

Newsletter

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Issue Six October 2008

Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

Welcome from the ADG

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

This month we look forward to Parliament meeting in Cairns, which gives North Queenslanders a rare chance to see government in action first hand.

While Parliament meets in Cairns, initiatives will be announced that will positively affect Indigenous communities across the state.

Look out for the November/December issue of Education Views, the Department's monthly colour magazine that is sent to schools statewide – it will contain a major feature story about the Torres Strait's Tagai State College, a great success for Indigenous education in Queensland.

I also remind readers that we welcome your contributions about Indigenous issues to this and other departmental publications. Please see the last page for details on sending us your information.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Terry Kearney, Assistant Director-General

Lambert McBride bursary opens

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary students are invited to apply for a grant under the Queensland Government's Lambert McBride Perpetual Education Bursary.

Students enrolled in second or third year studies at a Queensland tertiary institution can apply for a \$5000 grant.

The Bursary, established by the Queensland Government to recognise the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Constitutional referendum, is named in honour of the late Lambert McBride – an advocate and lobbyist for Queensland Indigenous rights.

Applications close 31 October, 2008.

Application forms can be downloaded at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/resources.html

Parliament sits in Cairns this month

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts is supporting community programs being held in conjunction with Parliament in Cairns this month.

The Far North Queensland sitting of Parliament will be held on 28-30 October at the Cairns Convention Centre.

A comprehensive community engagement program has been developed to encourage the community (especially primary and secondary students) to come and see the Queensland Parliament in action and to increase their knowledge of the history of the Queensland Parliament and its representatives especially those from the Far North Queensland region.

A number of free activities will be held in conjunction with the Far North Queensland sitting of Parliament. These activities will be located at the Cairns Convention Centre and surrounding areas.

These activities include:

- School Tours
- Citizen Jane
- Display of Parliamentarians from the Far North Queensland region since 1860
- Display of Parliamentary Artefacts
- Display of O'Donovan Collection books
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Arts Showcase
- Get Involved with Government
- Electoral Commission Queensland
- Youth Parliament.

A School Tour Subsidy Scheme is in place to support school groups who wish to visit the Far North Queensland Sitting of Parliament.

For more information visit: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/regionalParliament/regionalParliament/cairns/home.htm

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Cherbourg pre-Prep officially opens

Local artists have painted a mural on the new Cherbourg State School pre-Prep building in preparation for opening celebrations on November 5.

The facility has been in use since the start of Term 3, with 49 children taking part in morning and afternoon sessions.

The building is part of the Queensland Government's additional \$24.2 million in capital funding over two years announced in the 2008-09 budget for pre-Prep in Indigenous communities.

The specially-designed modular building is one of several made by Bendigo Buildings at Crestmead, south of Brisbane, and transported on semi-trailers to Indigenous communities including Horn Island.

Pre-Prep Project Manager Penny Creamer said the building was based on the successful Prep year modular buildings with specific design changes for younger children. This includes a kitchen, toilets, large verandah and outdoor play area along with new furniture and program resources.

Ms Creamer said the Cherbourg teaching team advised on the initial design phase of the modular building and had input into the placement of the building and outdoor play area.

"As one of the first pre-Prep modular buildings, it is important that we receive advice from the teaching team about how the children use the learning environment and its effectiveness," Ms Creamer said. "This advice will be used to inform the roll-out of the next phase of pre-Prep facilities."

For more information, contact Cherbourg State School on www.cherbourgss.qld.edu.au

TAFE student wins new art award

Tropical North Queensland TAFE art student Taum Reuben was announced the winner of the inaugural

Indigenous TAFE Student Art Award, run in partnership with the Heart Foundation.

Taum's artwork featured in the Heart Foundation's East Coast Aboriginal Art Exhibition, alongside works by seven professional Indigenous artists. Taum, originally from Badu Island in the Torres Strait, focuses on visually documenting Torres Strait Islander culture through various art media.

Camp injects fun and culture into science

Local business and industry representatives joined education volunteers to host a five-day camp for 26 students from 14 schools across the Central Coast District during the recent school holidays.

