

# Skilling Queenslanders For Work



In the aftermath of the Timor Independence turmoil in 2002, BTC Cooperative Limited was approached by local community members to develop a Work For The Dole project to build a fishing dory, which would then be sent to East Timor. The project resulted in BTC participants building two 17ft dories from scratch. This included reading the plans, determining the material requirements, lofting the boat, and epoxy finishing all the joints and finally launching the dory. It became apparent very quickly that participants were developing a range of skills, with the help of the Queensland Government it was decided to formalise the project and recognise these skills by delivering Vocational training to participants in the form of Cert I in Engineering, delivered as a Skilling Queenslanders for Work activity. The project started by building strip planked canoes and very quickly had to move to larger premises. It was also at this time that BTC became a co-provider of Engineering Training with Brisbane North TAFE, later to become Skillstech Institute of TAFE. This relationship lasted for a number of years and currently the training is delivered as part of the Vocational Training component of the Federal Government, Skills for Education and Employment initiative, where participants have constructed a 30 Bay Cruiser, 20ft Fishing boat, and a number of fibre glass canoes.