Welcome to another exciting year with the Department RTO. It is great starting a new year with over 160 students currently enrolled across Hospitality, Equine, Rural Operations, AgriFood Operations, Foundation Skills and Manufacturing (Pathways). These students have been selected into our VET programs from various vocational training centres and schools across the NT.

Welcome and congratulations to new members to our team.

- **Caleb Cardno** (*MYTC – Manufacturing (Pathways) Trainer*)
- **Theo Zweers** (*Gunbalanya Trainer – Manufacturing (Pathways) Trainer*)
- **Moe Nanai** (*Foundations Skills Trainer*)
- **Pat Skinner** (*Foundations Skills/Hospitality Trainer*)
- **Marc Gallagher** (*Ntaria Senior Instructor Equine*)
- **Karen Nicholls** (*Administration Officer specialising in travel*)

Aligning our RTO with the National standards – our team has planned a number of additional workshops and professional developments scheduled for this year:

**Validation Workshops**

Peta Buckman (Compliance Manager) will be running RTO Validation workshops in Alice Springs, Darwin and Tennant Creek. The workshops will include the relevant industry trainers and focus on Rural Operations, Manufacturing (Pathways) and Foundation Skills.

**Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) Internal Audit 8th and 9th October 2019**

Complying with the Standards for *Registered Training Organisation (RTOs)* 2015 is a critical part of maintaining our registration. Our compliance team have been working extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure that we meet all the national requirements, including streamlining our business processes, updating Quality and Data systems and continuous improvements in all areas of operations. This year all trainers and training managers will
Finally, it is always a pleasure to see one of our trainers continuing to work really hard on their professional learning. Congratulations Danielle Brown, our VET Trainer, who has won a scholarship to develop her leadership in Agri-Tech in regional Australia. Danielle was selected as one of 15 successful scholarship recipients from 68 applicants around Australia. The scholarship covers a twelve month program that includes a two day face to face symposium in Brisbane with Australia’s leading Agri-Tech researchers and professionals and the development of a teaching module relevant to her work in Central Australia.

Please see the latest VET News and Media Releases – 28 March 2019, follow the link to the VELG website.

We look forward to sharing more good news stories throughout the semester, and I am looking forward to an exciting term as we work closely with our schools and students.

Larni Montgomery
Senior Manager – Registered Training Organisation
Industry Training Programs
RTO – PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS – TERM 1

Alice Spring VET Certificate I in AgriFood Operations and Certificate II in Rural Operations Term 1

Certificate I in AgriFood Operations – 13 students enrolled from Yirara College.

Trainer Assessor – Danielle Brown
Training is delivered at the Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs.

Units delivered this term include:

- AHCWHS101 Work safely
- AHCWHS101 Support gardening work

Students have been busy this term preparing and designing their healthy lifestyle garden at AZRI alongside the Certificate II students. They have been working on preparing the garden beds by turning over all the soil in the area and adding fertiliser, propagating vegetables from seeds and monitoring them by measuring their growth rate and the germination time of the seeds. This week some of the seeds which have been growing in pots were ready to plant into the garden beds which was very exciting for the students.

Certificate II in Rural Operations - 9 students enrolled from Centralian Senior College and Yirara College.
Training is delivered at the Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs.

Units delivered this term include:

- AHCWHS201 Participate in work health and safety practices
- AHCWRK209 Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices
- ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour

Certificate II students have put in a fantastic effort to re-cloth the shade structure which was run down and in need of repair to prepare for the healthy lifestyle vegetable patch. They have participated in turning over the garden beds and turning them into raised beds. There are a large variety of vegetables which started as seeds or seedlings which the students have in pots so they are established before they are placed into the ground. Irrigation has been installed and the project is going full steam ahead.

