



RESQ

RAPAD EMPLOYMENT SERVICES QUEENSLAND



2017 ANNUAL REVIEW



Our Region

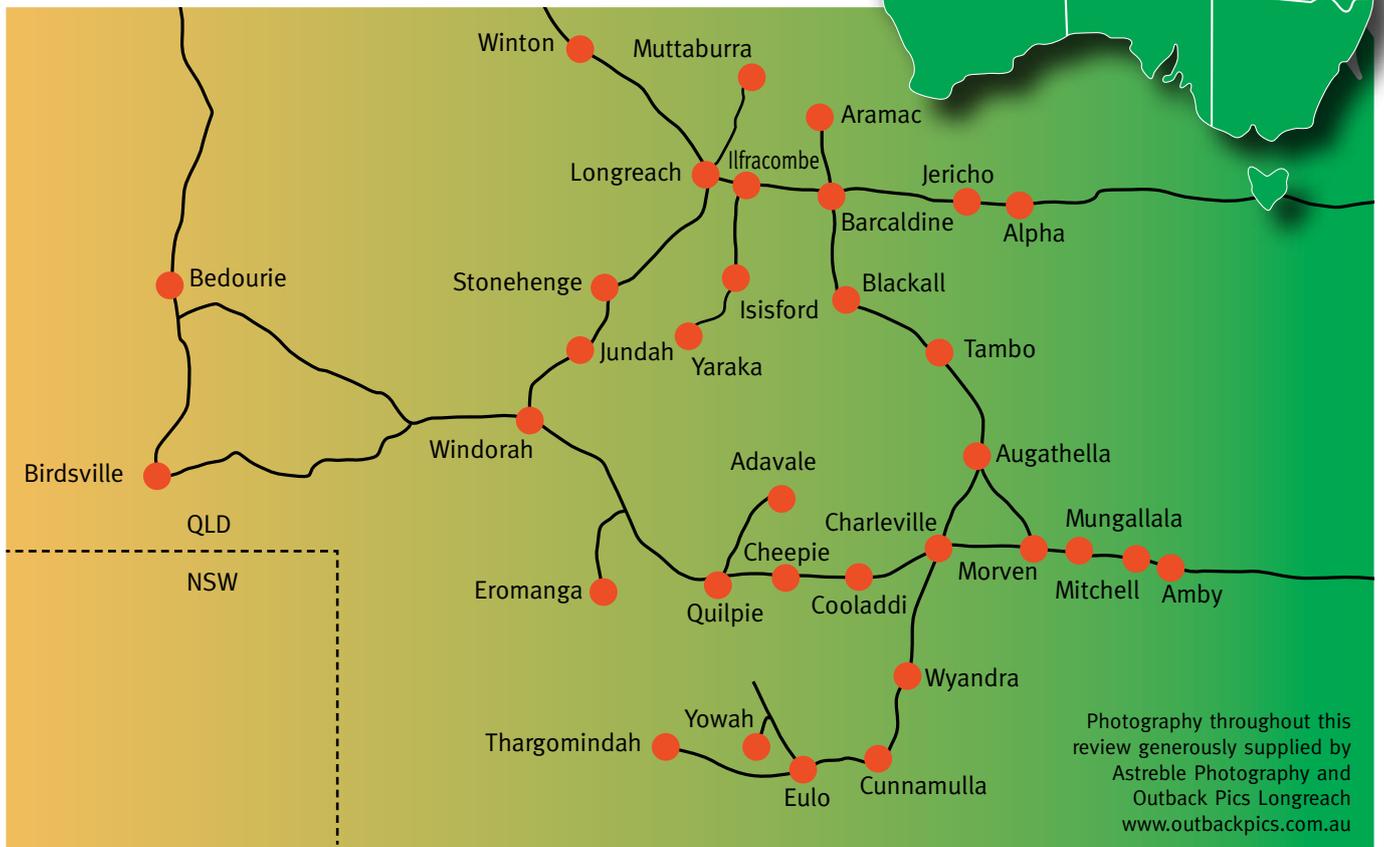
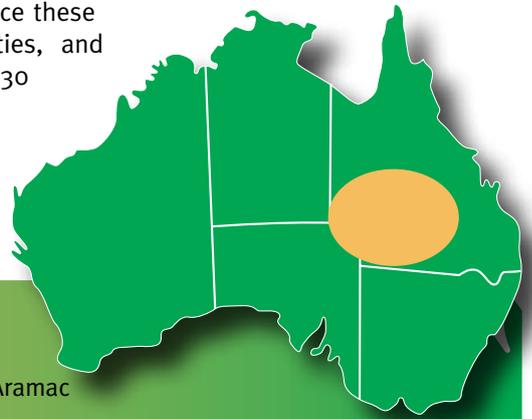


