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# MERRY Christmas



Season Greetings from all of us at National Joblink and best wishes for a happy and safe 2019.

## **XMAS SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS**

CAIRNS - QLD



This month, a group of youth aged 17 to 24 who have been attending a National Joblink Employability Skills Training activity turned their focus to supporting the homeless through the difficult weeks ahead. Unfortunately, Cairns sees a near 30 per cent increase in the homeless rate during the Christmas period. The group spent time going around the city area

to seek out support from local businesses, as well as the Cairns local community and engaged with the Homeless Hub Anglicare and organised a Charity Donation drive centralised within the CBD in only three weeks.

The participants initiated, planned and executed the project with little help and guidance. They all displayed caring, admirable qualities. Through this group's inspiring actions, the Homeless Hub received their largest donation in over 10 years which consisted of quantities of food, much-needed clothing, shoes, personal hygiene products and even small gifts for the holiday season.

## **IT SKILLS FOR SEASONAL WORKERS**

GOOLWA - SA

NJL was successful in winning a tender with Cardno to deliver basic computer training to 4 migrant workers under LMAP seasonal workers panel. This training was delivered over two consecutive Saturdays in Goolwa SA. The workers were all from Vanuatu with varying levels of computer literacy and were keen to develop their computer skills to increase their abilities in the workplace. Through an activity, using the computers, we learned about their lives, culture and families



back in Vanuatu. The workers were very thankful for the opportunity to increase their skills and are looking forward to any other future study opportunities.

## NJL BLOODLINE GROUP

ROCKHAMPTON



Recently our group of Employability Skills Training participants, decided that they could best contribute by donating blood to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. This project is participant designed, led and evaluated with the group developing their employability skills through the design and promotion of advertising materials, distributing them to their Jobactives and other businesses, to encourage more people to donate. The team undertook the Eligibility assessments and contacted the organisation to enquire about donating as a group and then registered the NJL Bloodline group online.



On the day - the Blood bank staff provided the NJL Bloodline Group with additional information, one being that sadly only 3% of the population are regular donors. They asked the group to please spread the word for donations as much as possible. The group asked NJL if this could be a continuing effort for future EST participants to donate under the NJL Bloodline Group. Knowing they have helped save lives made the group feel very proud. Since then the NJL Burnie site in Tassie have started their NJL Bloodline Group!

## BE THE CHANGE – EST PROJECT

CAIRNS - QLD

A group of five EST Block 1 participants recently kicked up a dust storm in Innisfail and created a vegetable garden to supply vegetables and herbs to the local Community Pantry project. This project was definitely a challenging one due to the diversity of the group. The participants did not want this to be a one-off project – they wanted to start a change with a mission to create a legacy that could benefit the community of Innisfail. Participants learnt a host of new skills in managing work - life balance, rights, roles and responsibilities and making decisions as a team. The group were supported by the Garden Manager at the Innisfail Community Garden and attained a 5-metre by 3-metre garden area to develop a sustainable garden.



As a result, the team created the 'Be the Change Community Garden Group' Facebook page, which helped them stay connected and on target. The garden bed was donated, and they will have access to produce vegetables for 12 months.



Bunnings in Innisfail came to the rescue and provided plants and resources. The garden bed now has 10 varieties of edible food, with plans to grow more and deliver the goods to the Pantry in an identified *Be the Change* box. The team formed friendships and networked with major community leaders, in their quest

## I.T TRAINING FOR MILLINGIMBI

DARWIN

NJL delivered a 4-week IT Program for ALPA (Arnhem Land Progress Assoc) – Community Development Program (CDP) with an accredited IT unit and Foundation Skills. The training was conducted in Millingimbi, NT.

Participants set up the training room in a simulated office environment. The group enjoyed the training so much they asked if we could add more Foundation Skill units to the Training which we did. The course was particularly well attended, with participants looking forward to further courses run by NJL and eager to practice their new IT skills they have learnt "in the real world".



## GOOD NEWS PARTICIPANT STORIES!

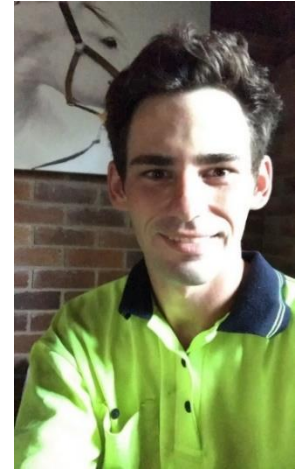
### BRADLEY

#### BERSERKER – QLD

Bradley agreed to participate in the Mentored cold canvassing activity as he was considering relocation as his option to find work. Bradley arrived early for his appointment and was taken out in the industrial area of town.