The Akaltje Indigenous Science and Technology Camp at Tannum Sands was designed to introduce Indigenous students to science and technology activities through fun, hands-on experiments and team-building exercises, and to link those to stories and examples of traditional Indigenous technology.

The event was coordinated by Annette Rutherford, Indigenous Education Advisor at Central Coast District Office, and attracted local media coverage.

Ms Rutherford told the *Gladstone Observer* participants were chosen on behaviour and school attendance as well as achievement.

"The three main aims of the project is to engage Indigenous kids in science and technology, to encourage them to do well in the subjects in high school and to develop a positive Indigenous identity," Ms Rutherford said.

Ms Rutherford said Gladstone area Maths, Science, Engineering teachers had identified that Indigenous students were losing interest in science and technology subjects in primary school.

"And there's not a lot taking these subjects in high school," she said. "My dream would be to have kids go on to university and see them return here to do some sort of science and technology work in town."

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Indigenous parents back school review

Forty parents of Indigenous students at North Rockhampton State High School participated in a recent focus group at the school, as part of the tri-annual school review process.

Executive Director Dave Manttan said the parents were extremely positive about the support the students were receiving from the Indigenous Education Support Services team and how that was improving the students' perceptions of the school and their own education.

They also discussed how other aspects of Indigenous funding at the school had been integrated to assist teachers working with students. This was the largest group of parents the school had hosted for such a meeting.

Former QIECC staffer wins Deadly award

Adam James, former project officer with Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee, took out the award for most promising new talent in music at the Deadlys, the 14th annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander awards, announced at a spectacular star-studded ceremony held at the Sydney Opera House on 9 October.

Yeppoon wins regional aspirations program

Yeppoon State High took out the overall team prize at Fitzroy Central West Queensland region's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program (ATSIAP) in September.

Teams took part from state high schools at Glenmore, Toolooa, Yeppoon, Rockhampton and host North Rockhampton, along with St Ursula's College from Yeppoon.

The challenge extends students in learning and the arts and builds confidence and skills to help them focus on where education could take them.

The vision of ATSIAP is equity and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through success in education.

ATSIAP identifies and assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students achieve high standards in pursuing further education and entering the workforce.

ATSIAP (previously ATIAP) was developed and trialled in 1987 as a joint initiative between the State and Commonwealth education departments.

For further information contact Darran Kennedy on 4775 6055, or Alan Bird on 4938 6740.

Make every day count

A new campaign, Every Day Counts, aims to change parent, community and student attitudes to school attendance to reduce student absenteeism and drive home the message that every day counts at school.

Minister for Education, Training and the Arts Rod Welford said it was obvious that chronic absenteeism could have a detrimental impact on the education of a young person.

"Schools and teachers play a vital role in managing attendance problems through early identification and intervention," Mr Welford said.

Guidelines to address chronic absenteeism, refusal to go to school and truancy were made available earlier this year to support schools. The guidelines also include a five-step model for improving school attendance.

To find out more about the Every Day Counts campaign and to download the guidelines visit the DETA website at www.deta.qld.gov.au

United Nations seeks youth representative

Applications are now open for the 2009 Youth Representative in Australia's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly.

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Since 1999, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has chosen one young Australian for the role.

The Australian Youth Representative is responsible for representing the views and interests of Australian young people to the United Nations.

The Youth Representative spends about eight weeks as a fully accredited member of the Australian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Young Australians between the age of 15 and 24 are encouraged to apply before applications close on 31 October, 2008.

For more information and to apply, visit www.unya.asn.au/youthrep

Artists interpret their healing journeys

Artists from Far North Queensland drew on their cultures and personal mental health experiences to create an exhibition that gives insight into individual journeys of recovery and healing.

Healing Journeys, which opened in September at the Tanks Art Centre in Cairns, sets the artists' personal experiences against a national backdrop in a year where Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples was a critical milestone on the road to national healing.

