

Date: 6 March 09

GREAT START FOR NEW CMA TRAINEE

The Central West Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Chairman, Mr Tom Gavel today is pleased to welcome aboard Christopher Dunning, a recent recipient of the Rick Farley Memorial Traineeship Program and a new addition to our CMA team.

Chris commenced employment under the Rick Farley Memorial Aboriginal Traineeship Program which was officially launched in 2007 by Rick's partner, the Honourable Linda Burney, NSW Minister for Community Services.

Mr Gavel said, "The Aboriginal Memorial Traineeship program was established by the Central West CMA to honour Rick Farley who passed away suddenly in May 2006 at the age of 53.

"The Traineeship recognises Rick's outstanding work and life achievements. He was an advocate for farmers and Indigenous Australians and possessed progressive ideas that promoted the environment, reconciliation and rural communities."

The Program aims to increase employment opportunities for Indigenous community members who live in the central west catchment and have a strong interest in caring for and protecting our land.

Chris Dunning said, "I'm thrilled to be awarded a traineeship where I can work in the area that interests me and compliments my horticultural studies plus also allows me to follow my passions for cultural heritage, conservation and caring for vegetation, land and water.

To date the Rick Farley Memorial Aboriginal Traineeship Program has supported two students over the last two years with an intention to offer additional employment and training opportunities in the future.

Central West CMA Traineeship Supervisor, Jen Shearing said, "The next twelve months will be a busy time for Chris. The Program aims to provide Chris with a broad range of experiences available in natural resource management that will provide Chris with valuable skills for the future."

This program was initiated by the Central West Aboriginal Reference Group and highlights the Central West CMA's commitment to working in partnership and engaging effectively with Aboriginal communities across the catchment.

"The Central West CMA is proud to support two Aboriginal Traineeships and one University Cadetship which provide both valuable education and employment opportunities in the natural resource management field." Mr Gavel concluded.

More information on our programs and services can be found by visiting the Central West CMA website: www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au.

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Further information:

Central West CMA Public Relations & Media Officer, Lynne Hawkes

T: 02 6363 8605

M: 0428 600 701