

## **RIG NEWS #5 February 2010**

### **Welcome to RIG Network's first newsletter for 2010**

RIG Network is a cross-sectoral information sharing, networking and research initiative that got underway in May 2009. The Network's activities and research projects aim to connect people and projects who have an interest in food gardens and related enterprises and the benefits they offer to people living and working in remote Indigenous communities. We're very keen to hear from you about your projects, issues and ideas - and to receive your input to our ongoing research, outreach and communications activities.

#### **RIG Network - Research and network development**

##### **Applied Research Projects - 2010**

We are currently scoping some exciting applied research projects that address resource needs and enterprise opportunities in remote communities. If you'd like to know more or get involved please email us at [rig@remoteindigenousgardens.net](mailto:rig@remoteindigenousgardens.net)

##### **Targeted email discussion groups.**

We are setting up some targeted, email based, discussion groups to help connect people who are experts, program developers, educators and participants involved in various types of food garden projects and/or enterprises that each face different challenges and opportunities. To kick things off we'll be establishing:

- A CDEP Garden Group;
- A Horticulture and Permaculture Experts Group;
- A School Gardens Group; and
- A Community Programs Gardens group.

Let us know if you'd like to be included in any of the above discussion groups and if you'd like to suggest specific topics/issues you'd like to be addressed through group discussion and information sharing. Email us at [rig@remoteindigenousgardens.net](mailto:rig@remoteindigenousgardens.net)

#### **RIG Network - coming events**

##### **RIG Network at the CDEP Workshop and Trade Show - Darwin, March 17-18, 2010**

RIG Network will participate in a 'trade show' that will coincide with a CDEP Workshop that will be held at the Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin, 17-18 March 2010. The workshop will focus on discussions of common implementation issues and help CDEP providers to build networks for ongoing support and assistance with other providers, including FaHCSIA network staff. Anthea and Rachel from the RIG team will be at the trade show, and are keen to meet with CDEP program managers and participants who are working on, or developing, horticultural and garden related training and community development projects. (For further information about the [new CDEP Consultative Group](#) see the [General News](#) section below).

##### **Nursery and Garden Industry National Conference - Darwin, April 19-22, 2010**

RIG Network will present a poster session on our research and outreach activities, completed and underway (TBC).

##### **Tenth Australasian Permaculture Convergence - Cairns, September 24-27, 2010**

The Convergence theme is preparedness for Climate Change and Peak Oil. RIG has been invited to facilitate a session around food politics, gender, Indigenous engagement and environment. (We're keen to hear from you about engagement strategies and garden projects that you believe have worked well where you are!). If you'd like to know more, visit [www.permaculture.cairns.org.au](http://www.permaculture.cairns.org.au) or contact Permaculture Cairns on ph: 0407 243 298.

## Research and Policy News - Health and Nutrition, Food Security

### COAG - National Strategy for Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities.

From the COAG communique from the meeting held on 7 December 2009:

#### "Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities

COAG agreed to a new National Strategy for Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities (the Strategy) which outlines five actions to increase the consumption of healthy foods and reduce the diet-related burden of disease for Indigenous people in remote Australia and help close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage by:

- developing National Standards for stores and takeaways servicing remote Indigenous communities in the areas of retail management, financial management, governance, infrastructure, food and nutrition policy and promotion and food preparation and food safety;
- developing options for a National Quality Improvement Scheme, for consideration by COAG in mid-2010;
- encouraging strongly stores incorporated under State and Territory Associations Incorporations laws to incorporate under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006;
- developing a National Healthy Eating Action Plan for remote Indigenous communities for consideration by COAG by mid-2010; and
- developing a National Workforce Action Plan to improve food security through fostering an appropriately resourced, trained and supported workforce for consideration by COAG also in mid-2010.

The Strategy will be piloted in up to 10 remote Indigenous communities, beginning by March 2010. The pilots will test the draft National Standards and effective mechanisms to achieve them, and will inform the development of the National Workforce Action Plan and National Healthy Eating Action Plan. The pilots will also seek to develop a regional food security model to support and coordinate the implementation of the actions outlined in this Strategy. The Working Group on Indigenous Reform (WGIR) will report to COAG in mid-2010 on the further development of the Strategy".

### Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (CRCATSIH) - Inaugural Congress Lowitja, March 23-24, 2010, Sydney

The CRCATSIH's third phase research agenda commences this month and will be hosted through to June 2014 by the newly established **The Lowitja Institute, Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research**. The Lowitja Institute will be launched on 24th February in Canberra. The inaugural **Congress Lowitja** will be held from 23-24 March, at the Aboriginal Health College, Little Bay, La Perouse, Sydney and will enable stakeholders to have input into shaping the research agenda of the CRCATSIH and celebrate the learnings and legacy of the CRCAH to date. Further information: [admin@crcah.org.au](mailto:admin@crcah.org.au), [www.crcah.org.au](http://www.crcah.org.au).

