

CULTURE CONNECT Cairns

So, the adventure begins... CULTURE CONNECT Cairns kicks off. Culture Connect is a community work skills project funded by Skilling Queenslanders for Work and is proudly led by National Joblink. Community work skills offer tailored assistance to Queenslanders to gain nationally recognised skills and vocational qualifications up to a certificate III level. With excitement in the air, Cairns CULTURE CONNECT students and NJL staff commenced with a meet and greet at NJL's busy city restaurant, Wild Thyme. Each of the students came with an amazing life journey and a love of food, culture, and laughter. This team shared a connection instantly, sharing ideas and stories. Our CULTURE CONNECT crew will be actively taking part in supporting charity organisations through, FoCo Kitchen (Feeding our Community ourselves Kitchen); creating 'Food with Friends Multi-Cultural Evenings'. Here they launched their legacy charity recipe book as well as plan and prepare authentic meals that infuse their cultural flavours. All of this while completing a Certificate II in Hospitality and much more! Our aim is to give a hands-on approach to training that builds skills, knowledge, confidence, and changes lives in our community with support and through exploring employment opportunities. For further information about CULTURE CONNECT, round and how you can enroll or contribute to the program, please contact Jacinta Tam on 0459 136 356 or via email at jacinta.tam@njl.org.au.

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NJL's Jobs Fair - Darwin

On the 13th of May 2021, National Joblink Darwin engaged in a job fair at our Casuarina office, specifically aimed at our hospitality and tourism sector. NJL promoted this event on Facebook to the Jobs in Darwin NT page which has 56,000 members and we received messages from businesses wanting to join in on the event. NJL engaged 20 businesses who agreed to attend the Jobs Fair, these businesses took job applications from Job Seekers, did on the spot interviews, and provided information about current, future, and potential positions as we enter the dry season. NJL had over 100 people walk through the office including NJL's program participants who are currently engaged in Career Transition Assistance (CTA), ParentsNext (PN) and Employability Skills Training (EST) along with other jobseekers linked with local Job Actives. NJL supplied a digital room to complete live resume updates, application letters and jobseekers were able to have these printed and apply for job positions whilst at the jobs Fair. Group Training Northern Territory (GTNT) signed up 15 applicants to apprenticeships in the office on the day. NJL was congratulated by the attending businesses for facilitating the Jobs Fairs and our ongoing passion to linking local people to local opportunities. It was an incredible turn out, the feedback presented so far from vendors is job trials have been occurring and employment opportunities have been filled. We had the support of businesses including McDonalds, Mercure airport hotel, Double Tree Hilton, Hilton, The Precinct, Apollo, Blue Taxi's, Air North, Silks, Darwin Turf Club, Cyclone Cleaners, Corestaff, Saltbush, Bella Pasta, Ventia, GTNT, Wharf One, Buslink and Darwin Convention Centre. NJL have no doubt that we will continue to receive further success stories of our own job seekers who have gained employment.



Tasmanian Job Ready Fund

As a new Job Ready Fund was beginning to be introduced, NJL was approached by the Tasmanian Minister of Skills, Training and Workforce Growth Sarah Courtney. MP Sarah requested that a member of NJL and a current Transition to Work (TTW) participant be involved in the media release for the Job Ready Fund. This fund means that eligible Tasmanian jobseekers will be given up to \$500 to help them buy any essentials they need to start work, such as accreditations, protective clothing, or tools.

Within this valuable experience, NJL and the participant were able to have wonderful discussions with Minister Sarah Courtney about the importance of all jobseekers having equal opportunities to gain successful employment. Everyone involved was interviewed by Channel 7 news and posed for Media Material to be published within local newspapers. The image pictured is of a TTW participant, an NJL staff member, Minister Sarah Courtney, and Owner of Hudson's Civil Production Michael Hudson. This was posted on Tasmania's Premier, Peter Gutwein's Facebook.



YNOT Transport Forum - Tasmania

Transition to work (TTW) attended the YNOT (Youth Network of Tasmania) Youth Forum with participants acting as both facilitators and participants. 'Transport in Tasmania' was the topic and participants were encouraged to work together in coming up with what was working, what needed change and what needed to be created. One of the topics given to be discussed was inclusivity of the use of public transport for everyone. Suggestions included increasing frequency of buses, widening the scope of bus routes, making transport free for some and the possibility of a silent bus for people with different capacities or disabilities. Increasing the safety of bus areas with better lighting and working cameras was noted as a extreme point of importance with many of the participants. Table groups then presented their ideas on the given discussion points and communicated their desire for the need to feel safer when travelling on public transport. Driver mentor programs were also discussed with the possibility of cheaper driving lessons and access to more free lessons. In attendance to hear these ideas were local politicians. This Forum was an wonderful experience for the attending TTW participants as they were able to have a voice on issues that impact them within their community. The participants left the forum with newfound confidence within group environments and discussions and are eager to be a part of the positive change that the youth of Tasmanian are making.



 
youth network of Tasmania Tasmanian youth forum

Youth Homelessness Matters Day - Darwin

National Youth Homelessness Matters Day was held on the 21st of April in Darwin this year and was hosted by Anglicare NT and City of Darwin Council. Couch surfing races celebrated the resilience of young people affected by homelessness. NJL's Employability Skills Training (EST) group partook in the couch surfing event as their Enterprise Learning Project. The team sourced a free couch, donated from a local business that they could decorate. The EST participants eagerly got together to create a flyer to give to local businesses asking for donations of paint and anything creative to decorate the couch. The participants received a whole bucket of mixed paint, paint brushes and glitter to decorate. The group named themselves



the 'Spiky Cheeseburga's and thought to decorate the couch as one large cheeseburger. Through their networking, a local lady found out about the cause that the participants were engaging in and printed special cheeseburger shirts for the team to wear on race day. The cheeseburger on the t-shirts was designed by one of the participants and still to this day wears the shirt with pride. Although the Spiky Cheeseburga's did not win the race, they showed determination, perseverance, and overall great teamwork engaging with the community.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

