

# Dwellingup staff's skills reach out to Onslow

Alan Clarke, a forest workman and member of the Dwellingup woodshed team, recently returned from Onslow where he ran a 14-day course for 12 people as part of a Skillshare Aboriginal employment training program.

Alan's job was to teach the group how to use the power tools, construct tables, artifacts and signage to a high quality, and run an efficient and productive woodshed.

The course also included safety practices, first aid, and Department of Health, Safety and Welfare (DoHSA) work practices.

At the end of the course, some of the participants were offered jobs in a woodshed business unit Skillshare has set up in Onslow.

Alan's task involved intensive five-hour days of non-stop demonstration and training.

It seems Alan has an enviable knack as an in-

by Tammie Reid

structor because all those taking part produced high quality individual projects, and were enthusiastic about continuing to develop their skills.

Equally important was their enjoyment of both the work and Alan's training methods.

He was impressed with the group's approach and said participants had a positive attitude to safety.

"They used the ear muffs and other workshop safety gear, and if one of them looked as if they might have forgotten, he or she was reminded by one or more of the others," Alan said.

"They began a bit hesitantly with the power tools — the belt sander used to run away from one of them — but they soon became confident and capable of good work."

As a teaching aid, Alan showed the group a video he had made of the Dwellingup woodshed in operation.

His camera and video skills were put to good use filming the Onslow group; these training videos now are being used to promote the project and seek on-going funding.

The aim is to set up an efficient workshop that will win local contracts for picnic tables, signs, guide posts and other outside wood products.

Alan has a great deal of knowledge to share about how to refine and improve the production process.

"Ideally, they should throw nothing away; if they can get hold of a planer and saw bench to handle the offcuts they'll be able to use everything, as we do at Dwellingup," he said.

Alan arrived on the job in time to see the quick clean up of Onslow, as all



At the Dwellingup woodshed, Alan Moutney from the Aboriginal Economic Development Organisation watches as CALM's Keith Harris shows him how to set up a router. Photo by Tammie Reid

the loose outside clutter was collected and tied down in readiness for cyclone Sharon.

His time in Onslow wasn't all hard work

and cyclones. Alan also enjoyed some fishing — bagging a 1.2-metre mackerel — and he has the photos to prove it.

The woodshed skills

training course was organised by Skillshare course coordinator Alan Moutney of Onslow.

And, of course, Alan Moutney wants Alan

Clarke, or another member of the Dwellingup woodshed team, to return and run more advanced sessions in six months' time.



— pic for Woodshed — Dup Story — from Tammi.

P.S. There is an alternative

B/W in your care already — this is of  
piano tables loaded  
onto back of  
truck with  
3 men in front.

Leath Hams — CALM

Workman

using router

100%  
P.6

WOODSHED.DOC

Showing Alan Mountney from

Aboriginal Economic Development Organisation  
how to set up the router in the Dup Woodshed