

# Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

## News

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Issue Seven February 2009

### Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

#### Welcome from the ADG

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter of the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts for 2009.

We start the year with optimism as we work together to close the gap in outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders and to meet the Q2 target of ensuring three out of four Queenslanders will hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications.

We are updating our Indigenous education, training and the arts Strategic plan, the Indigenous education Strategic directions and the Indigenous vocational education and training Strategic directions.

These documents will be published online in keeping with our goal to minimise costs while continuing to build strategic partnerships across the community.

In the Arts arena, one of the highlights of the year will be the first Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair as it opens more doors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to reach national and international markets.

Thank you for your continuing support and all the best for the year ahead.

**Terry Kearney, Assistant Director-General**

## STATEWIDE NEWS

### New Indigenous Schooling Support Unit for Central Southern Queensland region

The Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts is enhancing its support for schools as they strive to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students by establishing an Indigenous Schooling Support Unit for Central Southern Queensland with offices at Inala, Nambour and Rockhampton.

The Indigenous Schooling Support Unit (ISSU) delivers professional development and support programs to teachers and schools to enable them to better teach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

ISSUs help create environments for success to achieve the Department's Indigenous education goal to develop strong students, strong results and strong futures.

ISSU staff work closely with school principals and teachers through a Link and Learn system, where educators are linked in networks to engage in professional development relating to the education of and about Indigenous students.

Indigenous Schooling Support Unit Central Southern Queensland (ISSU CSQ) supports schools in the Moreton, South Coast, Darling Downs and South West, Wide Bay Burnett, Fitzroy Central West and Greater Brisbane regions.

Other Indigenous Schooling Support Units operate in Far North Queensland and North Queensland.

**ISSU CSQ offices:** Kittyhawk Avenue, **Inala**; Tel. 07 3372 5066; email: [angela.douglas@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:angela.douglas@deta.qld.gov.au) or [Robert.ahwing@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:Robert.ahwing@deta.qld.gov.au). 209 Bolsover Avenue, **Rockhampton**; Tel 07 4938 4942; email: [alan.bird@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:alan.bird@deta.qld.gov.au). Blaxland Road, **Nambour**; Tel. 07 5441 7300; email: [sally.johnston@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:sally.johnston@deta.qld.gov.au)

**ISSU Far North Queensland:** Cnr Severin Street and Mulgrave Road, Parramatta; PO Box 2268 Cairns, 4870; Tel: 07 4044 5600; email: [leigh.schelks@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:leigh.schelks@deta.qld.gov.au)

**ISSU North Queensland:** 26 Burt Street, Mundingburra, 4812; PO Box 1746, Aitkenvale DC, QLD, 4814; Tel. 07 4775 6055; email: [darran.kennedy@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:darran.kennedy@deta.qld.gov.au)

### Indigenous Advisory Council

Georgina Archer, chair of the Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee, is one of 14 members of the new Indigenous Advisory Council due to meet for the first time this month.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr said the council would "advise on practical strategies and partnerships that contribute to meeting the national closing the gap targets as well as our own *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* ambitions and outcomes".

The council members were chosen from among 112 applicants and will serve for two years.

They have wide experience in education and training, early childhood, community and economic development, social and cultural issues, justice, reconciliation and the environment.

Ms Archer, a Torres Strait Islander, has 32 years experience as a secondary school teacher and leader and has local, state and national networks in the employment, child safety and health sectors.

Max Lenoy (Townsville - Yarrabah and Palm Island) who is a lecturer and Remote Area Teacher Education Program (RATEP) Director in the School of Education at James Cook University, was also appointed to the council. A graduate of Harvard University, Mr Lenoy brings to the Advisory Council experience on the Library Board of Queensland and the Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing Export Authority and a proven track record in Indigenous education.

Other Indigenous Advisory Council members are: Estelle Bowen (Hope Vale - Guugu Yimmathirr), Robyn Parkes-Sandri (Buderim - Gungarri descent), Selina Hill (Bundaberg - Wakka Wakka), Professor Cindy Shannon (Brisbane - Ngugi from Moreton Island), Dr Mark Wenitong (Cairns - Kabi Kabi), Kevin O'Brien (Brisbane - Kaurereg & Meriam), James William (Brisbane - Kulkalgal ya), Sonia Minniecon (Brisbane - Kabbi Kabbi with family links to Mackay), Napau 'Pedro' Stephen (Thursday Island - Ugaramle (Stephen Island) and Magaram (Murray Island), Pearl Eatts (Winton - Pitta-Pitta & Karuwali), Norman Clarke (Brisbane - Kanouku) and Nathan Jarro (Brisbane - Ghanguulu and Bidjara).

