



**WOORABINDA
ABORIGINAL
SHIRE COUNCIL**

News

Issue 01
May 2022

112 Munns Drive Woorabinda QLD 4713
Phone 4925 9800 Fax 4925 9849
Email ceo@woorabinda.qld.gov.au
Webpage www.woorabinda.qld.gov.au



Our rangers are ready to launch

Woorabinda's new Ranger Group is due to officially launch soon after the reformation of the project reference group late last year.

The group includes representatives from the Ghungalu Nation, Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala People, Wadja People, Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, Woorabinda Pastoral Company, BHP/BMA and Greening Australia.

They have worked hard to establish a ranger program and a Caring for Country Plan to create local jobs, heal country and allow rangers to live and work in Woorabinda after successfully applying for three years of funding

under the Queensland Indigenous Land & Sea Rangers program.

Up to five local community members will be employed as a result.

Already our rangers have experienced a cultural burning workshop with fire practitioner Victor Steffensen, who was keen to share his knowledge.

As a result a partnership between the State Emergency Service and Queensland Rural Fire, has led to

nearly 15 community members volunteering to be a part of a local group to assist with emergencies and back burning.

The Rangers were also successful with funding under the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative to manage and control Feral Pigs.

They will be mentored in different ways to track and capture pigs by indigenous specialist Tyrone Davis from Trackers Traps.

To learn about Victor Steffensen's work see <https://youtu.be/d-9hmEiH828>

To learn more about the traps Tyrone designed and manufactures see <https://www.trackerstraps.com/gallery/>

INSIDE!

- Woorabinda Pastoral Company Update
- Loving the luffa!
- Learning new ways to lead for change
- Legends of League come to town



Loving the luffa!



Woorabinda Pastoral Company Update

It's been a busy few weeks, WPC CEO Tim Thomson writes.

Cropping

This year we planted a large sorghum crop on Foleyvale and Dawsonvale and we were madly harvesting to get the crop off before all the rain we had.

It's a really good crop and the money we make will go towards a large maintenance and upgrade program across all of the properties, fixing fences, dams, troughs, yards and buildings as well as purchasing new equipment and machinery.

Cattle

Weather permitting, we have been out mustering the cattle across the different blocks and sorting which to keep and which to sell.

We are focussing more on cattle and have purchased some very high quality bulls over the past 18 months – the young calves you might see are the result of our new improved breeding plan.

We have heavily reduced the number of cattle on the Woorabinda block to let the country have a rest and keep the numbers at a more sustainable level.

This will let the grass grow back stronger and reduce the erosion of soil into the creek and gullies.

Horses

The team have been working hard to break and train a range of horses mustered from across the properties.

We are planning a large horse sale in early July and invite the community to come up and see the team in action – keep your eyes open for an invitation.

Weeds

We have been working to spray large areas of Parkinsonia found on Foleyvale and Dawsonvale, and have more plans to get rid of other pest plants over the next several years.

If you spot any declared weeds on any of the properties please note where you saw it and let one of the team know so we can keep a record.

Work as a sub-contractor for Pastoral

We are always on the look out for people with their own business to



On 11 May 2022, we processed the first Luffa grown in Woorabinda which brought much joy and excitement to our gardening group Mehraban (Men) Farahmand says.

"We are going through a trial period of selling the finished items on Marketplace through Facebook, and locally in Woorabinda," he said.

"The simplicity of planting, without any maintenance and seeing produce in six months has got all thinking of going into some form of production.

"People in Israel want to buy the Woori Luffa!

"A chic logo is coming soon and we have four families actively growing produce and a few more showing interest."

He said the energy in the group was very high.

"The energy in the group is

very positive and high, they want to steam ahead," he said.

"Big Uncle in particular has said how happy he feels and he does not walk around with his walker and oxygen tank."

He said people were looking forward to their Wednesday meetings.

"The group is actively pursuing ways to reach out to each other," he said.

"The required trust and reciprocity are building.

"We have a small float that can be used when a family is in need of gardening supplies, particularly saplings."



supply services to the Pastoral Company.

