

## Tarkine Wilderness Lodge update – Tasmania

The caretakers have been busy in the first half of this year, with many guests staying at the lodge and tending the beehives that we have on site. This time of the year the fungi are out and looking there best, making the walks into the Tarkine spectacular.

National Joblink are proud to support the conservation of Tasmanian wildlife, and recently with thanks to the dedication and hard work of wildlife careers at North West Tasmania Wildlife Rescue, several pademelons, an adorable wombat named Cleopatra and two beautiful Tasmanian devils – Lucky and Jim, have been released into the Tarkine rainforest from the lodge grounds. We look forward to welcoming more releases in the future.

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## Careers Day - Berserker

NJL Berserker hosted its second annual Careers Day on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>, mentors from, both Berserker and Rockhampton City invited employers and trainers from several industries to attend; Kimberly-Apprentices and Trainees Queensland, Anita- skills Hub, Phil- Sarina Russo, Clarey- Food Bank Rockhampton, Danielle- JBS Meat Works, Jess- GYG Rockhampton and Natalie-Home Support Association.

Career Day gives participants an opportunity to hear from community members and employers across different industries and gain insights about career options and details about necessary skills, education and training for career success.

Participants had opportunities to engage with presenters during open discussions and to ask questions.

After participating in our Career Day, many participants expressed interest in careers within in-home support, General packer with JBS, Business Traineeship with ATQLD and options to study a Cert III in Individual Support.



## Career Transition Assistance outreach in Sorell - Hobart

An opportunity to support the local community for Sorell came about from discussions with the Workforce Australia providers in the area. The greatest barrier to participants attending Career Transition Assistance Program (CTA) was transport to our existing locations.

We ensured that the location for the course was situated in the middle of Sorell to make sure that it was easily accessible by public transport and through the Community Connect Program.

Eleven people attended the course connecting with organisations such as the Sorell Library and the BEST Jobs Hub, introducing them to resources that they can continue to access to support their employment journey.

Andy from the Self-Employment Assistance Program attended giving participants information of opportunities that they could pursue, with several participants identifying that this could be their future pathway. Andy spent time talking to participants one-on-one, to allow them to discuss their individual ideas. For participants who are interested, ongoing support and further training opportunities are available from the Self-Employment Assistance Program.

NJL are always looking at ways that we can support our communities and we thank everyone who was involved and got behind our CTA program in Sorell.

## Good News Stories Kimberley – Launceston TAS

Kimberley entered ParentsNext with significant personal barriers and a limited support system. Upon her initial appointment Kimberley quoted "I want to break the cycle and have a better life for my Daughter".

Kimberley's mentor Ebony, put forward a position for casual employment as a receptionist at National Joblink in the Launceston office. Kimberley eagerly accepted the opportunity and has now completed a 5-week contract with NJL.

In the 5 weeks Kimberley spent with us she has gained confidence to answer phone calls, direct participants, create resume and cover letters, food handling and other general reception duties. Kimberley has stated that the opportunity has given her confidence to make eye contact with others and confidently direct people, it has also supported her to identify she would like to pursue a career in the community service sector supporting Mothers and children and is currently preparing to enrol in study which will kick start her journey.

Kimberley has seized this opportunity with enthusiasm and we are excited to watch Kimberley to continue to build her confidence.



## Malania – Gladstone QLD

Malania attended the Gladstone office as a direct registration after meeting a National Joblink Mentor who induced her to the Transition to Work program (TtW). At her initial appointment Malania told her mentor that she had completed her high school certificate in New Zealand and wanted to make a move to Australia to increase her employment opportunities.

Malania felt that her lack of employment experience, transport and exposure to the construction industry, which is her preferred career pathway, were barriers to her finding employment.

Malania had completed her working at heights and confined spaced ticket before commencing with TtW, and with support from her mentor Louise, Malania worked on her resume and cover letter and this led to her successfully gaining a spot with the Deploy Workforce Solutions 4 week program, who were working to upskill youth in using basic power tools and construction certs such as the white card, confined spaces, work at heights and forklift tickets.



Louise supported Malania with the required PPE and travel support to attend the course and within a couple of weeks Malania was successful in gaining an interview with High Risk Solutions and gained employment as a trade's assistant. When talking with Malania's employer, they stated that they are very happy with her work ethics and have put her on a shutdown at Cement Australia working night shifts. Malania has sent several messages and calls to her mentor stating that she loves her job and she continues to ride her bike to work while she is saving for a car and working towards getting her licence with NJL. National Joblink congratulate Malania for her hard work and wish her the best of luck with her new job.

## Muria – Hobart TAS

Muria joined Career Transition Assistance program (CTA) looking for a career change, after working as a teacher for three decades, Muria wanted something with more flexibility and that presented new challenges. Muria decided to investigate a pathway into IT Cyber security, an area that she had grown interest in.