**For more information visit:**  
[www.atsip.qld.gov.au/resources/advisory-council](http://www.atsip.qld.gov.au/resources/advisory-council)

### Teachers train for success in Indigenous communities

Some 140 Queensland teachers recently took part in special training through the Remote Area Incentives Scheme in Cairns, Mount Isa and Thursday Island to prepare them to teach in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community schools.

These teachers – beginning teachers, senior teachers, teachers on 'boomerang transfer placements', and aspiring leaders, including 13 Indigenous teachers – were selected through the Partners for Success strategy to teach at schools in the Far North, Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and Torres Strait.

Their training, coordinated by the Far North Queensland Indigenous Schooling Support Unit, focused on high-quality teaching practices,

specifically targeted to significantly improve outcomes for Indigenous students. It also covered topics to prepare teachers for work in these remote areas, including personal resilience and coping with change.

Teacher turnover in remote Indigenous communities has reduced since the introduction of targeted recruitment and selection through Partners for Success in 2001.

In 2007-2008 the average time teachers stayed in Indigenous communities was 3.2 years, which is a full 12 months beyond the required minimum length of service.

This dramatic improvement has been attributed to the rigorous recruitment, selection and induction strategies under Partners for Success.

Cindy Hales, project officer for Human Resources and the Arts in Far North Queensland, coordinated the training at Mount Isa, Cairns and Thursday Island.

**For more information contact the Far North Queensland Indigenous Schooling Support Unit at [www.issu.com.au](http://www.issu.com.au)**

### 2009 Training Awards open for entries

The search has started for the state's top training achievers, including the 2009 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year.

The 2009 Queensland Training Awards are open for nominations until March 18.

The awards are first contested at the regional level, with winners going on to compete at the state level.

The state final will be held in Brisbane in September 2009. State winners are then eligible to compete for the 2009 Australian Training Awards, to be held in Canberra next year.

The 2008 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Bernard Pope gained a Diploma of Nursing from Tropical North Queensland TAFE.

Bernard considers himself lucky to have made the leap from fruit picker to enrolled nurse in just four years - but he credits hard work and seizing the chance to study for his remarkable career transition.

As well as gaining clinical skills, Bernard has built confidence in other areas - using computers for the first time and becoming a workplace health and safety officer. His next goals are to become a registered nurse by completing university training and act as a role model for younger generations of Indigenous people.

Nominations for the Queensland Training Awards in the employer and organisation award categories

close on March 11, 2009; nominations for the individual award categories close on March 18.

**For more information visit [www.qta.qld.gov.au](http://www.qta.qld.gov.au)**

### Western Cape College wins Premier's partnership award

Western Cape College won the Premier's Award for Partnerships and Reconciliation for its Cradle to Employment program.

Arts Queensland won the Leadership Excellence award for its work in repositioning Arts and Culture in the Smart State.

Overall, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts was announced the winner of the 2008 Premier's Award for Excellence, which is an overall award presented to a public sector agency that demonstrates outstanding achievement and significant commitment across a range of areas.

DETA had nine finalists including a joint nomination with the Department of Child Safety from 108 submissions across all parts of the Queensland Government.

**For more information visit:**

[www.premiers.qld.gov.au/awardsevents/awards/Premiers\\_Awards\\_for\\_Excellence\\_in\\_public\\_sector\\_management/](http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/awardsevents/awards/Premiers_Awards_for_Excellence_in_public_sector_management/)

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## REGIONAL NEWS

### Cairns Indigenous Art Fair opens doors

Australian and international collectors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art will be heading to the tropical north later this year for the first Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

To be held on August 21-23, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair will be an annual event offering the best contemporary and traditional Indigenous art from Queensland.

A unique cultural event in the heart of tropical Far North Queensland, the Art Fair will celebrate the artists, their work and culture and will be complemented by an Arts Festival and Indigenous Art Symposium.

