



GWYDIR INDUSTRIES INC

Employment, training and support for people with a disAbility

"Proudly serving the Moree community since 1963"

AW125102

A happy workforce for 50 years

CONGRATULATIONS to Gwydir Industries on their 50th anniversary.

Gwydir Industries started off in Iris Street as the Gwydir Handicapped School after several parents took the initiative in 1963 to fundraise and get their children educated.

In 1972 the shelter workshop was formed, offering ironing services and aluminium windows, operating from the little tin shed behind Hong Yuen's in Heber Street.

In 1976 the organisation moved to the current location in Gosport Street, and was opened by former Member of Parliament Ralph Hunt from Narrabri.

In 1980 the name 'Gwydir Handicapped Shelter Workshop' was changed to the 'Challenge Foundation', and in 1993 the current name Gwydir industries Inc was chosen.

The organisation runs almost as a viable business, but in a reasonably small town like Moree the income from business alone is not enough to make investments and thus the money to buy large equipment, such as the bus and a forklift has come from their fundraising events once every two years.

Manager Karyn Shearer said the next fundraising event would be a 'dancing with the stars' event, for the third and last time and that it would be held in March 2014.

Mrs Shearer started as secretary and has been with the company for more than 23 years.

"I don't think of it as a disabled workforce, but just as any workforce. I have worked there so long; we are like family really; they call me Kaz."

The manager said her employees were great people to work with. "They are so honest," she said.

She said they were always happy and that she had to force them to have holidays.

"They even come in when they are sick."

"I love working here," she said.



Think Recycle.... Think Gwydir Industries

Gwydir Industries collect cardboard and office paper & plastic film from business houses in Moree.

We shred confidential papers and can supply locked bins for these to the Moree Business Houses.

We have containers at the front of Gwydir Industries as a drop off for cardboard/office papers/magazines, newspapers & plastic film – or come in and drop all of these things off at the shed in working hours and the employees will greet you with a smile as they help you unload your recycling & plastic film.

People can also donate their aluminium cans to Gwydir Industries.

Proudly servicing the Moree community for over 50 years!



GWYDIR INDUSTRIES INC.

Helping people with Disabilities

AW122473

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"Providing supported employment & training for people with a DisAbility"



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Sorting papers and having a yarn

THE contracting section of Gwydir Industries employs more females than the other department and is probably the department where the least physical work is done.

The women (and some men) fill their days sorting confidential paper, folding letters, assembling trophies and painting pegs for the joinery section.

Sitting around a table sorting papers into different crates, definitely leaves time for having a yarn, but supervisor Vera Jackson said the work was actually quite complicated at times.

The idea is to sort the papers into whites and coloured, but the definition of which was which was not the most logical said Mrs Jackson.

White sheets with handwriting or printed text were considered 'white', she said, and so was light yellow paper, but as soon as a sheet had technical drawings or pictures on them, it had to go into the 'coloured' crate.

Full crates were then shredded and put into big bags that on their turn were made into bales.

Two containers made one bag and 14 bags went into one bale said Mrs Jackson.

Every week one bale was sent to Sydney,

but that was not all the work the ladies did said Mrs Jackson, as they would also fold letters into envelopes every month and engrave trophies.

Trophies nowadays come in one component said Mrs Jackson, but they used to have to assemble them.

The engraving is done in-house with a laser engraver.

"We type the text on the computer and use metallex," she said, explaining it was plastic that looked like metal and that they used it for trophies and name badges but also for cheaper type of head stones for the cemeteries. Clients come from all over Australia.

"Lismore, Emmervale, North Queensland, Colli, Wee Waa and Walcha," Mrs Jackson said. "And last year we even had a trophy sent to Scotland for a show prize. The winning cattle were from France."

Another good example of inter-border assignments she said was the big perpetual shield Gwydir Industries engraved for the Australian Yellow Belly Championships.

"The fish was caught in Orange, stuffed in Tugun [Gold Coast] and we did the engravings," she said.

Lillian Campbell and Leanne Rohde sort confidential paper into whites and coloureds.



Martin Watts and Aron Brady sanding furniture.



Supervisor and master craftsman Ernie Rollinson looks on to see how Jamie Woodham is doing.



Furniture restoration under master's supervision

RESIDENTS that are looking for timber furniture should go and have a look at what is on offer at the furniture and joinery section at Gosport Street.

Bookcases, wardrobes, chairs, an entertainment unit, side tables and even a medicine cabinet have been done up beautifully and are waiting for a new home.