RAPAD Employment Services Queensland (RESQ) is the Community Development Programme (CDP) provider for Central West and South West Queensland. The two areas encompass one of the largest and diverse geographic regions included in the program. Our original Central West Queensland program area and recently acquired Southwest Queensland program area have a combined size of almost 800,000km² with under 20,000 residents from a variety of backgrounds including a significant number of Indigenous people.

Eleven regional councils support the organisation including Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Blackall Regional Council, Bulloo Shire Council, Diamantina Shire

Council, Longreach Regional Council, Maranoa Regional Council, Murweh Shire Council, Paroo Shire Council, Quilpie Shire Council, and Winton Shire Council.

Over 40 staff are employed to cover this huge region and its diverse employment and training needs. They work hard to service these 32 communities, and assist over 730 job seekers.



Photography throughout this review generously supplied by Astreble Photography and Outback Pics Longreach www.outbackpics.com.au

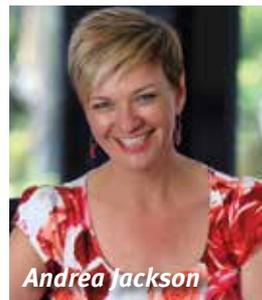
Board Profiles



David Arnold

David Arnold
Chief Executive Officer, Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD)

With over 11 years as General Manager and CEO at RAPAD, David Arnold brings a wealth of experience in regional development, stakeholder engagement and project management. A well-known Longreach resident, he expands his service to the Central West through his involvement on the RESQ Board.



Andrea Jackson

Andrea Jackson
Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Job Connections (IJC)

Andrea Jackson joined IJC as CEO in July 2017. IJC is an Indigenous owned social enterprise based in Cairns and a founding partner in RESQ. Andrea is an Australian Institute of Company Directors' graduate and has enjoyed a diverse career in small

Chairman's Message



Rob Chandler
Mayor of Barcaldine, Chairman of RAPAD and RESQ.

RAPAD Employment Services Queensland, better known as RESQ, was developed over four years ago through a joint partnership and has been successfully delivering the Australian Government's Community Development Programme (CDP). Over this time RESQ has had strong employment outcomes in Queensland's central west with over 250 job seekers placed in employment while servicing over 700 participants. These achievements have been made possible through the development of high quality activities that provide training and employable skills; providing job seekers with the self-confidence and life skills to keep their new job. One of our newer achievements has been facilitating casual paid employment that can transition into permanent full time work.

Ongoing programs such as Weeds of National Significance and the Wild Dog Exclusion Fence have provided long term benefits to program participants, job seekers, employers and communities. These programs are unique in their longevity and multi-partner participation.

At this time I register my sincere thanks to retiring Board Members Chris Martin and Chris Hamilton who have helped steer the organisation to these successes. We welcome Andrea Jackson and Alicia Gibson to the Board and look forward to their fresh ideas along with extensive experience in community services management and governance.

Reading about our achievements in the region through this Annual Review brings our achievements to a personal level, proving again that a job creates a productive and content life.

Our success has been further celebrated with our invitation by the Office of the Prime Minister & Cabinet to guide our neighbouring CDP region of South West Queensland from April 2017. To date our focus has been on training and providing systems to deliver more effective services. We are proud to include our new team and communities in this Annual Review.

Our efforts have been welcomed and appreciated by participants, employers, communities and funding partners.

In 2017 and 2018 we will continue to advocate for consistent long term solutions for training and employment across the Central West and South West, educating decision makers on our challenges and needs. Our focus will concentrate on building partnerships through collaboration including with local Indigenous groups and organisations of the Central and South West, to ensure the greatest spread of benefit across our regions.

business, at senior management level in the corporate sector and for the past 20 years has been a director on a range of boards within the education and community services sectors in Cairns.



