal people sitting in the Qantas business class lounge.

Well, BFTB Projects is not in the business of trying to create middle class professionals from the masses of poorly educated, third generation welfare dependent young people wasting away in remote communities.

BFTB Projects is in the business of teaching young people how to be good honest workers. And we give recognition to those who have made it.



Elroy Raymond is one of those who has well and truly made it. He is our best worker for the month of March 2010 – hard working, fast learner, proud,

respectful and grateful for the opportunity that has been given to him.



We will soon be celebrating a dinner at a local restaurant in his honour.

## Our first recruits from Ali Curung

Pictured below are 17 year old Jarvis Johnson and 17 year old Virgil Downs from Ali Curung

Ali Curung is a small Aboriginal community, 20 kilometres off the Stuart Highway, about 200 kilometres south of Tennant Creek.

This is a community much like every other remote community throughout northern Australia; there is no work in the community for young people and there never will be. They are simply left to wander back and forth from the ATM machine, shop and Centrelink office, watch videos, drink, smoke dope, argue, fight and generally left to waste away. If they want a real job and a better life then they have no option but to leave home for some other part of the country.

Pictured below is Jarvis Johnson all decked out in his clean working clothes.



Pictured below is Jarvis hard at work on the Rockdale Beef meat packing floor.

Jarvis says;

*“I like it down here. I like the work and I like the money. My family will not ask me for my money and I own my own stuff, nobody touches it, ... it's good.”*



Pictured below is Virgil Downs also decked out in his nice clean work clothes.



Here is Virgil hard at work packing meat.



Virgil says; *“I really like my job. I look at the board it tells us where they are going to send the meat to Coles, Woolworths, and overseas. And*

*the boss tells us how many cows are coming for us to pack.”*

## Another new arrival

Pictured below is 17 year old Travis Mahoney from Alpurrlam.



Alpurrlam is a remote Aboriginal community south of Camooweal, close to the Queensland border, on the Barkly Tableland.

Travis has been placed into the Rockdale Beef tripe room, as shown below; his first ever real job.

Travis is a young man of few words, but he says; *“Things are going really good. I like my job, its great ... that’s all I can say.”*





Travis got off to a slow start, but he is now going well.



**A very impressive sight**



What we have here is a room full of uniform carcasses of grain fed Angus cattle each around the 200kg+ mark – a very impressive sight for the cognisors of premium quality meat.

### **Anton McMillan's mother visits her son in Narrandera**

Anton McMillan turned 17 year old on the 8 March, and his mother, Cynthia, travelled down from Santa Teresa, south east of Alice Springs to be with her son for his birthday.

Readers may recall that 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.

Cynthia stayed with her son at the main group home for nearly 2 weeks. She was also given the opportunity by Rockdale Beef to visit the plant and to see her son at work.



### **Mitchell Mahoney now living independently**

Mitchell Mahoney from Alpururulam in the Northern Territory has been in RAWs for nearly 4 months. He is working well at Rockdale Beef and was recently moved up to boning and slicing.

He has now moved on to live independently of RAWS.

## **More about Boys from the Bush Projects and the Remote Area Work Scheme**

Boys from the Bush Projects Inc is a not-for-profit association (Qld IA36556) established for the purpose of *providing help to disadvantaged indigenous youth from remote communities to live better quality lives and achieve their potential.*

Based on its purpose, the organisation has been endorsed by Australian Taxation Office as a public benevolent institution as a deductible gift recipient.

The founder of the organisation, Milton James, has volunteered his services for the past 1.5 years to establish the organisation using his family's private savings.

Milton continues to work as a volunteer to establish the Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS) in partnership with Rockdale Beef in Narrandera, New South Wales.

RAWS (known earlier as the Work Placement Scheme) is the first of its type. Others have tried to replicate it, but had failed due to their lack of core management and practice skills.

The Narrandera group has been established as the template for future work groups, open to other organisations wishing to replicate its successful methodology.

RAWS is not a welfare program. Milton James, a social worker, has long argued that welfare program predicated on the *welfare approach* has caused more harm than good in most cases. It is the welfare

approach that shields or rescues people from the consequences of their irresponsible behaviour. It also shields people from the realities of the real economy, whilst denying them the right to accept responsibility for themselves and others.

RAWS participants, on the other hand, are not shielded or rescued from the consequences of their irresponsible behaviour. They are required to pay for their own rent, utilities, transport to and from work, and meals, all at market rates, just like every other person in the world.

This is vastly different to what occurs in some communities where very few residents pay for their electricity, water, rent and other services. Nor are they required to take responsibility for repairing malicious or careless damage to their residences.

RAWS participants, however, do not fund the BFTB Projects. The organisation is funded by a combination of government outcome payments and non-government grants.

Whilst BFTB Projects operates on free market principles, it also cherishes good governance practices such as behaving responsibly and with integrity, and being held accountable its activities. We are open about our successes and failures. Moreover, we provide the blueprints of those things that succeed, so that others can benefit and hopefully go further.

Soon, BFTB Projects will open up the Narrandera group for inspection by other service providers interested in replicating the project in other locations.

# EDUCATIONAL SECTION FOR RAWS' WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

## 3 deep fried chicken wings

How many teaspoons of fat are in the 3 wings?



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





Chicken wings are high in fat – especially when they are deep fried.

Chicken wings are mostly skin and bones – other parts of the chicken have less fat and more meat than the wings.

## THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY



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