



WUJAL WUJAL

ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Newsletter July 2006

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New ways forward for Council & Community

"We would rather have community-control instead of having someone from outside taking control over our local area," Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley says.

He said the Wujal Wujal Council was dealing with government-proposed changes to almost every aspect of the work they did for the community and asked that the community supported them as best they could.

"If we don't get community support, and it will take a bit of patience, the whole community will suffer," he said.

"We've got things in place but the challenge for all of us is to make it work."

He said Commonwealth Government changes to the way CDEP works and State Government changes under the Local Government Act were challenging at almost every turn.

"There's been a lot of changes happening with the governments and I don't know if it's for good or bad," he said.

"It's definitely affecting the way the Council operates on the ground already, some of the changes have only come in over the last month or so and we're still trying to keep up with that.

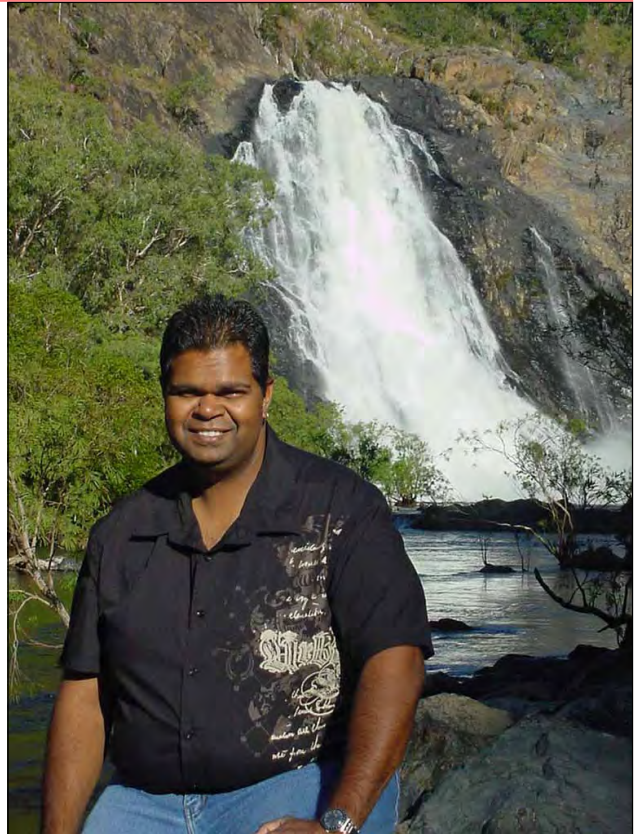
"CDEP is one example because that's a big part of our council operations and we need that to run our Council.

"But we haven't got any choice about any of this so we need the community to bear with us."

He said at State level under the Local Government Act there was another range of changes.

"There's a whole range of new policies and procedures that again are not the decision of Council to carry through but come under the new rules attached to being a Shire Councils," he said.

"I would urge the community to come and talk to our staff here if they're not sure about what these new changes mean and how they should do things now.



Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley

"These policies affect the day to day running of the council and our community business, and basically we need to put these steps in place because they're part of the Government's criteria for the changeover to Shire Councils.

"If we don't have these policies in place and make them work, the Council could be penalised in some of these areas.

"It's a two-way thing, it affects people in the community but it also means, because of the changes to the way we do things in here with the staff, that it will be the same every time anyone does business with the Council and it will be the same for everybody.

"I think people need to try and work with these rules because they're there for their kids and the future generations to come, I think we're just laying the platform for them and we need to try and make it as good as possible for our community.

"The Council is trying to see the best way out for the community and we're trying to work with them because we want the best thing possible for all of us."

IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Council Policies and Procedures
- Housing Update
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- Caring for Country
- Sports and Recreation
- Lighten Up!



WUJAL WUJAL PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO POLICY & PROCEDURE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Vehicle Hire**
- **Lending to Residents**
- **Community Hall Hire**
- **Grievance Procedures**
- **Discipline Procedures**
- **Staff Codes of Conduct**
- **Refund Policies**
- **Contracts**
- **Tendering**
- **Acquistion of Goods & Services**
- **CDEP**
- **Housing Maintenance**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT
HOW THINGS SHOULD BE DONE NOW
PLEASE SEE THE COUNCIL OFFICE FOR
MORE INFORMATION!**

Books, CDs, DVDs by the thousand at library

With more than 300 members and school holiday programs just finished up, the Wujal Wujal Library is a busy place!

