

STEPPING STONES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SILVER LINING FOUNDATION
JUNE 2006

PATRON: JUSTICE IAN CALLINAN A.C. JUSTICE OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA



MINISTER OPENS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS CENTRE FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

On 31 May 2006, the Minister for Energy and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy the Hon. John Mickel MP opened the National Indigenous Centre for Enterprise Development (NICED) established by the Foundation at Wondai.

Justice Callinan of the High Court, The Foundation's Patron, and well known Aboriginal leader, Noel Pearson, were key note speakers at the opening.

The Centre is located at the Foundation's 221 hectare property which the Traditional Owners of the area, the Wakka Wakka People, have called Bahun Jal Mónó which means,

"Place for People of Tomorrow".



The Night Owl is the Totem of the Wakka Wakka People

Eric Law, a highly experienced Indigenous educator, has been appointed CEO of NICED. The Minister and Noel Pearson both strongly supported the establishment of NICED.

Mike O'Neill, CEO of the Foundation, said "We are going to cultivate success and give the young people an opportunity to learn through doing, like in the old apprenticeship system. We want to employ them while doing training courses and teach them how a small business works. Each business will have a coach."

In the first two projects, young men will be engaged on supplying firewood while young women will be offering conference services.

NICED currently consists of a new Community Learning Centre and sporting facilities including a basketball court and a low ropes course. An Administrative Centre has just been built. A Healing Centre, an Arts and Craft Centre and a professional camping facility are planned to complement the cattle management already being taught on the site.



Eric Law, CEO of NICED

The recent National press coverage of dreadful child safety issues on our Indigenous communities illustrates a fact that there is still a long way to go to recovery for our communities. My home of Cherbourg

is not immune from these issues. I am a firm believer that these problems will cease to exist when Indigenous people start taking responsibility for their actions and start their healing journey. This journey will be one of rediscovering our wonderful true culture and restoration of pride and dignity.

The proposed activities at our BJM property at Wondai will go a long way to helping Cherbourg people in this important journey. With all that is happening, I am sure that middle Australia is feeling a sense of helplessness and wonder how they can help in this situation. I would say to people invest whatever you can in projects which will deliver sustainable outcomes to our Indigenous communities. I am more than convinced that at BJM we will offer such a project!

It is sad to see the oldest culture in the world being challenged by a sinister and evil monster! As I said in the past, 'evil will prosper when good men do nothing!'. It is time for the good men on our Indigenous communities to take a stand. It is time for action not words!

HELPING TO HEAL AFTER LOSS

Edmund Rice Education's Flexi Learning Program at Kingston has a special Memorial site for students and young friends who have passed away.

It helps current students remember and honour their lost friends, as an important part of healing.

The Foundation donated \$5,000 towards renovation of the site, with students involved in the renovation process.

ST GABRIEL'S SAYS THANKS

In late 2005 the Foundation donated \$10,000 to the St Gabriel's Early Intervention Centre for Hearing Impaired Children. As a result of this donation, nine children received specialist therapy programs with five of these children now attending school.

MINTER ELLISON MATCHES STAFF DONATIONS

Minter Ellison Lawyers conduct a national Community Investment Program and late last year, invited CEO Mike O'Neill to address the Brisbane monthly staff morning tea on the Foundation's work.

"It was a wonderful opportunity. Minter Ellison has a large number of young people on staff and the response was very generous" said Mike O'Neill. Minter Ellison Partners matched the staff's donations dollar for dollar and over \$1000 was raised on the morning alone.



Jackie Huggins



Dale Murray, Principal, Edmund Rice Education's Flexi Education Centre with CEO Mike O'Neill

MINTER ELLISON HOSTS VIRTUAL OPENING OF WONDAI FACILITIES

Under their Community Investment Program Minter Ellison Lawyers introduced the Silver Lining Foundation to potential corporate sponsors.

The Silver Lining Foundation would like to thank Minter Ellison for their continuing support of our projects. Minter Ellison hosted a virtual opening of the National Indigenous Centre for Enterprise Development for companies and firms that will not be able to attend the opening at Wondai on the 31 May. They key note speaker is Jackie Huggins A.M Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia.

SILVER LINING WEB SITE

We have spent considerable time and energy on developing our website at www.silverlining.net.au

The website is a dynamic database driven site which enables us to keep content up-to-date, informing our supporters and interested parties about everything that is happening throughout the organization.

As it is a dynamic site and modular based, we will be able to expand our online offering as we grow. The first step in doing this will be to offer our newsletter as an HTML email based newsletter vs snail mail.



We will also look to increase our photo library so that we can really show the exciting developments at Wondai and elsewhere.

Supporters are able to make a secure donation online also. If you have any feedback and suggestions about our website, send us a contact us email from the web page.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS CENTRE FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

WE HAVE ACHIEVED

STAGE 1 MILESTONES

(Complete)

Property establishment complete.

Local Indigenous Advisory Group established.

Arrangements for flexi-learning facility to be established on property under investigation.

BAHUN JAL MÓNÓ Strategic Plan developed.

WE ARE AIMING TO ACHIEVE

STAGE 3 MILESTONES

(to complete 2008)

Finalise Board representation and capacity to operate, to include:

Implementation and expansion of programs.

- Community representation
- Trainer representation
- Business representation

Board to assume full operational responsibility for the property.

Implementation and expansion of agreements.

Economic sustainability.

Flexi-learning facility fully operational.

STAGE 2 MILESTONES

(Current to stage 3)

- Establish agreements with key government and non government organizations to develop and support program implementation.

- Minter Ellison virtual opening 23 May 2006
- Formal Opening on 31 May 2006
- Employ sponsorships manager: June 2006
- Develop public profile and research and prepare grant/agreement submissions: Mid to end 2006 and on going.
- Two major agreements reached by end 2006.

- Training and learning programs established and operational.

- Develop plan to teach small business skills and employ young people while learning on the job.
- Teach firewood supply from 1 June and ongoing but seasonal. (Course: Rural Studies).
- Teach Conferences and Catering Services. From 1 June and ongoing (Course: Hospitality).
- Teach Cleaning Services from early 2007 and on going. (Course to be determined).
- Teach Nursery Services from mid 2007 and on going. (Course to be determined).
- Teach Arts and Crafts from mid to end 2007 and on going. (Course to be determined).
- Flexi-school to commence 2008.
- Registered Training Organization established Mid 2008.

- Establish NICED Ltd as Legal Corporate Entity

- Draft of company constitution commenced.
- Company to be established and an Interim Advisory Board appointed End 2006.
- Training programs for first Board members Early 2007 to end 2007.
- First Board appointed Early 2008.