Alicia Gibson
Chief Executive Officer, Skill Centred Queensland

As Chairman of RESQ founding partner, Employment Services Queensland (ESQ), and CEO of Skill Centred Queensland, a not-for-profit community based organisation operating across Queensland, Alicia brings many years of experience in organisations supporting long-term unemployed, disadvantaged youth and Indigenous clients.

She holds a Bachelor of Social Welfare (Youth Work), Associate Diploma in Welfare Studies, along with other qualifications; and is currently completing her Masters in Business. She sits on a variety of Boards within her local community.



Chief Executive Officer's Message



Tony Rayner,
Chief Executive Officer, RAPAD Employment Services Queensland (RESQ)

It's hard to believe it's been over four years. Time has flown as the RAPAD Employment Services Queensland (RESQ) team has immersed itself in assisting job seekers and communities across the Central West. Our success implementing the Federal Government's Community Development Programme (CDP) throughout 2017 has seen our programs providing job placements for up to around 250 job seekers and supporting a peak engagement of almost 300 job seekers.

Our efforts to skill people ready to work in our 16 communities across the Central West have seen us expand to support a further 16 communities in South West Queensland. Since April 2017 our Federal Government partners have supported us establishing priorities; with resources and funds to provide training and employment opportunities for around 440 job seekers in this region.

South West Queensland shares linkages with the Central West in industry, business, sport, infrastructure and employment; and faces many of the same challenges. We are strengthening these linkages working with partners across Bulloo, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo and Quilpie Shire and Regional Councils.

Employment Consultants have discussed the career aspirations of each job seeker and mapped out a work plan to assist them gain practical and applied skills to build their confidence, knowledge and preparation for work.

Experienced Activity Supervisors have then worked closely with each job seeker to provide mentoring, training and individual support, allowing each participant to grow at their own pace.

This approach has paid off with job seekers on fencing, general maintenance and civil operation projects in particular, being sought after for jobs. Casual employment in tourism, hospitality and retail sectors has also lifted and RESQ is proud to have placed 30% of our talent pool into casual and permanent employment across the Central West.

Transitioning the South West's job seekers into our successful structure has seen the creation of a range of relevant activities to develop employment skills, with a focus on training opportunities. This focus has absorbed resources and time but is paying off handsomely with a lift in attendance at activities to 90%.

The commitment of our team to bring projects to fruition and the enthusiasm of participants to improve their lives, when an opportunity is presented, is impressive. You can read about how these projects are supporting communities in this Annual Review.

A stable organisation and funding with strong communication has RESQ well placed to continue joint ventures and partnerships across both regions for future success and sustainability. We expect this holistic community approach will further build strategic long term projects that assist both job seekers and regional communities achieve productive outcomes for the region's future.



Introducing CDP South West Queensland



Centred around Charleville, the South West Queensland region the Community Development Programme (CDP) area encompasses 16 different communities and about 375,000km². Since April 2017 RESQ has been tasked with bringing this diverse area together with the common goal of building employment and community development outcomes.

RESQ Chief Executive Officer Tony Rayner said existing linkages between the Central West and South West were already present, with similar agricultural and tourism driven economies and many sporting and community organisation links.

“By implementing programs proven in the Central West in the South, the opportunities for success are strong. Many businesses operate across these areas - there is no fence - and employment is portable where we have common objectives,” he said.

“We are spending a lot of time listening,” he continued. “Our Business Manager Debbie Erswell has been traveling around the region talking to stakeholders to make sure we finesse programs to suit individual communities.”

“Debbie’s team of 20 plus are here to respond to community need, and so far the feedback has been positive.”

Program Manager Debbie Erswell added “There’s a real positive buzz in the region, this is our opportunity to make new things happen.”

“We have offices in Charleville and Cunnamulla with Supervisors based in Mitchell, Augathella and Quilpie.”

“Early success includes introducing new training programs and activities for our 440 job seekers, engaging with Traditional Owners, and working with our funding partners in local government - Bulloo, Murweh, Paroo and Quilpie Shires and Maranoa Regional Council,” Tony added.