The efforts that all the students have put in over the past 8 weeks has been fantastic and they have taken ownership of this project completely and are doing fantastic work! Students participating in a variety of tasks for Certificate II in Rural Operations. Certificate II in Rural Operation Students’ are extremely proud of how the progress has been made with their garden bed project. It is all ongoing and they are loving being in charge of designing and planning their veggie garden.
Photo: Calessio Rankine watering the bean seedlings which have shot up since planted last week.

Photo: Ziggy Solczaniuk measuring out the length of the shade house.
Photo: Certificate II Students fixing the Shade cloth to the shade house structure.

Shade cloth finished.

Photo: Taylah Lankin, Liesha Bosel-Cross, Ziggy Solczaniuc, Mishai Wollogorang.
In late 2018 I applied to be a part of a Woman in Agri-Tech program hosted by Central Queensland University. They selected 15 female teachers and trainers from across Australia to participate in an innovative program to help encourage young female students into the Technology side of the Agricultural Industry. I was lucky enough to have been selected for this along with a Taminmin College teacher, Natasha Burrows. It was fantastic to be working together and building good relationships with other woman in the NT and help each other out where needed in the future.

In February of this year I attended a 3 day Symposium in Brisbane where we met the rest of the ladies from across Australia and participated with a large number of speakers from a lot of different Agri-Tech companies and businesses. We also spent a day at River City Labs; a company helping young entrepreneurs get their start-up businesses up and running. It was a fantastic day spent learning ways to encourage young minds with innovative ideas and how to pitch an idea. A fun day had all round.

It was a fantastic 3 days of interacting with Industry; making new contacts, learning about the uses that Agriculture has with Technology and how we can use it to benefit us, and most of all we created some wonderful friendships with like-minded teachers that are passionate in the industry and teaching.

Over the next 12 months I will be designing a learning module on an Agri-Tech area which is relevant to Central Australia and the Northern Territory which will be used by teachers in schools throughout Australia.
Alice Spring VET Certificate II in Rural Operations Term 1

Photo: Long-reining training with Javin Jones.

Photo: Long-reining training with Leisha Bosel-Cross.

Photo: Long-reining training with Mishai Wollogorang.

Photo: Marc Gallagher, Misha Wollogorang & Javin Jones: Observing Horse behaviour.

Contributor: Danielle Brown Trainer and Assessor
This year Yirara College students are undertaking a Barista Skill Set which is part of the Food for Life programs.

The units the students will be completing are:

- SITHIND001 – Use hygienic practices for Hospitality Service
- SITXFSA001- Use hygienic practices for Food safety and
- SITHFAB005 – Prepare and Serve espresso coffee.

We have a total of 8 students undertaking the course. Term 1, which is the first half of the course is focused on learning the basics of nutritional cooking and working hygienically with food and in food areas. The term began with discussions on germs, bacteria, diseases, and how they spread within the kitchen and can contaminate our food. This was contextualised with the students by utilising a special kit simulating germs on our skin; shown with a UV light. We had 10 people in the class room; one person began with the artificial germs on their hands (we role played that this person had the flu, was very sick, and had been coughing into their hands) the sick individual then proceeded to shake everyone’s hands in the class. At the end of the hand shaking train we dimmed the lights and used the special UV light to demonstrate how far the germs travelled just by shaking hands.

Week 5 at Yirara College, saw the Certificate I Hospitality class joined with Clontarf to put on a lunch for the teachers. We decided we would cook burgers, choc-chip muffins and simple salads. The day started off with working on a timeline for the food preparation; ensuring all was in readiness to take to the Clontarf room for serving. The students decided to set up a smorgasbord where appetizing salad accompaniments allowed the teachers to decide and choose for themselves what they preferred to add to their own burgers. A group of approximately 40 teachers attended the luncheon. There was plenty of tasty food for all staff, with visiting students joining the Clontarf room at lunchtime.

