

Apprentices/Trainees of the Month

Kununurra

Name: Naraen Benedict
Certificate II Aviation & Ground Operations

Host: Northern Airport Services



Naraen has been awarded Kununurra Trainee of the Month due to his dedication and commitment to the job.

Naraen commenced his traineeship in February 2011, during this time, he has proven himself to be reliable, hardworking and quickly gained the respect of his colleagues. He remains calm and works well under pressure and has taken on additional responsibilities in the workplace. From the team at KGT, we wish Naraen every success in the future.

Broome

Name: Jason George
Certificate III Engineering (Fabrication)

Host: Woodside
(seconded to: Boily's and Co)



Jason commenced his apprenticeship in January 2012 and in a few short months has proven himself to be an asset to his employer and is performing above and beyond expectations.

Jason has worked hard to take his life in a new direction and is now seeing the rewards. His supervisor, Darren Jasse, advised that Jason has been able to work with minimum supervision on certain aspects of his trade and demonstrates initiative.

Congratulations to Jason on a great start to his apprenticeship!



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Where are you now...Kelsie

Name: Kelsie Hunter
Qualification: Certificate II in Business
Host Employer: Aboriginal Family Law Services
Year Completed: August 2011

By: Kate Millen
Kimberley Career's Club Co-ordinator



Kimberley Careers Club met up with Miss Kelsie Hunter, the welcoming face you encounter when you enter the Aboriginal Family Law Services (AFLS), to talk about her career journey.

Kelsie moved to Kununurra from Wyndham to find work. After struggling to find an employer that would give her a chance, Kelsie approached Kimberley Group Training (KGT). KGT proved to be her answer and offered her more than just a chance; KGT offered her a Traineeship in Business. Kelsie found that her Field Officer, Lina Bleazby, guided her through the whole process of entering the workforce, applying for positions with host organizations and settling into studying.

The support offered to Kelsie went beyond the realms of just employment, during the early stages Lina was Kelsie's main support network in Kununurra. Moving away from home was the biggest challenge Kelsie faced and during her transitional period she very much valued the comfort and support that Lina provided her with. Looking back now, she is proud of herself for staying in Kununurra to finish her qualification; the satisfaction and overall

sense of pride in her completion has far outweighed the fear of branching out on her own.

Kelsie's biggest sense of achievement occurred when her host employer: Aboriginal Family Law Services offered her continuation of employment. Finishing her studies was one thing and to have her host employer offer her permanent full time employment was an additional thrill in its own. To Kelsie, it reinforced the level of commitment she had put into the traineeship and in her mind was another indicator of her achievement.

Since completing her traineeship, AFLS have continued to support her in undertaking further studies. Kelsie has started her Certificate IV in Business; and is so far really enjoying the course and has a keen passion for continuing her education.

Kelsie is eager to share her story, has encouraged siblings and other family members around her to undertake a traineeship. Kelsie is hopeful they will follow in her footsteps.

Welcome on Board

We are pleased to welcome our new Apprentices and Trainees:

Bianca Graham - Certificate II in Business
Commonwealth Bank

Jack Lee - Certificate II in Construction
Eco Efficient Homes

Branden Webb - Certificate III in Automotive Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
JSW Holdings

Jack Lodge - Certificate II in Aviation & Ground Operations
Northern Airport Services

Brenda Fletcher - Certificate II in Business
Argyle Diamond Mine

Jacob Price - Certificate II in Construction
Brock Solid Cabinets

Carl Ochea - Certificate II in Automotive (Mechanical-Vehicle Servicing)
Argyle Motors

Jaithan Peris - Certificate III in Refrigeration & Air-conditioning
Argyle Diamond Mine

Damien Crispin - Certificate II in Transport and Logistics
Woodside

Krystal Cummings - Certificate II in Mechanical-Vehicle Servicing
All Gear Motor Cycles & Small Engines

David Cox - Certificate II in Transport and Logistics
Toll Mermaid Logistics Broome

Mervyn Pindan - Certificate II in Conservation & Land Management
Kimberley Land Council