Joint Ventures Build Community Resilience



RESQ works hard at involving job seekers across the broad community spectrum, encouraging them to have pride in the work that makes a difference to the community, not just seeing a job as money for labour.

Over the past four years RESQ has developed relationships with many community groups and built trust to enable more formal relationships to be formed.

CEO Tony Rayner has seen some great results working with local Indigenous groups in the Central West and looks forward to building similar partnerships with the large Indigenous population in the South West.

“The success of our partnership with Red Ridge (Interior Queensland) Ltd, a regional development arts organisation, and their traditional owner group Wangkangurra/Yarluyandi in the Birdsville area, has seen Indigenous led creation and exhibition of original art and leather work this year.”

“The participants created 27 individual artworks on the NAIDOC theme “Our languages matter,” and launched a successful exhibition at NAIDOC Week; ran 37 workshops; a “Pop Up” Shop at the Birdsville Big Red Bash; and most importantly secured a full-time job for one participant. A fantastic achievement in a tiny regional community,” Tony explained.

He went on to tell of the successful program RESQ and the Central West Aboriginal Corporation (CWAC) have been running together in the Barcardine district.

“CWAC have been maintaining the solar farm at Barcardine with a group of 8-10 locals slashing, mowing, stick picking and weed spraying to keep the farm neat and easy to access for the electrical team.”

“RESQ have seen benefit in supplying equipment such as mowers and brush cutters, that CWAC could not have resourced themselves,” Tony said. “From little things, big things grow - this is just our first project together and we look forward to many in the future.”

The Mithaka Traditional Owner group between Windorah, Bedourie, Birdsville and Betoota have been working with RESQ on a cultural mapping project.

Tony explained that identifying cultural history by walking Country and mapping scar trees, rock art, burial sites, middens, etc is an important task.

“Much of this knowledge is being lost as generations pass away and RESQ sees great benefit in partnering to support these regional activities that both teach employable skills including pride and self-esteem and preserve culture,” he said.



Traditional owners and participants at Murra Murra Station host RESQ staff Debbie Erswell and Brian Shillingsworth

No Such

Thing As Can't

RESQ South West Queensland Team Leader Brian Shillingsworth approaches each day as another opportunity to help his activity participants find their 'Can Do'.

"I've had a very varied life and gained experience moving around, working in construction, Indigenous health and community development - all this helped me find my 'happy place' working with my community in this role," Brian said.

"I love working with my people, my community here in Cunnamulla. People come to me, we talk on the weekend at the footy or the store and I get to know their whole story. This really helps me help them work out what they can do, rather than what they think they can't do," he explained.

Brian has been in this role for three and a half years, transitioning to the RESQ managed program in April 2017.

"It's a like a new job," Brian enthused. "It's reignited my passion, I've got extra responsibility, I know I'm making a difference."

"As a Traditional Owner (TO) group member of the Mardigan people, one of the great things is using my connections with other TO groups to introduce them to what RESQ are doing, helping get them talking to make new things happen."

During the year Brian introduced the RESQ to Kooma TO's from Murra Murra and Bendee Downs Stations on Country.



"It was great to go out and give them an opportunity to put forward their priorities and see what each organisation had in common," he said.

"RESQ are genuinely listening and responding to community need. They don't push stuff on anyone."

"By formalising our relationships with TO's through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) I can just 'get on with it', make things happen with them, without repetitive paperwork that can kill people's interest," Brian further explained.

"It's the same with group work around the Paroo Shire, we set up partnerships with stakeholders - the council, employers, community groups - and then my participants can get on with their 'Can Do's'," he smiled.

Quality Staff

Kent Constructions in Longreach have worked with RESQ since its inception and have had very positive hiring experiences.

Builder George Kent said he still employs three of the five staff sourced through RESQ over the years, which is testament to the quality of people Regional Manager Jade Smith puts forward.

"RESQ really understand what rural businesses need, they're flexible and we expect to work with them for employees well into the future," he enthused.

Latest apprentice Jesse Watson has settled in well, learning on the job after starting in February 2017.

"Jesse was happy to start at the bottom and he's learning from there - digging holes, helping with demolition, chasing tools for the experienced guys," George explained.