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair is an opportunity for collectors to buy the work of established and emerging artists from a region that is producing some of the most exciting contemporary art in Australia, as well as work by Indigenous artists from around Queensland. This includes the leading urban artists who have a reputation for creating challenging and

distinctive work across a range of mediums. A key focus of the Art Fair will be new work by artists from Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait. Selected artists from the neighbouring Pacific region will also be invited to take part.

Galleries from across Australia will be at the Art Fair to represent artists and sell their work. The Indigenous art centres located across Far North Queensland and Cape York will also take part, focusing on emerging artists.

**For more information on Cairns Indigenous Art Fair visit [www.arts.qld.gov.au/ciaf](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/ciaf)**

### Townsville's reconciliation action plan

Townsville schools will implement reconciliation action plans this year following a district-wide reconciliation statement made late last year.

The local Indigenous Young Aspiring Leaders Group said the presentation of the statement to principals signified the end of an intensive collaborative process to build personal leadership capabilities and construct a cohesive reconciliation plan for schools to follow in 2009 and beyond.

"I felt that this was a moment that would change the way Indigenous students would be treated in schools," Kirwan State High School student leader Tessa Carnegie said.

The Townsville District Reconciliation Statement, developed by Indigenous student leaders from Ayr, Kirwan, Thuringowa, Charters Towers, Northern Beaches, Townsville, Pimlico and William Ross State High Schools and Heatley Secondary College, says:

"The Indigenous students of the Townsville District wish to promote reconciliation within all schools, with the support from principals, teaching staff, parents, community education counsellors and the wider community.

"In developing a Reconciliation Action Plan, we aim to bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

"We aim to prosper as one, through relationships, respect and opportunities.

"The Rudd Government's formal apology of saying sorry is a crucial step in moving ahead and the search for reconciliation.

"This will be the framework for our cultural identity."

## New Indigenous unit at Brisbane TAFE

Brisbane North Institute of TAFE's new Indigenous Unit, opened last November at the South Brisbane campus, offers a range of services to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Annette Smith manages the unit, supported by workplace project officer Erica Lang, schools project officer Billie Scott and administration officer Liz Manuain.

The Indigenous Unit:

- Helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with study-related enquiries
- Delivers training in specific skill areas that will increase employment opportunities for Indigenous people
- Develops mentoring and professional development programs for organisations, industry and businesses
- Offers guidance in planning career pathways
- Encourages students to gain higher level qualifications
- Networks with employment organisations and community groups to create employment opportunities
- Provides an understanding of the challenges and cultural protocols for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Attends community events including NAIDOC week, Sorry Day, Reconciliation week and career expos
- Assists with school visits to help answer enquiries for study programs
- Offers a support officer to arrange tuition assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

An Indigenous Community Advisory Council has been set up to help the unit achieve their goals and deliver quality training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast regions.

**For further information please contact the Indigenous Unit on (07) 3259 4565.**

## New Gladstone training partnership

The Queensland Government is working in partnership with industry to help unemployed Indigenous people in Gladstone find jobs.

The partnership, between the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, project management company Bechtel and mining corporation Rio Tinto Alcan is helping to address a skill shortage in the region.

Bechtel and Rio Tinto Alcan have worked with TAFE to create a customised course and unemployed Indigenous people were targeted through Centrelink.

The 12 trainees, who were selected from a field of 45, were due to complete the 10-week course in mid-December and graduate with a Certificate II in Engineering.

The course involved a tour of the Yarwun plant and classes in a simulated workshop at the Gladstone campus of Central Queensland TAFE.

**For more information, visit: [www.cq.tafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.cq.tafe.qld.gov.au)**

## Tagai teacher wins national AFL award

David and Julie Maddock-Jones, teachers at Tagai College's Badu Island campus, were flown to Melbourne late last year for Mr Maddock-Jones to receive a national award for voluntary services to the Australian Football League at the Brownlow Medal ceremony.

Mr Maddock-Jones also received \$10,000 from AFL sponsor Toyota to support junior AFL on Badu Island. Since coming to Queensland 10 years ago, the Maddock-Joneses have worked passionately to promote AFL, introducing the sport's junior version, Auskick, to the remote Indigenous community schools at which they've taught.

AFL has opened many opportunities for their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, including scholarships, training camps, state championships and playing at the Gabba in front of 30,000 fans.

