THE MULGA MOB'S MISSION STATEMENT
We Believe in Keeping Remote Communities Strong

Who are the "Mulga Mob"

Things are different in the bush - the big city approach to skills development is not often relevant out here.   Mulga Training Network is a group of bush people who offer Information Technology, Workplace Trainer, LLN and specific skills training in the outback, believe in shared learning and a flexible approach to education. MTN's service commitment is "built on a handshake".

We all work in the "real world" as well as in the "training environment".
As bush folk, we have experienced the difference between paper-based qualifications and the skills and knowledge needed to get the job done.
We all earn a living variously as primary producers, technicians..etc.
The "Mulga Mob" are committed to maintaining and enhancing outback communities' social capital. A cornerstone of the Mulga Mobs approach is the outback ethic of providing services regardless of a person's ability to pay dignified with a sense of accountability. - "If you want a Hand Up see the Mulga Mob – if you want a Hand Out try somewhere else."

We are a collection of people who can teach and those who want to learn. A communal learning group where skills are shared freely without regard to fees, or "prerequisite education standards". No one is ever refused assistance from the Mulga Mob simply because they have no money. Since 1992 members have been bringing training and other hands-on help to outback communities.
Mulgas are small acacia trees or shrubs that are highly drought-resistant. Mulgas are adaptable and resilient to harsh conditions by having a roots and leaf system that is unique. The People of the Outback have this self-reliance.

What does the Mulga Mob do???

Education
As well as training in computer skills and sorting out the technical stuff, we help folk to look at educational alternatives for themselves and their kids - so many of whom have left schooling early to help out the family enterprise. These kids rarely fit successfully back into the mainstream education system if they eventually leave out here. At the very least, the culture is uncomfortable to them. We can get them preparing portfolios for RCC (recognition of current competencies) in context of their work on the land (and there are heaps of competencies where they can meet the criteria). So they are into using the computer and the academic literacy develops along the way. Folk can see that what they are doing right now is part of the "life long learning" process..they may not be attending a college but they are not out of "education". If the opportunity comes to become a "student" again then they will not go in empty handed but with statements of attainment in a range of competencies from the socially responsible RTO (Registered Training Organisation) that accredit their portfolios and our training and assessments.

In regard to the mature age group. Over the past decade various RTOs have provided RCC for people on the land. Unfortunately this was not that culturally inclusive for the folk in this "heartbreak corner". Not to knock what was done of course, as it has made a real difference to the career choices for quite a few people. However we do believe that RTOs should also have a commitment to ethics of social justice in recognition that none of us is a self made person. In some way we all were supported by our society as we grew to adulthood in comparative personal security and with educational opportunities. We hope this goes some way to explaining why we do what we do..

Beyond the Borders Technical Support
Telephone Counselling and remote repair work for distressed computers.
No matter where you live, we can work on your computer problems, teach you how to solve IT yourself and provide software training through the computer, phone and internet connection. Call us anytime and not only that but the Mulga Mob will teach you how to offer support to your community using the same means. Learn a Skill and Pass IT On.

Phone: 07 4654 1616

Or to Put IT Another Way..

Mulga Training Network takes a real problem – that of obtaining a relevant holistic response to Information Technology training, computer support and other training needs in our outback communities. Our response is to educate the people in a time and manner that is appropriate to their culture and way of working using resources that are specifically developed to align not only with the training packages but with the culture and language of the community. Then we provide on going support such as mentoring through further education and providing access to the technology resources they need. Within the remote communities where we have trained there is now at least one resource person who can claim IT Technician/Trainer as a component of their toolbox of marketable skills.

The ancient traditional (indigenous) approach of remote communities to making sure there is sufficient of their population with the skills needed to guarantee at the very least the survival of that community is really the blueprint for how our organisation presents training. The whole community benefit from the educational progress of any member due to the sharing and communal ownership of the skills and knowledge.

Our training initiative uses local people to train local people in local venues be they in dusty sheds, halls or verandahs. Wherever the communities gather we can and do take training.

Our local trainers are cost effective not the least
- because they are adept at fashioning innovative training solutions and
- will freely share their skills and knowledge with their community without regard to price.

Our equipment is not the latest; we do not have expensive software. As part of our hardware training we teach others how to refurbish laptops and desktops we buy for a small cost from technology disposal outlets. We use open source software and freeware when appropriate.

So we can outfit a community learning centre for less than the cost of one meeting of "experts" discussing the"how to 's" of establishing a learning centre.