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TTW PARTICIPANTS SHINE AT THE AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS 2019

LAUNCESTON, TAS



The Launceston Cataract Gorge provided the backdrop for the 2019 Australian Tourism Awards Dinner on March 1st. This unique event saw the Gorge's pool transformed with a huge custom-built marquee over the Gorge's pool to house 840 of the industry's key stakeholders.

Four of NJL's Transition to Work participants donned their finest manners to serve the guests from all over Australia. On a particularly warm Tasmania evening the guests arrived dressed in their finest. The TTW participants were allocated into their teams and the night began. The participants absolutely shone! With aching muscles from an intense canape round, they were then required to begin an even bigger round of mains and desserts, with 210 meals to be served per group of 6 (840 in total) there was no time for nerves.

The whispers were true and the next thing we knew the Irwin family of Terri, Bindi & Bob had taken to the stage. The participants were ecstatic at the opportunity to see them in person and hear their speech.

The smile on their faces as the last main plate was delivered and no dropped plates to be seen was priceless. Little did they know the hardest challenge was to come. A careful balancing act of clearing plates and cutlery whilst working through the minefield of clutches, phones, glassware and limbs on the tables. But alas, yet again they made it through un-scathed. With this perfection came dessert and the perfect run continued throughout the night.

Our Transition to Work participants absolutely loved the night and the experience. They worked hard and were an 'A' grade crew. This experience has given them the belief that they would be able to undertake the next opportunity thrown at them with confidence that they have the skills needed.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN EST TRAINER

CAIRNS, QLD

As an NJL Trainer delivering Employability Skills Training, I feel very lucky to share the growth and knowledge gained by job seekers that come through our doors. I remember sitting in my interview for this position. ‘So, how can you change someone in 3 weeks?’ My answer was simple, “Build a rapport with the person and show I care.”

On the first day of the EST Blocks, I glance around the room and usually find a group of non-responsive faces who may be thinking “why am I here? what is this all about?”. Often, the participants tell us they have other priorities, including finding safe accommodation or getting their next meal. Some indicate they are experiencing mental health issues.

The first couple of days is spent building relationships and trust, finding out their needs, along with meeting the requirements of training. It is a balancing and engaging process - one that I find very fulfilling. After this stage the trainer considers each participant and decides if it is the right time for trying to get a job or identifying strategies for a more functional, productive life? For me, it’s about the individual and what they need at that moment in time.

For participants who continue, this is when we start their exciting journey. Lots of learning happens, fear of change may arise, self-sabotage patterns; tears, anger and laughter are experienced, but out of this comes self-discovery, opportunities and change. This, for me is the biggest outcome. Sometimes my job is challenging, but the results are rewarding. Finally, simple discussions about the way we perceive things allows for core beliefs to be questioned; the option for change is presented - a life-changing moment.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

CAIRNS, QLD

A ground-breaking EST program in film and media has provided entry-level skills to 13 indigenous youth, in Cairns recently. Students learned the fundamentals of film making, including scriptwriting, camera, storyboarding, holding meetings and editing. Each student created a visual poem and participated in different roles; to plan and shoot a scene from a famous movie: Pulp Fiction. The students gained confidence and developed skills in writing and communication for the workplace. This was achieved by holding daily meetings and completing a variety of production reports and a Daily Log. Now completed, this unique course provided an opportunity for indigenous youth to apply for a traineeship under a new program, funded by the QLD Government, *Skilling Queenslanders for Work*. Nine participants were selected to be part of the new program - working as NJL Production Crew trainees. Making a documentary is one goal included in the six-month project. Titled- *Dreaming Big*, the project will enable local, indigenous youth to gain employment ready skills - including event management, marketing, film making, digital media and hospitality.

The NJL Production Crew team will be working with community groups, providing event support for a youth centre and will manage events - local dancers, a fashion parade and a sports competition. Masterclasses and sessions with the best film makers in Cairns are included in the program. The trainees will also be creating a special *My Journey* exhibition, for the Cairns Museum and will launch their documentary in July, during NAIDOC Week.



