

Christmas Fundraiser Launceston

The Launceston Transition to Work and ParentsNext participants together with their mentors have worked tirelessly on their Enterprise Learning Project for 2022 which has resulted in fundraising over \$2200 to support the Rob Fairs Foundation (Local Community Youth Org) and the Kmart Wishing Tree. Some of the activities were:

- The preparation and running of 2 BBQ's at Bunnings Launceston.
- Sourcing donations and assembling 10 prizes for our Raffle and selling of raffle tickets.
- Sourcing and utilisation of gift wrapping with a stall in the Launceston Mall where more raffle tickets were sold.

Through this project, participants abilities and knowledge have developed in a variety of ways!

They developed their confidence by asking for donations, earning certificates in food handling, engaging in marketing campaigns to increase community awareness, developing project plans that included all the events and honing their customer service and teamwork skills, to name just a few.

Participants went shopping with NJL Mentors on December 15th to buy Christmas gifts for the Kmart Wishing Tree. The participants are grateful to the Mentors for their assistance and have excelled in having a significant impact on our neighborhood. Participants project-related abilities will help them in their daily lives as well as in employment.

We thank all the businesses and participants that were able to help make our Enterprise Learning Project a huge success!

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MERRY
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM ALL THE STAFF AT NATIONAL JOBLINK
WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND SAFE 2023

Brand New Adventures Cairns



Brand New Adventures started August this year and 12 students are on target to finish early 2023. Students, many under the age of 18, are continuing their successful journey to complete a Certificate II in Tourism and have been exploring the vast opportunities and experiences available in the local region. Some have also engaged in work experience with a few of the biggest tourism companies in Cairns, transferring new skills and building networks for a career pathway.

Recently students completed a Reef Magic tour and a visit to the World Heritage Daintree rainforest which included Indigenous cultural experiences such as hunting on traditional grounds under the watchful eye of local Elder mentors from Kuku Yalangi Cultural Habitat Tours. In conjunction with Daintree River Cruises, they went on a crocodile spotting journey through the mangroves which them to gain insights into current tourism market.

When the Brand New Adventures team are not walking in forests, snorkeling, observing reef research and mad tourists bungee jumping, they are otherwise focused on completing the Certificate II units to complete their certificate.

In addition, the crew have been recording many of the experiences and producing VLOGS – which has assisted the young team in self-reflection, building presentation skills and confidence. The next part of the journey includes starting to identify employment opportunities, with students meeting with potential employers at every step in the program.

TtW explore with Reclink - Launceston

TtW participants and Mentors had the amazing opportunity to undertake Reclink's Explore Launceston - Youth Adventure, Resilience and Wellbeing Program, which was designed to push personal boundaries, improve health and wellbeing and build resilience. Over the duration of 6 weeks they participated in adventure challenges including Kayaking, Escape Rooms, Beta Park Rock climbing, Paintball, Self-defence session and Hollybank Treetop adventures.



Seven participants attended weekly, trying new skills and gaining new experiences which would have otherwise been out of their reach to experience. Participants built relationships with other organizations such as Youth Justice and Migrant Resource Centre.

As the sessions progressed each participant displayed more confidence to try new experiences and to push themselves out of their comfort zone. Since the completion of the program 2 participants have been successful in gaining employment and 2 more have future job interviews organised.

Such a fun and wonderful experience for everyone to be involved in and it was amazing to see their smiling happy faces return to the office after each session. A huge thank you to Reclink for giving this opportunity to our TtW participants.

ParentsNext Leadership Team Palmerston NT



The ParentsNext Leadership Team (PLT) is in full swing in NJL's Northern Territory Palmerston office. They have been working together over the last 12 months, talking about their collective challenges that they were going through, financial, low confidence and digital literacy and presentation within interviews, just naming a few.

Together with our Mentors, the group are talking openly about their needs and what support they would like from the ParentsNext program. Undertaking a First Aid certificate was the first activity the PLT would like to organise. The group have also decided that they would like to develop a cooking on a budget cookbook. Compiling recipes that are not only low cost but tasty and healthy, into a book to have available for all parents. They are hoping to start this project in the coming year, so stay tuned for an update.

Grassroots - Cairns

Grassroots (Connecting People and Places) is a place-based project born out of a collaboration between National Joblink Cairns and Cairns Safer Streets Task Force. The program aims to:

- Provide appropriate training and employment pathway opportunities to the First Nations people and the CALD communities of Mooroolool, Manunda and Manoora in Parks and Gardens
- Encourage community pride, ownership and stewardship of community spaces
- Create an attractive and culturally representative venue as a focus for neighborhood activities that celebrates the diversity of the community and our region
- Enhance employability skills and address non-vocational barriers.

We are currently in week 8 of a 24 week program with participants completing a Certificate II in Horticulture. Engagement has been superb, with the Grassroots team already achieving so much: planting trees at a Regenerative Agriculture project, working in the Green Space Community Garden, excursions to the Botanical Gardens and to the Cairns Esplanade to examine plant profiles.

The team has also been designing the revamp of the outdoor landscape at Mooroolool Hub that celebrates the cultures and values of the community, with totem poles, plant scapes and rock art. The team has been regularly attending their work experience with the local council and learning from experienced professionals.