### NATSINSAP and PHAA Symposium, "The Way Forward for Indigenous Health: A Focus on Food and Nutrition", April 22, 2010, Canberra

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (NATSINSAP) Steering Committee in association with the Public Health Association of Australia would like to invite you to "The Way Forward for Indigenous Health: A Focus on Food and Nutrition". This 1 day symposium on the 22nd of April, 2010 will target policy makers and funders and will highlight evidence based strategies to improve the nutritional status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There will be two themes to the day, maternal and child nutrition and food security. The symposium will be held at Hotel Realm in Canberra and registration will be \$70 per person. A registration form and a detailed program are available to download on the PHAA website, [www.phaa.net.au](http://www.phaa.net.au)

**If you have any queries about the symposium please feel free to contact Katherine Cullerton, Senior Project Officer for NATSINSAP on [katherine.cullerton@heartfoundation.org.au](mailto:katherine.cullerton@heartfoundation.org.au)**

## Major report released, Sustainable Development of Northern Australia, Feb 8 2010.

Released this week, the report is the outcome of work by the Northern Australian Land and Water Taskforce - an independent expert panel established to advise the Commonwealth Government on opportunities for sustainable development in the north. The Taskforce Report found that developing northern Australia as an integrated, sustainable region presents a complex challenge that requires strategic focus, national leadership and close collaboration between governments. The Taskforce also stressed the planning and management of land and water resources in northern Australia must account for Indigenous rights and interests.

A copy of the Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce report *Sustainable Development of Northern Australia* can be downloaded at [www.nalwt.gov.au](http://www.nalwt.gov.au). A copy of the CSIRO's review of northern science undertaken for the Taskforce can be located at [www.csiro.au/resources/Northern-Australia-Sustainable-Development](http://www.csiro.au/resources/Northern-Australia-Sustainable-Development)

## Griffith Review Quarterly, No. 27 - Food Chain

The Griffith Review is a quarterly publication of writing and ideas. Its recent edition is entitled "Food Chain" and features a great selection of articles by authors from diverse disciplines addressing food in the time of climate change. It's a great publication available from most bookstores or by subscription. For further information you can contact [griffithreview@griffith.edu.au](mailto:griffithreview@griffith.edu.au) or visit [www.griffithreview.com](http://www.griffithreview.com).

## Coming soon: news from the Good Food Systems, Good Food for All Project, Menzies School of Health Research

Dr Julie Brimblecombe is leading this major research project that involves a number of communities in remote Australia and has promised an overview and update on the project for our next newsletter. You can also hear Julie speak at the forthcoming NATSINSAP and PHAA symposium.

## General News

### New CDEP Consultative Group

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has established a Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program Consultative Group. The objective of the Group is to advise the Department on better practice around common issues in implementation and delivery of the CDEP Program. A particular focus of their advice is the delivery of effective and innovative training, work readiness activities and community development projects. The Group also provides opportunities for CDEP Providers to share information about successful approaches to service delivery in remote Indigenous communities. The CDEP Consultative Group will meet on 16 March 2010 in Darwin and then on two further occasions in 2010.

The Group includes nine representative CDEP providers and four professionals with strong experiences in community development, remote work readiness or corporate governance.

The nine CDEP providers in the Group are:

Mr Tyrone Garstone	Chief Executive Officer, Kullarri Regional CDEP Inc, Kimberley region
Ms Janet Brown	Chief Executive Officer, Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation, Pilbara region
Mr John Vos	Chief Executive Officer, East Kimberley CDEP Pty Ltd

Ms Janelle Whitehead	Chief Executive Officer, Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprises Corporation, Far Western NSW
Mr Alex Barker	Director, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, in Far North Queensland
Mr Wayne Buckley	Regional Coordinator, Roper Gulf Shire in the Northern Territory
Mr Shaun Fowler	Operations Manager, Darwin Regional Indigenous Advancement and CDEP
Ms Sharon Yendall	Chief Executive Officer, Tjutunaka Worka Tjuta Inc, Ceduna region SA
Ms Susan Sandery	Manager, Laynhapuy Homelands Association Incorporated

The four members with significant professional experience are:

- Mr Adrian Mitchell has twelve years experience in senior management as the Director of TAFE NSW Western Institute and the Managing Director of Kimberley TAFE, Western Australia. He has directed the institute to align work readiness training to employment opportunities, building regional economic development and safer communities.
- Mr Ross Johnston is a community development practitioner who focuses on capacity building, strategic planning, service reviews and program support and management. He has worked for the United Nations, Australian Red Cross and the Fred Hollows Foundation in the national and international arena.
- Mr Ezio (Eddie) Senatore is a consultant in corporate reconstruction, change management and strategic planning. He has extensive experience in Indigenous Affairs building effective corporate governance and conducting program reviews, change management and program reviews.
- Mr Stephen Iles has formerly worked as a Welfare Reform Project Leader for the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership and as a Senior Consultation with ACIL Tasman. From these experiences he has gained extensive understanding of employment and training issues for Indigenous Australians as well as technical expertise in business development and the delivery of employment services.

We welcome your comments, feedback and items for our next newsletter - email: [riq@remoteindigenousgardens.net](mailto:riq@remoteindigenousgardens.net)

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