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ICAN Update

ICAN took part in both the Cairns and Palm Island NAIDOC celebrations earlier this month. ICAN and the Commonwealth Bank organised a joint stand at the Cairns event and the bank kindly supplied moneyboxes for the "Shake 'n' Guess" moneybox competition at both locations. **NAIDOC** stands for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields.

Following the NAIDOC theme of recognition, ICAN has introduced a new initiative to highlight the successes of staff in achieving our shared vision of Empowering Indigenous Consumers. The newly developed ICAN Vision Awards will highlight a success story each month in the ICAN E-News. The monthly awards provide an opportunity to "Big Note" our committed staff and for the organisation to celebrate our shared successes.



Tax Time with Melanie

Yes it's that time of the year again, it's TAX TIME!! Hi everyone, my Name is Melanie Noble & I'm the Money Management Officer in ICAN's Yarrabah office. Prior to working with ICAN, I was employed with the ATO (Australian Taxation Office) as a Customer Service Officer, for 2 1/2 years. It is my turn to write an article for the ICAN E News and I wanted to talk about Tax Time. As we all know this can sometimes be little nerve racking & busy. Therefore, I'd just like to share some helpful tips with you all about lodging your Tax Returns.



ICAN's financial counselling outreach services to disaster effected areas on the Cassowary Coast commenced at the beginning of July. The overwhelming support from local organizations including Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, Jumbun Community Centre

and Tully Community Support Centre has assisted ICAN in reaching a significant number of clients in need. The visible signs of Yasi's destruction remain after the cyclone ripped through the region just over 6 months ago.

Pictured Above: ICAN Program Coordinator, Leeanne Griffiths fills out an entry into the shake'n'guess moneybox competition on Palm Island. ICAN Financial Counsellor, David Yorkston stands outside Cardwell home damaged by Cyclone Yasi.

There are a number of ways you can lodge your Individual Income Tax Returns, for this & future years. The following options are available to Taxpayers;

- Tax Help Centre's - ICAN offices in Yarrabah & Palm Island offer Tax Help to low income earners within the Community. Tax Help Volunteers can assist clients with preparing & lodging electronic & paper tax returns.
- Online Lodgement using E-tax - Most e-tax returns are processed within 14 days of their successful lodgment. You can download e-tax by [clicking here](#).
- Phone lodgment - Taxpayers can use the phone lodgment service if they are only lodging a Short Tax Return, claiming ETR (Education Tax Refund) or applying for a refund of Franking Credits. This service is available 24hrs a day seven days a week, with an on-the-spot estimate of your refund or debt, with most returns issued within 14days. To use the phone lodgment service or for more information please contact the ATO on 13 28 65.
- Registered Tax Centre's - Most are usually set up throughout Shopping Centres at this time of the year.
- Registered Tax Agent/ Accountant

To ensure that your Tax Returns are completed & processed in a timely manner, & without the need to book additional appointments, it's always a good practice to have all your correct documents during your appointments. The following list will assist you with organising & preparing your Tax Returns.

- Personal Identification - Tax File Number

(TFN), Full-Name, D.O.B, Address, Contact Numbers

- PAYG Payments Summaries or Group Certificates - Employers, Centrelink, Superannuation Funds
- Bank Details - If you'd like you refund electronically transferred to your nominated Bank
- Work Related Expenses Receipts - Car, travel, clothing, educational, union fees, tools & equipment
- Non-Work Related Expenses Receipts - Gifts and Donations (Made to Charities), Cost of managing your tax affairs
- Child Educational Expenses Receipts (If you are eligible & are claiming Education Tax Refund for a child/ren) - Computers, laptops, computer-related equipment (printers, USB flash drives), Home internet connection, computer software, school text books, study guides, stationery
- Private Health Care Statement/Details - Medibank, MBF, AHM
- Spouse Details - Name, DOB, Address, Income (Wages, Centrelink)
- Income Tax Notice Of Assessment (NOA) from the past 5 years - If you are lodging your Return via E-tax, either personally or with the assistance of a Tax Help Volunteer, you will be required to verify your identity. Having a prior year NOA is the most ideal form of identity verification & will enable you to lodge your return electronically.

Alternatively you can use the 'Shared Secret Information' function to verify your identity, when lodging online. Individual Taxpayers 'shared secret

information' will vary depending on what data the ATO has available on their systems. The specific personal information used for the 'shared secret' function includes; PAYG payment summaries, Centrelink payment summaries & bank account details (all information will either be current 2010- 2011 &/ or immediate prior year 2009-2010 data).

Last but not least, remember to keep all past, present & future tax documents in a secure place for future references (5 years from your date of lodgment). Some ideal storage suggestions are; filing cabinets, folders, envelopes, boxes etc. This will ensure that you'll be organised & prepared, when Tax Time rolls around next year!!

For more information on the Individual Tax Returns, please [click here](#).

Indigenous Consumer News...

Students urged to seek out traineeships

[The Daily Liberal](#)

Dubbo's Indigenous high school students are being urged to seek traineeships at the city's branch of the Commonwealth Bank.

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