"I enjoy my job, I have good days and some not-so-good days, but George is pretty good - he reckons you've got to get it wrong to get it right," Jesse chimed in.

"I've already learned that tried and true saying 'measure twice and cut once', from bitter experience," he smiled sheepishly.



Jesse Watson gets into the restumping with boss George of Kent Constructions

"I'm learning every day. It's interesting helping with house renos - kitchens, bathrooms, laundries, restumping - watching the other blokes and getting in and getting dirty."

"I'd like to be as good as George one day," he said, with a quick look under his hat at George.

Playground Challenge

When challenged with building a new playground for Longreach State School, seven job seekers discovered the playground itself was just as challenging for them to build as it was for the kids once it was built.

RESQ Activity Supervisor Rob Cutting said it was quite a complicated install with a 13mx13m area to be prepared and each of the holes needing to be dug in exactly the right place.

“The group worked for two weeks removing the old play surface, digging the holes for all the playground equipment poles, installing the play equipment and prepping for soft fall,” he said.

“Play equipment is much more sophisticated now than in my day when you might have had just a jungle gym and set of swings,” he explained.

Longreach State School P&C President Saskia Eussen said the project was well received by the school and community.

“Having the RESQ Job Seekers install the equipment saved the P&C vital funds. They were a great help,” she said.

“The team worked well together achieving a safe and well-built play ground.”



“Rob managed to get the best result for both the participants in terms of skills and the school kids ending up with a challenging play area.”

Rob laughed as he concluded “The best part of the job was driving past later and seeing the kids swarming all over it.”



From Go To Whoa!

With about 300 people living in Aramac, a new building is big news.

RESQ worked with Barcaldine Shire Council, the Aramac Hospital Auxiliary, Aramac Hotel and Michael Horman Transport on a joint project to build a shed for the community bus and historic Harry Redford Wagon.

Aramac Hotelier Greg Mole said everyone pulled out all stops to get the shed erected in just two weeks.

“It’s a serious shed. No mucking about. It was a six month project - from Go to Whoa,” Greg proudly explained.

“The whole community is so proud of the shed. It’s awesome to have our community bus and the lovingly restored horse-drawn Harry Redford Wagon protected from the weather,” he said.

“It reduces the amount of maintenance required for both vehicles and also reduces depreciation.”

“The horse drawn wagon in particular has had innumerable hours invested in its restoration.”

“We really appreciate RESQ’s involvement. We couldn’t have afforded to pay a contractor to build the shed and other local businesses chipped in freebies to make it happen once we had the grant and RESQ’s involvement.”

RESQ Activity Supervisor Rob Cutting said the shed project was very successful in teaching new skills.

“There is more scope for RESQ to do work outside Longreach. Small communities have such high need for

labour and resources to complete community projects.”

“And having two weeks full time on site saw an incredible retention in skills for our participants,” Rob said.

“Employers saw the participants at work and one of the crew had a potential job offer from that exposure.”



A Hand Up Not

A Hand Out

Young Eli Soro has recently started an apprenticeship with Russell Painters Blackall.

After spending school holidays working on jobs to help out, and proving himself as a keen worker, boss Kevin Russell gave him the chance to turn his interest into a qualification for life.

Kevin said he had always been happy to give people a chance and Eli was a good toiler and worth the effort.

“Taking on an apprentice is a four year project for me as his employer, so it’s not a decision I took lightly, but Eli’s got more in him than just being a labourer and being a tradesman painter is a good future for the kid,” he said.

“Everyone needs a hand up, Eli’s had a few physical challenges in his life, and I get that, having only one leg myself.”

Eli will learn all aspects of the painting trade like preparation, puttying, sanding, painting and also broader skills in floor polishing and furniture restoration.

Kevin said as a small town and rural contractor his business needed to offer a range of services and Eli would get to try his hand and learn all these skills.



Eli’s voice lit up as he spoke of working with Kevin.

“It’s really good to have a job and my independence,” he said. “I’m getting used to what is expected of me, to make sure I do a proper job.”

“We work in town and out on properties. Every day is different.”



RESQ Rangers

A group of five RESQ job seekers participated in a three week activity with Lake Eyre Basin Rangers undertaking Landcare and cultural activities in the Longreach-Barcaldine-Aramac area.

