

Newsletter

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Issue Three July 2008

Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

Welcome from the ADG

Welcome to the third issue of the newsletter of the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts, where the emphasis is on NAIDOC Week and training.

I invite you to the launch of the Department's NAIDOC Week celebrations by Director-General Rachel Hunter on July 8 (see story below) and hope you all enjoy your local NAIDOC activities.

NAIDOC Week gives us an opportunity to recognise the traditional owners of the land, their distinct and rich cultures and their contribution to Australia and for Indigenous people to showcase their culture and heritage.

The creation of the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts in March this year reflects the high priority that the department places on improving education, training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Training is also in focus this month with the announcement of the regional winners of the Queensland Training Awards at a series of events around the state.

I congratulate all of the regional finalists and wish them well in their future careers.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Terry Kearney, Assistant Director-General

Celebrating NAIDOC Week

More than 200 guests are expected to attend the launch of the Department's NAIDOC Week celebrations at 111 George Street on July 8 at 10.30am.

Master of Ceremonies at the launch event will be Deception Bay High School senior student Josh Mallett, who represented the state at the National Constitutional Convention in Canberra in May.

Uncle Albert Holt will deliver the Acknowledgement of Country. Aboriginal dancers Yobalani and Torres Strait dancers Malu Kiwai will perform at the event.

On Friday, July 11, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts will present a display at the Family Fun Day at Musgrave Park, South Brisbane.

Schools around the state are hosting NAIDOC events including:

Stanthorpe State School will have a flag raising, lunchtime concert, screening of the movie *Jedda* and story telling.

Beenleigh State High School, where 10 per cent of the student population is identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, students and staff have designed and painted a mural *Honouring Generation S* to honour the stolen generations and promote reconciliation.

Kingaroy State School is running competitions - Prep to Year 4 will have an art competition and Year 5-7 will have a literature competition. Some of the school's Indigenous students will participate in an Indigenous Leadership Camp at the Bunya Mountains.

At Berrinba East State School, south of Brisbane, an Elder guest will acknowledge country and open an Indigenous garden. Students will also do traditional crafts, storytelling and Indigenous games.

Learning and Engagement Centres at Inala, Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Rockhampton and Cairns will conduct events throughout the week.

Exhibition documents community life

Mainstream Australia will have the chance to see what an Aboriginal community looks like through an exhibition of photographs of Doomadgee opening in Brisbane during NAIDOC Week.

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Waanyi Garawa Tribal leader Alec Doomadgee escorted Hamish Cairns, a talented documentary photographer, to Doomadgee to capture elements of remote community life.

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts is sponsoring the exhibition, to open at Substation 4, 22 Petrie Tce, Brisbane, on July 10 at 6.30pm.

The exhibition will travel to Doomadgee and on to other locations throughout Australia.

For more information, contact Mandy on (07) 3367 8895 or amanda@gilimbaa.com.au

Training Awards regional finals

Eighteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are in the running for Student of the Year in the Department's 2008 Queensland Training Awards.

Regional winners, to be named at events across the state starting this month, will progress to the state final on September 11 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The State winner will have the chance to enter the Australian Training Awards held in Darwin on November 20. The awards honour Australia's best apprentices, trainees and vocational students, training providers and employers.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year finalists by region:

Brisbane

Amy Blow, Certificate III in Outdoor Recreation (Multiple Activities), Department of Communities, Beaudesert; Catherine Schonfeldt, Certificate IV in Retail Management, Best & Less, Kallangur; Jami-Lee Upkett, Certificate II in Business, Brisbane City Council, Sunnybank.

Central Queensland

Justin Hooper, Certificate III in Water Industry Operations, SunWater, from Biloela; Anthony Jansen, Certificate IV in Youth Work, Central

Queensland Institute of TAFE, from North Rockhampton; Nikita Sauney, Certificate III in Business Administration, Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, from Mackay.

Gold Coast

Jodi Sampson, Certificate IV in Life and Business, Gold Coast Institute of TAFE, Elanora; Lisa Stutz, Certificate III in Business Administration, On-Q Human Resources Limited, Ashmore Hills.

North Queensland

Michael Obah, Certificate III in Plumbing, Johnstone Shire Council, South Johnstone; Bernard Pope, Diploma of Nursing, Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE, Maryborough; David Yasserie, Certificate II in Information Technology, Integrated Group Limited, Annandale.

South West

Matthew Graham, Certificate III in Civil Construction (Pipelaying), Macdow Abi Joint Venture, from Bundamba; Sharron Jackson, Certificate IV in Business (Administration), Department of Natural Resources and Water, from Kingsthorpe; Tina Jarrett, Certificate III in Business, Goondiwindi Training and Technology, from Goondiwindi.

