
HSE PASTORAL – LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Limbunya Life Skills Program commenced on the 9th August 2010.

To date there are eight (8) to ten (10) participants at Limbunya at any one time.

The program lasts for four (4) weeks depending on work performance and attitude. The participants roll in and out four (4) at a time every two (2) weeks.

Supervisor – Tony Clarke



Work commences at 6:30am and finishes at 5:30pm, six (6) days a week, with half an hour for smoko and half an hour for lunch. Participants are responsible for making their own lunches and filling their water bottle at the start of each day and taking them wherever they go that day. The evening meal is prepared by the Cook.



Days off are usually spent having a look around the station and going swimming and fishing at Black Springs.



Homestead



Black Springs

A community team spirit of working together is encouraged with basic housekeeping rules implemented to nurture everyone to take responsibility for themselves and foster respect for others within the team. Everybody at Limbunya is expected to complete the housekeeping chores of washing their own dishes, showing pride in keeping the workshop, worksites, kitchen and the social club clean and tidy. These simple everyday tasks are part of everyday life and to make it through the program it is a requirement that every effort is made to be a part of the team. Deliberate abuse of any equipment on Limbunya will also end in an early release from the program. Smoking is not permitted in any of the station vehicles or in any of the station buildings.

With a 900km drive from the airport to the station there is a fantastic opportunity to see a wonderful part of Australia. The diverse landscape, vastness of the land, amazing colours of the terrain and spectacular sunsets are just some of the beautiful things that can be experienced. This combined with the encounter of staying at a cattle station and experiencing life in the outback adds to the excitement one can feel at being able to take advantage of this Life Skills Program.

Participants that have completed the program made comments that “it has given them a different attitude towards life and they enjoyed being in a happy and supportive team environment”; they “felt more confident with repairing equipment” and “appreciated the opportunity to operate machinery without the pressure of working in a production environment”.



The participants each have their own room and all use communal showers. These living conditions are typical station hand quarters, built from corrugated iron and concrete floors. The participants generally find this a unique experience.

Limbunya has a social club that sells beer, soft drinks, tobacco and some toiletries. This operates on an honesty system that is available for the convenience of employees and visitors of Limbunya Station. Costs can be deducted every fortnight out of your pays. If you need anything else ordered through the social club then you must let the Manager know as early as possible as stores are only picked up once a fortnight and the mail plane only comes once a week. The social club also has wireless internet access that can be used by everyone as long as this is also not abused by people viewing or downloading inappropriate content or large file sizes from the internet.

The first day the participants are at Limbunya there is a meeting with the Manager and the Supervisor. This meeting is an introduction to Limbunya and the rules and safety standards that are to be adhered to whilst they are doing the Life Skills Program. The meeting also covers what the participants can expect to gain from the course and also what is expected from them during their stay. All necessary paperwork is completed on day one and the participants are then taken on a tour of the station complex.

The Supervisor will take the participants to have a look at projects that previous participants have carried out, such as grading roads, working with cattle, fencing and the building of new dams. During the first week participants will work with other station employees gaining skills in four wheel drive awareness, helping the mechanic, manual labour for example fencing or digging holes and drafting cattle. The participants then start to learn how to operate the older machines like the 12E graders and over the next two weeks they work their way up to driving the D10 dozer. In this time the participants will be involved in mechanical servicing and repairs on the machines that they operate. During the course each participant will, if the opportunity arises, do some night shift on the dozer to become familiar with night time operations.



All work carried out by the participants is supervised by the Manager, Supervisor, Mechanic and station staff. All of these people have operated the machinery before and also carried out all other station jobs that participants are required to do whilst at Limbunya.





To date forty (40) participants have completed the program at Limbunya and have gone onto positions as Trainee Operators at the mine sites.

The program is not all about learning to operate machinery. Although all participants will leave Limbunya having the basic skills to operate a dozer, grader, backhoe and service truck, it is about instilling the right attitude of the people that come through the course. This attitude helps Management recognize if people are going to be suited to the environment that they will encounter on a mine site. The participants are rated on their technical ability on a dozer and grader, attendance record, general attitude, ability to work in a team, ability to follow direction and instruction and how they receive constructive feedback.

All participants will leave Limbunya being able to have the basic understanding and principles of four wheel driving and maintenance, operating dozers, graders and service trucks. It is expected that the participants will be able to learn the basics of these machines and make steady progress at getting better at operating throughout the course providing a smoother transition into operating machinery once a mine site job has been obtained.



