

SteppingStone

October - December 2008



Everyone from STEPS wishes you all a safe and happy festive season!



All STEPS offices will be closed from

25th December 2008 to 5th January 2009



Aitkenvale Branch – We would like to wish all our participants and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have been able to assist many participants into employment during the past twelve months and look forward to assisting our new and existing participants move into the workforce in 2009. Thank You for your participation, we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Alice Springs Branch - Seasons Greeting from the team in Alice Springs. It has been a pleasure working with all the participants in Alice Springs and in Remote Central Australian Communities. We would like to congratulate everyone that has been successful in obtaining employment in the last year and look forward to working with all participants in New Year. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bowen Branch - We would like to congratulate everyone who has obtained suitable employment this year! STEPS Bowen has had it's annual Christmas party this year and went to the Bowen Bowls Club. It was a great success with all participants getting involved in the fun. We will have another Bowling day next year some time so we will keep you all posted with the date and time. Remember if you need any assistance with employment matters to contact the office so we can arrange for your employment consultant to help you. Julie, Anita, Greg M, Sarah and Greg C wish you a Peaceful, Happy Christmas and a Safe New Year.

Bundaberg Branch - Wow, can you believe that 2008 is nearly over and what a year it has been at the Bundaberg Branch! For those of you who have been participating in our program since 2007, you will know that this year has seen a lot of changes to the Bundaberg Branch. In March 2008 we moved from Targo Street to our brand new premises in Bourbong Street. I think that everyone agrees that the new office is a much nicer place to visit. You may have also noticed a few new staff members on the team. All of our Employment and Sales Consultants have a wide variety of experiences to draw upon. We have put all

this experience to good use and have helped a large number of our participants start new jobs in 2008 – Congratulations to all those who are now working. We hope that you have a happy and safe holiday season and we look forward to meeting with you all again in 2009 and helping you with your career choices. Merry Christmas!

Caloundra Branch - STEPS Employment Service not only helps people find employment but also assists people in achieving their career goals and dreams. Recently STEPS provided local artist Annette Gleeson with professional marketing support and assistance to help build her own art business.

In the mid 1990's Annette was diagnosed with a debilitating illness called Fibromyalgia and a form of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. At the time Annette was very busy bringing up her family. It took her several years to learn how to cope with her illness and she had to rethink how she was going to live her life from that point on. Annette had to take into consideration all the things she no longer found herself able to enjoy or do in her life, as the chronic pain and fatigue occurred on a weekly basis. Annette was no longer able to enjoy dance and her voice became weakened by the lack of muscle control she sometimes experienced. Fine Arts became her encouragement and inspiration. Annette studied a Diploma of Visual Arts and later a Bachelor of Visual Arts as a part time student. These courses helped Annette develop a sense of place within the art world with her particular interest in mixed media oil paintings.

Over the years she has produced many commissioned works for portraits, Murals, Trompe L'oeil, theme work for businesses, clubs and pubs and has ventured into theatre design and more recently re-commenced working with sculptural clay works, as well as oil paintings. Her work has been exhibited across the Sunshine Coast such as the David Linton, Tina Cooper and Noosa Gallery. She has just recently

"We're with you every step of the way!"



created a website to showcase her work which can be viewed at annettegleeson.com and is currently working on her solo exhibition. Annette has received a great amount of support and encouragement from STEPS, building her confidence and providing advice and motivation to assist her in achieving her own goals. STEPS consultants are also in the process of organising an art exhibition for her. The art will be displayed at Lake Kawana Community Centre from the 9th Jan - 31st Jan and anyone can have a look during business hours. The launch night is on the 22nd January so please come along. If you would like more information, please call the Caloundra office on 1300 078 377.

Hervey Bay Branch – A big congratulations to Geoffrey Cox who found his own employment at the RSL. Geoffrey had already been working as a barman but has wanted to work at the RSL in a permanent position, and with patience and persistence he landed himself a position there. Geoffrey loves his new job, so it just shows that persistence does pay off. Well done Geoff! We are all proud of you.

Maroochydore Branch - It has been a very busy few months in Maroochydore office. Lots of job starts and lots of job support for our participants. Congratulations!!!! Facilitated job search will be operating in Maroochydore, Nambour and Caloundra offices commencing Monday 5th January 2009. From the Maroochydore team we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. See you all in 2009.

Nambour Branch – A reminder for our participants that each Monday at Nambour and Tuesday at Maroochydore we have facilitated job search with 30 plus participants attending. We continue to see our participants gain confidence and motivation while moving forward to gain suitable sustainable employment.

We have been successful in securing quality interviews, resulting in placements with ongoing employment from facilitated job search. We also have participants who could not use a computer are now looking up jobs on the internet and helping other participants who are new to the group with their job searching. We find that when our participants bring in their list of their top ten employers and we work with them on their list they have ownership and are more involved and motivated in the process of job searching. The social aspect is also important as this is where participants chat and become aware that they could do work that they had not previously thought they could do. We recently held our participants Xmas

bowling day and 30 participants attended which reflects the support and dedication our Nambour Team continue to offer. All participants and staff had a fun filled day and feed back has been very positive. All the Nambour team would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our participants and employers a very safe and happy Christmas and a very successful New Year!

Townsville Branch –It has been a very exciting year for the Townsville team as we merged with STEPS on 1st July 2008. We are all very happy to be on board with a wonderful team of staff members and would like to thank the team for all of their support. We wish all participants a safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to working with you all in another successful New Year.

Branch Contacts

If you have an emergency during this Christmas closure period 25th December 2008 to 5th January 2009, please contact your relevant branch's emergency contact:

- Aitkenvale Branch:**
0400 712 520 – Kylie Budd
- Alice Springs Branch:**
0427 379 800 – Katrina Whan
- Bowen Branch:**
0417 721 276 – Greg Cummins
- Bundaberg Branch:**
0409 589 585 – Glynn Eiser
- Caloundra Branch:**
0400 795 998 – Steven Chand
- Hervey Bay Branch:**
0439 766 359 – Jodie Logovik
- Maroochydore Branch:**
0400 049 636 - Trish Cameron
- Maryborough Branch:**
0400 047 099 - Lori Keevers
- Nambour Branch:**
0419 755 343 - Nikki de Jonge
- Townsville Branch:**
0410 336 201 - Joanne Wittmaack



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