

Sustainable futures on country

Creating a viable future 'on country' is the goal of many residents of Australia's remote homelands. Deborah Sibosado is one such resident. She, with her husband Steve have a vision for the future generations of their family and that future is very much grounded in their traditional land at Djugarargyn on the Dampier Peninsula, north of Broome in Western Australia.

Debbie and Steve have already achieved much for their homeland, having launched a small tourism venture "Kelk Creek" several years ago. The venture involves hosting guided cultural walks in their beautiful country and the production and sale of a range of herbal products. With some support from the Bushlight Livelihoods Project, Djugarargyn residents are building on their achievements to date using their community plan that sets out the next steps in strengthening their business and maximising the benefits of their commercial venture.

The homeland of Mata Mata in north east Arnhem Land is also busy working toward their vision to 'stay strong and healthy on our homeland and work together to make our own arts business and build up strength and skills for the future generations'.

Traditional Owner and community leader Phyllis Batumbil is a charismatic and hard working woman determined to make her traditional homeland a viable and productive place for her grandchildren to grow up in.

Bushlight looks forward to continuing to support both of these vibrant communities to achieve their goals through the Community Livelihoods Project.

Bushlight's Community Livelihoods Project is being piloted in four homelands. The project is centred around the development and implementation of a community plan and aims to help residents build a secure future. For more information visit www.bushlight.org.au



Above: Debbie Sibosado



Left: The Kelk Creek Newsletter advertising an array of products for sale

Below: Phyllis Batumbil with Christine of Mata Mata and their beautiful weavings



Roworr Rehabilitation Centre



The Community Justice Centre

The people of Pormpuraaw are proud of their strong culture and language as well as the many activities and enterprises they have developed on their traditional land in Western Cape York. Pormpuraaw means 'palm hut' or house to the Thayorre and Mungkan people and the community is home to some 700 of their people.

Bushlight is very pleased to support one of this community's recent achievements through the installation of a solar system that supplies power to "Roworr", the new Pormpuraaw Community Justice Rehabilitation Centre. In September 2009, this unique centre was opened in the nearby homeland and cattle station of Baas Yard.

continued overleaf...

continued...

The centre is the first family-based therapeutic centre in Cape York aimed at healing families from alcohol misuse. Kurt Noble, Director of Pormpur Paanth Aboriginal Corporation which runs the Centre says Roworr is unique because it has been *'...conceived, implemented and managed from within the community. It is locally driven without being designed or controlled by any ... outside agency'*.

During the dry season families commit to a 15 week therapeutic program which includes rehabilitation and strengthening families to take responsibility for themselves and their children. One participant states:

'We don't want to go home. We are learning so much from being out here, learning many new skills that we can share with our children'.

Maintaining such a facility in a remote region involves a range of challenges, not least of which is the provision of a reliable cost-effective power supply. Helping to ensure the viability and success of this new venture is a Bushlight solar-diesel hybrid systems installed in September 2010.

The Bushlight system replaces a diesel generator to provide electricity for the cattle station, the Roworr Rehabilitation Centre, and all of the staffing accommodation. The system incorporates the latest in solar power technology and is expected to reduce diesel consumption and CO2 emissions by 80%. Kurt Noble says, *'diesel was a major cost for us, (the installation of the Bushlight system) means that these funds can now be used for direct family related activities on the program. We also expect the savings will enable us to offer additional client focused services'*.

This facility has become a reality due to the vision and determination of Pormpuraaw's Elders Justice Group and community leaders. The Centre for Appropriate Technology has a long history of engagement with Pormpuraaw community and we are confident the new Bushlight system will provide a good foundation for the ongoing success and development of the facilities and activities at Baas Yard.



The new Bushlight solar array



New Bushlight website

Over the course of the past 18 months, Bushlight's work program has expanded to focus on new projects and services. These include our Energy Efficiency Program and Community Livelihoods Project which are now well established.

Bushlight is very proud to announce the launch of its new website which better reflects our work.

All of our previous newsletters and case studies are still available for download as well as a host of new materials, including a Capability Statement.

Check out the new website at www.bushlight.org.au

Bushlight Central Australia
Desert Peoples Centre
PO Box 8044
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Phone: (08) 8959 6205
Fax: (08) 8959 6111
rmcentral@bushlight.org.au

Bushlight North Queensland
7/330 Sheridan St
PO Box 6182
CAIRNS QLD 4870
Phone: (07) 4031 0505
Fax: (07) 4031 0431
rmcairns@bushlight.org.au

Bushlight Top End
Suite 2/20 Knuckey St
GPO Box 2875
DARWIN NT 0801
Phone: (08) 8981 8706
Fax: (08) 8981 7233
rmtopend@bushlight.org.au

Bushlight Kimberley WA
3/68 Clarendon St
PO Box 1304
DERBY WA 6728
Phone: (08) 9191 2585
Fax: (08) 9191 2598
rmderby@bushlight.org.au