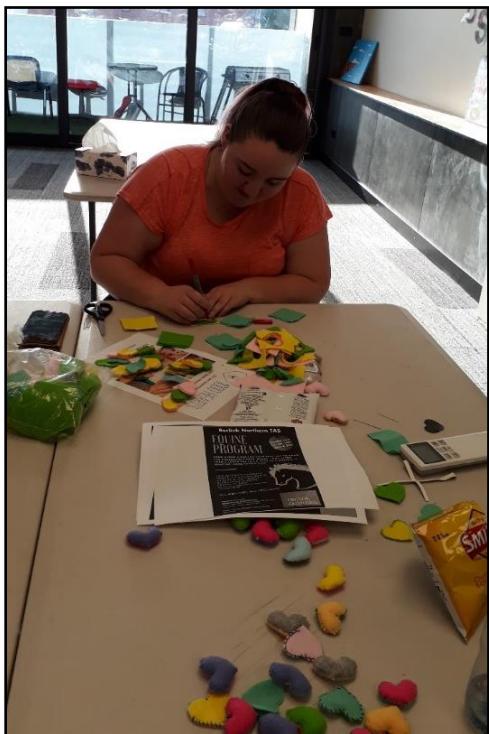
Larissa – Berserker, QLD

Larissa initially connected with our TTW program in 2018 where she was supported in obtaining employment in a local retail store and continued to work there for over 2 years. Larissa had gained valuable skills in this employment but after 2 years working in retail, she wanted to take the next step in her career path and returned to the TTW program in 2021. Larissa worked with her NJL mentor to determine she was now ready to take up study to and follow her dream of working in childcare. Her NJL Mentor assisted Larissa with updating her resume, cover letters and quality applications tailored to this industry. When the opportunity for a traineeship program became available at a local Childcare Centre, Larissa and her Mentor were ready and quick to apply resulting in Larissa being successful in obtaining that traineeship in Child Care and achieving another goal with the support of National Joblink.



The '1000 Hearts' Project – Launceston, TAS

Transition to Work (TTW) participants took part in the 1000 hearts project which is a kindness project evolved in Tasmania offering a symbol of compassion and care through handmade pocket hearts. Participants were taught and supported in how to cut out material using a template, sew, decorate, and package the hearts. The group had discussions about what community organisation they would like to donate them to, and they decided 'JCP Empowering Youth' would benefit from receiving a pack of them. TTW Participants met up with Will Smith from JCP and he spoke about the work they do with kids promoting leadership, promotion, and self-belief. TTW participants donated the hearts to Will, and he said these would be used in conjunction with letters that unknown youths write to other youths to promote kindness. This activity promoted self-confidence and social skills for participants and has encouraged them to think about their next community engagement project.



MEET THE TEAM

Lohnet Kahukuranui – Trainer/Mentor - Berserker, QLD

Kia Ora! My name is Lohnet (pronounced Lon-ay) and I have worked with NJL in Rockhampton since July 2020. I have drawn from my experience from Community Service, Employment Service and Administration industries in both New Zealand and Australia to do all the cool things that are part of my job as an Employability Skills Trainer and Mentor. I am an avid learner and love to wrap my head around new ideas so I can use this newfound knowledge to help others. I have already learnt so much in the time that I have been with NJL. I have enjoyed all the different opportunities that have come my way including Transition to Work (TTW) mentoring and the Risk Assessment training that I am excited (see the definition for "nervous" in the dictionary) to roll out shortly. Outside of work, you may find me butchering a Beyonce song on the guitar, waking up at crazy o'clock to watch a sunset or chauffeuring my kids to the gazillion events that make up their social lives. And of course, being a kiwi means I am a mad All Blacks fan so for any Rugby Union fans that enjoy a good banter, you know where to find me.



Evangeline Linter – Employability Skills Trainer - Devonport, TAS

Hi, my name is Evie, and I have worked for National Joblink since August 2019. I have watched us grow over the last two years, in staff and new contracts. I have loved working in all contracts, there are so many benefits and good news stories, and NJL are the ones making this possible. My previous roles were varied, including administration, volunteer work, working with Helicopters and a brief stint in mining. I also lived in Germany and worked as an Au Pair, caring for a little girl. It was an amazing experience travelling Europe whenever I wanted and I was also working for Costa Berries here in Devonport prior to commencing at NJL, and this is the reason I began working for NJL. I have since made my home in Devonport, my partner and I purchasing our first home, a small change from where I grew up around Launceston and living in Europe. I have a great passion for food, my friends, family, animals, and plants. If you ever want cute pictures of our two adorable Ragdoll cats let me know.

Over the last year we have been renovating our house, and I have picked up many new skills including how to build many flatpacks. This has been an amazing experience that I hope to never repeat.

Rebecca Vanson – Youth Employment Mentor – Adelaide, SA

Hi, my name is Rebecca (Bek) and I have been with NJL for 6 months as a Youth Employment Mentor. I have come from a Childcare and Pharmacy background were helping people with their health needs. Supporting and nurturing the young is what drove me in wanting to support youth by helping and mentoring them in their journey into adulthood. Working with youth is different each day as most have many struggles to overcome which is what keeps me motivated to come to work and hopefully make a difference in a young person's life. When I am not at work, I love spending time with my family.

