

## Making Waves - Cairns

NJL Cairns initiated Making Waves, a specialised program, working with long term unemployed youth. This program targets industries in Cairns that are looking for local based employees - namely the Marine, Tourism & Hospitality Sector. At NJL we aim to excite and engage youth with the unique opportunities that are available within their own backyard, whilst educating them on the great Barrier Reef and the industries it supports. Over the course of 6-weeks NJL trainers and mentors worked with 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth aged 15-24, to gain skills and some of the required qualifications to seek employment in these industries including: First Aid Training, work safe approved introduction for working within the marine industry, MARSS00008 – Shipboard Safety Skill Set, RSA, Food Handling and Barista Training. There was great enthusiasm and outside input from local industry employers, and opportunities to visit premises and see operations in action, including Fitzroy Island Resort, Raging Thunder, and other tourism operators. NJL had 12 Learners commenced the course and all 12 completed it. since the completion of the course 5 have been supported into employment and 2 have gone to enroll in further training. It is great to see the big waves NJL participants are making.



### September 2021

#### In this edition:

- Making Waves - Cairns
- Cooking & Gardening - Launceston
- Tarkine Lodge Update
- National Tree Day
- Employability Skills Training – Enterprise Learning Projects
- Good News Stories
- Meet the Team

## Gardens & Cooking - Launceston

Transition to Work (TTW) has been renting a garden bed in the Ravenswood Community Gardens and identified a group of participants who would benefit from engaging in attending this activity on a weekly basis. NJL transported participants every week and undertook planting and maintaining vegetables in gardens beds – this group also assisted in the construction of an Aboriginal cultural garden area. The participants who attend have enjoyed getting outside and contributing to the Ravenswood community by supplying fresh vegetables for the Neighborhood House to donate to others in need. This activity has increased the groups confidence and motivational levels. They have been praised by the garden supervisors for the great work they are doing for the community. When the weather made it difficult to attend the gardens every week, we changed activities and started to cook meals in the Community House for members of the public to enjoy. The group adapted well to the new activity, and it has provided them with some valuable skills on working in a commercial kitchen. The manager of the Neighborhood House has given positive feedback around how well the group is going, and that they enjoy them coming up weekly to cook the meals. Our mentor was also able to use these activities to reengage a participant who struggled attending appointments in the office. This participant gained valuable skills from the group and as her confidence and skills grew, she was offered full time employment with a local café and is loving it.



## Tarkine Lodge Update

Over the past two months, mentors, and participants from both the Burnie and Devonport offices have had the opportunity to visit the Tarkine Wilderness Lodge which NJL acquired earlier this year. To date there have been six groups of Transition to Work (TTW) participants who have made the trek to the Lodge. These participants were guided by Ben, who is the Tarkine Lodge Project Officer. A

number of those participants who have been involved in these excursions have been experiencing difficult, turbulent times in their personal lives. Being given the opportunity to take part in these visits has allowed them to take some time out from their day to day lives and focus on themselves in the natural environment around them. These groups have had the chance to explore the Tarkine Lodge, and the surrounding property, visit Mother Myrtle, learn about the history of the property, and the flora and fauna that can be found there. One group were especially lucky, in that their visit to the Lodge coincided with the visit of some special guests. Bob Brown, founder of the Bob Brown Foundation, Sarah Hanson Young, South Australia Senator for the Greens party, and Ben Oakhurst, from Bridging the Gap, arrived via helicopter, providing our participants and TTW mentor Zoe, with a chance to look around, climb in, and take photos of the helicopter. To top off the day, they were all surprised when offered the opportunity to take a scenic flight over the property, seeing it from a point of view that very few will have the chance to see. As you can imagine, the three young men involved in this visit had a fantastic experience that they are unlikely to forget.



## National Tree Day 2021

Another amazing trip to the Tarkine Lodge with Transition to Work participants. What a mind-blowing experience this is for our participants to celebrate National Tree Day. Each participant had the opportunity of planting trees as National Joblink are



registered to do this. The Tarkine lodge now has a poster recognising NJL's contribution to being a 'Community planting site' with each participant taking away a certificate of participation. This was a great experience for all involved to witness the positive impact that they can make with even a small action, like planting a tree.

## Employability Skills Training (EST) Enterprise Learning Projects

### City Mission Worry Monsters - Launceston

The Launceston Employability Skills Training (EST) participants had lots of fun planning, designing, and creating their project of Worry Monsters.

Some of them learning to sew for the first time. Partnering with City Mission and Inside Out 4 Kids (IO4K), we were able to have guest speakers come and talk to the participants about the Understanding Worry Program that City Mission runs. Sarai from The Mish and Kate from IO4K were thrilled with the results and blown away by the creativity and hard work demonstrated by our participants. The Worry Monsters that were made by our participants, support young people aged 7-12 in the 'Understanding Worry' program. These children experience patterns of anxiety which may be impacting on their activities of daily living. Each Worry monster made, has attached to it a written 'worry' e.g., 'Going to the Dentist' or 'Saying goodbye at school drop off'. The program aims to improve awareness of the connection between the brain, through thought processes and emotions. NJL participants were delighted to be able to make these worry monsters and help improve a child's anxiety.