"We've got two collections of books, one of them is with the Public Library Service which works with Brisbane so we're changing the books all the time," Indigenous Knowledge Centre Manager Talita Nandy says.

"And there's the Patricia Devine Collection which is a collection put together from donations from people all over Australia, that's about 4,000 books.

"New projects include the listening stations, one for children and one for adults, where they can listen to talking books from cds and things like that.

"We've also got a children's corner with a tv and a dvd/video set up.

"I get ongoing training from down in Cairns there and they're really good support for the Indigenous Knowledge Centres across the Cape."



Talita Nandy

CDEP changes 'out of our hands'

New CDEP rules came into force on July 1 this year and Council is doing its best to keep up the changes. Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley said some of the changes might not work very well.

"The Government hasn't looked forward to how this will affect most of the Councils throughout the Cape and Wujal Wujal is one of those," he said.

"We heavily rely on CDEP and these changes will affect the way we operate our services here.

"Some of the changes include giving us grants month by month and that's not going to work for us here - why do it 12 times when you should only need to do it once?

"It's not going to work very well but we haven't got any choice about any of this so we need the community to bear with us.

"We'll come through it but just trying to keep up with these changes that do affect the way we operate and our community is a full-time job."

He said the Council's CDEP operation was funded until the end of this year.

"We were given a six month extension but we don't know what will happen after that," he said.



Desmond Tayley

"We've got 130 people here on CDEP and we've been set a target to get eight of those people into full time, fully paid work.

"At our last meeting with DEWR they had all these criteria, some of which the Council felt were a bit high to suit our needs.

"Their expectations are very high, they've brought some of them

down a bit and they did try and work with us.

"As long as we all keep trying we should be able to work through this but we need support from the community as well."

Mayor Tayley said the Council also had to enforce a 'no work, no pay' rule for the 130 CDEP participants on the community.

"We have no choice about the no work, no pay, we

have to enforce that because it's been imposed by DEWR and the Commonwealth Government - if we don't do it we will lose our CDEP funding and that's no good for anyone on the community," he said.

"If we don't keep up with the Performance Indicators and even the reporting on those, the money will be taken off the Council and maybe even the whole CDEP for those 130 people and the work they do for the community."

He said they had also had to look at CDEP structure and there would be two new positions as a result of that.

He said the Council had appointed Bill Harrigan as the Senior Supervisor and would be appointing other supervisors as well as advertising for a Manager's position.

Mr Harrigan said he was effectively managing all 130 CDEP participants across all the different departments of the Council's work.

"At the moment the new structure is pretty hard, we're having to re-think the whole strategy and the plans we had," he said.

"I think the other communities are having the same problem with this whole structure, we have to go by the guidelines that are set for us and by 2008 we have to go forward to where all the young people should have a proper job.

"So we need to create all these new employment places and it's hard because this place is so isolated. "I think the government's got to realise they've stuck this on us and as we're going at the moment it's going to be very hard even though we look forward to our people having these jobs.

"We've got demanding targets and we need people to be patient with us because what we have to do is out of our hands."



Bill Harrigan

TO ALL WWASC EMPLOYEES

ANY CHANGES TO PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS MUST BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING ON A WWASC WAGE DEDUCITON AUTHORITY FORM.

PHONECALLS OR MESSAGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

THANK YOU
WWASC ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

Under Award Wages a case of waiting, waiting, waiting...



Wujal Wujal people have been asked to be patient with the very slow progress of the Under Award Wages case currently before the Courts.

Marie Creek (pictured) said it was a slow process but she was trying find out what was going on and to keep people informed as best she could.

"UAW is a very slow process and people in the community have been asking me how long it's going to take and when it's going to happen but at the

moment I haven't got the answers," she said.

"I keep ringing our barrister but they also don't know.

"At the last court they had three judges and they're still deciding, we know one agreed, one half in half and the other doesn't want to release that money.

"So I've been ringing around asking what's been happening but they're telling me to hang on.

"I've told him the people in this community can't hold on any longer, they've been waiting six or seven years now so I'm trying, but the answer's not there yet."