Wide Bay Sunshine Coast (sponsor: Acclaim Apprentices and Trainees)

Peter Cruz, Certificate III in Information Technologies, Wide Bay Institute of TAFE, from Maryborough; Helen Dingle, Certificate IV in Community Services, Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE, from Roma; Christine Heisner, Certificate IV in Community Services (Protective Care), Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE, from Gladstone.

For more information on the Queensland Training Awards, visit www.qta.qld.gov.au.

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Pre-Prep buildings roll out to regions

Cherbourg's new pre-Prep building is being put together on site, ready for the start of Term 3, with Horn Island to follow soon.

The specially-designed modular buildings were made by Bendigo Relocatable Buildings at Crestmead, south of Brisbane, and transported on semi-trailers to their destinations.

Yarrabah's pre-Prep facilities are being refurbished.

The buildings are part of the Queensland Government's additional \$24.2 million in capital funding over two years announced in the 2008-2009 budget for pre-Prep in Indigenous communities.

Members of the project team will liaise with school administrators and regional facilities managers as the pre-Prep capital works project is rolled out.

For more information contact Peter Gockel, Project Coordinator, Capital Projects Unit on 07 3237 0290 or email peter.gockel@deta.qld.gov.au.

Lighthouse Grants close July 23

Applications close on July 23, 2008 for the new State Government grants for arts, education and training projects that benefit Indigenous Queenslanders.

Schools, artists, training and art organisations can apply for funding of up to \$25,000 under the Queensland Government's Lighthouse Grants. The grants will fund projects that demonstrate best practice in Indigenous program delivery.

The program aims to create new approaches to education, training and the arts by stimulating collaborative approaches across the three areas. Successful applications need to involve partnerships with at least two of these areas.

For more information visit <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/resources.html>

Linking families trials to 50 schools

Engagement workshops have been run at 18 of the 50 schools participating in the trial of the Linking Families and Schools Kit during Semester 1.

The kit, which comprises two information booklets, has been developed as a practical tool for promoting positive relationships between Indigenous students and their parents and teachers. The trial will continue throughout Semester 2 2008.

More information: Kerry Wilson on 3234 1619.

Embedding Indigenous perspectives

Workshops for educators and administrators that showcase initiatives in the area of embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within the curriculum continue across the state in July and August.

A joint initiative of the Department, Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee, Australian Principals Association Professional Development Council, Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Independent Schools Queensland and Queensland Studies Authority, the free workshops aim to establish a shared partnership in building a common vision and focus for best-practice pedagogy and curriculum in Queensland – valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders perspectives, knowledge and ways of working.

Embedding Indigenous Perspectives workshops

July 21, Maranoa Club, Roma

July 25, Red Earth Boutique Hotel, Mount Isa

July 29, Toowoomba Motel & Events Centre

Aug 5, Duhig Centre, Rockhampton

Aug 6, Civic Centre, Bundaberg

Aug 18, Father Bernard O'Shea Inservice Centre, Wilston, Brisbane

Aug 19 Salvation Army Conference Centre, Townsville

For more information contact the Queensland Studies Authority on 3864 0471; events@qsa.qld.edu.au or www.qsa.qld.edu.au

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Wakakirri visits Bloomfield region

Four schools in the Bloomfield River region took part in a week of workshops and attended the Wakakirri Outback Festival Show at Wujal Wujal in May.

Workshops were held at Laura, Cooktown, Rossville and Bloomfield River State Schools, where students worked with writers, directors, actors and film crew to create short films of their own stories.

The week culminated in the Festival Show hosted by Wakakirri and the National Student Rural Health Network. The Department of Education, Training and the Arts was a major sponsor of the program.

The festival featured a community barbecue, an Australian Film Commission showing of indigenous short films, a Welcome to Country from Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Taley, followed by a screening of the schools' works created during the week.

NAIDOC Week exhibition at Tanks

It's a rare treat for emerging artists to receive advice and assistance from a master craftsman such as Dennis Nona.

But for a few days in May this year, five North Queensland artists worked closely with Mr Nona, winner of the 2007 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, as part of the On The Edge residency funded through Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts program.

The results of their time at the residency at Tanks Arts Centre in Cairns were seen in a show called Jalbu Jalbu Murrumaka (Women Coming Together).

The five women - Kay Creek (Mossman), Priscilla Major (Kowanyama), May Kepple (Coen), Marilyn Kepple (Charters Towers), and Lynette Snider (Kuranda) - are also showing their work in a special NAIDOC Week exhibition at Tanks until 12 July.

