

Newsletter

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Issue Two June 2008

Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

Welcome from the ADG

Welcome to the second issue of the monthly newsletter of the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts.

With the second term ending and winter on the way, now is a great time for putting plans into action. As this newsletter demonstrates, we have plenty going on all over the state in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Terry Kearney, Assistant Director-General

ANZ traineeships available for Indigenous students

Opportunities exist for motivated young people with an interest in the banking industry to apply for a school-based traineeship with ANZ bank.

Indigenous students currently completing Year 10 are invited to submit an Expression of Interest for the school-based traineeships. The traineeships will commence in December 2008 for the duration of Year 11 and 12 and students will complete a Certificate II qualification in Business or Financial Services.

Twenty-one traineeships will be offered across Queensland in the following ANZ branches: Acacia Ridge, Ashgrove, Beenleigh, Bowen, Browns Plains, Gladstone, Ingham, Ipswich area, Kirwan, Loganholme, Mackay North, Maroochydore, Maryborough, Middlemount, Morayfield, Mossman, Proserpine, Redcliffe, Rockhampton North, Smithfield and Springsure.

Expressions of Interest close on 30 June 2008. Eligibility requirements and Expression of Interest forms are available at www.anz.com/indigenousemployment.

More information: contact Mr David Brown, Career Development Manager – ANZ Bank on 0434 734 356 or via email indigenousemployment@anz.com

Rock heroes praise reconciliation plans

Brisbane-born rock band Powderfinger kicked off National Reconciliation Week in Brisbane on May 27 with a visit to Lourdes Hill College, Hawthorne, to congratulate the school on its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Lourdes Hill is one of more than 400 schools across Australia, including many Queensland state and non-state schools, that have signed up for a RAP along with organisations such as Qantas, ANZ, the NRL and government agencies.

The Indigenous Division is leading the Department of Education Training and the Arts' development of its Reconciliation Action Plan and is working with Reconciliation Australia to encourage more Queensland education, training and arts organisations to put plans in place.

The national RAP program, launched in 2006, commits schools and other organisations to specific, measurable activities that build relationships, respect and opportunities that support Indigenous people to succeed for the benefit of all Australians.

Powderfinger drummer Jon Coghill told a Lourdes Hill school assembly that the band supported reconciliation plans because they gave young people a greater understanding and respect for Indigenous culture, which the band members did not learn when they were at school.

Lead singer Bernard Fanning said "reconciliation begins with the simple act of understanding one another so we can build respectful relationships for the future".

"Young people have the most to gain out of this and schools can be the model example of how all Australians can work together to create benefits for everyone," he said.

More information: www.reconciliation.org.au or www.powderfinger.com

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Close the gap together in Toowoomba

Queensland Department's of Education, Training and the Arts, Health and Communities are taking a holistic approach to education and health issues affecting Indigenous students at a conference in Toowoomba this month.

Dream, Achieve – Close the gap together will feature presenters from throughout Australia including Ian Mackie, Dr Lara Wieland and Warren Mundine.

High calibre speakers, elective sessions and interactive displays will challenge the way participants think and encourage them to develop networks and actions that focus on cooperative initiatives to benefit Indigenous young people.

The conference is on June 23-24 at the University of Southern Queensland, West Street, Toowoomba.
More information: Terri-Anne Vrieseem on 4616 9138.

Technology Bootcamp in Far North

Mapoon and Weipa students participated in Technology Bootcamp, a partnership between the Department's eLearning Branch and Cairns School of Distance Education, in late May.

At Technology Bootcamp, students surmounted technological, physical and personal challenges to enhance their ICT skills, personal strengths and leadership skills and developed resources to take back to their schools.

Bootcamps will run at Bamaga-Injinoo (June 4-6), Coen-Pormpuraaw-Lockhart (June 24-26), Aurukun (July 22-24) and in the Torres Strait at a later date.

More information:

www.learningplace.com.au/deliver/content.asp?pid=38464.

Learning to embed Indigenous culture

Ten support teachers involved in the Indigenous Education Support Services (IESS) pilot met in Brisbane recently to hone their skills.

