



ENQUIRER

CELEBRATING



Welcome

to the Autumn edition of the
EPIC Enquirer

In this edition you'll read about our job seekers who gained experience from traineeships or volunteering before transitioning into paid employment.

You will also read our tips of what to organise before you start work.

Flip to the back for a full list of upcoming EPIC events and recognition dates.

EPIC Enquirer is distributed to connect and inspire more than 3,500 job seekers across Australia who are being supported by EPIC on their employment journey.

You can also connect with EPIC Assist through our social platforms for more job seeker success stories.

Where there's a Will there's a way

Some people are lucky enough to discover their passion from an early age and know exactly what they want to do when they grow up.

For Will he always knew that he wanted to work outdoors with animals.

To help him make that dream become a reality he began volunteering at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures in Cairns.

When Will finished school he wanted to find paid work, so his mum suggested that he get in contact with EPIC Assist to access extra support finding employment.

Employment Consultant Narelle and Employment Advisor Trudy helped Will negotiate and transition from volunteering at Hartley's to securing a paid position at the park.

Will's day-to-day is very hands-on and varies from cleaning enclosures, prepping food for the animals, and helping with crocodile and reptile shows.

For Will, having meaningful employment is incredibly important to him, and working in a place where he feels appreciated makes all the difference.

"Work is important to me because it gets me out of the house, and I make decent money that I can put towards my goals," said Will.

"I felt really good about getting a job here. I have been coming to Hartley's since I was a little kid - loved coming here - and now I have got a job here. Can't ask for anything better than that."



CEO Message

Dean Graham

The importance of volunteering cannot be understated. There is a great number of organisations that survive on the generosity and support of volunteers.

Volunteering is also important for an individual seeking employment. Each jobseeker highlighted in this Enquirer first gained experience from traineeships or volunteering before transitioning into paid employment. By volunteering they were able to develop new skills, tryout different roles and show the employer their commitment and passion for the job.

Contributing to a worthy cause not only provides experience and a

sense of purpose but also allows you to provide your skills for the benefit of the organisation you are assisting.

Over the years, I have volunteered at aid charities, sports clubs, and schools. Each has been a rewarding learning experience.

At EPIC we are fortunate to have a very supportive volunteer Board of Directors as well as many wonderful EPIC Ambassadors.

I encourage all people to think about volunteering. It could change your life, other lives or even lead to a future career.



Job seeker tips

What you need to organise for your first day of work

Tax File Number



You will need to apply for a Tax File Number before you start your job by completing an online form, then arranging an interview at an Australia Post office. You will need to bring proof of identity documents with you to the interview.

Emergency contact details



Your employer will request the details of one or two people they can call in case of an emergency. They will require the name, contact number, home address and the relationship of the people. This information will be kept confidential, shared only on a need-to-know basis.

Practice how you get to work



To reduce stress on your first day, having a practice of how you will get to work on time in the week leading up to your first day is a great idea. Whether you go by public transport, walk or drive, it is important to practice at the time you would start work to ensure that the conditions will be similar.

Uniform



Prior to starting work, you should contact your new employer to see whether there is a uniform or a dress code you must stick to. It is always better to dress more professionally than too casually if you are unsure of the exact dress code.



Sharnece answers the call for paid employment



Sharnece with her employer Peter

When Sharnece was undertaking a traineeship in Business Administration, she worked on reception at EPIC's Maryborough office to gain valuable experience.

This experience led to Sharnece landing a job with Kahwun-Wooga Aboriginal Corporation.

Sharnece's day-to-day includes greeting visitors, answering the phone, and helping out with other required tasks.

Over the last 12 months, Sharnece has grown with the support of her team.

"My team are very supportive of things that I can and can't do. They don't put me in uncomfortable situations," Sharnece explained.

"I've improved a lot with my confidence because I am a quiet person and keep to myself. The job has helped me meet new people." ■

Dusting off history is serving Josh well

Like many Year 12 students, Josh spent 2020 thinking about what his future would look like and what career path he would take.

