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Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network LTD

ICAN Update

ICAN was invited down to Brisbane early this month to attend the Queensland Governments Reconciliation Awards for Business. ICAN and the Commonwealth Bank were named finalists in the partnership category for their joint Indigenous financial inclusion initiatives. Unfortunately we didn't bring home the major prize this year, but have a new certificate to put up in the pool room.

ICAN attended the National Indigenous Consumer Strategy Implementation Reference Group meeting in Sydney to plan a strategy beyond the current 2010 finish date. Key areas identified by the group were, Trading Practices, Consumer Literacy and Housing. A progress report will be presented to the Standing Committee of Officials of Consumer Affairs in the coming months.

Wawal Gubu - Yarrabah Money Management Program gave out its first two NILS loans last month. Read Money Management Worker, Daniel Noble's report in this edition of the ICAN E-News.



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myself," what money she had for the show?" She told me that she has been on the internet to look at prices for the show bags and to work out which one's she wanted and which ones she can afford. I thought nothing of it at the time, well I suppose like most fathers (hahaha).

On Monday it was student free day and when I got home from work I forgot my phone so I took my daughter with me to pick up my phone from work.

On the way she said that she had found \$30 on the floor and she was keeping this money for the Cairns show. I told her it was my money and that I needed it back to buy the groceries. She then said, "mm....mm, finders, keepers, losers, weepers, it's my money now that I found it". Without me knowing, don't know if her mother knew, she has been saving all money that she can gather for the Cairns show. When we got home she said to me that the \$30 will make \$122 for the Cairns show. Again I thought nothing of it until; she then showed me her secret saving box where she had kept all her savings. I was amazed.

I could not believe it that this little 7 year old saved all this money. She did end up giving me back the \$30 only because she felt sorry for me that I had no money. I think she

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DISCLAIMER

'The information set out in this newsletter is a summary of some issues you should consider as consumers. It is not comprehensive and it is not legal advice. You should contact a community legal centre or a solicitor for legal advice about your situation. You can also obtain further information from the offices referred to in this publication'



Dave's
Dollars

I'm back; in my last issue I said I was going to talk about the 2nd stage of going into debt and what happens to your debt but....but I have changed my mind and decided to talk about a surprise event that happened at home, due to the Cairns Show that starts today. YES!!!! It is the Cairns show and we as parents are anxious on how much it will cost us to take the kids to the show. I have a 7 year old whom I consider a, well shall I say a smart little

girl, who also thinks she's 20 years old. I had a debate with her the other night about when the Cairns show is on, she told me it started on Wednesday the 15th of July. I told her she was wrong and that it started on the weekend. Well guess who was right? the little 7 year old going on to 20. I had to swallow my pride and apologize.

Anyhow her pysanky (Ukrainian-style decorated eggs, things that kids do these days at school, I had no idea what this pysanky is until she explained it to me) was chosen from her class to be on display at the Cairns show. This was about a month and a half ago. She was very proud of this and could not wait for the Cairns show and of course we were very proud of her.

On Sunday night, while I was on the computer (well facebook, lol) she said, "dad can I go on the computer?" I said, "why?" She said that she had to look at the prices of the show bags and work out how much they will cost so that she can stretch her money over the 2 days (well she thinks she going for 2 days) that she will be attending the Cairns show. I was thinking to

looked in my wallet and saw that I had no money (hahaha). But she did get me on this one too because know I recall as I write this, there was about \$4.70 in change with the \$30 (hahaha).

Now don't ask me where she got this money from but it seems that whenever I have any loose change lying around it disappears and also she has a list of chores that she does and we give her a little bit of pocket money for doing her chores. I see her spending her money that she makes from her chores but somehow she still managed to save all this money.

I think she's done extremely well. Also last night I did put her to the test and said to her in a sad way that I had no money and I wanted to go and buy an ice-cream. She said, "don't worry dad I have money, we'll go and buy the ice-cream and you can pay me back before Thursday or else I won't have enough money for my show bags and the rides at the show". I'd like to claim that she taken after

me in the brains department, but my brains is clicking over and it isn't working like hers so all I can claim is her looks, and again swallow my pride and admit that the brains department is the mothers.

I have to add this in; as we were going to work this morning she said to her mother, "I have 3 x \$20, 5 x \$10, 4 x \$5, 12 x \$2, a 50c and some silvers. I thought to myself,"OMG did I leave any notes lying around (hahahah).

I am going to put her to the test and ask her to save some money for the Christmas holidays. I am going to have an in-house savings competition with her of course without her knowing. Whatever money she receives from her chores I will receive the same and see how much I save compared to her. This is a challenge, well a challenge for me she seems to know how to save her biscuits. Of course I must run this past mother first (hahahahaha)

If a 7 year old girl going on to 20 can put her mind to saving towards an event than I'm sure we

all could. If only we as adults can be so determined to save like my daughter than we may be happier knowing that we have put aside money for a special event instead of worrying when it gets closer.

I am very proud of her and I reckon she deserves to spend all her savings at the Cairns show, well, really, that depends on her mother (hahahahaha).

I have learnt a lesson along the way; silvers definitely can go a long way. It may not be much at the start but as you keep saving it will grow. My daughter converted all her silvers into notes and found that she had a lot more than she thought (well than what I thought hahaha). On our website we have savings info in the your money section of the website. There is also budgeting tool that may also give you good ideas on budgeting. [Click here](#) to check out the savings section of the ICAN website.

Until next time, SMART SAVINGS.

First NILS Loans in Yarrabah



NILS Update from Daniel Noble, ICAN Money Management Worker, Yarrabah Office

ICAN staff at Yarrabah have been busy rolling out the newly introduced "No interest Loans Scheme" to eligible

clients in the community. One of our success stories came from clients Herbert and Marina Patterson who have recently taken out a NILS loan to purchase a brand new refrigerator. The clients have been so determined and enthusiastic about obtaining a brand new fridge for their home through the NILS program.

This would've been virtually impossible to purchase before, as they are both on low incomes; and that's where ICAN stepped in to lend a hand. Upon receiving the fridge Herbert was determined to get a new refrigerator because the one he had was seeping cool air; which led to the food going off before the used by date

and high electricity bills .

Once the item was selected and the application finalised, the clients were advised that their application had been approved. Herbert and his wife Marina were so overjoyed that they couldn't wait to have their new refrigerator delivered to their home. As soon as the Winfields electrical delivery stopped at the front door, they couldn't believe that they finally got

their wish. They were so excited that the pair started packing their new fridge with grocery items as soon as it was unwrapped.

During this time neighbors were curious as to what was happening and asked 'how can I go about getting a new fridge'? And they both responded through the NILS program down at the ICAN Wawal Gubu office. Marina enthused that the fridge coordinates nicely with her stainless steel kitchen bench top. They are both truly grateful that they now can stock their new fridge with healthy, fresh

produce knowing that it will last longer and be maintained to perfection.



Pictured Above: Marina and Herbert Patterson