Lake Eyre Basin Rangers Senior Ranger Jodie Ahkee was so impressed with the teams’ effort and application she dubbed them honorary RESQ Rangers.

“Leroy Dempsey, Jennifer Condren, Cameron Punch, Raymond Shorter and Alice Laza applied themselves and engaged well with the Lake Eyre Basin Rangers they were working with,” Jodie said.

“We will certainly keep these job seekers in mind if we are looking to employ any staff,” she enthused.

“It was quite a big three weeks with many sites and activities undertaken.”

“Weed control of invasive weeds such as Parkinsonia and Mimosa, and general land care maintenance was undertaken at Iningai Nature Reserve, Rio Waterhole and Top Weir in Longreach; Sand Dune and Ngai Mulli Gooka (Clydesdale Farm) near Barcaldine; and Edgbaston Reserve near Aramac,” Jodie went on to explain.

“Speaking with Traditional Owners later, they were very pleased with our efforts, achieving work they couldn’t resource themselves,” she continued.



Leroy Dempsey preparing and installing pitfall traps with the Lake Eyre Basin Rangers at Edgbaston Reserve

“The group participated in a walk along Hudson Fysh Walk in Longreach sharing cultural knowledge of various plants and also visits to various sites to source materials for artefacts. Boomerangs, clapsticks, woomeras and a hitting stick were later made from these.”

RESQ was proud that Leroy Dempsey’s particularly commendable work effort was rewarded with a five day trip to Edgbaston Reserve with two Lake Eyre Basin Rangers where the three rangers spent the time setting up 24 permanent monitoring sites and installing 48 pitfall traps for future survey work.

Jodie said this gave Leroy a valuable insight and the chance to experience another aspect of the work rangers do.

Remote Doesn't Have To Mean Isolated

The sharp crack of a whip strikes through the cool morning air as a group of cattle station workers practice their new found skills. Encouraging comments and cheeky banter follow each man's efforts as they build skills in whip cracking, team work and communication.

A number of men working on remote cattle stations in Queensland took part in a two-day green hide whip-making workshop at Glengyle Station near Bedourie as part of a RESQ/Red Ridge regional partnership activity.

Red Ridge (Interior Queensland) Ltd manager, Louise Campbell said men of all ages had been targeted by the combined art and health project, brought together by a common interest in traditional skills and station life.

Bob 'Willo' Wilson, a leather craft tutor with Red Ridge and Stephen 'Parker' Dancey from the Central West Hospital and Health Service, travelled together to support the remote town with craft activities and health information and awareness.

Mr Dancey said from a little bit of leather great conversations occur, while Mr Wilson said it was important to get out and teach people the art of whip making before it is lost forever.



"The craft of green hide whip making is a lost art and participants had waited a long time to learn the craft today," he said. "They tried to learn from books but there is nothing better than learning in a real life environment, learning in two days what they have tried to do in six months remotely."

As an art and health program directly driven by the Bedourie and Birdsville communities, the benefits flow directly into family, culture, employment, skills development, drug and alcohol education and community capacity building, Louise explained.



Trainers and participants at the Glengyle Station whip-making workshop

Butcher's Assistant Settles In

Butcher's Assistant at Winton Butchery, Chris Patterson had done some work at a slaughter yard and realised butchery was of more interest.

He approached Winton Butchery owners Dan and Debbie Nichols for some work experience and with the assistance of RESQ arranged some casual hours.

Debbie Nichols said the arrangement had been a good one. "Chris has settled in really well. He is particularly good in the customer service role."

"He serves at the counter, slices small goods, weighs and packs the pre-packs, puts together wholesale orders and deliveries," she said.

"Chris has managed well to pick skills up and also helps the butchers with their big jobs."

"We've been busy and having Chris as the learner on casual hours has been good."

"As his usefulness has grown so have his hours - from a few hours to full time now we're preparing for Winton Outback Festival and then Christmas will come up."

"I'm really happy in my role," Chris said "I like to help the butchers and I'd like to move into an apprenticeship later."



"It will get quieter after Christmas and hours might drop off, but Chris is part of the team now and there's a place here for him," Debbie concluded.