Supervisor Ernie Rollinson said that he and the seven employees in his department not only restore furniture on order for clients, they also do up donated pieces and sell them.

The 71-year-old master craftsman Rollinson started his seven-year apprenticeship in the United Kingdom

with Chris Aberton when he was 16-years-old and worked at Windsor Castle and famous buildings in the UK.

Once he worked nine months in one room: carving out dragon-figured wall panels for the aristocrats.

Now he trains and supervises employees with disabilities at Gwydir Industries.

Mr Rollinson said an employee always started with sanding, and could later progress with other aspects of the trade such as staining, sealing and finishing, but that depended on how quickly they would pick it up.

"Some whinge about having to sand so much, but then I say that the first

three years of my apprenticeship was all sanding," he laughed.

"It is all about building confidence... and some need me in the room for a bit of encouragement.

"But we have recently made a shearling table into a dining table."

Besides the more slow work of doing-up furniture, the corporation also produces dog kennels and pegs for surveyors and builders, and stakes for the cotton growers and marking paddocks.

"We have them five and six foot long... we make them how they want them."

SMK

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Interesting, demanding job

THE recycling department of Gwydir Industries collects cardboard and plastic from business houses, schools, the hospital and (governmental) services, and gets it into bales, ready for re-use by other companies.

The collection is done every working day - by one driver and an offsider. The driver is a supervising staff member, the offsider an employee.

Supervisor Danny Shearer said the driver helped out with picking up the material as much as the offsider.

"He needs to work for his money too," Mr Shearer laughed.

When the truck comes back with the collected material Mr Shearer said there would be two or three employees ready to get the loose stuff straight into the machine to press bales.

On Saturdays cardboard gets collected from the two big supermarkets in town.

Mr Shearer said Coles and Woolies had their material ready in bales, but they were of a different size, so the boys had to cut the bales loose first, before putting the material into the machine with the loose cardboard.

Mr Shearer said the team was magnificent and worked well together.

"They do a good job. They get about eight or nine bales done a day. About 18-22 tonnes a week."

The 71-year-old Mr Shearer said he was going to retire in about three weeks, but that he was quite reluctant to do so.

Mr Shearer used to have his own water truck business, working in road construction for the government, but came on board with Gwydir Industries 13 and a half years ago.

"It is such an interesting job," he said, "But the person who takes over does need to have patience, as it is a demanding job too."

Mr Shearer said what made the job interesting was the

guys he worked with.

"They are happy people. They crack a joke and you are happy for the rest of the day. It is a job where you really want to come to work every day".

On the question if Mr Shearer could tell a good story from his time on the job he said, "Adam (Love) walked out on me one day. Adam was pushing cardboard on the truck when he slipped off and I asked 'Can't you stand on your two feet?'.

Mr Shearer said that must have twisted Adam's buttons as he left and went to the pub, where he found him a little later.

Many locals know Adam Love, as he works at different places in town and is renown for having a friendly word for everyone.

"Not really the person that would walk out on anyone," said Mr Shearer. "And we were good again 20 minutes after I found him at the Tavern."



LEFT: Danny Shearer

RIGHT: Kerry Brussels and Jodie Stanborough put shredded paper in a bag before making bales out of it. Jodie: "I like my work. I sort as well, but when there is more, I shred it in the machine."

BELOW: Oliver Crawford and Jason Bone put collected cardboard into bales.



Don & the team wish to congratulate Gwydir Industries on servicing Moree & District for over 50 years!

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GWYDIR INDUSTRIES INC

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A night to remember

EVERY Tuesday was arts and crafts day for the employees of Gwydir Industries Inc, but for the 50th anniversary of the company they switched over to making "full-on art".

Artist Janelle Boyd helped employees perfect their self-portraits and other paintings. All works of art were displayed at the 50 years celebration held on September 12 at the Moree Plains Gallery and were sold on the night, for as much as \$300 each.

"The night was really a thank you for people that have supported us over the years," manager Karyn Shearer said. "Business houses and farmers have been so supportive."



Elaine Sampson and Mavis Muggleton



Jason Bone enjoying the night.



LEFT: Carolyn Humphries, Betty Harborne and Karyn Shearer

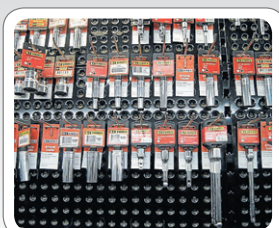


Lannie Greer and Danny Shearer catching up.



Peter Weal, Tony Bailey and Andrew Crowe

FMBC are proud to be associated with **Gwydir Industries** and congratulate them on servicing the Moree community for 50 years



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