


GOOD NEWS STORY

Joyce and Russell Downes' Normanton Bakery



JOYCE AND RUSSELL IN FRONT OF
THE NORMANTON BAKERY.

Until they bought the Normanton Bakery in December 2006, Joyce and Russell Downes did not see themselves as business people. Now they own and operate a thriving business operation, thanks to Indigenous Business Australia's (IBA) assistance.

Joyce and Russell lived and worked on stations for close to 20 years. During that time, Joyce used to just 'Cook, cook, cook!'

Moving to Cloncurry brought new opportunities for the couple, who had often walked past bakeries and thought how much fun it would be to be involved and 'play with the dough'. Joyce started working in the local bakery, where the owner provided her with hands-on training for the next six months.

Because of their circumstances, Joyce and Russell had never seriously entertained the idea of owning their own business. A business loan and mentoring from IBA changed all that.

The Normanton Bakery services the surrounding region with a selection of culinary delights, including cakes for special council occasions and all lunches for the local school. The bakery has cafe facilities, but they are currently unused.

Joyce and Russell now plan an expansion to use the facilities and employ more local people.