

SO MUCH MORE . . .

Congratulations to our apprentices who have completed in the last month



Name: Leonard Gilboy
Apprenticeship: Cert III Engineering – Mechanical Trade – Heavy Plant
Host Employer: Argyle Diamond Mine
Leonard successfully completed his Heavy Plant Apprenticeship with Argyle Diamond Mine in Kununurra on the 6th April 2010 and is now a qualified tradesman. Leonard has obtained a contract with Argyle Diamond Mine and hopes to settle in Kununurra and buy a house with his young family.
"It is a great achievement for Leonard to be able to complete his trade at Argyle Diamond Mine and then be given the opportunity to work for Argyle as a qualified Tradesman – without the program that they run at Argyle many Apprentices like Leonard would have not been given this great opportunity to be where he is today" says Natasha Cross Field Officer .

Name: Bo Dean Epong
Traineeship: Cert II Metalliferous Mining – Processing
Bo Dean successfully completed his Cert II Metalliferous Mining – Processing with Argyle Diamond Mine in Kununurra on the 19th February 2010.
Bo Dean has successfully obtained a contract with McMahons and looks forward to a future at Argyle Diamond Mine.



What do KGT and Group Training do for me?

Group Training Australia and its member organisations' employ over 40,000 Australian Apprentices. KGT is one of those member organisations. That gives KGT, our Host Employers and apprentices access to a large network of support, training, advice on changes to employment practices and regulations, as well as changes in policy around the provision of training. It also allows KGT, our Host Employers and apprentices the opportunity to provide feedback to the policymakers.

With a number of reviews into apprenticeships, wages and training currently underway, now is a great time to give consideration as to how the system could be improved. KGT are often asked what improvements could be made in this regard. KGT would welcome feedback from employers and apprentices alike on this topic. The more consistent feedback we receive, the greater influence we can have on the development of policy in these areas.

At a more local level, KGT is acutely aware that the effort required to reduce the level of welfare dependency, the disadvantage, the skills shortages and related issues, is much higher than that required in more densely populated areas. We are working closely with Government and other service providers to secure additional resources to meet these requirements, without burdening Host Employers with the additional cost. Aside from the recently established psychology programs and ongoing mentoring, KGT is aiming to reduce the number of apprentices being managed by each staff member, so that more time can be devoted to each apprentice/Host Employer relationship. It is through this additional effort that we aim to reduce the turnover of apprentices and increase the number of skilled people entering the workforce in the region. More skilled people based in the local area can only benefit local business and local people.

Home Valley Station Ranger Forum

On the 12th of April all the Kimberley Land Council Rangers converged on to Home Valley Station for the 2010 Kimberley Ranger Initiative Forum.

Ranger groups travelled from as far as Bidyadanga in the South West Kimberley and from the Northern Territory to share their knowledge and experiences with other groups with the same passion and enthusiasm for working on and caring for their country.

During the week long forum Rangers had a chance to present their past learning's, future projects and country with all Ranger groups, stakeholders and partners of the Kimberley Rangers Initiative. They also got to try their hand at a range of new activities and skills used by conservationists in their profession, taking part in workshops ranging from snake handling, Bush mechanics, water treatment and also tried some new technology with computing, GPS and the I Tracker which was a highlight for most.

The skills Rangers are learning and the work being done are all part of a traineeship qualification in Conservation and Land Management, the levels of qualification vary from Certificate II to a Certificate IV level.



Special points of interest:

- APRIL COMPLETIONS
- WORKERS COMPENSATION
- KUNUNURRA & BROOME APPRENTICES OF THE MONTH

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From the CEO... Skills to Work



Group Training's most outstanding apprentices and trainees were recognised at the Group Training National Awards Presentation Dinner in Adelaide on Friday the 16 April. The theme of the Conference "Skills 2 Work" is a reality that involves us all. It is more relevant in the Kimberley where there are so many opportunities for people

to gain employment in apprenticeships and traineeships, however a large percentage are not ready for work.

It is critical that all employers provide leadership in shaping the future of the Kimberley by taking an active role in discussing and debating the Vocational Educational and Training System and Employment Programs. By being proactive it will provide you with great networking opportunities to ensure your business will benefit in the future. Ian Warrener (KGT's Operation Manager) was a guest speaker at the Conference. He spoke on "Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage". Ian's sessions were well received and it was encouraging to see the number of Group Training representatives attending his sessions.

Kimberley Group Training is recognized throughout the Group Training network as a leader in the employment of disadvantaged groups. This is a credit to the committee, staff and the many host employers which use our service.

Kimberley Group Training has successfully negotiated an Indigenous Employment Program Contract with the Department of Employment Education and Workplace Relations. Employers taking on Indigenous apprentices/trainees are eligible for generous rebates under this agreement. Please contact the Broome or Kununurra office for more information.
John Gummery

School Based News

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) meeting was held in Broome on the 28, 29 & 30 April. This meeting is attended by all Principals and Deputies. The SLT with the support from their District office implement the policies and procedures of the Director General of the Department of Education. The latest can be found on this link <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/classroomfirst/detcms/portal/> where one can find the Education Plan for Public Schools in Western Australia 2008-2011 and the Focus Strategies to achieve this. There are over 780 schools in the state. The state is divided into Districts, each with a District office. This is the organizational arrangement to make it all happen.

