



## KAREN SHELDON GROUP & SALT BUSH SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

*Karen Sheldon* founded the company from humble beginnings in the eighties, operating the iconic *Dolly Pot Inn* in Tennant Creek, which eventually expanded in to Darwin and diversified into functions and event catering.

Karen's strong interest in Aboriginal culture and food followed her from Tennant Creek and remains a constant and integral core of the business.



## TRAINING DIVISION ESTABLISHED

*The Board* recognises a real need across the community for a greater connection between training and long-term employment while providing strong social support. *Karen Sheldon Catering* becomes a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and a new division, *Karen Sheldon Training*, is formalised.



## KEY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES BEGIN

*Karen Sheldon Training* is appointed the NT's first *Vocational Training & Employment Centre (VTEC)*.

VTEC is designed to bring together the support services necessary to prepare Indigenous job seekers for long term employment and connect them with guaranteed jobs.



## KAREN SHELDON GROUP RECOGNISED

Now delivering catering, training and employment services, the logical choice to grow the identity, resulted in a company name change to *Karen Sheldon Group*, providing an umbrella for their growing and varied programs focused on social change in the Northern Territory.



## SALT BUSH WELLBEING PROGRAM

The organisation secures its first contract with Northern Territory Primary Health Network to deliver Low Intensity Mental Health Services; resulting in the *Saltbush Wellbeing Program*, developed in conjunction with Indigenous participants across the Northern Territory.



## FUTURE STARS SHINES BRIGHT

*Karen Sheldon* is successful in securing PM&C funding to deliver *Future Stars* in the Barkly Regions of the Northern Territory. Delivery of this program by *Saltbush* represents the first program to be transitioned across from the *Karen Sheldon Group*.



## INDIGENOUS OWNERSHIP

*Saltbush* enacts its membership charter to transition to majority Indigenous control through membership. This realises another step in the long-term goal of the Group in supporting Indigenous solutions for Indigenous challenges and to support Indigenous independence.

2005



## BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP

Karen is joined by long-term employees and her current business partners Amanda Swift and Sarah Hickey, and the company becomes *Karen Sheldon Catering*.

2008



## 'FUTURE STARS' IS BORN

*Karen Sheldon Training* begins developing the highly successful *Future Stars Indigenous Aspirations and Employment* suite of programs (graduated life skills and work-ready programs) focused on assisting participants into sustainable long-term employment and future careers. The company becomes Indigenous Employment Panel members with the Australian Government.

2014



## SALT BUSH MOB DELIVERS SUPPORT

After securing a contract to deliver the Treatment and Aftercare Service of the *Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Centre* in Darwin, a new division, *Saltbush Mob* is established to develop and deliver a holistic Assessment and Intensive Case Management Plan.

2016



## SALT BUSH SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

An increasing ability and desire to be part of the change the directors want to see in the NT results in the development the non-profit organisation *Saltbush Social Enterprises Limited* to become the vehicle for continuing the drive started by *Karen Sheldon* so many years ago, and increasingly the focus of the *Karen Sheldon Group*.

2017



## YOUTH BAIL SUPPORT PROGRAM

In partnership with Territory Families, the *Youth Bail Support Program* is established, providing supportive twenty-four-hour, seven day a week accommodation services in Darwin and Alice Springs as an alternative to remanding a young person in custody.

2018



## 'AACE'-ING IT!

*Saltbush Social Enterprises* has secured NT Government funding for a pilot program; the *Accelerated Aboriginal Cooks of Excellence (AACE) Program*, that enables ten local Aboriginal apprentices to launch their careers in commercial cookery.

This is a long-held vision of the Group to see more Aboriginal Chefs in successful careers in Australia.

2019



## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TRANSITION

*Karen Sheldon Group* transitions Employment Services to *Saltbush Social Enterprises*; a big step on the journey to separate and grow the two organisations. This will ensure that the employment programs are focused and successful in achieving positive outcomes for the Indigenous community.

*A narrative of the journey taken by the Karen Sheldon Group to be the positive social change we want to see in the Northern Territory.*