This led to Josh registering with EPIC Cairns in June 2020. Employment Consultant Narelle suggested gaining employment at The Australian Armour and Artillery Museum.

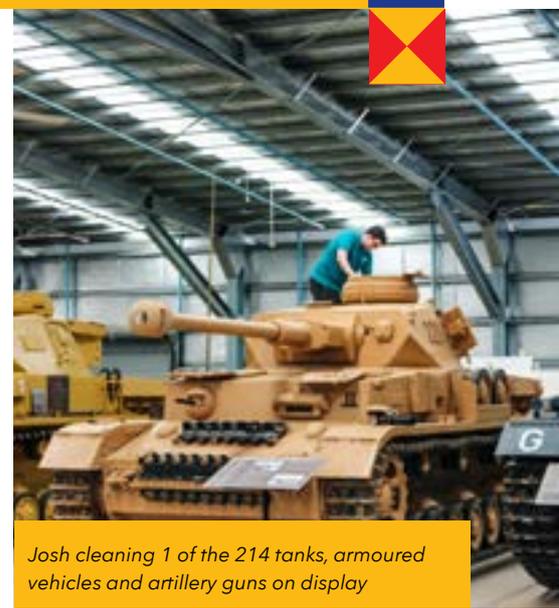
Josh had already been volunteering at the museum for the past 2 years on a fortnightly basis. It was something he enjoyed, so turning his work

experience into paid work was a perfect fit.

Josh has now been working at the museum for 6 months, 2 days per week.

Josh's new role includes cleaning and preserving armoured vehicles and artillery guns. He is really enjoying his new role and loves how much he is expanding his knowledge.

"I think having a job is a very important thing. It is a learning experience and allows you to grow more." said Josh. ■



Josh cleaning 1 of the 214 tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery guns on display

Country Club just the tee for Tyler and Jack



Jack and Tyler work hard to keep the property up to standard for guests

Tyler and Jack work in groundskeeper roles for Craignish Country Club in Hervey Bay doing garden maintenance.

EPIC approached both Tyler and Jack (at different times) with opportunities tailored to their needs.

"I thought that I would be unable to get a job, but EPIC helped me get into my horticultural traineeship, and now employment," said Tyler.

Tyler has been employed at the Country Club for over 3 years.

EPIC approached Jack with the opportunity to work at the country club as he has a degenerative disorder which means his eyesight is gradually disappearing. Owner Greg offered him the position in early 2020 to broaden his experiences while he still had some sight.

Jack's self-confidence has grown significantly, and his anxiety has also decreased.

"I've really grown as a person. It's made me more independent and EPIC helped me seek great opportunities," said Jack. ■



Notices

Dates

MARCH

1 March

International Wheelchair Day

3 March

World Hearing Day

15 - 21 March

Harmony Week

21 March

World Down Syndrome Day

26 March

Purple Day for Epilepsy

APRIL

Autism Awareness Month

25 April

ANZAC Day

MAY

12 May

Fibromyalgia Awareness Day

20 May

Global Accessibility Awareness Day

30 May

World MS Day

Events

EPIC is proud to be part of the following events:

25th March

Moreton Bay Jobs Expo - Strathpine Community Centre

23rd April

Logan Business Expo - Venue TBC

29th April

Northern Rivers Careers Expo - Goonellabah Sports & Aquatic Centre

21st - 22nd May

Brisbane Careers & Employment Expo - Brisbane Convention Centre

Feedback

"I could not ask for a more **compassionate, caring or competent** team to assist me." – Jaye, Bundaberg

"**Staff are very friendly and go above and beyond to help.**" – Natalie, Logan

"I feel supported when looking and applying for jobs. They understand my condition, **show care while also maintaining professional at all times.**" – Francisca, Hobart

"**Understanding, easy to talk to, knowledgeable, helpful.**" – John, Gold Coast



If you know someone whose future could benefit from connecting with the EPIC team, tell them to get in touch by calling 13 EPIC (13 3742) or emailing us on hello@epicassist.org

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