

28 May 2010

## Indigenous trainee joins Council

Shoalhaven City Council has just appointed a young indigenous trainee to work within the Holiday Haven Tourist Parks group which manages Council's twelve tourist Park properties.

The trainee, Alex Thomson, will be working with Holiday Haven's Works Team, undertaking a range of maintenance and construction duties while studying for a qualification in construction through Nowra TAFE.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said Council has a policy to ensure that local youths and especially local indigenous youths are provided with the opportunities to gain work.

"It's wonderful that we have many keen young men and women who have sought this opportunity," Cllr Green said. "Competition for a traineeship with Council is strong and this means that Council will have the best work force teams in the Shoalhaven. We will also continue with our policy of appoint staff who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait islanders. This helps to provide a fair and equitable workforce for Council."

General Manager Russ Pigg said Council has set a target of achieving five per cent of its workforce who are trainees or apprentices. "This target enables Council to be a strong employer of local youths and provide excellent training and job opportunities for a number of young people in the community," Mr Pigg said.

The Holiday Haven Tourist Parks Works Team currently consists of a Works Team Leader and two Maintenance Officers. These two teams are mobile, versatile and skilled and undertake a range of tasks from building new buildings (amenities, kitchens, and group facilities) to building renovation, maintenance of residences, drainage, concrete, landscaping, environmental works and a range of other infrastructure tasks within the 12 Holiday Haven tourist parks in the city.

**Photo caption:** Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green with trainee Alex Thomson, from Ulladulla, and Holiday Haven Maintenance Officer Scott Barnes.

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