

Wetlands Rescue Program launched

THE launch of the Hinchinbrook Yasi Wetlands Rescue Program was held this week, with 20 young people taking part in the program.

Terrain Natural Resource Management (NRM), Hinchinbrook Shire Council and Max Employment have partnered together to deliver the program in the district for the next six months.

The program is volunteer-based, where young people, aged 17 to 24, can gain experience in natural resource management, horticulture and conservation land management.

State co-ordinator for Max Employment Kylie Gray said the program would entail eight weeks of Cyclone Yasi clean-up, followed by revegetation work in areas around the district.

"(Volunteers) will work Hinchinbrook Shire wide, helping with the Cyclone Yasi clean-up in open park and residential areas," she said.

"From there, they will work at the Tyro and Mungalla Wetlands, Palm and Cattle Creeks, Lucinda and Forrest Beach, Halifax, Nash's crossing, Giringun National Park, Hinchinbrook Revegetation Nursery and will also be involved in ground preparation for Ingham's Australian-Italian Festival."

Participants in the program will gain a Certificate II in Conservation Land Management, com-



Terrain Ingham team leader Lawrence DiBella, Mayor Pino Giandomenico and Max Employment state co-ordinator Kylie Gray with young employees and DJ Cottell and Nathan Gaut.

plete a first aid certificate, obtain a white card and obtain Chemcert training as well as numerous other qualifications.

Nathan Gaut, 17, is one of the young employees who volunteered for the program, even though he will not receive an income during the 26 week program.

"I've been accepted into the Defence Force, but I won't be going until June, so I thought this would be a good way to get out of the house and do something until then," he said.

"It has been a great way to meet people and will hopefully look good on my resume."

—MEGAN GROUNDWATER

Register now for clean-up work

A LOCAL employment service is now recruiting for workers to join Operation Clean Up and help farmers and tourism operators get back on their feet.

Operation Clean Up is managed by the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) and those looking for work or clean up assistance should call 13 25 23 to register.

Five hundred Operation Clean Up jobs are being offered throughout the cyclone-affected area and Hinchinbrook Employment Services (HES) is working with DEEDI to source 50 people for an immediate start.

HES local program manager Luke Kaurila said the 50 employees would help clean up debris in the Hinchinbrook and southern reaches of the Cassowary Coast.

"The people we hire and will work in supervised teams, helping to restore local farms and tourism properties by cleaning fallen trees and other

debris," Mr Kaurila said.

"They'll be provided with accredited training as well as transport, equipment and protective clothing.

"We'll work with DEEDI to allocate job sites that most urgently need clean up assistance and bus transport from Cardwell and Ingham to the sites will be made available.

"In some cases, employees will work with local machinery contractors and DEEDI staff, who have been on the ground for several weeks already, clearing properties of debris.

"We would especially like to offer employment to those who are unable to work their normal jobs because of the effects of Cyclone Yasi, such as farm workers or those in the tourism industry.

"These jobs will enable out-of-work locals to stay in their community, while helping businesses in the cyclone-affected area get back on track."



Nominate disaster heroes
PREMIER Anna Bligh has would recognise individuals
nominated those who were touched who have shown outstanding

SAURDAY 9 APRIL, 2011

CAVALONE