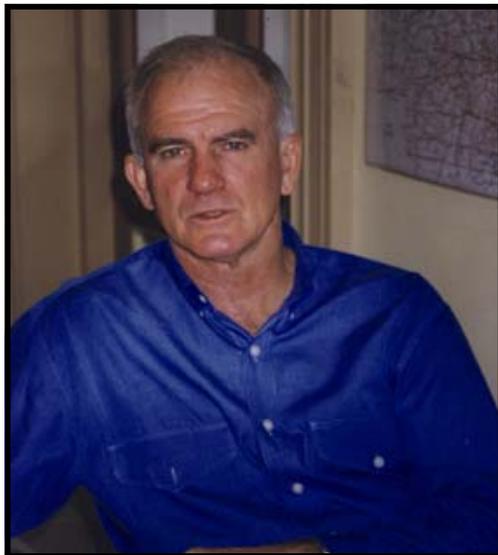




Preserving the rich history and traditions of Australia's working men and women.

Bob Gleeson

CEO Australian Workers Heritage Centre



Dear Members and Supporters,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. Without your help, we could not continue to research, record and preserve the fascinating stories of working life and strive to highlight the enduring legacy of our workers outstanding achievements.

I take pleasure in introducing our staff to you, they all perform to the highest standards and continually display an outstanding commitment to our centre and our rich working history.

Warmest regards,
 Bob Gleeson

Mary Yip, our Site Manager, has been with us for 13 years, and is ably supported in the operation of the gift shop and museum by Dawn Rose who has been with us for an extended period of time, as have the rest of our staff. Sandra Kirkwood provides essential relief museum and administrative support to Mary and Dawn on a part-time basis. Sandy Chilcott maintains the exhibitions and displays to the highest standards possible, on a part-time basis. Steve Kamerling works tirelessly to ensure our gardens and buildings are presented in an exemplary condition.

Anna Barret has been our very popular and competent Education Officer for Wanpa-rda Matilda, our Outback Education Centre since May 2004, and is a registered teacher with Education Queensland.

Alison Butcher for the last seven years, on a part time basis, has been our Finance Officer and provides invaluable executive assistance support to our Board of Management.

Profile of our staff



From left to right Mary, Dawn, Sandy, Sandra, Steve, Anna



Alison

We will in future correspond with you in July, November and March of each year!



A Message from our Chairman Harry Hauenschield.AO.



Refugees go Outback



What started as a seed of an idea over a year ago by CEO Bob Gleeson and Anna Barrett Education Officer Wanpa-rda Matilda Centre at the Worker's Heritage Centre, became a reality in September 2005 when 14 Sudanese and Liberian refugee teenagers embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime tour of Queensland's Outback.

After a send-off function on Saturday 17 September at Brisbane's Roma Street Station, where guests were addressed by Minister for Multicultural Affairs Chris Cummins, Minister for Emergency Services Pat Purcell and major sponsor Dr John Skala, the teenagers were waved off by friends and supporters.

All of the Sudanese and Liberian teenagers came from the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors Program, meaning they arrived in Australia to escape the civil wars in their countries. Many of these kids have really tragic stories to tell and are traumatised by what they have been through. Even though there is a ceasefire in their country, many of these children will never find their parents or loved ones again.

The six-day Outback tour gave the students a taste of quintessential Australia. It also gave locals the opportunity to talk with the refugees firsthand about what they'd been through and where they'd come from, increasing their understanding of one another.

After a warm welcome at Barcaldine station, the young refugees spend their first afternoon in 'Barcy' at the Worker's Heritage Centre oval, showing off their sporting prowess at a soccer match with the local school children.

Bob Gleeson, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, said it was wonderful to see them enjoying the Outback. "Many people have been involved in making this trip happen, so it was a real pleasure to see the smiles on the children's faces as they met the local school children and enjoyed the different activities the Outback has to offer," Mr Gleeson said. "This was a really special trip and I would hope this inaugural tour will sprout many more outback experiences for the thousands of refugees who now call Australia home."

Continued next page...

Touring refugee children engage Central West with their resilience, spirit and curiosity!



Refugees go Outback

The tour was filled with unique cultural experiences to be remembered for a lifetime. The group was hosted by Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre. Education Centre teacher Anna Barrett said, “the week was a great opportunity for the refugee students to gain an understanding of Australia’s history.” They shared African songs around a campfire on Longreach’s Thomson River. They visited the Graceville sheep & cattle property & heard stories from the Aboriginal Dreamtime at one of Australia’s oldest carving sites. They saw ancient lava flow, and also tried their hand at shearing a sheep at Blackall’s wool scour. At the Longreach School of Distance Education they learned how children on remote properties are educated, and at the Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame they heard all about the Outback’s legendary heroes.