Other news on schools and school based trainees is that a new year 11 student from Kalumburu remote community school has started a traineeship in Business hosted by the school and supervised by the Deputy Principal, Marita Henry. We wish Tarlena well with her future aspirations. Also, at the Kalumburu school, six year 10 students have started their certificate I in Leadership Development under the supervision of Catherine Dwyer and we will report on all their projects later in the year.

As the first term of the school year is already over, it is with great pleasure to report that all the Kununurra year 11 students are enjoying their traineeships and the opportunity that they have received to get into the workplace and show the community what they can do.

Finally, in Kununurra six year 10 students have also started a certificate I in Leadership Development and we will watch them closely and report on their exciting progress.



Injury at work?

What happens if you hurt or injure yourself at work?

Firstly, seek medical attention!
 The next thing you must do is contact your Field Officer immediately to advise them of your injury. The Field Officer will complete an Injury Report to record the details of your injury and will enable them to submit a Workers Compensation Insurance Claim on your behalf. If a Workers Compensation claim is made by KGT, our insurer might be able to cover you for the costs of any medical or hospital treatment you receive and for any ongoing issues relating to your injury.

If your injury is severe, workers compensation insurance might be able to cover you against loss of wages because you have been unable to continue working. It is a legal requirement that we receive notice of your injury at work within 24 hours of the injury occurring and file a Workers Compensation Claim with 48 hours of your injury for it to be accepted by our insurer.

So remember, if you hurt yourself at work, contact your Field Officer immediately.

Time is of the Essence!

Kununurra apprentice of the month Kevin Spratt

Kevin has been nominated as Apprentice of the Month for his good communication skills, positive attitude and commitment to his work and he is always completing his tasks on time and with enthusiasm. Kevin also had great feedback from his TAFE lecturer in Perth and is one for helping out his fellow team members. Kevin is employed at Argyle Diamond Mine.



Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.

Abraham Lincoln

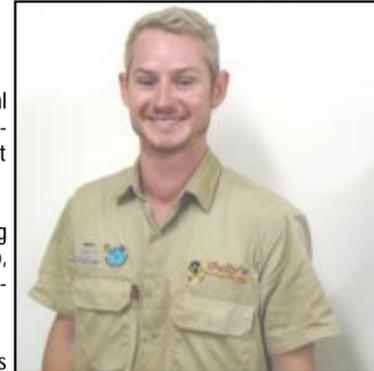
OPTICAL ILLUSION

Man or Woman.
How many faces do you see.



New Broome Apprentice

Name: Jayde Ralph
 Apprenticeship: Certificate III in Electro technology Systems – Electrician
 Host Employer: Gully's Electrical Services



Jayde previously worked as a trades assistant for a number of electrical tradesmen and decided that he too would like to become an electrician. This idea brought Jayde to KGT where we found him the perfect host employer for the apprenticeship he had in mind.

Gully's Electrical is a great company that's hosted an award winning successfully completed apprentice for KGT prior to Jayde's apprenticeship, so we look forward to Jayde's completion and the beginning of a completion streak for Gully's Electrical Services.

Jayde looks forward to gaining his qualification but understands that he has a lot to learn before this can happen. Johani (Jayde's Field Officer) said, "Jayde seems like a smart person and looks like he can handle hard work, with this combination I believe his apprenticeship will go very well without any hassles".

New Face of KGT Craig Hicks



KGT to me represents a team of people who are committed to helping others breakdown the barriers in order for them to take the first steps towards achieving either a Traineeship or an Apprenticeship. In doing so the new employee will learn skills and gain experience in a field which will eventually deliver a rewarding way of life.

My role with KGT is to monitor the apprentices and trainees and keep them enthusiastic about their work, and focused on their long and short term goals. I personally would like to accomplish the feeling of satisfaction, by helping as many people as I can reach their goals and full potential.

I have recently sold my drainage business in Perth after 10 years, and chose to take a life style change in the Kimberleys with my partner and our two young boys.

My favourite food would have to be a Lamb Kebab with the lot with garlic sauce, bucket of chips and a choc milk on a Sunday night on my own, in front of a good DVD after a surf or swim at the beach.

Building & Construction Industry Opportunities



Opportunities in the Building and Construction Industry continue throughout the east-kimberley region. Kimberley Group Training will look to place seven new apprentices with RI-con in Wyndham by the end of this month which is a great opportunity for a town receiving significant growth in housing and upgrades to the Wyndham work camp. A second round of general construction pre-employment training has been completed and from this program five participants will articulate to full-time apprenticeships in Plumbing and Carpentry and Joinery. KGT would like to congratulate those participants who have remained focused on their goals and will continue to provide close support throughout the indenture of their apprenticeships.

I would like to encourage locals who are interested in obtaining a trade that now is the time to step forward. There is a massive skill-shortage in all of the growth areas particularly in the building and construction and civil construction areas. KGT can support your transition into the work-force and want to make sure that employment and training opportunities are at the top of the agenda for local people.

FUN FACT

The most consistently we place in Australia is Waratah, (Tas) with an average of 314 rainy days per year.