



## TNQ Skills Master Class

local skills shortage solutions

### Event Details

**Thursday May 15 2008**  
2.00pm Registration and welcome  
2.30pm - 5.00pm Presentations  
5.00pm - 6.00pm Drinks & canapés

**venue**  
Shangri-La Cairns  
The Trinity Room

**rsvp**  
**Wednesday May 7 2008**  
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You are invited to tap into the region's long history of innovation and ability to look to itself for solutions. Welcome to the TNQ Skills Master Class, a free event showcasing local solutions to the national skills and labour shortage. Hear from great local professionals followed by networking at the premier location.

### Event Overview

The shrinking labour pool is a national issue; evidence of the trend is reflected in reports of declining small business confidence, new immigration measures and competitive state government initiatives enticing workers to regional areas. Tropical North Queensland knows only too well the challenges faced by regional Australia to attract skilled labour, particularly in the context of the resource boom 'labour drain'.

Employers from across all industries and at every level are exploring new tactics for obtaining and securing the right staff for their business. Fundamental changes in the employment market, influenced by economic and social factors, are necessitating the need for an innovative approach to recruitment.

The TNQ Skills Master Class will address a range of skills shortage issues, including;

- evolving recruitment practices and employee retention strategies
- recognising the potential of alternative labour sources
- local business case studies of successful recruitment strategies.

The TNQ Skills Master Class will introduce fresh ideas and perspectives on a raft of skills shortage issues. The presenters will discuss topics and case studies directly from their own experience as business professionals in the TNQ region. The information presented at the TNQ Skills Master Class can be used by both large and small organisations, whether they are for-profit companies or not-for-profit organisations.



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### Speakers

#### Chris Cunsamy

**Executive Recruitment Consultant  
CBC Staff Selection**

**Topic:** Structuring and selling positions to potential employees

Chris Cunsamy has been with CBC Staff Selection since May 2006 and has been in Cairns since 2003. Chris' role at CBC Staff Selection is one of Executive Recruitment Consultant, specialising in recruiting Senior Executives, Engineers, Accountants and Sales & Marketing professionals. Chris also joins the two directors to form the Management team. Chris has over 20 years sales and marketing experience working in strategic management roles largely with a number of blue chip global organisations that includes American Express, B.P./Amaco and Accor Group of companies in Cairns, Sydney and London. Chris enjoys his current role where his skills, experience and integrity are called upon in order to satisfy his candidates, clients and colleagues alike.



#### Stacey Speight

**Human Resources Coordinator  
BDO Kendalls (Nth QLD)**

**Topic:** Promoting growth from within

Stacey joined the BDO Kendalls Cairns office in 2003, moving into the role of Human Resources Co-ordinator in November 2006. With a background in legal and accounting administration and a Bachelor of Business from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), Stacey has combined her experience and education to become successful in recruiting skilled employees for a professional service firm. Her area of expertise is learning and development. Stacey is dedicated to promoting and facilitating further professional development and career advancement within the Firm. Hailing from the Atherton Tablelands Stacey was a representative of the Queensland Judo Squad for four years and carried the Sydney Olympic Torch for part of its journey through the region.



#### Sandy Whyte

**Executive Officer  
Cairns Chamber of Commerce**

**Topic:** Supplementing the local labour pool through Regional Migration programs

Sandy was born and educated in North Queensland and has a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from James Cook University. Sandy's experience covers both the public and private sectors with sixteen years experience as a manager of not-for-profit, business and tourism organisations. He joined the Chamber 1998 as Executive Officer to oversee the operations of both the Cairns Chamber of Commerce and the Cairns International Trade Centre. During his time with the Chamber, it has modernised and redefined itself as the leading business organisation in Cairns and as one of the largest and most effective Chambers in Australia. The Cairns Chamber now boasts facilities and services the equal of any Chamber in the Pacific.



#### Ann Radke

**Owner/Manager  
Yuruga Nursery**

**Topic:** Creative skilling solutions for a growing business

Ann Radke, together with her husband Peter, own and manage Yuruga Nursery and its subsidiary company Clonal Solutions Australia, located on a 32 ha rural property at Walkamin on the Atherton Tablelands. The nursery has a permanent staff of 50 employees and produces several million plants per year for supply to gardeners, landscapers and developers, revegetation projects and large scale timber plantations. Yuruga Nursery started from nothing as a tiny owner-operator business. It has grown substantially over the years and is now the largest nursery in north Queensland, making a significant contribution to the economy of the region. Over the years, Ann and Peter have won numerous awards recognising their success in business and their achievements in the nursery industry.



#### Graham Caldwell

**Chief Executive Officer  
WHK Greenwoods**

**Topic:** Mentoring Generation Y

As Chief Executive he heads up a committed team whose aim is to provide quality service and satisfaction to all clients. This ensures that clients receive the complete solution to help them. Graham advises clients so as to meet their business needs ranging from strategic planning to detailed taxation advice. His experience working with the Australian Taxation Office at a senior level and with a legal firm provides a platform to provide specialist business advice to SMEs, individuals and corporate clients across a wide industry group. Meeting clients' needs and expectations has required him to be flexible so as to move into areas of greatest need and to help clients take maximum advantage of opportunities. Graham's aim is to provide commercial outcomes which provide real value for clients.



#### Dorothy Dunne

**Manager  
Worklink**

**Topic:** The untapped labour pool

Dorothy Dunne is the Manager of Worklink, an employment service which assists people with mental health issues achieve open and meaningful employment. She is committed to promoting, encouraging and supporting people with mental health issues to achieve a meaningful and fulfilling place in the community via employment. Dorothy has been the Manager of Worklink for the past 12 years, and has had a 30year career working in various management roles in the field of disability.