Derek Rivers - Certificate III in Engineering Mechanical Trade
Argyle Diamond Mine

Saitta Foley - Certificate II in Conservation & Land Management
Department of Environment and Conservation

Dwight Bond Trust - Certificate II in Construction
Eco Efficient Homes

Terry Mosquito - Certificate II in Resource Processing
Argyle Diamond Mine

Francesca Hunter - Certificate II in Community Services
Ngnowar Aerwah Rehabilitation

Tessa Stevens - Certificate II in Hospitality
All Seasons Kununurra

Ivan Wilson - Certificate II in Construction
Dans Property Maintenance

Zak Stanley - Certificate II Construction
KMS Kununurra Maintenance Service



Congratulations!!!!

**Michael Fremlim on your completion of Certificate III in General Plumbing & Gas Fitting
Host: Savannah Plumbing**



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Monthly Matters:

- KGT Bulletin
- Apprentices/Trainees of the Month
- Celebrating Milestones
- Welcome on Board

Featured Articles:

- Where are you now...Kelsie Hunter
- Broome Payroll Over Easter
- What Wet Season???
- MBA Apprentice of the Year Nominee: Chris Leatham

What's on my mind



John Gummy
CEO

As the CEO, it was quite a welcoming discovery to see our direction over the next few years seeming quite aligned to that of the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee. They have identified skills development, economic development, closing the gap in the disparity between Indigenous and non Indigenous people represented in the Kimberley workforce and housing as key priority areas to achieving and delivering its goals. The strategic direction of KGT is a mirror image to the point where KGT has purchased a block of land to develop its own Skills Centre that will "capture and create an environment of opportunity" that meets all the key objectives of the RDA Kimberley Plan.

The proposed Skills Centre's primary aim is:

(a) To close the gap in employment for young people, particularly the disparity between Indigenous and Non Indigenous people represented in the workforce.

(b) To encourage young people, unemployed people and people

with disabilities to aspire to a career by fostering relationships.

(c) To connect with disengaged youth, the unemployed and people with disabilities and to encourage and support them in an environment that understands and supports their needs.

The focus on the Skills Centre will be in developing "quality work ready participants" who are able to fully participate in the future economic, and social development within the Kimberley region. Programs delivered by the skills centre will include pre employment training that focuses on building a work ethic through advocating health and wellbeing, drug and alcohol awareness, personal presentation, time management, money management, and numeracy and literacy support.

KGT has received overwhelming support for the Skills Centre Concept, and like all major projects the Skills Centre will be subject to funding from the Federal and/or State Government. KGT are confident the Skills Centre will be a community resource sooner, rather than later!

Counsellor's Corner: Choices and Decisions



Mark Sweeney
Knx Psychologist

Every day we have choices. How our day turns out will depend on those choices. If you start the day with a wholesome meal, for example cereal, fruit and juice, then you will have much brighter prospects than if we chose a six pack of beer and half a dozen smokes. The preceding statement is not really meant to be funny; some people really don't give themselves much of a chance to have a good day, or a good life for that matter. They make unhealthy choices and unwise decisions and the outcomes are often negative.

We have all had negative experiences and we can all recall being treated unfairly by others, but the reality is that no one chases after

you with a carton of beer and a packet of smokes and forces you to consume them.

You make your own decisions, and only you are responsible for the consequences of them. It can make people feel very uncomfortable when they have to accept responsibility for many of the negative consequences they experience, but the truth is: a better life begins the moment you take responsibility for your choices and actions. We all need to stop blaming others and start looking more closely at our choices.



From the Field: MBA Apprentice of the Year Nominee: Mr Chris Leetham



Craig Hicks
Field Officer

When Chris Leetham walked into Kimberley Group Training three years ago, he had nothing but a back pack. He was traveling (lightly) around Australia with no real direction, purpose or motivation. He felt he needed to have something to show for himself so he embarked on a Carpentry and Joinery Apprenticeship.

