



Facing North

Sarah Hickey flew south and serves us the words



Facing North has been running for three years now at Parliament House in Canberra. It is run by the Karen Sheldon Group in close partnership with Saltbush Social Enterprises.

It's organised by a business group in Darwin called Darwin Major Business Group — they're approximately the top 18 or 20 (by revenue) businesses in the Northern Territory. They established a group three years ago to represent their interests to politicians.

Our business vision is to create as many opportunities for Indigenous employment as we can. And in the past year and a half, we've been running an Aboriginal apprentice cooks program. It's a certificate level three commercial cookery. It's part funded by the NT Government and we've funded the rest.



It's seen ten indigenous apprentice cooks come through and graduate to their second year as apprentice cooks. This year we took eleven Aboriginal staff to Canberra with us, four of them from our 'Accelerated Aboriginal Cooks of Excellence' program. It was a great opportunity for them to see how things work in the big house. They'd previously done their apprentice training in Parliament House in Darwin because that's where we're based.



SALT N PEPPER CROC ... YUM

We're the resident caterers at Parliament House in Darwin and have been for the past six years.

Two of the group are employees of our supported bail accommodation. So our partner organisations help with social enterprises and youth diversion projects.

We also run a Future Stars pre-employment training course — our own-designed four to six week pre-employment course. And a lot of that is soft skills and it's based around cooking lunch every day. And then we sit down, cook the lunch and then they sit down to eat and they can take any leftovers home.

The Facing North menu this year showcased Territory produce and also Territory bush foods that are harvested by Aboriginal people on country. I think my favourite was the magpie goose dumplings just because it was like a twist on how you would traditionally see magpie goose.



LEFT: ALAN (ALSO A CHEF WHO CAME SOUTH TO HELP), MAGGIE AND SARAH HICKEY; LEFT BELOW: WARREN SNOWDON, MEMBER FOR LINGIARI NT WITH THE BARRAMUNDI; RIGHT: CHIEF MINISTER MICHAEL GUNNER WITH RICHARD DODD FROM TENNANT CREEK AT THE "CHEEKY DOG" MERCHANDISE STALL.



Our beautiful well-appointed home in Reidsdale borders the Monga National Park. Bring your own horse, walking shoes or mountain bike and explore the many trails the Park has to offer.

The house has 4 bedrooms, 2 wood fires, outdoor undercover BBQ area and picturesque views. Settle back, unwind and enjoy the breathtaking surrounds doing as little, or as much, as you wish.



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