New Councillor working for housing, jobs & harmony

"I put my hand up that I will get the job done, that's all I wrote on the thing, and I was voted in," says new Wujal Wujal Councillor David Jackson.

Cr Jackson has taken on the portfolio of Housing as well as Sports & Recreation.

"I am pretty busy, I don't stop here," he said.

"We got eight new houses getting built and three or four renovations going on but we need more housing. "We're overpopulated now and it wouldn't matter if they put 18 houses up here, we'd still be overpopulated because by the time they build them the population has grown."

He said the Sports & Recreation portfolio was also challenging.

"A lot of people here like John, a lot of people like PCYC," he said.

"John is doing a tremendous job with the kids down here and I

would like to see them both work together on an even basis, where no-one has more power than anybody else.

"We don't want fighting over power because we are doing this for the kids and it doesn't help them if they see adults fight over who is going to do this and who is going to do that."

He said being on the Council was challenging in almost everything because of a lack of funds.

"We can't do anything here without funding," he said.

"We are trying to get our roads gangs up and running which we are doing now since the floods, we have our own teams on the Cook Shire road and the Douglas Shire road.

"We've also got our garage making money and our supermarket is starting to make money, which is good thing because it has never



made money before.

"Another way is to get the stock crew up and going, we've got thousands of head of cattle here worth hundreds of dollars per head.

"I've always known that it's a good enterprise to get the cattle and the horses up here running and could make a lot of money off them.

"It creates work and employment and that's what we are after here."

Sewage + new footbridge on target for end of year

Houses in the Wujal Wujal township should have sewage by mid-December says the Council's Essential (Water & Sewage) Services Manager Ron Beacroft (pictured).

He said the Sewage Project was "a bit" behind schedule because of the wet season and road conditions but should be completed this year.

"It was originally meant to be mid-October but we've been set-back a couple of months," he said.

"Some of the houses will be hooked up prior to that because they're hooked up in progression - all houses will be hooked up by mid-December but there'll be houses being hooked up from September onwards." He said the project at this stage did not



include new housing on the southside of the river.

Mr Beacroft also said a proposed footbridge, which will be virtually stepping off the other side of the river into part of the new oval complex, should also be completed by the onset of this year's wet season.

"We're waiting on confirmation from the State Government contribution that will then give us the full amount for the original quote from the construction company," he said. "The other problem or hold up may be gaining approvals from the various departments but I've got someone checking that out for me. Our main aim is to have the footbridge totally completed before the wet season."

New housing comes with new policies

One down and eight to go is the count on new houses for Wujal Wujal.

Housing Coordinator Graham Cox said he couldn't give an exact date for the next three, which are almost complete, but after that there would be just four to go.

"There's nine new houses, we've got three built and we're waiting now on some final little bits like the tiling and sewage treatment plants to go in," he said. "So three should be ready very soon but I can't give a date because we're not sure when the sewage is going in.

"We were hoping to hook them up onto the sewage system itself in town but we haven't got the money to do yet that so it looks like we'll have to do individual sewage treatment plants."

He said as a licensed builder he supervised all the renovations, new buildings and maintenance in town, a job which was now bigger because of changes to the way Wujal Wujal works with Q-Build.

"My job is actually bigger now, with Q-Build coming in we've actually got money to do

maintenance on the houses," he said.

"Before, when we had to do it ourselves, we only had the money we collected in rent to fix up houses but because we didn't collect that much money we couldn't do anything but emergency fix-ups.

"Now with Q-Build we can do all the fix-ups on the list and when people ring the Q-Build number to report anything that's gone wrong.

"Their call goes to a call centre and they'll send us an order for the job and we'll go and fix it straight away."

Mr Cox said some of the work would be done by outside contractors because of the workload.

"The Council contracts carpenters, plumbers and an electrician but we've got two apprentices and one labourer as full-time permanent employees of the Council, everyone else is a casual worker and/or a contractor," he said.

"Some of the contractors are local or at least based around this area."

Mayor Desmond Tayley said there were new policies affecting how housing was done on the community but, he said, employing people locally was important to the Council.

"We've had a few meetings with ATSI housing about rental arrears and putting the new policies in place," he said.

