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Eureka!

Regional Industry Career Adviser (RICA) Pilbara WA Newsletter



RICA ROUNDUP – PILBARA REGION

Welcome to the RICA Roundup Newsletter for 2009. As I sit back and read through this News Letter so much has happened in such a short amount of time. The downturn has certainly not affected the need for career information for schools and industry.

The Pilbara is fairing quite well through the economic climate and our businesses continue to support the RICA and the schools by actively participating in programs around the region. I am continually amazed at the community spirit our businesses have even in times as uncertain as these. In this issue you will find a snapshot of the projects that I have been involved in. There have been smaller projects that I have been a part of but for ease of reading the major projects have been highlighted.

As this role may not be around in its current form in 2010, I am certain that there will be a continuance of the government's commitment to career advice for schools and industry. I look forward to seeing how this will be implemented for 2010 and I will ensure that this information will be forwarded to all stakeholders as it comes to hand.

I hope you enjoy this issue and if you would like more information on anything happening in the Pilbara just give me a call.

Life is great in the Pilbara.

Regards

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Australian Government



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Career Advice Australia



Issue One
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Women In Industry Forum

On the 27th March year 10, 11 and 12 female students from Karratha Senior High School and St Lukes College were treated to a smorgasbord of career information. The girls heard from 12 inspirational women on their careers and how they got there – the good and the bad.

Information on Human Resources, Plant Operation and Midwifery were among the careers on offer.

After the presentations the students had the opportunity to sit down and talk freely with the presenters over lunch.

The students and the presenters all commented on the benefits of having a career information held in this format.

The forum was a partnership between the North West Shelf Venture Karratha Education Initiative and the RICA. All students and presenters were given an information booklet created by the RICA with current information, education requirements and Higher Education Pathways on the careers presented. These booklets are now being used in some schools across the Pilbara.



Students and presenters at the 2nd Women in Industry Forum

VET Cluster Karratha

On the 4th of March members of the Pilbara VET Cluster met in Karratha to discuss issues effecting VET in schools. Unfortunately a decrease in funding saw the cluster smaller than usual but the information was still high class and relevant to all stakeholders in VET. The cluster discussed the following:

- Changes to the new Workplace Learning
- A presentation by SMYL on Aboriginal School Based Training in the Pilbara
- Update from VET in Schools policy department
- TAA qualifications for teachers
- Presentation by RICA on economic down turn and the effects on schools

The last point was a joint effort with the Pilbara Development Commission (PDC). PDC provided the raw data on local projects that is either continuing or not, I provided information on the effect of these projects on small business and the flow on effect to schools in regards to work placements. This talk focused on the new opportunities that have arisen with the down turn. Businesses are not as busy in the Pilbara and therefore more able to accommodate schools with student placement. This opens up the availability of businesses and industry not previously subscribed to working with schools. This outcome has been demonstrated already with record numbers of exhibitors at recent expos and the acceptance of industry to participate in other school industry forums. The presentation also focused on the positives of the downturn in regards to educating students on the necessity of proper preparation for interviews for future employment. As the employment opportunities have slowed it is now an employers market and students in the Pilbara now have to vie with other students for jobs. Previously students did little more than turn up for an interview and they would more than likely receive a job. Now the students need to prepare resumes, practice interview skills and learn about employability skills to make themselves marketable. This is being seen as a timely introduction to the real world.

Newman and Port Hedland University Forum

On the 30th April four of the Perth based universities traveled to the Pilbara. The first stop was Newman Senior High School. The trip was coordinated with the RICA to provide these students with information on Higher Education and the career paths open to them post university studies.

The forum was presented to students in Year 10, 11, 12. All four uni's gave a brief overview of their university then students were given the opportunity to attend two mock uni lectures. This was to give the students an introduction to uni and demonstrate the difference between school and uni. The presentation was also done at the local TAFE to SAL students letting them know that uni is not just for TEE students. The universities also had time to speak with parents on a one to one basis to assist them with the important decisions facing their children.

This forum was repeated in Port Hedland on the 11th June when all five universities returned for the Karratha Expo and visited Hedland before traveling further north to the Kimberly.

All involved found the forums to be a wonderful source of up to date information. Scholarship information was also given as there are many regional scholarships available. It makes a difference when you can ask questions face to face. It also demonstrates the importance of regional students to all universities.



University reps presenting to SAL students at PilbaraTAFE Newman Campus.