This was the first of several professional development activities for IESS pilot staff as they aim to improve Indigenous performance in four key areas: attendance, retention and completion, achievement and workforce capacity, so that "every day every child in every classroom is learning and achieving".

More information: Trish Gibson on 3237 0296 or Penny Hamilton on 3237 0910.

Pre-Prep workshops to run in Cairns

A pre-Prep Induction workshop will be held in Cairns from June 18 to 20.

Pre-Prep teachers and teacher aides will be introduced to the draft *Foundations for Success: Guidelines for an early learning program in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities* and discuss its major components.

More information: Penny Creamer on 3237 0812 or Glenys Melgaard on 3237 0605.

Backing Indigenous Arts opens access

Backing Indigenous Arts, the four-year \$10.7 million initiative launched in May, is opening more doors for Far North Queensland Indigenous artists.

The first round of funding helped 25 projects including school holiday workshops in the Torres Strait, Cairns, Weipa and the Western Cape. Arts centres at Hopevale, Lockhart River, Mornington Island and Weipa were among nine arts hubs to share funding.

Fifteen Far North Queensland artists also will receive funding to take part in The Black Arm Band concert at this year's Brisbane Festival in July.

More information: [Backing Indigenous Arts](#)

Townsville hosts transition forum in July

A forum on *Strengthening Indigenous Transitions: Communicating, Connecting and Celebrating* will be held at the Mercure Hotel, Townsville on July 28.

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Key stakeholders will share knowledge and good practice around Indigenous young people transitioning from their home communities to attend destination high schools. The forum will focus on communicating with parents and communities; issues related to boarding and living away from home; learning needs of students and transportation.

More information: Glenys Melgaard on 3237 0765.

Celebrate NAIDOC Week July 6 – 13

Department of Education Training and the Arts Director-General Rachel Hunter will launch the Department's NAIDOC Week celebrations at 111 George Street on Tuesday, July 8 at 10.30am.

Learning Engagement Centres at Inala, Townsville and Cairns will conduct events throughout the week. NAIDOC Week opens officially in Brisbane on Monday, July 7 with an event at the South Bank Cultural Centre Forecourt.

The Department will have a united presence at celebrations on Friday, July 11, at Musgrave Park.

To volunteer to work at the display please contact Erin Van Roon on erin.vanroon@deta.qld.gov.au

Indigenous students shine in Townsville

Pimlico State High School took out first place in the overall challenge at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program (ATSIAP) Student Challenge in Townsville in mid-May.

Thirty teams of students from 15 schools in the Townsville, Ayr, Bowen, Charters Towers and Mackay regions competed in the program that develops and showcases students' talents through a series of challenges.

Young writers' books for sale online

Copies of the winning books of the 2007 Young Indigenous Writers Awards, run by the Townsville Learning Engagement Centre, are available online. *Camping in the national park* by Wulguru State School student Teighan MacDonald and *EcoFighter*

by Wyatt Bunn, who attends Finch Hatton State School, are available from the publisher's website.

To order copies, visit: www.trafford.com

B4S Ambassadors meet in Cairns

Bound for Success (B4S) Ambassadors will meet at the QASSP Conference in Cairns in June.

It will be the first meeting of the ambassadors from Brisbane, North Coast, Cairns, Cape York and other FNQ centres. B4S Ambassadors aim to identify, nominate and mentor potential leaders to work in Cape York and the Torres Strait. Conference participants who have been school leaders in these areas and are interested in becoming ambassadors are welcome to attend from 5-6pm on Thursday, June 5, at the Sofitel Hotel (conference venue).

More information: john.adams@deta.qld.gov.au or call 0408-724788.

COMING EVENTS

***Mathinna, The Playhouse, QPAC*
May 29-June 7; Wed-Sat 7.30pm; Matinee June 7 at 2pm; Tickets \$26-\$55**

Bangarra Dance Theatre presents *Mathinna*, a girl's journey between two cultures.

***The Dreaming, Woodrow Road, Woodford*
June 6-9**

The Dreaming International Indigenous Festival showcases traditional and contemporary arts, practices and culture.

More info: <http://www.thedreamingfestival.com/>

***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.

To contribute to this newsletter, email the editor: carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au