### BBQ Fundraiser – Darwin

The Casuarina Employability Skills Training (EST) participants chose a local organisation called the Sunset Soup Kitchen to fundraise for. This organisation is comprised completely of volunteers that feed the local homeless. They provide hot meals every Sunday at the waterfront and then on the weekends they pass around snacks, water, blankets, and toiletries. Our goal was to raise funds that we could then purchase essential supplies that the Sunset Soup Kitchen use on a regular basis. The group conducted a Sausage Sizzle at our NJL Casuarina Office. They created a flyer to give to local businesses and Jobactives in the area. There was also a lolly jar raffle to add to the funds. Participants learnt how to organise and market an event, work as a team, communication, and the process of building a relationship with local businesses. The group raised over \$130 dollars as well as collected several toiletry items that the group then made into packs and donated to the organisation. The feedback from the participants was that they enjoyed working together as a team and doing something positive to support the community.



## GOOD NEWS STORIES

### Yong – Adelaide, SA

After getting to know Yong, she expressed her interest in the hospitality industry. Yong's trainer, Rebecca searches for suitable positions once she knows what participants are personally interested in. A job came up on one of the different pages that Rebecca follows for a kitchen hand, this also included a chance for an apprenticeship at Vintage chef co.

Knowing that Yong was interested, Rebecca discussed the position and assisted Yong to ensure her resume was current and up to date and her cover letter was tailored specifically for this application. Rebecca then conducted multiple mock interviews with Yong, so she was prepared if she was to be successful in gaining an interview. Yong applied and was successful in the application process to gain the position and is grateful she gets to do what she loves for a job - Yong said that she wouldn't be there if it wasn't for Rebecca and the EST PaTH program she attended.



### Cyeon – Rockhampton, QLD



Cyeon commenced with Transition to Work (TTW) in April 2021, after deciding that mainstream school wasn't the right option for him, and he wanted to focus on gaining employment. Cyeon previously worked casually as a trolley collector but wanted to find an employer where he could improve his employability skills and in a workplace that would offer training and support. During Cyeon's first couple of appointments, his Mentor assisted him in building a resume, provided training in job readiness skills, spoke with him about the types of industries that may interest him and showed him how to apply for specific roles. He came in for one of his appointments looking disheartened as he had been cold canvassing and hadn't heard back from any positions he applied for. His Mentor spoke with him about how she now had a direct contact with the HR Manager at McDonalds and would love to refer him there. Cyeon was keen for this, even though his confidence had suffered. However, with further encouragement and support from his NJL mentor he started to re-engage and rebuild his confidence and since then has been successful in gaining employment with McDonalds. Our NJL Mentor recently undertook an employer site visit at the store to catch up with Cyeon and he couldn't be happier. Cyeon has since purchased a bike and with reliable transport, he has also picked up extra shifts. It was great to see Cyeon's resilience shine through and to see him so proud of his achievement.

## MEET THE TEAM

### Jessica Fuller – Administration Assistant – Berserker, QLD

Hi! My name is Jess and I have been working for National Joblink since January 2021. I relocated to Rockhampton from the Gold Coast to begin my administration assistant role with the NJL Fitzroy Team. Having previously only worked in fast food, I was so excited to begin my career in Administration and work in a new environment. My favourite part of the role is the variability that each day brings, particularly when working across all the contracts – ParentsNext (PN), Transition to Work (TTW) and Employability Skills Training (EST). It's amazing to watch participants grow and achieve great things, all through the support of NJL. When I'm not at work, you can likely find me at the gym or watching Netflix.



### Nadia Hyde – Parents Next Mentor – Launceston, TAS



Hi, I've been a part of the NJL family since June 2020. During this time, I have worked in the EST, PN and TTW contract. The culture at NJL is fantastic and I feel lucky to work for NJL, they really are family and friends first. I love to help others work on their barriers and support them to reach their goals and succeed. It's a rewarding feeling and reminds you why you do this, when you support a participant to make a difference to their own lives. I love to empower others to reach for the stars. I come from a community service and child protection background. My whole family is in Queensland so I love to visit them when I can. I am a qualified Sports trainer and work for the Hillwood Football club (AFL) Women's, Reserves and Seniors Teams, this takes up most of my time in the winter along with watching my own daughters play AFL. During the summer months I love to have a beer and spend time with my daughters, our friends camping or hanging at the beach. I have 2 cats and a (grandchild) cat that I adore, you could call me a crazy cat lady.

### Kimberly Weber – Team Leader & CTA Coordinator – Burnie, TAS

Hello, Kim here from Burnie! I have been part of the NJL team for 2 and a half years now and was originally employed in the role of Receptionist/Administrator. When I was offered the position of Team Leader after 6 months, I jumped at the opportunity, having always had an interest in Business Management & Human Resources, and qualifications in Management. At around the same time, I began assisting with PN Claims, and was also given the role of CTA Coordinator shortly afterwards. I love the fact that NJL have given me the opportunity to try on so many different hats in such a short amount of time and am excited to see what opportunities the future holds for NJL as we continue to grow and change!

Prior to NJL, my employment history has been varied, with past roles including but not limited to Medical Admin, Retail, Real Estate, Visual Merchandising, Retail Auditing, and I've even worked as a Face Painter and made balloon animals while walking around on stilts (Yes, you did read that correctly!). Outside of work, my partner and I try to spend as much time as possible out and about exploring the "off the beaten path" parts of the Northwest Coast of Tassie. When we can't do that, we're at home hanging out with our English Mastiff, Kadi!