"With the changes going through now with Local Government, I think it's not the council's responsibility, but from an Indigenous point of view it's very important for us to keep our own program, we want to have our local employment.

"We've still got renovations and new housing, I think this is important to our community and we're still talking about it.

"We did say to ATSI Housing that we agree in principle with what they've proposed to us but we also said we were going to go back and look at it thoroughly and when we've fine-tuned it to suit Wujal Wujal we'll get back to them."



Graham Cox



Allister Gibson, Patrick Nandy & Gauai Wallace

Q-BUILD HOTLINE NUMBER
for all your repairs and maintenance
1300 738 616

High hopes for results from Negotiation Table

Hopes are high for some good outcomes from the recent Negotiation Table meeting regarding Natural Resource Management Wujal Wujal Deputy Mayor Keith Rush (pictured) says.

Mr Rush chaired the recent meeting which involved community stakeholders alongside state and federal government representatives and agencies talking about land and sea issues of importance to Wujal Wujal.

"We had people from Wet Tropics and quite a few government agencies and everyone just contributed their little bit towards making it a successful meeting," he said.

"We're hoping through those negotiations we'll have some good outcomes for the community."

But, he said, not everyone who could

have been involved was there.

"We invited all the work people to come along to the meeting but a lot of them didn't turn up because they're sick of hearing the same talk all the time, they've got to show us some action," he said.

"We're still waiting but I'm very confident this time we will have some good outcomes.

"We spoke mainly about land, particularly extending our boundaries which the community has been pushing for quite a long time but we seem to be always under pressure from the Wet Tropics with their green areas that we're not allowed to do things on like hunting and building.

"So we're hoping that we can extend our boundaries so people can get out to their homelands and do what they really want to do."



Youth focus

He said the next Negotiation Table conference was due in October and would provide an opportunity for young people to speak directly to government about what they want for their community.

"It's going to be about our youth because they're our future leaders and we want to try and encourage as many as possible to get involved in this next one so they can get an understanding of what's ahead of them in life," Mr Rush said.

AMP review underway: CJG

Consultation and true representation of stakeholders is high on the agenda of those implementing a current review of the community's Alcohol Management Plan.

Mayor Desmond Tayley has urged the community to participate in the review.

"We need to hear from the community about how they feel about it and we want them to have their say - there's no point trying to have their say after it's been implemented, they need to voice their opinions now while they've got the chance," he said.

Community Justice Group Coordinator Stewart Marquardt (pictured) said notices would soon be going up around the community about how to get hold of a questionnaire about how the alcohol plan is or isn't working and there will be door-to-door interviews as well.

"To me consultation is the most important thing and having true representation from the stakeholders is my core business," Mr Marquardt said.

Mr Marquardt said the Justice Group was busy at present with a seemingly increasing number of people needing to get to court in Cooktown.

"We're just starting to change procedure," he said.



"Where previously the CJG used to take people to court regardless, because there's an excessive number of people going to court they need to be aware that there might not be room for them. "People need to take some responsibility because we've only got seven seats available in the troopie, if they can't fit on there they need to find their own way in."

He said they had asked the Council for support but they were looking forward to Community Courts being set up "so more of these cases can be dealt with here rather than having to go into Cooktown".

"Community Courts have JP-trained people who can only try under the by-laws presiding and a person going to the Community Court can only be dealt with if they plead guilty," he said.

"We've got to get some JPs trained but I'm concerned that defendants need to be represented as well even though they're pleading guilty.

"Legal representation is the biggest hurdle at the moment."

"We've got ATSILS who work out of Townsville but their workload is full-on with dealing with all the Cape as well so whether or not they make extra time for Community Courts is the difficulty.

"They need to put more resources into the district."

"We don't want the Government to tell us what we cannot do, we want them to tell us what we can do and then help us do it."

Caring for Country: Land & Sea Issues

Aboriginal cultural sites are in danger of being destroyed by tourists who are ignorant of the importance of the area while important infrastructure is being allowed to fall apart says Wujal Wujal Works and Technical Services Manager Jaimes Guede.

Mr Guede has been working with Margaret Upite doing a land and sea feasibility study, the highlight of which has been a survey of the community and workshop.

"Infrastructure should be progressively improved so that the number of cars using the area because of tourism do not impact on the area," Mr Guede said.