In 2008, Solomon Blanket, one of Mr Maddock-Jones students, became the first Torres Strait Islander to be selected in the Queensland side to play in the national under-13 trials.

Mr Maddock-Jones said AFL helped inspired students' self-discipline and team work.

Badu Island head of campus Kay Ahmat congratulated Mr Maddock-Jones on his award and acknowledged the support and opportunities that he and other hard-working AFL volunteers gave to students.

## New pre-Preps for Injinoo and Bamaga

Two new pre-Prep buildings are due to roll into Injinoo and Bamaga in 2009 as the Department of Education, Training and the Arts continues to deliver quality early childhood education in Indigenous communities.

The buildings are part of the Queensland Government's additional \$24.4 million in capital funding over two years announced in the 2008-09 budget for pre-Prep in Indigenous communities.

The specially-designed modular buildings are being made in south-east Queensland and will be transported to the towns by semi-trailer. They are similar to those already in place at Cherbourg and Horn Island.

The design was based on the successful Prep year modular buildings with changes to suit younger children, including a kitchen, toilets, large verandah and outdoor play area along with new furniture and program resources.

**For more information:**

[www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/project/s/foundations.html](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/project/s/foundations.html) ; or tel 07 3237 0812

## NATIONAL NEWS

### National Sorry Day anniversary on Feb 13

February 13 is the first anniversary of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

The National Sorry Day Committee is inviting schools to celebrate the anniversary as well as participating in National Sorry Day on May 26.

"This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the historic national apology delivered by the Prime Minister to the stolen generations, their families and communities for the past policies of forced removals," the committee said.

"Uniting in this celebration will further strengthen the reconciliation process."

Suggestions for school activities include the Stolen Generation's Track Home, the symbolic representation of the thousands of silent and unseen tracks of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were taken away under the forced removal policies.

"The moment the first Aboriginal Child was removed under the Removal Policies, was the moment the first step of these ghostly tracks was born. The tracks of the Stolen Generations children are stamped all over Australia, lingering silent and strong."

The Stolen Generations Track Home is made up of red, yellow, black, white, blue and green plastic feet that are also representative of a new and determined direction to fulfil the 54 Recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home Report* by year 2017.

**For the Prime Minister's speech, visit:**

[www.pm.gov.au/media/speech/2008/speech\\_0073.cfm](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/speech/2008/speech_0073.cfm)  
Visit the National Sorry Day Committee site at [www.nsd.org.au](http://www.nsd.org.au)

### Indigenous leader Mick Dodson AM named Australian of the Year 2009

Indigenous leader Professor Mick Dodson AM is Australian of the Year 2009.

Professor Dodson, 58, is a Yawuru man from the Broome area of Western Australia who now lives and works in Canberra.

He is widely recognised as a proud, courageous and humble Aboriginal leader who has spent his adult life trying to explain to people why and how they can help his people. He has pursued justice and reconciliation through a process of education, awareness and inclusive dialogue with all Australians.

While his official roles tell only a small part of the story of what he does, Dodson has served in a variety of challenging and highly sensitive roles at community level, with governments, the United Nations and in academia. He has also actively mentored, nurtured and promoted young Aboriginal leaders and encouraged respect between people of all cultures.

In presenting the award, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd thanked Professor Dodson for his lifetime commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal people and promoting understanding between all Australians.

"Mick Dodson has been a courageous fighter for reconciliation and for closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians," Mr Rudd said.

"His efforts truly show that if we work together, we can achieve real progress."

**For more information visit:**

[www.australianoftheyear.org.au/pages/index.asp](http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/pages/index.asp)

### AUSTLANG helps keep languages alive

An innovative online resource is now available to support the preservation and revival of Australian Indigenous languages.

AUSTLANG is the first online database to offer wide-ranging access to information on Australian Indigenous languages. The dynamic web-based features make it possible to search for Australian Indigenous languages by language name, place name or by navigating Australia through Google Maps.

While Indigenous Australians in some communities continue to speak their own languages, AUSTLANG is an important resource for many others who are seeking to maintain endangered languages or to revive those no longer spoken.

The National Indigenous Language Survey conducted by Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages (FATSIL) in 2005 found that of the known 250 original Australian Indigenous languages present before European colonisation, about 110 Indigenous languages are rated as critically endangered.