Term 2 will be kicking off with us starting the Espresso unit. We will have a small simulated café set up with 2 coffee machines which the students will be able to work out of. The students will be creating a small menu of food which they will shop for the ingredients and cook to serve with the coffee.
Photo Left to Right: Billie Pareroultja and Tyson Woods preparing their cupcakes

Photo Left to Right: Ursula washing the lettuce for the toss salad and Britannia Godilla and Brianna Roberts cooking burger patties.
Photo Left to Right: Britannia and Brianna preparing the lettuce for the burgers. All done time to eat ...

Photo Left to Right: Tyson Woods, Brianna Godilla, Ursula, Chantellia, Brianna, Tamika George and Billie out the front of the Clontarf room.

Contributor: Scott Berry Trainer and Assessor
Gunbalanya Mibar VET Certificate I Manufacturing (Pathways) Term I

Gunbalanya Mibarr VET students recently completed a project that we have been working on this term, as well as others. This particular project was to restore and old outdoor BBQ area that was in poor shape. To do so they had to undertake the following:

**Step 1**
Remove the existing rotten timber tops and rusted screws. Prep and remove any surface rust from existing steel structure. Once ready a coat of paint to tidy it all up and looking good.

*Photo:* Ripping up the old boards myself standing is Shandon Cooper and on the hammer Kenneth Nganjmirra.

Students then had to measure and cut new treated timber tops, once cut and ready students then drilled and attached tops with galvanized cup-head bolts. Their ability to work together showed as a group and problem solve the task required.
Step 2: Shade Sail Replacements

The shade sails on structure were torn and some missing, fortunately we found some that were in good condition. They then removed the old ones, not easy as the turn buckles and D shackles required WD40 and a lot of elbow grease. They then put up the new sails. Of all the skills they showed and learnt the most impressive was putting up the new sails that required a lot of teamwork.

Once all complete there was only one thing left to do - HAVE A BBQ.
Photo: Taking charge of the BBQ; Byron Girrabul.

All of Secondary classes and guests were invited. The VET students did all the cooking; serving out 80 sausages on bread with sauce and onions. For refreshments a big water jug of iced cordial was supplied. Students were thanked by all with a big round of applause. We are still asked on a daily base when our next BBQ will be.
Enjoying the results of an extremely successful project. “Well done Milbarr boys”.

Contributor: Theo Zweers Trainer and Assessor
NTARIA HORSE PROGRAM Certificate I in AgriFood Operations Term I

Certificate I in AgriFood Operations – 16 students enrolled from Ntaria School
Trainer Assessors – Marc Gallagher, Danielle Brown & Tyaan Montgomery-Quin
Training is delivered at Ntaria School:

Units delivered this Term include:

- ACMEQU205  Apply knowledge of horse behaviour
- ACMEQU202  Handle horses safely

ANZAC DAY

Preparations are well underway at Ntaria School for the annual, commemorative ANZAC Ride. Commencing on the 18th April, the 6 day ride will see students travel 120km on horseback from Ntaria, Hermannsburg, arriving in Alice Springs on April 23rd in preparation for the ANZAC Day Parade. Up to 6 students will ride horses in the parade, wearing traditional light horse uniform, with the remaining Ntaria School students marching in the parade.

The ANZAC Ride commemorates the role of Indigenous people in the Australian Defence Forces and the use of Central Desert brumbies in the Light Horse Infantry during the First World War.

In preparation for the ride students are learning horse handling skills and completing two VET horse units. They are also developing an understanding of horse behaviour and the important process of auditing horses for suitability prior to using them within a training program.

Students are engaging well with trainer, Marc Gallagher, who has an extensive background working with youth in remote communities. New and previous students have been demonstrating their horse handling abilities and building new skills as they interact with program horses.

One student, Jessica, has developed a close relationship with Yarraman Territory Tanna, nicknamed “Chilby – Old Man” in local language. Jessica said, “Chilby’s the horse I want to take on the ANZAC Ride; he’s a good old man.”

Excitement for the program is high and we’re all looking forward to the ride and parade!
Photo: Carol Raggett and Marc Gallagher preparing to lead the horse, after catching him in a halter.

Reminders - Important Dates
None at this time.