Chris chose this trade as he felt he knew enough about it to get by, but after completing a Certificate I in Building and Construction initially, he quickly realised this was far from the truth.

From Chris' first day on site, to everyday since, his dedication and

commitment to his host employer **Top End Construction**, his skill development and his future has been observed and praised. His first paycheck going towards a pushbike to get him to and from work and his latest going into his first home loan. Chris has proven how an apprenticeship can take you anywhere you want to go if you have the passion and perseverance to get there.

Chris' natural tradesman skills were evident right from his commencement. His TAFE lecturers often praising him on his technical abilities and speed in which he adapted the new skills he learnt to his every day tasks. When attending his TAFE blocks, Chris is liked and looked up to by his peers; and is always an asset to every class.

From the Field cont.

Chris is fast tracking his apprenticeship and has successfully completed the 2nd and 3rd year TAFE components within a calendar year and is proud of how far he has come.

Chris' supervisors have always praised Chris for his reliability and ability to make sound judgments in any work environment. Chris has risen to any challenges presented to him and has been called upon at times for input into architectural points of view and is always assisting with day to day organisation of work plans and arranging other services on a building site as required.

Chris' solid work ethic as a perfectionist is a testament to the quality of structures he completes. His supervisors and co-workers have no hesitation in his future in the construction industry and welcomes the time when his qualification matches his current abilities – a tradesman. Chris is the perfect combination of technical ability, dedication, maturity and personality to make him a worthy nominee for the MBA Apprentice of the Year Award.



MBA Apprentice of the Year Nominee: Chris Leetham

What wet Season... By: Kate Millen

As the East Kimberley continues to be baffled by the unusual climate, eagerly watching the radar, and longing for any reprieve from the prolonged 'build up' we're experiencing, it is an opportune time to remind everyone about the effects of working in such extreme conditions - especially those who work outdoors.

The human body is composed of two thirds water and we simply could not survive without it. It is essential for nearly all bodily functions ranging from digestion, metabolism, waste removal and muscle contraction. In order for your body to perform and function at its best, it is important that lost water is replenished. If you don't drink sufficient amounts of water (especially in this climate) your body will start to let you down.

The human body has an amazing way of letting us know when we are not looking after ourselves properly. Especially after a big night, if we fail to hydrate ourselves sufficiently, our body will let us know; heat-induced illnesses (commonly known as hyperthermia) will affect the body in three stages:

Stage 1: Muscle Cramping occurs as more of a warning sign that the fluid levels in the body are becoming dangerously low. The body reacts to the onset of dehydration by contracting the muscle area that is the most affected (or active); quite commonly the calve muscles. Your body will force you to stop the activity and you will feel immense pain in the affected area. The only things you can do are stretch the muscle out and wait for the pain to subside.

Stage 2: Heat Exhaustion is typically caused when people who are not well adjusted to heat exercise or work in a hot, humid environment. As the body's temperature rises (above 38 but not greater than 40 degrees Celsius), it cools itself largely through evaporation of sweat losing a combination of fluids and salts (electrolytes). Quite often the individual enters an altered state of consciousness; generally feeling faint or dizzy/

nauseous. When this occurs it is best to try and cool the body down as quickly as possible ie move into a cool area or shade, offer sips of water (don't allow the individual to skull copious amounts of water as they will most likely vomit) and use a cool wet towel to drape over the individuals shoulders or apply ice packs to the persons armpits.

Stage 3: Heat Stroke is a life-threatening medical condition. Heat stroke is presented with similar signs and symptoms as heat exhaustion however the key difference being, the individual is no longer sweating. The persons cooling system which is controlled by the brain, stops working and the internal body temperature rises to the point at which brain damage or damage to other internal organs may result (ie greater the 40.5 degrees Celsius). Follow the same treatment for heat exhaustion but ensure that further medical aid has been arranged.

Prevention to any of the above stages of dehydration is the key to survival in the Kimberley region and its up to you to make sure you drink plenty of water to avoid any onset of heat related illnesses. Make sure you grab a water bottle today!