Backing Indigenous Art

(Anpanuwa) Joyce Crombie and (Aupunda) Jean Barr-Crombie may have started their journeys in art later in life but their achievements have quickly established them as professionals with great talent.

Proud Wangkangurru/Yarluyandi women whose Country surrounds today's Birdsville, Anpanuwa Joyce and Aulpunda Jean bring Wangkangurru/Yarluyandi Country alive in their art, expressing their deep love of Country from river to the desert. They see beauty in their traditional land, in sand and gibbers, the long horizon and star-freckled night, and bring it to life on canvas.

RESQ and Red Ridge (Interior Queensland) Ltd partnered to bring a series of Indigenous led community workshops and exhibitions to life featuring the 2017 NAIDOC Week theme "Our Languages Matter".

Aulpunda Jean led women's painting circles for job seekers in the Birdsville area as well as other interested community members.

"Many of the participants had never done anything like this before," she said. "We painted on canvas, silk, clothing, and earthenware, creating 27 artworks for display and sale."

"It was a first for them turning their imagination into something real. Something beautiful and even useable."

A diverse range of artworks created interest from amongst the crowd at the official opening launched for NAIDOC Week. Every piece was labelled in both English and Language to reflect the NAIDOC theme.



Aulpunda Jean glowed as she told of the reaction at the exhibition and later at other venues such as the Birdsville Visitor Information Centre, Birdsville Races and The Big Red Bash.

"We sold a number of paintings commercially and we now have a permanent sales display in the Birdsville Visitor Information Centre of paintings on canvas and silk ties and scarves that make popular gifts for tourists travelling through," she explained.

Red Ridge Manager Louise Campbell said these community activities give hope and inspiration to a small remote community like Birdsville.

"With continued support ongoing skills can be nurtured and opportunities developed. Participant's confidence has grown, building job readiness skills and contributing back to the community."



Job Seekers

Highly Recommended

As the wild dog fence project has its third year of successful operation - fencing paddocks to protect stock and training men to be fencing contractors - four station owners and the council in the Stonehenge area cooperated to complete 40km along their common fences with crown land.

Withywine Station grazier Andrew Poots and Sunnyside Station grazier Leonie Nunn hosted three long term unemployed men and their supervisor for their respective fence lines and both could not recommend the team highly enough to employers or fencing contractors looking for keen workers.

“They were a quiet hard working team that stuck at the job even when it got repetitive, they never missed a beat,” enthused Andrew.

Leonie was similarly praising “They worked really well, picking up skills and showing good work ethic. They have the skills now to get ongoing work.”

Leonie explained that the team came back for a second stint to continue their training and really got into it.

“I particularly remember one of the men’s mottos ‘we’re here to work, and work we will!’ - and they did,” she smiled.

“As they settled in they opened up and we learned more of their stories, it was a learning experience for us as much as it was for them,” she said.

Andrew Poots told a similar story “They were keen to work and keen to impress, and nothing was too much trouble.”

“It was good to get to know them, once you scratched the surface you realise there’s more to these guys than just labourers. They brought sophisticated skills of their own - they are very aware of their Country, bush foods, tracking, etc,” he explained.

“They will definitely add value to a fencing gang team working out in the bush. I’ve already recommended them to all my neighbours.”



The Weed Fairies Never Give Up



A foundation and annual project, the Weeds of National Significance eradication program around Central West Queensland has thrived under RESQ's stewardship.

Activity Supervisor Clayton Dolgner said all the partners saw the benefits.

"We pull it all together", he said "But we couldn't make it happen without our regional councils, Desert Channels NRM Group, Biosecurity Queensland and rural landholders."

"This year we have concentrated on 30km along the western side of the Thomson River and 50km on each side of the Muttaborra Common. You just have to keep going back to keep on top of the weeds that ruin productive land."

Boyd Webb of Weewondilla Station said he took his hat off to the team.

"The boys and Clayton come out and set up camp, get on with the job and move on to the next infestation - they're like the 'Weed Fairies', " he said.

"I don't have the time and the gear to do what the RESQ team do", he expanded. "Clayton teaches useable skills, gets them active and motivated, and they check every thicket for weeds as they cross the country."

"I only see some weeds when mustering and it's just not viable to employ a contractor to get in like they do."

