

# ON THE wallaby



The Newsletter of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre – October 2004

## 'WHO DARES WINS' SCHOOL COMPETITION

An exciting project run this year was the 'Who Dares Wins' school competition run by the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education (WMOEC). The competition was open to all year 6 & 7 students from 148 schools that fell within the Education Queensland District boundaries of Stafford, Geebung and Mt Gravatt.

The winning prize was an all-inclusive trip to WMOEC travelling on board the *Spirit of the Outback* plus three full days exploring the various attractions in Barcaldine, Blackall and Longreach. Twelve students plus two registered Queensland Education Teachers travelled during the September school holidays to Barcaldine.

To acknowledge the twelve winners and three runners up, a Parliamentary Annexe function was held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August with the Speaker of Parliament as Master of Ceremonies.

There were 100 people in attendance at the function including a number of dignitaries:

- Mr Terry Sullivan – Member for Stafford and Minister of Education's representative
- Senator Claire Moore – Senator for Queensland
- Mr Pat Purcell – Member for Bulimba and Australian Workers Heritage Centre representative
- Ms Bonny Barry – Member for Aspley
- Ms Kirsti Kee - Executive Director Schools for the Geebung District
- Mr Tom Robertson – Executive Director Schools for the Mount Gravatt District
- Mr Ian Mitchell - Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Queensland
- Mr David Ronai – Associate Director Corporate Services of Tourism Queensland
- Mr Bob Gleeson - Chief Executive Officer of Australian Workers Heritage Centre
- Mr Len Ardill – Former Brisbane City Council Alderman

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre and Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre would like to thank the many sponsors – Queensland Rail, Barcaldine, Blackall and Longreach Shire Council, Mad Mick's Funny Farm, Radio Theatre in Barcaldine, Blackall Woolscour and Blackall Aquatic Centre, Longreach School of Distance Education, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, QANTAS Founders Outback Museum, Rusty Frame, Longreach Pastoral College, BP Roadhouse, CJ's Bakery and Bob O'Dell.

Most importantly thank you to the students who participated in this competition.



**Adventure outback**

with the

**Wanpa-rda Matilda  
Outback Education Centre**





EDUCATION OFFICER AT WMOEC — ANNA BARRETT

The winners of the Who Dares Wins school competition:

Alice McIntosh  
Lauren Pflugrath

Jennifer Wilson  
Paris McLaughlin

Bridget Harkin  
Christina Scotson  
Kimberley Brennan  
Brooke McKinnon  
Jarryd Heselden  
Chantelle Romeo  
Zara Carnes  
Lana Gordon

**Runners-up**

Sheriden Gluer  
Shikeita Gilmont  
Erin Morris

**SOLAR SCHOOLS PILOT PROGRAMME**

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2004, an official launch for the Solar Schools Pilot Programme was held at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre site. The programme is a joint initiative between Ergon Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to install solar, or photovoltaic systems onto schools and educational centres throughout regional Queensland.

Mr Gary Fenlon, Member for Greenslopes representing the Minister for Environment officiated at the ceremony with a number of local dignitaries present. The Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre was one of the venues chosen to participate in the Solar Schools' Pilot Program to receive \$25,000 worth of solar panels. The installation of solar panels will enable the centre to reduce the amount of power the centre uses from the electricity 'grid' and save in operational costs substantially. The Australian Workers Heritage Centre site currently comprises a powerhouse display, solar powered streetlights, solar lights for the barbecue shelter and solar powered pump that circulates the water in the billabong. The centre continues to source energy efficient items that are environmentally friendly.



SOLAR SCHOOL FLOWCHART - DAY

## ENERGY PATHWAYS CONCEPT

As an extension to this programme the centre has put a proposal to the Federal Government to fund an Energy Pathway theme highlighting the existing alternative infrastructure. We are investigating other past, present and future renewable energy resources.

The theme will highlight the centre's commitment to environmental and social benefits to the community and also provide a very strong focus for community education.