As the course runs for four weeks, the supervisors get the opportunity to see the participant's full potential, not only working, but also in a social environment and this enables them to identify potential leaders.

At the end of the program participants will be assessed by the Manager and Supervisor and will need to pass an evaluation sheet before they will be accepted into the Mining side of the company. This evaluation sheet will cover everything from attendance to performance.

The aim of the Limbunya Life Skills Program is to help people discover, develop and achieve their potential. The program is designed to assist in the development of allowing people to expand their awareness and to give them an opportunity to experience a life changing influence on their life. This experience also assists in the progression to induction onto a mine site easier.

Our objectives are to improve self-awareness, confidence, discipline and motivation, to develop social awareness, interpersonal and communication skills and to provide the opportunity to step outside their comfort zone and face mental, physical and social challenges in an unfamiliar setting.

We aim for participants to strive to be the best they can be, to be accountable for their decisions and actions and learn to adapt to changing circumstances and to develop skills that will be of benefit through their working and personal life.

This course does not guarantee you a job with HSE Mining but you must complete it to be considered for a trainee operator role within the company.

Map of the Northern Territory with Limbunya highlighted in grey.



HSE PASTORAL – LIMBUNYA STATION

HSE Pastoral – Limbunya Station
PMB 83
Katherine NT 0852



Limbunya Station is located approximately 600 kilometres south west of Katherine in the Northern Territory (17° 13' 52" S 129° 53' 10" E). The closest town is an Aboriginal community called Kalkarindji and the Stations closest neighbour is 100 kms away.

Limbunya Station



The property has 522,200 hectares and for the last ten years the station has run approximately 35,000 head of cattle depending on seasons. The cattle are sold through the live export port of Darwin to places such as Indonesia, Philippines and Egypt.



The 522,200 hectares is made up of 21 paddocks that range from 60 hectares to 180,000 hectares. There are 6 sets of processing yards on the property that are set out strategically around the station.

The station complex consists of 3 houses, staff kitchen, meat house, social club, guest quarters, cooks quarters, school room, staff quarters, workshop, machinery shed and an old set of unused quarters. A new set of guest quarters has been constructed and a two bedroom extension has been built on one of the houses.



Social Club and Staff Kitchen

There are six (6) permanent staff which includes the Manager, Supervisor, Head Stockman, Mechanic, Pilot/Stockman and a Cook. At any one time we also have eight (8) participants at the Station attending the Limbunya Life Skills Program.

There is approximately 750 kms of fencing and 300 kms of access roads that needs to be graded and checked each year.



There are eleven (11) water bores that pump to fourteen (14) tanks to supply water to the stock. These require checking at least twice a week during the dry. As well as this supply of water for the stock there are also twelve (12) dams and numerous springs and creeks that cattle water from. It can take approximately three (3) weeks to build a dam and the aim is to try and build as many as possible in strategic locations.



Abbey's Dam (Left) Lachlan and Cooper's Dams (Right)

More dams are proposed for the future as is clearing more fence lines and constructing more new fences. The normal grading of fence lines and access roads need to be done every year to ensure they do not get to an unreparable state.

WHAT TO BRING TO LIMBUNYA STATION

- Wide brim hat
- 5 litre water bottle (Willow Brand from Woolworths)
- Long sleeve shirts
- Long work pants
- Work boots
- Cooler bag for lunches

The above list is critical to ensure your comfort and health is safeguarded.

Also required:

- Bank account details (institution, account type, BSB number, branch number, account number and name)
- Tax file number
- Driving licence details
- Superannuation fund details (institution, fund name, membership number, member name)
- Next of kin contact details (name of next of kin, emergency telephone number)
- Personal medication
- Personal toiletries
- Towel
- Wrist watch
- Laptop
- Dial up phone cards
- Internet access device
- Cigarettes (if a smoker)
- Good attitude

Limbunya is a long way from town and supplies take at least one week to arrive. The Social Club sells beer and soft drink with costs being able to be deducted out of your pay on a fortnightly basis. The Social Club can supply other things like toiletries and cigarettes but please remember that these cannot be supplied from town overnight, so YOU have to be organised and let us know before you run out otherwise you will go without.

Apply Online

If you would like to submit your resume or apply to HSE Mining please fill in [our online application](#) to apply for our Life Skills Program.