During CTA, Muria and her trainer Mark, worked on how marketing herself and making connections in the IT industry by networking. NJL's Information Security Manager did a presentation to the CTA group on details on how to get into the industry and what it is like working in IT.

Muria and Mark also looked at what volunteering opportunities may be available in the IT industry to assist her in gaining experience, skills, building a network and potentially obtaining referees. While on an industry experience visit to the Glenorchy Library, the Literacy Coordinator suggested Muria look at volunteering through the Be Connected Program, which assists people with their digital literacy through a face-to-face format. Muria proactively pursued this and completed the tutor training provided by the library and is now in the process of organising volunteering times that suit herself and the Library.

In a recent update, through the community connections that were made during her time in CTA, Muria is now teaching Cyber Security at TasTAFE and is also developing her own business Cyber Watch. Muria has also come and done a presentation to our current CTA group about Cyber Security, her journey through CTA and the pathway that she took to get where she is now. It was a pleasure to have Muria come back to talk to current CTA participants, giving them confidence for their futures, we thank Muria for her time presenting to our newest CTA group and wish her the best of luck with her future.

## MEET THE TEAM

### Steven Lockyer – *Driving Instructor, Cairns, QLD*



Hi, I started with NJL as a volunteer with Time2Drive and loved it that much that completed my qualifications to become a professional driving instructor with NJL Driving School.

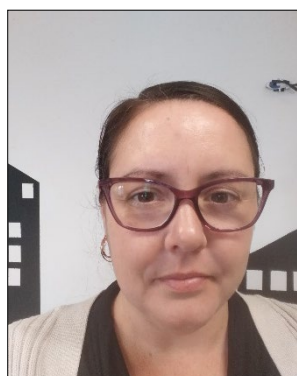
My love of driving started with a dream to be a road train driver like my father; in those 30 years, I became an efficiency and safety trainer in one of the leading logistic companies in Australia. My passion for helping others on a more one-on-one base connected me with the NJL Time2Drive Learner Driver Mentor Program, volunteering to help learner drivers gain skill, hours and confidence. I've never known so much job satisfaction. Being able to connect with and help my learners on their way and ultimately see them realise their dream, is just so rewarding. When I am not at work, I enjoy playing the guitar, singing, taking the boat to the reef for a fish, camping on a river or riding my motorbike on one of the fantastic Australian roads we're blessed with.

### Reece McDowall – *Program Coordinator, Launceston, TAS*

Hello everyone, I'm Reece and I've been the ParentsNext Program Coordinator at NJL since July 2021. Prior to this I was working in the optical industry for the previous 12 years as an Optical Dispenser and then Manager. I've always had a burning passion for social justice and during my school days (many years ago now!) I would organise charity events and volunteer at the Red Cross. Years later I became President of the Northern Tasmanian Social Soccer Association and worked with the Migrant Resource Centre to help integrate recently arrived migrants into our community through football (soccer). More recently I had a semi-professional "career" as an online gaming content creator and used my platform to connect with people all over the world and promote positive mental health through my ambassador role with Movember. Nowadays I enjoy spending time with my beautiful wife of 10 years, Precious and our little 3-year-old daughter Sienna, I also enjoy my online games still, heading out gem-stone hunting (prospecting) and supporting the best football team in the world, Liverpool FC!



### Umeaka Mannion – *ParentsNext Mentor, Rockhampton, QLD*



Hi, my name is Umeaka. (yes it is a unique name, no I don't have an interesting cultural heritage my parents just liked it) I have been with National Joblink as a ParentsNext Mentor at the Rockhampton City site since June 2021. At home I am a mum of 2 wild and willful boys aged 5 and 9, as well as a dog and a cat. Before coming to NJL I worked in a range of roles including teaching, employment services consultant and University student mentor.

I have always enjoyed working with people to build their skills and as a ParentsNext mentor I love that I am supporting parents to see the possibilities in the community for themselves and their children. In my personal time I enjoy visiting local parks with my kids and dog, playing board games, listening to podcasts and gardening. It has been great to recently share my joy of gardening with some of our participants and their children to create a small vegie garden. I look forward to seeing how it grows!

### Joanne Shires – *Manager, Launceston, TAS*

I have been with NJL nearly 2 years after 18 years' experience of working in both Employment Services and Training Organisations, having undertaken Leadership roles for the past 12 years. I am so pleased that to have the opportunity to work with an amazing team that who work together to deliver the ParentsNext, Transition to Work and Career Transition Assistance contracts and our NJL Driving School.

On my down time, I LOVE any type of motor sport, riding my motor bike and spending time with my family and my dog muffin.