The young people all shared a wonderful experience of Western Queensland, and were welcomed with open arms by the communities of Barcaldine, Blackall and Longreach, highlighting the importance of acceptance and cultural understanding.

Major sponsor Dr Skala, whose parents were post war European refugees said he really welcomed the opportunity to support a project that focussed on travel & the importance of cultural understanding. Dr Skala said “Travel broadens people’s understanding of different ethnicities and gives them the chance to experience a whole new mindset, as well as different cultures, languages and cuisines. It is important for refugees in Australia to feel welcome in their new country”.

For James Atem, a 17- year-old refugee from Sudan, who lives in Toowoomba it was a trip he would never forget. He was full of praise for everyone who made the Outback tour possible. “Our Outback trip has been very successful,” he said. “Most important of all, I learnt more about Indigenous people in relation to their background. I am looking forward to learning more on Australian history. I also thank the local community for being so welcoming when we first arrived. It was a wonderful trip. I have never experienced this in my life and it was great to meet and make new friends.”

His sentiments were shared by his fellow refugees and not lost on the tour’s organisers.



The Australian Worker’s Heritage Centre expresses our sincere appreciation to:

- Major Sponsor Dr John Skala of the Brisbane Travellers Medical Service
- Department of Premier & Cabinet
- Mercy Family Services
- Education Queensland
- Qantas Link
- Queensland Rail
- The communities of Barcaldine, Blackall & Longreach

[I hope to study medicine and become a doctor and go back to my country and help my people.] Magdoline Makobile



A Message from our Deputy Chairman Councillor Pat Ogden



Tree of Knowledge

The recent poisoning of the Tree of Knowledge has received extensive national publicity. I take this opportunity to outline to you the latest information on the state of the tree and attempts to preserve the proud history of this Australian icon, as of today's date June 30th, 2006.

The latest advice to me following further examination by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries tree specialist Dr Ross Wylie indicates that the ghost gum could have been poisoned much earlier than previously thought-perhaps as early as April. I am told the longer time frame now makes the tree's recovery and identification of the chemical used even more challenging. The tree is barely alive and is now totally defoliated. The Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries staff have been working tirelessly in the hope of saving the tree, but the reality is that the outlook remains very grim indeed.

(Police are continuing their investigations as to who may have committed this despicable act of poisoning the tree. Extensive testing of soil and leaf samples have not yet pinpointed the chemical used in the poisoning, but laboratory analysis is continuing for a wider range of chemicals.)



Hon. Henry Palaszczuk
plants the offspring
May 2005

Meanwhile, treatment of the ailing tree continues by regular flushing with water to dilute any residual chemical while making sure that the root system was not waterlogged. A sucrose solution has been applied to provide the tree with energy and, if its health is holding, then a light nutrient solution will be supplied.

Fortunately when DPIF rescued the tree from serious decline in 1992 cuttings were taken that resulted in a clone or an offspring of the Tree of Knowledge. The surviving offspring was planted at the Workers Heritage Centre at Barcaldine and is thriving. Thirty grafts have been taken from the clone and taken to the DPIF nursery to be worked onto compatible root stocks. If the Tree of Knowledge dies, Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries, the Barcaldine Shire Council and the Workers Heritage Centre are making every effort to ensure that its legacy continues with the progeny from the Workers Heritage Centre.

Bi Partisan support for our efforts from the Premier Mr Beattie, our local state member Vaughan Johnson Minister for Primary Industries Tim Mulherin and our federal member Mr Bruce Scott and many others is most heartening and appreciated.



Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre



Do you know of a school looking for a different venue for a school excursion, which offers more than accommodation and basic catering? Then tell them about Wanpa-rda situated at the Workers Heritage Centre? Available all year round, the centre provides dormitory style accommodation, which can take up to 60 students and carers and has its own outdoor barbecue and undercover recreation area and a fully equipped catering kitchen. Working closely with Education Queensland the centre provides comprehensive curriculum support to schools that visit the site. It is the perfect base camp for daily explorations and adventure to educational attractions in Central Western Queensland.

If you would like further information in regards to the curriculum on offer or the itinerary that can be tailored to suit the school's need please phone Anna Barrett on 4651 2530, fax 4651 2531, visit the website www.wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au or email the.principal@wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au

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