

Harrison Skinner - HOST EMPLOYER: Kimberley Land Council

Qualification: Certificate II in Agriculture



Indigenous Land Corporation traineeships on Myroodah Station have been progressing well since the start of the program in May this year. There are many talented trainee stockmen but one that stands out is Harrison Skinner. Harrison has found his passion in life and loves being out on country working with his mates. He is a man of many talents including; a very accomplished singer-song writer and musician and has entertained me on many occasions while doing site visits on Myroodah Station. Harrison has indicated that he wants to make a career of working on the land and wants to further his studies to eventually become Head Stockman.

Keep up the great work Harrison!

*By Kevin Smith
Field officer*

Jolene Brandy - HOST EMPLOYER: Waringarri Radio

Qualification: Certificate III in Business



Jolene Brandy is a local who was born and bred in Kununurra. Jolene commenced her traineeship with Kimberley Group Training at Waringarri Radio in December 2013. She is undertaking her Certificate III in Business and aspires to complete her Certificate IV and eventually her Diploma. Jolene is a vital part of the Waringarri team and Bukola the Programs Manager cannot speak highly enough of her and her work ethic. Jolene is going full steam ahead in her traineeship and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for her! Well done Jolene!

*By Landi Bradshaw
Field officer*



Issue 54- September 2014

Kimberley Group Training becomes a Vocational Training and Employment Centre

KGT has been appointed the VTEC provider for the Kimberley in partnership with Group Training Australia. Following is information on the VTEC model and how it benefits employers and participants across the region.

What is VTEC?

VTEC stands for Vocational Training and Employment Centre and is a model piloted by Generation One. The Australian Government has adopted the model and is now funding it through the Indigenous Employment Programs.

The basis of VTEC is that an employer guarantees employment for an indigenous person that meets certain entry requirements. The VTEC provider identifies suitable candidates to fill the position and then helps prepare the candidate to meet the entry requirements.

How does VTEC assist Employers?

VTEC assists employers through the provision of pre-employment programs to prepare potential candidates for entry into the workplace, as well as providing up to six months of post placement support.

How does VTEC assist Participants?

VTEC assists participants by preparing them for the workplace and supporting participants through the early stages of employment. Participants entering programs with VTEC are guaranteed work placements if they complete their pre-employment training.

Is funding available through VTEC?

VTEC funding can be utilised through all steps of the pre- and post-employment placement to help prepare candidates and assist employers in taking on new recruits. However, eligibility only occurs after 6 months of employment is achieved, so funding is in arrears for successful outcomes. VTEC does not conflict with Indigenous Wage Subsidies or existing funding from Job Service Providers and Remote Jobs and Communities Providers, so these funds can still be accessed to support the same placements.

Who can access VTEC?

Any employer seeking to recruit indigenous employees or any indigenous person seeking employment can access VTEC. Unlike other KGT programs, you do not need to be employed through KGT and you do not need to be undertaking a traineeship or apprenticeship to access VTEC.

How do I access VTEC?

To find out more about VTEC, please contact your local KGT office on 9168 3808 (Kununurra) or 9192 8877 (Broome) and speak with one of our VTEC consultants. *By Ian Warrener, Operations Manager*

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From the CEO

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Trainee Profiles



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Kununurra Ph: 08 9168 3808
Reception@kgt.org.au

Broome Ph: 08 9192 8877
Broomerecep2@kgt.org.au



From the CEO

Kimberley Group Training is entering an exciting phase since it was founded in 1997. By the time this newsletter is released, KGT will be operating out of its new premises at 5 Kentia Way Kununurra. The Skills Centre has been specifically designed to incorporate a culturally appropriate, dynamic space to encourage and promote engagement and learning. The centre will be a welcoming, comfortable environment for participants who find it difficult to gain employment. The Skills Centre will be working closely with other agencies/providers to ensure participants receive the training that provides them with a job or a career pathway. I must thank the business community of the East Kimberley for their overwhelming support of the Skills Centre and I look forward to the first intake of participants and seeing them enter the workforce. This project was a major undertaking by KGT and would not have come to fruition without the support and encouragement we received from the business community. It is important to KGT that the centre is seen as a community initiative.

