



BLOODWOOD TREE BANTER

A P R I L 2 0 2 0 N E W S L E T T E R

ASSISTING ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO RETURN TO COUNTRY

Bloodwood Tree was proud to play its part in helping State Government to protect residents living in remote Aboriginal communities against the spread of COVID-19. With the assistance of the Department of Communities, any Aboriginal person wishing to return to their country was supported through paid travel costs and provided with up to \$250 for food and supplies for their return as a part of the State's wider COVID-19 Response. The assistance measure came as the State Government warned that the impacts of the coronavirus in our remote Indigenous communities could be severe. The State Government also instituted bans on people entering the communities. Penalties up to \$50,000 could apply for those who



are found to be in breach of the directions. Bloodwood Tree was one of a number of Aboriginal organisations across Western Australia contracted to assist with this voluntary program. It applied only to those who wanted to return to their home communities. There was a pre-condition that the home community would accept and approve their return. The assistance included one-way travel, all forms of transport, self isolation accommodation and supplies. Bloodwood Tree assisted almost 70 individuals and families return to their respective home communities in Exmouth, Broome, Nullagine, Bidyadanga Looma and Yandeyarra. The State program assisted more than 700 Aboriginal people to return to their country.



SOUP KITCHEN HELPS MORE



Through an innovative collaboration led by Bloodwood Tree, a number of local companies, accommodation camps and hotels have teamed up to provide a regular supply of fresh fruit, bread and frozen, containerised, pre-prepared meals as a part of the South Hedland Soup Kitchen service for more than a year. With so many finding themselves unemployed due to COVID-19, the number of referrals to our Soup Kitchen Service has almost doubled. Port Haven Village has supported Bloodwood Tree since the Kitchen's inception. Port Haven Village did not hesitate to help meet the bigger demand. Over 580 meals were supplied last month to locals experiencing hardship. Since the Kitchen's beginning, a total of more than 5,800 meals have been provided. For so many, this generous response from Port Haven Village has been the difference between having access to the Soup Kitchen or going hungry. Thank you Port Haven!

FIRST WORK READY PROGRAM COMPLETED

Following the popular 2019 Trade Assistant / Labouring Work Ready Programs from August and October last year, the demand to fill local labouring positions has remained high. Since the new year,



a number of local businesses and recruitment agencies have contacted Bloodwood Tree seeking candidates for these and similar roles.

The first Work Ready Program for 2020 focussed on learnings, competencies and the relevant qualifications to meet this demand. Together with North Regional Tafe, Bloodwood Tree planned and developed a customised course. The first Work Ready Program for 2020 filled rapidly. Both men and women sought to take up these local roles.

Starting on 10 February, participants attended the Bloodwood Tree office on Mondays and Tuesdays for three weeks. Together with staff, participants worked

on goal setting, workplace communication techniques, building their resume and cover letter, as well as obtaining their ID and police clearances. Participants also received talks on drugs/alcohol and mental health and worked with Bloodwood Tree personnel to build confidence.

The Work Ready Program then moved to North Regional Tafe (Pundulmurra). Commencing 3 March, participants attended four weeks of intensive training and completed units in technology for life, personal development, workplace health and safety, health and wellbeing in addition to completing their White Card and Senior First Aid qualifications.

All of our Work Ready participants successfully completed the full course on 26 March 2020. Each graduate now has a strong skill base, a resume, a cover letter and everything else they need to begin their personal journey to employment. Bloodwood Tree are proud of the achievements of our recent Work Ready participants. We look forward to continuing to support our graduates as they commence their employment journey with various local businesses.

MARCH BLOODWOOD TREE CLIENT SERVICES

Alcohol & Other Drug Services	
Counselling appointments	50
Drug & Alcohol Education sessions	20
Community Visits – Marble Bar	2
Community Visits – Yandeyarra	4
Community Visits – Warralong	3
Stakeholder Meeting attendance	0
Cultural Mental Health Services	
Clients Assisted	16
Yandeyarra Centrelink	
Clients Assisted	18
Aboriginal Training & Employment	
Resume Assistance	13
Work Ready Program Participants	10
Clients Into Employment	3
Aboriginal Youth Career Plans	0
Jobs displayed	35
Driver Training	
Justice interventions	57
Driving Lessons delivered	105
Driver Education Workshops delivered	2
Vehicle Licences obtained	8
Administration	
Identification provided	148
Emergency relief cards	23
Wapa Maya/Sobering Up Centre	
Homeless Support Breakfast program	510
Sobering Up Centre overnight stays	230
South Hedland Soup Kitchen	584
Housing Support	
Healthy Living participants	31
Thrive participants	39
Community Patrol	
Water Bottles distributed CBD	1325
Referrals from Sth Hedland CBD	23
Community Patrol Service pick ups	1613