If you have a business or your about to start one please get in touch by sending an email to admin@wpcoffice.com

Jobs

We don't have any jobs available now, but we're always interested to hear from people looking to get into agriculture.

Sometimes we have spare spaces in our training sessions or opportunities to volunteer or work casually.

Note that when jobs do come up, preference will be given to

people who participate in these types of opportunities.

If you are interested in knowing more please email admin@wpcoffice.com

Questions

We're keen to hear from Community with any questions about the Pastoral Company and how it works.

Email us at admin@wpcoffice.com or chat to our local Woorabinda staff and they can send your question through.

We will aim to answer any questions in the WASC newsletter every month.



Learning new ways to lead for change



Woorabinda's new leadership group recognises there are changes on the horizon and how important it is for our community to not to miss opportunities as they arise, Mayor Josh Weazel writes.

A group of local people working in various organisations has been meeting to learn and discuss different leadership ways to bring about that change – for the better, and for all of us.

It is a long journey to find different leadership ways that will carry community voices for change.

There is much to learn and discuss with residents about the role of leadership in our community and how that can be aligned to government change and reform.

At our meeting in May we were presented with a different approaches

to consider and compare to what other Aboriginal communities are doing.

The Queensland Government's Local Thriving Community, Closing the Gap and the new Federal Government's reform agenda all present potential opportunities to bring about change in our community.

We are on a learning curve, talking about how we can identify problems and solutions with community, and how service delivery can be strengthened to better support and assist community members in need.

The leadership group knows

the importance of talking to our community before any decisions that may impact on them are made.

We also understand the level of effort and commitment required to gain community confidence.

We are not setting ourselves up for failure.

It will take time.

We are a work-in-progress as governments change and we work on holding our discussions from an informed position.

We hope to influence policy for change – for the better, and for all of us.



Above: Our Leadership Group and rangers at Blackboy Outstation. Below & Right: WASC at the Local Government Association of Queensland's (LGAQ's) Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF) in Cairns in April.
Pics in Cairns by Christine Howes.



Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council partnered with Banana Shire Council and the International Legends of League (ILOL) to bring former State of Origin and Australian Test players to Biloela to play a charity rugby game on Saturday 7 May.

A Mining Skills Australian Legends team took on a Rebel Sports Callide Valley All Stars team for the event, which included Australian League legends such as Steve Price, Ben Hannant, Kevin Champion, Daren Smith, Noel Goldthorpe and Jordan Kahu.

The Callide Valley team featured former players from the region and representation from local clubs including Woorabinda, Baralaba, Biloela, Moura and Theodore.

Local reps included the "Woorabinda Whiz" Reggie Cressbrook.

On the Wednesday before the match, four Woorabinda reps travelled to Banana and Moura to participate in school coaching clinics and workshops including anti-bullying, health, exercise, social media and goal-setting.

The next day eight players travelled to Wadja High and the State School, followed by an Elders' lunch and community BBQ.

It was Baralaba's turn the next day, again with



representation from Woorabinda on board before the players took part in a bowls day at Bilo on the Friday.

A dinner was held on Friday evening with players, sponsors and special guests.

On Game day juniors, from 6-17-year-olds, played pre-matches including a women's and a men's match between Woorie and Bilo before the Callide Valley All Stars took on the Australian legends.

Many thanks to Kylie Major-Oakley and Kenny Oakley for their supervision and organisation on the day.



ATTENTION Transport & Main Roads Customers

Woorabinda Community is **no longer eligible** for an exemption for Roadworthy (Safety) Certificates, as per the Department of Transport and Main Roads guidelines.

When registering your vehicles please ensure you bring a current Roadworthy (Safety) Certificate.

Our nearest Approved Inspection Station is at Baralaba.

Help us to keep your plumbing system clean!!!

Remember the three Ps!

Pee
Poo
Paper



Please do not flush baby wipes, cloths, clothing or any other foreign materials.

Members of the Woorie community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics and yarns to WASC News via Council Reception. WASC News is published monthly and can accept paid advertising, please call Christine on 0419 656 277 for more information.

The DEADLINE for our next WASC News will be THURSDAY 30 June for publication in early July.

WASC (Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council) News was edited by Christine Howes for WASC ©2022