KGT has been appointed the Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC) provider for the Kimberley region in partnership with Group Training Australia. The primary goal of a VTEC is to encourage employers to make a commitment to employ Indigenous Australians. There is a full brief in this newsletter. I would encourage employers to seriously consider getting on board with the project and demonstrate their commitment in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people employed in the Australian workforce. On the political scene, it is still one of confusion and uncertainty. The long awaited Forrest review has been released for the Kimberley region and from my point of view, it is another report that tells us what we already know. Action taken from the report is what really matters and what resources are put on the ground to drive the change will be critical.

Congratulations to apprentice Zachary Davies on being awarded Polytechnic West's most deserving student in the first year of his apprenticeship training. Zachary's Host Employer is M Kelly Air-conditioning. Well done to all.

To all our apprentices and trainees I encourage you to keep up your good work. The opportunities, once you are qualified are endless. To our valued Host Employers I thank you for your commitment to the youth of the Kimberley and KGT.

Congratulations on



OCHRE MARTIN

HOST: ARGYLE DIAMOND MINE
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE II
IN WAREHOUSING OPERATIONS



YONA MACKAY

HOST: WOODSIDE
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE IV IN
BUSINESS



GLORIA KETCHELL

HOST: KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE III
IN BUSINESS



ASHLEY CON-GOO

HOST: NORTHERN AIRPORT SERVICES
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE II IN
AVIATION (GROUND OPERATIONS)



KERRISSA HAYDEN

HOST: NORTHERN AIRPORT SERVICES
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE II IN
AVIATION (GROUND OPERATIONS)

Skills Centre update!



Construction of the KGT Skills Centre is now completed and KGT staff have moved into the new building and are in the process of settling in. This represents a new phase in KGT's history since its inception.

As part of the Skills Centre activities, entry-level training will be provided to participants in the following industries: mechanical, building and construction and metal fabrication.

Any tools and/or materials that you could donate would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact KGT: (08) 9168 3808.

KGT staff members undertake Q-Test training



From left to right: Mary Zbierski-west and Caroline Constant

Recently, KGT staff members Mary Zbierski-West and Caroline Constant participated in a Q-Test Assessor Training course. The Q-Test is an assessment tool used to identify the training potential, or 'trainability', of those who may face barriers to training and employment opportunities due to cultural, language, or educational challenges. It is distinct from traditional assessments because it does not involve a paper and pencil 'test' environment and requires no verbal behaviour (written or spoken) from assessor or candidate.

Over the years, KGT has been successful in using the Q-Test to fairly assess applicants for traineeships and apprenticeships and help them identify possible career pathways. Following completion of Q-Test training, it is expected Mary will be conducting Q-tests in the west Kimberley and Caroline in the east Kimberley.

Don't forget it: Timesheet due date reminders



Did you know that in addition to your pay period calendar, you can also receive mobile text messages to remind you of your timesheet due date? This can jog your memory and give you the chance to organise the timely submission of your timesheet.

If you would like to receive reminders on your mobile phone prior to your timesheet due date, please speak to your Field Officer or contact us on 9168 3808 (Kununurra) or 9192 8877 (Broome).

From the Field



The life of a KGT field officer is always interesting and certainly never boring, since joining the organisation I have enjoyed the variety and challenges that the role offers. One aspect that I find particularly rewarding is seeing the trainee's progress and mature into confident young adults in their chosen field. I have found that I can indulge my love of photography and combine this in my work and it's a fantastic opportunity to showcase some of the work that is being done every day that people would never get to see. They say a picture paints a thousand words and looking at some of the images I have taken of the Myroodah stockmen from day one you can see how far they have come from fresh faced young boys to seasoned stockmen in just one year. I hope to be able to use my travels and love for photography to further promote the fantastic work that we are doing and to incorporate this in to further promotions for the industry.



By Kevin Smith
Field Officer

The Inside scoop at Argyle Diamond Mine

Earlier this year over 25 people attended an assessment workshop at the Argyle Diamond Mine (ADM). The workshops were held to select successful participants for apprenticeships and traineeships. During the 4-day workshop participants were assessed on literacy and numeracy, communication skills, working with others in a team, and safety. They also toured the diamond mine and heard from guest speakers including current and former apprentices.