This means that such languages could cease being spoken in the next 10 to 30 years as older generations fluent in their languages pass on. Only 18 languages were considered 'strong' with speakers across all age groups.

The AUSTLANG online database will continue to be updated and improved. AIATSIS encourages contributions from people working in the Indigenous languages sector to consolidate the information on Australian Indigenous languages.

**For more information visit:**  
<http://austlang.aiatsis.gov.au>

### Hot off the press: new resource

*The Little Red Yellow Black Book* is the first wide-ranging introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture.

*The Little Red Yellow Black Book: An Introduction to Indigenous Australia* by Bruce Pascoe with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is published by Aboriginal Studies Press and available online for \$14.95 RRP.

From the Dreaming to the present, the book includes stories by and about our first Australians from Tasmania to the Torres Strait, from the west to the east coast.

Written for a general audience, *The Little Red Yellow Black Book* gives clear and simple explanations of subjects many non-Indigenous Australians do not really understand, like the importance of country and land rights. The book's site has teachers' resources.

**For more information visit:**  
[http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal\\_studies\\_press/finding\\_a\\_book/recent\\_releases/the\\_little\\_red\\_yellow\\_black\\_book](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal_studies_press/finding_a_book/recent_releases/the_little_red_yellow_black_book). Website: <http://lryb.aiatsis.gov.au>

### Strengthening employment opportunities

The Federal Government recently announced significant reforms to employment services to ensure

more Indigenous Australians have the skills needed to get and keep a job.

The reforms to the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program and the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) will begin on 1 July 2009 and build on recent reforms of universal employment services.

The reforms are key to making progress on the Government's aim of halving the employment gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

An additional 100,000 Indigenous Australians will need to find and keep jobs over the next 10 years to meet the target.

The announcement follows an extensive national consultation process, involving 1600 people in 56 locations around Australia. The Government also received 86 written submissions.

The Government has committed \$764 million over five years to IEP and will make services more responsive to the specific needs of Indigenous job seekers, Indigenous businesses and employers.

The expanded IEP will build on existing program strengths and include more support for employers, especially small and medium businesses, including pre-employment training and mentoring.

IEP will target regional areas and specific industries experiencing labour shortages, as well as help develop plans to recruit and retain Indigenous employees.

CDEP will be restructured with a strong focus on work readiness in remote areas with emerging and limited economies.

Under the CDEP reforms, community development will be boosted, with local priority projects supported, and resources made available for community development workers and local engagement officers.

CDEP will cease in non-remote areas with established economies.

In areas with established economies, Indigenous job seekers will be supported by the expanded IEP and the reformed universal employment services.

A new Community Support program will be established in urban and regional locations with significant Indigenous populations to assist Indigenous people to better access the employment programs and other services in those areas.

From 1 July 2009, new CDEP participants will be paid income support, with existing CDEP participants continuing to access CDEP wages until 30 June 2011 before transferring to income support.

This means young people and school leavers have the strongest incentives to get a job and existing CDEP participants are given time to transition.

Support will be available to assist local Indigenous CDEP providers expand their businesses or take up employment and other service provision opportunities.

Two thousand jobs will be created from previous CDEP-funded positions in government service delivery, and these will attract mainstream benefits such as award wages, access to superannuation, training and professional development.

This initiative will receive \$172.7 million from the Commonwealth Government and \$56.2 million from State Governments over five years under the COAG National Partnership on Indigenous Economic Participation.

The Australian Government will also provide additional funding of \$203 million for more than 1500 jobs already created in the Northern Territory from CDEP activities, and 40 jobs in four Cape York welfare reform trial communities.

Four hundred new traineeships across government services sectors and 60 full-time additional ranger positions in remote communities will also be created as part of the new Indigenous remote workforce strategy.

**For more information visit: [www.fahcsia.gov.au/](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/)**

### 400 extra skilled Indigenous workers

An Indigenous training and employment package to be delivered in rural and remote Australia through the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) will create 530 certificate-level training places and employment for up to 400 Indigenous graduates.

The jobs will be in the pastoral, tourism and resource sectors and in ILC businesses, including beef cattle and sheep production, horticulture, maintenance, transport and administration.

The ILC has committed \$9.1 million, with the Australian Government adding \$5.7 million for the three-year training and employment program.