"Our roads are falling apart and our rivers are being polluted by cars being washed at the creek crossing spreading seeds, oil, grease and dirt into the forest.

"We have about 6,000 cars a month, or an average of about 270 cars a day, coming through at this time of the year.

"Tourists also use creek banks for toilets because there are no public toilets in the picnic areas.

"The main issue with us is actually all the things we are currently trying to address are controlled by the authorities outside the Wujal Wujal area yet they impact directly on the people in the area."

He said Traditional Owners weren't even allowed to cut a palm to make a dilly bag.

"What the people kept saying to us when we went through the surveys was that they want our children and their children to use our resources," he said.

Mayor Desmond Tayley said the project was driven by the community and that the results would dovetail down the track with the results of a KPMG feasibility study into tourism on the community.

"After the workshop we spoke to a few people in State Development and secured some funding here to identify some of the tourism opportunities in the valley," he said.

"We're basically trying for employment opportunities for our own people here, we've got people coming up from down south exploiting our natural resources but for ourselves we need to give people ownership and more opportunities which I think will make Wujal a better place to live in.

"I think the Bama people here have a lot better knowledge than non-indigenous about their own country."

HACCS hoping to share

Training and networking with other community HACCS such as Hopevale is high on the agenda of Wujal Wujal Community Care, overseen by coordinator Sharon Anderson (below). Ms Anderson said there were quite a few training days coming up which they hoped to share with Hopevale



and the rest of the community at every opportunity.

"We have a few things other than our normal services which entail over a hundred meals a week, domestic assistance, transport and taking clients for social outings, shopping and things like that," she said.

"We actually have a few training workshops coming up that are appropriate for our staff here.

"Hopevale are definitely coming for some of them, and maybe Cooktown, and there'll be carers coming in and joining some of that as well.

"We want to work closely with Hopevale, we're working on Quality Plans with them because we want to see what we can share with them which is all about improving the quality of our services."

New ATODS Worker



"People can come and see me about their drugs, alcohol or tobacco addictions," says new ATODS worker Clive Sykes. If you or someone you know is having trouble with addiction you can have a yarn with Clive about it at the Wujal Wujal Medical Centre.

Sport & Rec moving forward

Sports & Rec Officer John Oswald (pictured) says much progress has been made with upgrading and tidying up facilities at the community hall as well as developing plans for a new oval which it is hoped will be completed before this year's wet season.

It's a view shared by Mayor Desmond Tayley.

"We're slowly putting things in place, cleaning up the hall was a slow process but we've finally got things in place and I think we're moving forward now," Mayor Tayley said. "We've managed to secure some funds for a sports field over there, stage one is to prepare the field and put in proper drainage and that's a bonus to the council."

Mr Oswald said funding for the oval was successfully applied for earlier this year. "That includes the formation of a rugby and AFL sized oval, underground drainage and the sowing of grass for the turf," he said.

"The timeframe given was that the funds come through in July-August some time and we would hope to get onto it through September-November and have the earthworks completed before the wet season starts in December." He said touch football could be played in the hall but the Indoor Cricket Nets and lighting had created problems. "We've recently had the nets repaired by a woman who worked on the fishing trawlers so we can play indoor cricket again and we've had a few practices with the local Bloomfield side in the Cooktown competition," he said. "We've also refurbished the gymnasium and put all the equipment in so we've got that going, we've got boxing fitness with speed ball and some punching bags and that's all taking off pretty well."



All-round prize-winning football player Patrick 'PJ' Nandy. This 12-year-old has played both rugby league and Aussie Rules at representative level and is captain of the Bloomfield State School - well done PJ!!!



Lighten Up!

"We'd like to encourage the community to come up and join the 'Lighten Up' program," say Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant Angie Vico and Health Worker Florence Walker (pictured).

Mayor Desmond Tayley went on the program 18 months ago and said he felt better for it. Angie said everybody was welcome. "It's a really good program with lots of support from professionals and it's got a really nice atmosphere. The cost is \$25 per person and that includes a book, some photocopies and some healthy snacks every session but if they don't want the book the cost goes down to \$15. All people have to do is come to the clinic and ask for Florence or Angie."



STAFF RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Council staff members Lila and Rosemary, both recently recognised for their excellence and hard work on their jobs!