After a series of Employers on the day advised they were not hiring, Bradley was taken to CQ Ice where he gained an immediate interview, even though he believed he answered every question wrong, he got an offer to start work at 7:30am the following day!

Bradley has been enjoying the work over the last few weeks and is looking at getting his forklift Licence to further secure his employment there.



### TYSON

#### DEVONPORT - TAS

Tyson came to NJL in September of 2017. Tyson had been referred to TTW through DHS and it was the first time he had been with an employment provider and had little to no knowledge of how Centrelink or the whole job active world worked. It took Tyson and his consultant a few months to formulate a clear plan of what Tyson needed and wanted to do during his 12 months within the TTW contract and Tyson started to see TTW was working with him not against him. Tyson was involved in a group activity that was centred around internships. Tyson was extremely keen to give an internship a go in a hands-on labouring sort of position and from that day on his attitude towards finding employment changed.

With our relationship with Costa Berries growing stronger we have started placing internships onto their farms and we decided that Tyson would be an ideal candidate for an internship with Costa on one of their Devonport farms. Costa takes the placement of interns very seriously and after interviewing Tyson for 30 minutes by a panel of 3 people, they contacted NJL and agreed to do a 6-week internship with Tyson.

All feedback NJL received weekly from Costa was positive and in his last week of his internship Tyson was offered casual employment on Costa's maintenance crew which he took eagerly. After consultation Costa signed the Youth Bonus Wage Subsidy Agreement and it has been a success. We are now moving to the 6-month mark of Tyson's wage subsidy contract. More important Tyson's employment has gone from casual to full time 38 hours a week and he is being trained for the upcoming harvest season as a leading hand on a maintenance crew.

### SANADEE

#### BERSERKER - QLD

Sanadee attended her initial TTW appointment a little shy and advised that she was focused on building her skills and abilities by gaining employment. She jumped at the chance to go cold canvassing with a Mentor and she arrived the following Monday morning at 8:45am in her best interview attire to hand out 10 of her newly created resumes.

Stopping in at the first Coffee shop we saw, resulted in Sanadee getting interviewed on the spot and starting work at the Bella Via Café the very next day!

Sanadee is now working 5 days a week, makes great coffees and is looking forward to starting a Cert III in Communities with Indigenous Youth Mobility Pathways (IYMP) in January 2019!



## MEET OUR TEAM!



**John Braslin**  
Burnie, TAS

Hi I'm John. In my previous career I worked at Caterpillar Underground Mining for 15 years as Logistics Supervisor and WHS Coordinator.

I started working with NJL in 2013 as a Youth Connections Mentor and the Work for A Week Coordinator. And I am now the North West Tasmania Manager.

My wife Jodi and I have 2 children Luke 20 and Kiara 18 and 3 dogs, Moby, Piper and Alfie. In my spare time I enjoy fishing and playing Tennis - mostly the social aspect after the tennis has finished for the day. Currently I'm building a new home in Port Sorell as an owner builder and finding it very challenging to say the least but getting there.

**Debbie Heinemann**  
Rockhampton, QLD



Hi, my name is Debbie and I'm a Youth Mentor TTW/ EST Trainer as well as currently working in the Parents Next Program, which I love.

I have been with National Joblink since the Rockhampton office opened in April 2016 and every day brings so much joy engaging with participants. My background is training though I was out of the workforce for a while due to a serious accident my husband sustained. I have a Bachelor of Vocational Education and Training, I am trade qualified as a chef and I have completed a Diploma of Child Youth and Family Intervention. I had the pleasure recently to go to Toronto Canada on a Study tour to learn about communities and how they operate.

Outside of NJL, I love art. I call myself a professional artist with primary mediums being oil and or acrylic. This love of art is helping and assisting my Parents Next participants to engage in rock art and decoration pots with napkins.

**Jacinta Tam**  
Cairns, QLD



My name is Jacinta, and I am a Youth Mentor/ EST Trainer. I have been employed with NJL for 11 months now and every day I am grateful that I get to help youth find their way! Over the years I have worked in human resources, private recruitment, trained, Cert IV in Mental Health and business development. Most recently, I worked for the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network for 5 years assisting with the sign-up traineeships and apprenticeships.

My passion has always been about empowering others to see their own potential and going for it. I am very close to my family. They drive me to be better, to work for it and to trust my instincts that 'I am worth it', I also train with that belief for my participants and the outcome is life changing for many. Therefore, I love what I do!