The Government is committed to halving the employment gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade by creating job opportunities and giving Indigenous people the skills and training they need to get and keep a job.

The Government is supporting the Australian Employment Covenant (AEC), a private sector initiative led by the CEO of Fortescue Metals Group, Andrew Forrest, to create 50,000 jobs for Indigenous Australians.

This support includes pre-employment training, facilitating post-employment support and mentoring for Indigenous people which industry and independent employers, especially in rural and remote Australia, are not often equipped to provide.

ILC businesses will help fill this gap by providing on-site training infrastructure, including personnel, residential training centres and operational equipment for on-the-job training.

The three-year package will give Indigenous Australians accredited training, certificate-level qualifications and jobs in the paid workforce through the AEC.

An important element of this package will be the development of relationships with key mining, oil and gas industries over the next three years to broaden job choices for graduates.

The ILC operates 14 businesses across Australia ranging from large cattle stations, and tourism operations in the north to wool and sheep properties in the south.

The training to employment package will be delivered through training centres based on ILC-operated businesses at Roebuck Plains Station near Broome, Home Valley Station in the East Kimberly, Waliburru Station in the NT, Crocodile Welcome station on Cape York, Urannah Station near Townsville and on a smaller scale through a further eight ILC businesses across Australia.

**For more information visit: [www.fahcsia.gov.au/](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/)**

### Young leaders voyage across Bass Strait on Young Endeavour

Three graduates of the Australian Government's Indigenous Leadership Program completed a 10-day sailing journey across Bass Strait on the Young Endeavour on January 27.

The graduates joined 24 other young people and 10 crew as they sailed from George Town, Tasmania, to Williamstown, Victoria.

The first-time sailors learnt valuable life skills on the voyage including teamwork, leadership skills and a strong sense of community responsibility.

The three Indigenous women, Arlene McInhery, Dianna Wright and Rebecca Richards all won Australian Government-funded scholarships to take this trip on the Young Endeavour.

Ms McInhery, from the Port Macquarie/Biripi tribal group in New South Wales, works at Macquarie University and is a member of the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

Ms Wright, from the Karrajari people of the Bidyadngol community in Western Australia, was a finalist in the WA Youth Awards.

Ms Richards, from the Adnyamathana Nepabunna community in South Australia, is completing her internship with the National Museum of Australia and is studying at Adelaide University.

All 27 young people now join the 10,000 other young Australians who have sailed Australian and international waters as part of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme.

The Indigenous Leadership Program has been running since 2004 and offers opportunities to emerging and potential Indigenous leaders.

Applications for the program are currently being accepted by ballot until 1 March 2009.

**Applications can be made online at Young Endeavour or by phoning 1800 020 444.**

## IN BRIEF

### **Koori Mail wins Human Rights Award**

Aboriginal photographer Wayne Quilliam in partnership with *Koori Mail* has won the 2008 Human Rights Award for Print Media. The print media award was accepted by Kirstie Parker, editor of the *Koori Mail*, for the National Apology: commemorative lift out.

### **2009 Ideas Festival open to all in March**

The Ideas Festival, a six-day festival of ideas, innovation and invention, will be held at Brisbane's South Bank from March 25 to 29. It is open to all and mostly free. As part of the department's Year of Creativity, the festival will highlight opportunities for teachers to embed creativity in their teaching programs.

The Ideas Festival will play a key role in lighting this creative spark through its schools program, Think Do Tank, a two-day program offering workshops, panels and hands on activities with strong links across the curriculum. On Thursday 26 to Friday 27 March at the State Library of Queensland, for Year 6 to Year 10 students (cost \$12 per student per day).

**For more information visit: [www.ideasfestival.com.au/](http://www.ideasfestival.com.au/)**

### **Employment conference in Brisbane**

A conference about Indigenous Employment and Economic Development – Exploring opportunities to achieve outstanding economic outcomes will be held at the Stamford Plaza, Brisbane on April 20-22.

**For more information visit:  
[www.TonkinCorporation.com](http://www.TonkinCorporation.com)**

### **We welcome your contributions**

This newsletter is published monthly by the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts in the Department of Education, Training and the Arts to highlight programs and events that benefit Indigenous Queenslanders. Please send contributions to the editor:  
[carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au)