Three Lockhart River artists - Denise Fruit, Doris Platt and Patrick Butcher - along with Torres Strait Island artist Billy Missi joined Indigenous psychiatrist Helen Milroy and Cairns mental health clinician Lee George in depicting their experiences from both sides of the mental health healing process.

Project coordinator Dr Geraldine M Dyer said creativity could greatly improve mental health not only by helping people to express themselves but also through participation in community arts projects.

The process of developing Healing Journeys was documented on film and the documentary is on show

as part of the exhibition. The documentary includes interviews with the Lockhart River artists about themselves and the role of art in their lives.

The exhibition, funded through Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts program for Building Skills and Opportunities, is a partnership between Arts Queensland and Queensland Health.

World Indigenous education conference

Some 3000 Indigenous people from across the world are expected to attend the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference: Education in Melbourne on 1-7 December.

The conference will feature key note speeches by world leaders in Indigenous education and over 400 conference sessions, with presenters hailing from Botswana to Bangladesh, Taiwan to Toronto.

International speakers include Dr Marie Battiste, a Mi'kmaq educator from Canada, Professor Octaviana Valenzuela Trujillo from the USA and Professor Graham Hingangaroa Smith from Aotearoa, New Zealand, a prominent Maori educationalist.

Australian Indigenous key note speakers include WIPC:E 2008 patron, Emeritus Professor Colin Bourke, MBE, from Monash University, Bruce Pascoe representing the Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages, Dr Alf Bamblett, from Victoria, Commissioner Tom Calma, who has been the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, a Senior Government Adviser of Indigenous Affairs, Dr Chris Sarra, Executive Director of the Indigenous Education Leadership Institute and Professor Colleen Hayward, Manager of the Kulunga Research Network at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Western Australia, 2020 Summit participant and 2008's National NAIDOC Aboriginal Person of the Year.

For more information, visit www.wipce2008.com

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Employment programs up for discussion

The Federal Government is calling for submissions on its recently released paper on Indigenous employment programs, *Increasing Indigenous Employment Opportunity*.

The proposed model includes reforms to Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) and the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP).

The reforms are a key element in meeting the target 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 this target, requiring major reforms to Indigenous and mainstream employment services.

Following extensive community consultations earlier this year, the Government is proposing a model that will benefit Indigenous job seekers, communities and employers.

Public consultations sessions on the discussion paper will be held across Australia and written submissions can be provided until 7 November.

The Government encourages all interested individuals and groups to attend consultations to hear about proposed reforms.

The paper and session details can be obtained at indigenous.gov.au or by calling 1802 102.

Appointments

Penny Hamilton has been appointed Principal Project Officer - Professional Development within the Schools team of the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts.

Since joining the Partners for Success unit as a Senior Education Officer in 2006, Penny has applied her teaching experience (six year at Windaroo State School) to all aspects of her work.

She implemented the *Guidelines for Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools* framework across the state and developed and facilitated professional development opportunities across a range of formats, designs, settings and audiences.

Penny said involving community was an important part of her work in delivering professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals that accelerate and sustain Indigenous students' educational outcomes.

Judith Standen has been appointed Senior Project Officer for Linking Families and Schools, part of the Partners for Success team.

Judith has worked with the Department since 1992 as a Regional Community Education Counselling, most recently with Darling Downs South West Queensland Region.

She has a Science degree majoring in Applied Psychology from the University of Southern Queensland and is looking forward to her new role.

In Brief

Queensland Indigenous Sports Awards

Friday, 7 November 2008

Sofitel Reef Casino, Wharf Street, Cairns

Indigenous Sport Queensland presents the second annual Oz Minerals awards including seven regional awards for outstanding local achievement and the Eddie Gilbert Medal for Queensland's most outstanding Indigenous sportsperson for 2008.

For more information visit:
www.indigenoussportqueensland.com

World Indigenous Peoples Conference: Education 2008 - Indigenous education in the 21st Century – respecting tradition, shaping the future.

7 – 11 December

Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, Victoria

www.wipce2008.com.au

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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