Photo used by permission by student Michael Izumi

FIRE-PIT YARNING CIRCLE

WOORABINDA, QLD

The PaTH EST training in Woorabinda is being held at the Blackboy Pastoral Outstation which is well used for many community events. The participants decided to extend and upgrade the fire-pit yarning circle, making it more accessible for people in the community to use.

The Jobseekers have been developing their employability skills through the designing and drafting plans for the fire pit and have been working hard as a well-functioning work group, contributing their individual skills to complete various tasks for their team success.



The group measured all the timber lengths required for the fire-pit barrier and new seating, using effective communication with the sawmill/ pastoral company workers who have assisted them when needed.

Leveling everything as they go, they've dug the barrier holes and put the posts in. Plans are in place for art to be done around the fire-pit, and this will be a wonderful finish to what will definitely be a successful project. The Jobseekers are very eager to celebrate the opening of the new area with members of their community.

PORT AUGUSTA TRAINING

PORT AUGUSTA, SA

NJL has partnered with KWY to deliver the ACE (Adult Community Education) program in Port Augusta, South Australia. The program titled 'My Program' has been aimed to support Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants, particularly those with low self-esteem, recent experience with the justice system, little or no workplace experience, low levels of LLN and negative prior educational experiences. The program has been running 2 days a week for the last 7 weeks, focusing on strengthening the existing ways people in community learn and communicate in a culturally safe environment. The program incorporates two non-accredited units from the foundation skills course and is funded through the Government of South Australia's Work Ready ACE initiative

BUSHFIRES – EST

HOBART, TAS

A recent EST group used their marketing and networking skills to aide local communities affected by the Huonville bushfires. They generated ideas around how to access the area and what needs may be required. The group chose different organisations to contact, including a commercial fisherman who was willing to take supplies via water to those cut off due to road blocks. None of us knew how amazing and how huge the effort was going to be and we were all completely blown away by the generosity.

From calling businesses for donations, to shopping, delivering the donations we collected, packing and unpacking cars and boats the team did a wonderful job all whilst learning incredible skills and assisting our community through a hard time. This was an enormous effort and we are so proud of the group and the difference they were able to make.



MEET OUR TEAM!

Suzanne Johnston

Launceston, TAS



Hi, my name is Suze and I am located in the Launceston office. I joined the TTW team as a Youth Mentor just over 12 months ago and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at NJL, and I feel privileged to be a part of such a great team here. I am passionate about working with youth and mentoring them to become strong, independent young adults contributing to society in a positive manner. I have worked in Employment Services for over 10 years and have undertaken a variety of roles including Employment Consultant, Group Facilitator, Recruitment Consultant and Youth Mentor. In my previous job, I worked predominantly with young people and this is where my passion and drive to work in the youth sector strengthened which brought me to NJL. Working with youth you never know what each day will bring and that keeps me motivated to come to work and hopefully make a difference in a young person's life.

James McElligott

Cairns, QLD



Hi, my name is James and I am an EST trainer in Cairns and in my spare time I am very much an outdoorsy type of person!

I believe learning through doing allows the opportunity to put theory in to practice and be practical.

During my down time, I volunteer for SES and enjoy playing with drones and gadgets. I am a big supporter in recycling and re-using to keep the environment sustainable.

Being young to training, I have learnt a lot and have been blown away by what the job can bring and what the participants have to offer this world.

NJL has allowed me to embrace who I am and what I have learnt. My motto is – What comes easy won't last. What lasts won't come easy.

Sandy Sionepeni

Rockhampton, QLD



My name is Sandy, I'm an EST Trainer in Rockhampton/ Yeppoon. I have been fortunate enough to work for NJL since August 2018. I have been a Trainer for 8 years and I learn every day from all my participants. My goal in every Block is to light the spark in the young people so they learn to believe in themselves as much as I believe in them. My husband and I have 8 children and 1 grandchild. This is where all my passion, strength and drive stems from. I lead by example not only for my children but also my participants. My passion has and always will be learning. Every day is an opportunity to learn and share knowledge, that brings me to the life motto "Education is Power". We all deserve an education no matter who we are or where we come from and NJL does exactly that! My favourite band of all time is the Spice Girls (don't judge) and I'm happy to share that with everyone I meet.