## REVITALISING AND SUSTAINING A REGIONAL COMMUNITY

The centre has developed and submitted a proposal '*Revitalising and Sustaining a Regional Community*' to proposed partners. The aim of this project is to acquire property on the main street frontage (Oak Street) and develop a purpose design building providing a comprehensive range of high quality facilities that will cater for the tourist and coach market and also the local population. The following operations would include:

- Coffee shop/restaurant/take-away
- Catering facilities
- Workers' Club
- Conference/Meeting rooms and entertainment hall
- Multi-purpose cultural space
- General Retail Space
- Research and Education Campus
- Coach and private car parking

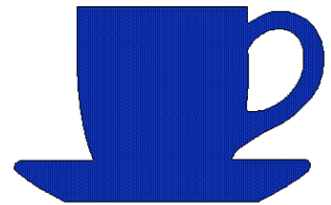
The benefits of such a proposal will:

- Generate local employment opportunities, particularly youth employment
- Provide training facilities and upgrading of skills base within the community
- Encourage enterprise partnerships to increase investment in the Barcaldine economy
- Improve business practises
- Increase regional income from tourism thus contributing to the strengthening of the outback tourism industry
- Maximise spend in the region, using local labour, contractors and expertise to the greatest extent possible, thus ensuring that the larger proportion of the investment remains in the community

A large portion of the holiday market uses a private vehicle to reach the outback or travels via coach. A significant car park to service both the Workers Heritage Centre, the facilities within the purpose design building and those visitors/locals shopping downtown will be developed including a designated coach parking facility with drive through capabilities. Provision for public restrooms of the highest standard has also been included in the plans.

Lastly, this proposal will also encourage local, regional and other touring artists to stage their performances in Barcaldine, bringing the benefits and enjoyment of increased cultural activity and performing arts to all and adding to the quality of life in the outback. The Australian Workers Heritage Centre is no stranger to facilitating and supporting programmes for community enrichment.

The anticipated proposal IF accepted would be implemented over a five year period.







## DISPLAYS & EXHIBITIONS

The centre has sought the assistance from various government departments to upgrade the displays on site. Queensland Rail along with Emergency Services will make various changes to the displays early next year.

## FAREWELL

After ten years of dedication, hard work and an abundance of great ideas, Wendy Johnston, Marketing Manager farewelled the centre in June of this year to take up work on a full time basis as the Executive Assistant - Communications at Cannon Hill Anglican College. Wendy has been involved in Administration, Event Management, Marketing and Public Relations for the centre and will be sorely missed by staff and members who had the pleasure of dealing and working with Wendy on a personal and professional level.

## RETAIL

Christmas is just around the corner. If you are looking for a unique product for family or friends, there are a number of items available at the retail gift shop in Barcaldine. Phone your order in to the centre on 4651 2422 or why not call in! Mary and Dawn are happy to assist you with your inquiries.

### Items for sale (incl. GST):

<b>New</b> ...Australian Workers Heritage Centre badges	\$ 5.75
<b>New</b> ..Australian Workers Heritage Centre lasergrip pens	\$ 9.90
Australian Workers Heritage Centre wetsuit stubbie coolers	\$ 7.50
Australian Workers Heritage Centre coffee mugs – an assortment of colours available	\$ 8.40/\$11.55/\$17.00
Australian Workers Heritage Centre polo shirts in various sizes and colours	\$39.50
Australian Workers Heritage Centre posters – A3 size	\$ 1.50
Australian Workers Heritage Centre posters – double A3 size	\$ 3.00
Australian Workers Heritage Centre round spin 'key rings'	\$ 7.50
Australian Workers Heritage Centre hat badge	\$ 4.50
Australian Workers Heritage Centre & Tree of Knowledge fridge magnets	\$ 3.25
Tree of Knowledge story spoon	\$ 7.25
Pocket knife engraved AWHC	\$18.00
Lanolin, Tea Tree & Eucalyptus lotions and creams - ranging from.....	\$ 5.75
"Discover Barcaldine Book" –	
Concise history of Barcaldine, The Shearer's Strike and the AWHC	\$ 6.50
Unsung Heroes – Collection of Stories & Verse	\$19.95
Celebrating Australian women & their Work.	

Plus Many More Items.....



From management and staff at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre and Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family.

The National Office will be closed from Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2004 and return on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2005 at 9:00am.

The Barcaldine Office will be closed from Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December and return on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2004 and will also be closed on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005.

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