Candidates participated in a 5 week pre-employment program in partnership with Kimberley Group Training (KGT), ADM and Kimberley Training Institute (KTI). During the program, participants learnt more about safety in the workplace, how to use different power and hand tools, computer operations and communication skills. One of the projects involved building 2 wooden benches for the newly built Kimberley Group Training Skills Centre.

Participants who successfully completed the pre-employment program have commenced Apprenticeships and Traineeships at ADM including Electrical, Resource Processing, Plumbing, Business Administration and Automotive.

At a small awards ceremony held on Wednesday 27th August, the students were presented with certificates of completion and afternoon tea.



Argyle Diamond Mine 2014 pre-employment participants

By Natasha Cross
Field Officer

KGT Trainee shines at Awards Ceremony !!



At the WA Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Awards ceremony held in Perth on Friday 15th August, Zachary Davies was the recipient of the 'Most deserving student in the 1st year of apprentice training' Award. The annual Awards were held by Registered Training Organisation: Polytechnic West.

KGT's CEO; John Gummery attended the Awards ceremony in Perth and said that he was "proud to see another KGT apprentice excelling in their chosen industry and was thankful for the support being provided to Zachary by his Host Employer; M Kelly Air Conditioning". Congratulations on this achievement Zachary!

Welcome on Board!

Kimberley Group Training would like to welcome new staff members; Spencer Lim Joon (Field Officer), Courtney Garnham (VTEC Coordinator for the West Kimberley) and Kelli Hammermeister (Administration Manager).



Courtney Garnham
VTEC Employment Coordinator



Spencer Lim Joon
Field Officer



Kelli Hammermeister
Administration Manager

SUCCESS FOR SAM



Samuel Stream has been involved with the SEE program (Skills for Education and Employment) at Kimberley Group Training for six months and has already had success writing his own stories.

It has also recently been announced that Sam has been successful in the 2014 Indigenous Creators Scholarship offered by Magabala Books, a Broome-based indigenous publishing company.

Sam applied for the scholarship after creating a series of small books which combine two of his great passions: painting and drawing, together with station life at Mount Edgar outside of Marble Bar, where he is originally from.

Sam is an enthusiastic storyteller and it has been a natural combination to bring together his artistic talent and unique insights into outback living.

Where are you now?

Jack Lodge completed a Certificate II in Aviation (Ground Operations & Service) Traineeship between February 2012 and March 2013.

Throughout 2010 he had previously worked at the airport casually in his school holidays.

After Jack completed his Traineeship he travelled overseas, and upon his return he began to work full-time with Northern Airport Services.

Jack feels that his traineeship gave him the skills to understand the working environment as well as lead him onto a pathway to gain a full time position.

Jack's favourite part of the job is working around the jets and being accompanied by his work mates.



completing your Apprenticeship/Traineeship



JOSEPH YOUNG

HOST: TOP END BUILDING
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE III IN CARPENTRY AND JOINERY



SAMANTHA TATE

HOST: KIMBERLEY TRAINING INSTITUTE
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE III IN BUSINESS



DALE MARSHALL

HOST: KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE III IN BUSINESS



BRENDON TRUST

HOST: COOPER AND OXLEY
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE III IN CARPENTRY AND JOINERY



REUBEN BIRCH

HOST: ARGYLE DIAMOND MINE
QUALIFICATION: CERTIFICATE III IN ENGINEERING MECHANICAL TRADE



Congratulations on reaching a milestone!

TRAINEES who have completed the first 6 months of their traineeships



Jason Woodman



Jason Reid

KGT STAFF 1 year anniversary



Mary Zbierski-West

Well done to all!

Trade support Loans



As many of you may have already heard, the Federal Government has discontinued the Tools for Your Trade funding initiative from 1 July 2014. This has affected all Australian Apprentices who were previously eligible to receive Tools for Your Trade (TFYT) payments. In place of the Tools for your Trade initiative, the Federal Government has introduced the Trade Support Loans Program. The program enables eligible Apprentices to apply for a loan of up to \$20,000 over the life of their Apprenticeship.

To find out more about the Trades Support Loans Program contact your KGT Field Officer.