"Full marks to the RESQ team, they've made a real difference to valuable land around the district, and added value to our agricultural economy."

"It's one of those jobs, as a grazier, you know you need to do, you know you want to do, but never have time," he concluded.



The Lost Art Arcade



RESQ is proud to have been a foundation partner with Red Ridge (Interior Queensland) Ltd developing The Lost Art Program based in Blackall.

In a time when rural work is scarce and unemployment high with changing demands for labour markets, RESQ and Red Ridge believe that participation in arts and craft based programs help strengthen rural commerce.

Two years ago The Lost Art Program commenced as a Remote Jobs and Communities Programme with only a table and chair at the Blackall Men's Shed. The vision was to change the lives of unemployed people by helping them to become job ready; upskilling and building community capacity.

Today The Lost Art Arcade beautifully animates a once vacant shop space in the central business district of Blackall with unemployed people operating a social enterprise retail outlet.

Participants meet daily, making and creating traditional leather craft; sharing the stories behind outback history and heritage.

Handmade craft such as stockmen's whips and hatbands, plaited belts, coin purses, passport and credit card holders as well as custom made items to order for locals and tourism markets who are looking for that unique handmade souvenir.

But it is more than just The Lost Art. It is a place and space that makes a significant contribution to the social, economic and healthy welfare of the community, changing people's lives and making a creative difference.

The group spent time consulting with the community on the best way to tell the stories from the local people. They then developed an interpreted picture book for tourists to buy and take home as a memory of their visit.

The Lost Art is helping many communities in isolated regions of remote Queensland. It now attracts interest from regional health service providers to help people struggling with and overcoming poor physical and mental health.

The program has also attracted private business partners, like Blackall's Scobie Saddlery, and has gone 'on the road' with workshops and pop-up shops at the Birdsville Races and "The Big Red Bash".

The partnership was a learning experience to trial how business and not-for-profit organisations can work together. This initiative has delivered positive results with improved self-confidence in presentation and retail learning.



Creating the Lost Art Arcade: Our shabby shop needed a coat of paint and the old lino floors ripped up. RESQ job seekers worked hard on this and then took 1000's of nails out of the original wooden floors before it could be polished. Local artist Bob 'Willow' Wilson painted a large scale mural telling the story of the stockmen, drovers, shearers and bushmen connections to the lost art of leather craft and the bush craft.





The Lost Art team were able to take their product to market securing alternative outlets, retailing, pricing and marketing that has ignited fresh new ideas that will enhance creativity and product development.

All funds generated are returned back into the program that makes an economic contribution by purchasing local goods and services, paying rent and helping the viability of local business. For communities the program offers enriching volunteer opportunities and the revitalisation of declining town centres.

The traditional bush crafts practiced by stockmen and ringers (both European and Indigenous) is fast disappearing. As the craft disappears so too does this piece of our history, particularly if we fail to share it with younger generations.

A future vision for The Lost Art is to share the bush craft with young and old through ongoing community workshops with an in-schools program to not only preserve the art and craft behind Australian bush culture but to teach young people entrepreneurial skills through the making of a product to final retailing.



Attracting interest: Jimmie Crombie passes on his leather making skills to interested workshop participants and the results have sold well through The Lost Art Arcade and its pop up shops at The Big Red Bash and Birdsville Races.

Job Seeker Success

It's helpful when you need new staff and you just happen to be the local Job Services provider... First point of call is checking your own job seekers for someone with the skills you need.

RESQ Cunnamulla office needed an administration officer and Katheryn Guttie was registered.

"Team leader Brian Shillington gave me a call. I came in for an interview and was stoked when I got the job" Katheryn said.

"I've worked in a few jobs in different towns and I've been studying too. I should have my Cert III in Disability Support finished by Christmas. It's been a huge commitment for me and I'll be so pleased to have it done," she sighed.

"Having a variety of experience across a couple of industries in addition to good admin skills, I can understand our job seekers challenges and barriers," she said.

"I really enjoy supporting job seekers, and having three of us in the Cunnamulla office now has made a big difference to the service level we can provide."

When Katheryn is not at work her other passion is baking. Family and friends have her in high demand for wedding and 18th birthday cakes and she often takes banana bread or brownies into the office for morning tea.