The course is not even half finished and the team has already achieved so much. By the finish date we plan to renovate the garden around the hub, do more work experience in different locations and hopefully find employment outcomes for as many of the participants as possible.



Good News Stories

Melissa - Launceston TAS



Melissa commenced with ParentsNext Launceston in mid-2021. Melissa disclosed that she hadn't been in the workforce for 9 years and felt she had barriers to overcome before being able to return to employment. Melissa wanted to address her lack of confidence with technology so she was enrolled into NJL's Digital Skills course. Upon completion, Melissa's confidence increased and she wanted to challenge herself to enroll in study to increase her employment options.

With her Mentor's support, Melissa enrolled and completed a Cert III in Individual support at TasTAFE, gained her First Aid certificate and obtained the relevant checks to start work. Best of all Melissa has recently gained employment working as an Individual Support Worker! NJL would like to wish Melissa all the best for her future.

"NJL has made me feel important and helped me through some tough stages in my course. They supplied the necessary tools I needed to complete my course and helped me with my resume and cover letter so I could get a job, because of NJL I am back to my normal happy self and I can't thank them enough"

Molli - St Helens TAS



Molli commenced with the ParentsNext program late 2021 and informed her Mentor, that due to covid restrictions she was unable to complete her Cert III in Aged Care. Molli connected with the Children's and Family Learning Centre to participate in 3 parenting skills courses. Our Mentor assisted Molli with employability skills and to obtain a Working with Vulnerable Peoples Card and First Aid Certificate.

Molli's employability skills had noticeably improved to a point where she applied for a position at the Children's and Family Learning Centre at St Helens and got the job! Since commencing in her new role as Centre Assistant, she was able to complete training to allow her to deliver Yoga classes as well as facilitation of 2 Parenting Skills Programs – something she had once attended herself. With her increased confidence and knowledge, Molli started a diploma in project management, where the Participation Fund was used to provide a laptop to assist with her studies.

Even more excitably Molli has recently gained additional employment with the Break'O Day Council as a casual member of their Project Management Team. National Joblink wishes Molli continued success with her future.

Seth - Gladstone, QLD

Seth commenced in the Transition to Work program in Oct 2021 after leaving school at the end of year 11. Seth and his Mentor worked together to build up a rapport, starting with individual appointments and then leading onto small group sessions. This had helped Seth to build his confidence and disclose to his Mentor the barriers that have been impacting his ability to look for employment.

After securing stable accommodation and being ready to start looking for work, Seth and his Mentor started to look at his employment options. Seth was hoping to find work close to home due to transport issues and he applied for a position at Coles. Excitably Seth was offered a position, but it was 25 minutes bus ride away.

Seth spoke with his Mentor about his options and decided to take up the employment opportunity to help improve his personal situation. Seth looked up the bus timetable and caught the bus to work for his first shift. To help Seth to continue to attend work, his Mentor supported with bus cards and PPE work clothing. NJL wish Seth all the best with his new employment!

MEET THE TEAM



Harry Booth – *Employment Mentor, Hobart, TAS*

Originally from South Africa via England, I have made Tasmania my home and love it here. I have had a few different careers in amongst studying a Sport's Science degree. This included Life guarding, Hospitality, Teaching and Disability care. I have now been at NJL for just over 2 years. Starting off as a Youth Mentor and now working in the Parents Next program. I love being able to help people with real barriers in a fast and effective way. It's also enjoyable surprising participants who come in nervous and sceptical but walk out feeling positive and supported. My main hobbies and interests are playing competitive cricket and soccer and doing as much travel as I can.



Lauren Shields – *Mentor PN & TTW, Devonport, TAS*

My name is Lauren, I work in the Devonport office working in both TTW and PN mentoring roles, stepping temporarily into acting team leader covering maternity leave. I have been with NJL for nearly 2.5 years now, thoroughly enjoying my role supporting both parents and young people to achieve their goals no matter how big or small. The greatest satisfaction I have is when I am able to reflect with the participants on how far they have come and celebrate big or small achievements in their journey with NJL. Besides from work, I am halfway through a Bachelor of Justice degree, minoring and majoring in forensic criminology with a focus on supporting disengaged youth, and hope to be able to put this to good use for NJL moving forward.

Michael Palmier – *Trainer / Mentor, Cairns, QLD*

Michael Joined NJL in February 2021 as an EST Trainer and Mentor. His background is in education with a Teaching career spanning 16 years in Malta, Spain, Taiwan and various cities in Australia. He also had a stint working in online marketing. After joining the company Michael helped to facilitate EST training courses in Cairns, teach driving lessons and more recently Mentor students in various SQW programs



Rob Priest – *NJL Accredited Driving Instructor, Cairns, QLD*

My name is Rob, and I am the newest member of NJL Driving School Cairns. Driving and working on cars is in my blood as I am also a qualified mechanic. Some of the highlights of my career come from my time in motor racing in Europe and being the chief mechanic at a World Championship winning racing team looking after three McLaren F1 GTR Sports cars. Also winning the Le Mans 24 hour race in 1997 was a highlight. Being a driving instructor is a rewarding experience and career. I have helped many Learner Drivers with manual and automatic driving skills. I enjoy the moment they 'get it' and it all comes together and when I see the smiles on their faces when they gain their Ps with confidence. When I am not taking on driving lessons for Learner Drivers, I like spending time with my family and tinkering around motor cars and bikes.