The On the Edge residency ran for four weeks and involved the participants learning new artistic skills and techniques and discussing their work with

experienced artists. The workshops were co-ordinated by Hannah Parker and tutors involved Mr Nona and Theo Tremblay who spent two days with the women teaching them drawing and design and screen printing with paper and stencils.

After the four weeks, Lynette and Marilyn Kepple said that they wanted to work towards an exhibition at Tanks in 2009. As for the rest of the women, it was a great experience that gave them the chance to learn.

For more information contact the Tanks Art Centre on 4032 6600.

Ghost nets come to life again

Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts (BIA) program has helped turn rubbish that threatened sea life into works of art.

Last year a national competition was held inviting the best way to recycle ghost-nets in far northern Australia. The winner was an artist/weaver from Sydney, Chantal Cordey, who made a 'guitar strap out of multi-coloured nylon string from the nets.

Her prize was a visit to a community in the Gulf or Torres Strait and after this she offered to give something back to the community and hold a one-week workshop. Hammond Islanders in the Torres Strait offered to host the weaver.

BIA will expand the project so that Indigenous participants can develop even more creative products with recycled netting. It is envisioned that a high standard exhibition will be created for display across Australia. A curator will be appointed and workshops held at Hammond Island, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Weipa and Mornington Island.

For more information on the Backing Indigenous Arts program contact Arts Queensland on 1800 175 531.

BBC brings skills to FNQ

The Indigenous Performance Writing project started earlier this year with the first visit by Kate Rowlands from the British Broadcasting Commission (BBC).

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Ms Rowlands is head of new writing for radio, television and film at the BBC in London and will guide the project to ensure artistic merit will attract a local and international audience, while contributing to Indigenous broadcasting through skills development and quality performance writing outcomes.

Ms Rowlands attended information sessions at kuril dhagun, the Indigenous Knowledge Centre at the State Library of Queensland.

Run by the Brisbane Indigenous Media Association (BIMA), the sessions focused on courseware and resource development with appropriate cultural considerations. The training will incorporate online material and community visits by qualified trainers and industry experts. Communities will contribute to both courseware development and learn from industry experts. Participants will develop skills while producing performance outcomes which can be used by the local radio station, the National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) and National Indigenous Television (NITV).

The first phase of the project is to develop an Accredited Radio Performance Writing course for Indigenous Queenslanders.

For more information on the Backing Indigenous Arts program contact Arts Queensland on 1800 175 531.

Coming events

The Black Arm Band

Friday, July 18, 7.30pm, FREE

River Stage, City Botanic Gardens, Brisbane

Brisbane Festival presents a free opening concert by The Black Arm Band, featuring Dave Arden, Emma Donovan, Kutcha Edwards, Ruby Hunter, Jimmy Little, Rachel Maza-Long, Shellie Morris, Stephen Pigram, Archie Roach and many more.

National Teacher & Community Education Leadership Program

Monday, July 28, 11am – 7pm, FREE

QUT Gardens Point Theatre (11-12pm)

Program and networking event, Royal on the Park (12.30pm – 7pm) lunch included.

Dr Chris Sarra, Executive Director of the Indigenous Education Leadership Institute, is running this

program designed for principals and aspiring leaders in schools with significant numbers of Indigenous students and Indigenous teacher aides, parents, community leaders (Elders) and community workers who are crucial to the development of young Indigenous Australians.

It focuses on identifying effective leadership strategies and supporting participants to lead the implementation of school based teaching and learning programs to improve Indigenous student outcomes.

More information: Anne Wilson on 5316 7462 or email a.wilson@qut.edu.au.

Strengthening Indigenous Transitions: Communicating, Connecting and Celebrating Monday, July 28, Mercure Hotel, Townsville

Key stakeholders will share knowledge and good practice around Indigenous young people transitioning from their home communities to attend destination high schools.

More information: Glenys Melgaard on 3237 0765.

September 10-11, Rockhampton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program (ATSIAP) Student Challenge for the Fitzroy Central West Queensland Region.

For more information or to register your school, please contact Debbie Irwin, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Learning and Engagement Centre, Rockhampton on 4938 6740 or email: Deborah.IRWIN@deta.qld.gov.au

Friday, October 17, Rockhampton

The Indigenous Students Awards Night 2008 in conjunction with Darumbal Community Youth Service Inc. For more information, please contact Debbie Irwin.

We welcome your contributions

This newsletter is published at the beginning of each month 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 of up to 100 words by the 20th of the month prior, to the editor: carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au