Tom Price Career Expo

Tom Price Senior High School hosted local industry for the 2009 Try a Trade Career Expo on the 1st April. There were no fools on this day as the information and experience for students was fantastic. The expo was split between a traditional expo and a "hands on" Try a Trade. Industries represented included:

- Pathology
- Banking
- Police
- Mining
- Apprenticeships/Traineeships
- Hairdressing/Beauty Therapy
- Universities

Trade experience was given in the following areas:

- Electrical
- Mechanical Fitting
- Carpentry

This Expo was coordinated by the VET Coordinator from the High School with assistance of the LCP, RICA, DET and local businesses. Once again the students from Tom Price displayed an inquisitive and courteous manner and they are a credit to themselves and the school. The expo is held in conjunction with the schools career week and is proving to be an intricate part of the program.



Students receive up to date information at the 2009 Career Expo

Remote Schools Camp

Karratha become the temporary home for a week for students from around the region including Nulligine, Marble Bar, Strelly community and Yanderra. From the 25th May to the 29th June 30 students from these remote schools gathered together under the guidance of the VET coordinator for the annual Remote Schools Camp. Students were based at the Dampier Camp School and enjoyed activities such as:

- Team Building
- Leadership
- Sport and Recreation
- Industry Tours

Industry tours were organized and coordinated by the RICA. The students were split into two groups depending on area of interest. The first group went to the Light Industrial Area and as suspected was made up of mostly male students. They visited the following industries:

- Horticulture
- Building and Construction
- Mechanical Engineering

The second group attended industries that were not so trade orientated and, as you may now have guessed, was made up of all female students. These industries were:

- Camp site management and careers available in camps
- Health/Hospital
- Journalism and printing.



Students enjoy a visit to the Local community paper “The Echo”

Karratha

Try at Trade and Go Pro Career Expo

The end of the first half of the year culminated in the Try a Trade and Go Pro Career Expo. This year the event was coordinated and produced by the RICA. Major sponsor North West Shelf Venture again ensured that the event continues to grow. The expo has grown over the last four years from humble beginnings of approximately 12 exhibits to a record number of 57 in 2009. This event is a split expo with 37 exhibitors inside the Karratha Entertainment Centre and 20 “hands on” exhibits and trades on the oval.

Over 10 industries flew representatives from Perth to attend and promote their industry and business. Industries in attendance included:

- Accor Hospitality
- BGC
- Bristow Aviation
- Mermaid Marine Australia
- Transfield Worley
- TJR Building
- Discovery Sailing Adventures
- Sodexo Remote Sites
- Nickol Bay Hospital
- All five Universities,
- Shire of Roebourne
- Small Business Centre
- RIOTINTO
- Woodside Energy LTD, and
- Many more

Students from Karratha Senior High School from Year 8 – 12, St Lukes College, Roebourne High School, Punmu remote community school and the general public were treated to a smorgasbord board of career and industry information. The exhibitors were given the opportunity to promote their industry and business as well as network with other businesses in the shire. It was a wonderful day ending an industry sundowner for exhibitors. Thanks to the LCP, DET, KDCCI and the High schools for their assistance with the expo

Please see a photo montage on the next page.

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EXPO CREW KARRATHA 2009



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Future Events:

- **Men In Industry**
- **Quobba Career Camp – Joint Project with MidWest**
- **Career Industry Forum Newman**
- **Business Excellence Awards Karratha**
- **Virtual Workplace Learning for students with disabilities (Regional)**
- **VET Cluster forums**

Career Advice Australia (Overview)

Career Advice Australia (CAA) is an Australian Government initiative and was announced in 2005 with the aim of supporting all young people from 13 to 19 years of age to help them achieve a successful transition through school and from school to further education, training and work. The success of this initiative has seen it be extended until the end of 2009.

Regional Industry Career Adviser

The main purpose of the RICA role is to provide high quality, relevant, regional industry career information, advice and resources, particularly in the areas of skills needs to Industry, Business, Community Members, Local Community Partnership, Career Advisors, Youth service providers and other Government and Community Organizations.

I have been working in partnership with businesses, employers and industry bodies within the Pilbara region to increase employer participation in programs and other activities such as:

- Adopt a School Projects
- Structured Workplace Learning
- Aboriginal School Based Traineeships
- Work Experience Placements
- Career Expos
- Industry Forums

To provide students of this region with support in these programs is heavily reliant on industry involvement. The Pilbara Region has already shown great support and partnerships which I am sure will continue to grow.

Local Community Partnership

Local Community Partnerships are incorporated not-for-profit, community-based organisations that work with schools, local businesses and community organisations to help young people gain skills, experience and career guidance as they move through and beyond school.

Local Community Partnerships achieve this through building partnerships with local industries, employer groups and businesses, schools, professional career advisers, community organisations, parents, young people, youth service providers and other government organisations.

Through these affiliations, Local Community Partnerships facilitate three important programs aimed at increasing the involvement of local businesses in young people's career development:

Work Place Learning

[Career and Transitions Support](#)

[Adopt a School Program.](#)

“If you always do what you always done you will always get what you have always gotten.”

Anon