

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Released: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010

# Graduating Quandamooka trainees help their country

Eleven Indigenous Quandamooka trainees are this week graduating after a one year successful traineeship on North Stradbroke Island, which provided a life changing opportunity and the chance to gain the skills needed to seek further employment or go onto further training in the environmental sector.

The trainees, who were unemployed before starting the traineeship, admit it has been hard to find employment on the Island and that the traineeship provided a positive opportunity being the best thing that has happened in years for the younger members of the community.

The traineeship, delivered through a partnership between Quandamooka Land Council and Greening Australia, focused on helping build the practical skills of the trainees in conservation and land management.

Greening Australia's training Manager, Robin Thompson, who assisted the participants to complete Conservation Land Management training, said "Stradbroke Island is the perfect training ground providing experiences in environmental issues that are faced every day"

"The trainees have been involved in restoring vegetation, basic first aid, seed collection and preservation of plant and seed specimens; erosion and sediment control and other activities including helping with the oil clean up on Moreton Island" she said.

"It was a joint collaboration between everyone that made this happen," said the Quandamooka Land Council Chairperson, Darren Burns, "The Quandamooka people would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all those who have contributed to this successful program for our young indigenous community."

The trainees received a year of practical on ground training under the guidance of experienced staff from Quandamooka Land Council, Unimin-CRL, the Redlands Shire Council and training staff from Greening Australia. DEEDI paid the trainee wages, SEQ Catchments and a State Government grant provided money for uniforms and equipment and DERM provided funding for additional licensing requirements.

"The project has developed the conservation and land management skills of the Island's Indigenous community members, and will provide employment and training opportunities." Robin said "The trainees have worked hard and we are really proud to be seeing them graduate."

The graduation ceremony for the participants will be held at 11am on Wednesday the 12th May at the Dunwich Hall on North Stradbroke Island.

**ENDS**

**For more information, copy of photos or an interview contact:** Lainie Grigg on 07 3902 4427 or 04 3325 2503 or email [lgrigg@greeningaustralia.org.au](mailto:lgrigg@greeningaustralia.org.au)