

Premier and Minister for the Arts
The Honourable Anna Bligh
Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women
The Honourable Karen Struthers
Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Awards acknowledge Queensland companies for making reconciliation their business

The winners of the 2009 Reconciliation Awards for Business highlight the passion of Queenslanders who are paving the way for a future that embraces the values of reconciliation.

“The award winners demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation in a range of industries from Qantas Airways Ltd, as Australia’s largest airline, to a traineeship program offered to Indigenous youth from remote communities,” Premier Bligh said.

“I congratulate all the award winners for their exceptional achievements and contribution to reconciliation in Queensland.”

Minister for Community Services and Housing, and Minister for Women, the Honourable Karen Struthers MP, announced the winners at a ceremony at the Gallery of Modern Art, and acknowledged the difficult task the judges had in choosing the outstanding winners.

The 2009 category winners are:

- Community Organisation Award: Yugambah Museum Language and Heritage Research Centre for The Drumley Walk
- Emerging Business Award: Western Cape Centre Ltd
- Established Business Award: Qantas Airways Ltd
- Partnerships Award: Warner Village Theme Parks and Sea World Resort and Water Park and Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation for the Indigenous School Based Traineeship Program.

Yugambah Museum Language and Heritage Research Centre also won the 2009 Premier’s Reconciliation Award for The Drumley Walk, an annual four-day walking pilgrimage which has become a forum for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to share stories and learn about nature and local history.

The Reconciliation Awards for Business are an initiative of the Queensland Government and are supported by the National Indigenous Times, Indigenous Business Australia, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, 612 ABC Brisbane and ABC Local Radio. The five award winners share in \$25,000 in prize money.

For more information on the awards visit www.reconciliation.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3224 6817.

2009 Reconciliation Awards for Business winners:

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION AWARD

The Drumley Walk is an annual four-day walking pilgrimage from Beaudesert to Southport. The walk follows the footsteps of Beaudesert Aboriginal identity, Billy Drumley, who regularly completed the journey in the early 1900s to visit his sister and her family.

Beginning as a personal pilgrimage in 2005 by two cousins to pay their respects to Billy Drumley, the walk has grown significantly with more than 400 people participating in 2008. The wider community has embraced The Drumley Walk and it has become a forum for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to share stories and learn about nature and local history.

EMERGING BUSINESS AWARD

Western Cape Centre Ltd is an accommodation, training and conference facility located in the community of Weipa on the Cape York Peninsula. The centre is owned by three western Cape York communities – Mapoon, Aurukun and Napranum – who represent 11 Traditional Owner groups in the region.

In alliance with Rio Tinto Alcan, Western Cape Centre Ltd provides cultural awareness training for all employees working in the Cape York region, including contractors and teachers. The comprehensive and valuable training, delivered by Traditional Owners, has fostered a harmonious existence between all those who live and work in the Cape York region.

ESTABLISHED BUSINESS AWARD

Qantas Airways Ltd, Australia's largest airline, launched its Reconciliation Action Plan in November 2007, believing that genuine reconciliation happens through changes in the lives of individuals and families, and through real improvements in workplaces and communities. Qantas Airways Ltd has committed the organisation to contribute tangibly to that goal.

Since the implementation of the plan, Qantas Airways Ltd has made remarkable progress, establishing an Indigenous Programs Unit, increasing the number of Indigenous staff by 25%, with the largest population of Indigenous staff located in Queensland, and promoting respect for Indigenous culture through in-flight entertainment programs and Acknowledgement of Country on certain flights.

PARTNERSHIPS AWARD

The Indigenous School Based Traineeship Program is a partnership between Warner Village Theme Parks and Sea World Resort and Water Park and Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation. It offers traineeships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from communities across South-East Queensland and as far north as Bundaberg.

Commencing in January 2006 with 14 trainees, the current program was extended to an intake of 33 students from rural and remote Queensland communities. The program provides an opportunity for students to learn from each other in a supportive

environment, whilst encouraging them to become role models in their families, communities and to their peers across the State.

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