

July 2019

**ARRABAH  
LEADERS  
FORUM**

# Yabber News

## What is 'Yabber'?

On Saturday 30 July, 1910 it was reported in 'The Queenslander' that an Aboriginal Parliament had been formed in Yarrabah - named 'Yabber'. The aim of Yabber was to build a Yarrabah nation of self respecting people. Members of Yabber were elected and meetings were held "with dignity."

**CONTACT:** YLF Coordinator Cleveland Fagan in the Knowledge Centre building or any of our member organisations for more information.

## 'Time for the rubber to hit the road'

The Yarrabah Leaders' Forum has made some huge strides towards making our community safer, more employed, smarter, more sustainable and healthier through their shared vision for One People, One Fire, One Journey.

In recent months there have been several very successful presentations to Government, including to Qld Minister and Yarrabah Champion Kate Jones, Minister Di Farmer, NT MP Warren Snowden and local MP Curtis Pitt.

Minister Jones said there had been a lot of hard work done over the past three years.

"What we've got is a very clear blueprint for what are urgent actions

need to happen and how that feeds into a longer term plan," she said.

"The next stage is around the five key themes they've identified they want to see funding focused on. It's really exciting to have been a part of this process, even though all of the hard work and heavy lifting has been done by the leaders in Yarrabah themselves."

She said she also had 'homework' to do.

"As a representative of government

my job now is to get them to understand the wishes of Yarrabah and implement their priorities," she said.

"I am totally impressed the YLF's work, and I keep telling everybody that.

"It's a really exciting time, but now the rubber hits the road."

Minister Farmer (*pictured below*) said she was impressed with the YLF's resolve to work together and the extraordinary strength of the group.



The Yarrabah Leaders' Forum is made up of the Chairs and CEOs of 11 member organisations with a common vision for our community.

Work on developing a common agenda between our organisations started in 2013 and was endorsed by the community in 2015.

A representation of our joint priorities is represented by a six-pillar model of our vision and mission, which was taken to the State Government in 2016 and funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2017.

Over the past two years we have been working with the government on:

- Addressing issues locally and within a cultural/community framework;
- Data sharing between agencies;
- Support for what we need to do to address our issues;
- Increased resources; and,
- Open lines of communication.

There is no 'not doing anything' option.

Our key focus is to present our strategic plan, our priorities and our expectations of what we need to Government and the private / corporate sector.

The YLF's agenda is firmly set on developing cultural, community and spiritual values for everyone in Yarrabah: one people, one fire, one journey.

# ‘There is more success to come...we all want Yarrabah to be a better place..’

As Chairperson of the Yarrabah Leaders Forum (formerly Yabber), I know that as a collective we are all excited about our unified leadership, Mayor Ross Andrews writes...

Our collective aims are to address common ground between the Six Pillars we have developed which you can find out more about within this newsletter.

Our work has been a long and hard but we think we have found an approach to our issues we are confident is strategic and will allow us to develop responses to our problems that are solutions focussed.

We certainly feel we have been impressing governments and we have drawn some good strong support from our presentations, some of which you will also read about in

this newsletter.

Underpinning all of our work has been a strong desire to maintain our revitalisation of our own culture and lore, which is always there to guide us.

We want to restore cultural, community and spiritual values and be better, well-rounded people undertaking lifelong journeys.

To do that we understand we need to improve our economy and have the infrastructure we need to have better control over our own lives and pride in ourselves and community.

We want healthy, thriving families living lives that are not impacted by disease and illnesses.

Overall we are here to make a difference in our community.

We know many of the conversations we have are old in terms of understanding the community landscape and

the dynamics around the plight of Indigenous people in general.

We are all looking forward to setting up strategic frameworks which will allow those who follow us to keep working on all our challenges as we ourselves carry on the work of those who came before us.

I commend the work of all our leaders who have not only taken on responsibilities in their chosen field of work but have recognised the need to also be a part of what we are all striving for.

We have already achieved some great things for Yarrabah – Wugu Nyambil and the success of the RSAS program, to name just two, both of which are featured in this newsletter.

There is more success to come, we don't doubt that, but there is also still more hard work ahead for all of us.

We all want Yarrabah to be a better place for our next generation of families to live, work and play.



## FINANCING OUR ASPIRATIONS

When we looked at what we wanted to do in our strategic plan, we recognised costs would be high and we realised we may not be able to secure that money from state or federal government – particularly in the current financial environment, YLF Coordinator Cleveland Fagan writes...

So our choices were to either scale back on what we want to do, or find

other sources of income we can use to offset what we need to do.

Some time ago now, we presented our case to Ministers Ken Wyatt and Nigel Scullion, who provided some money to get us started.

Since then we've been able to secure more funding aimed at helping us put components of our strategic plan into a language we hope will connect and identify with

private investors and convince them to invest money into Yarrabah.

Working with us on this is WDS Scott Global chair Philip Cormie and partner Lewis Renschler, and Senior Research Fellow with the Asia Pacific Social Impact Centre of the University of Melbourne, Dr Ian Allsop (pictured above). The inset is BroadReach Solutions Director Fiona de-Korte.



# The Six Pillars

One people, one fire, one journey



## PILLAR 1: SAFE COMMUNITY

A safe community means working out strategies for reducing crime and keeping our people out of the justice system, but it is also about protecting our most vulnerable, such as our women and children.

Night patrols, increased police presence and working to enforce existing laws as well as with the Courts will all help, but we also recognise a need to restore the men of our community.

Empowering men to be positive role models can only increase our numbers of healthy families and reduce crime.

And if we empower them, they will want the other Pillars to fall into place – they will want jobs, they will want the community to be good, healthy and financially secure and strong.

Taking steps to improve our social and emotional wellbeing across the board can only improve everything, across all the pillars, and keep our community safe into the future and free of crime.

GINDAJA TREATMENT & HEALING ASSOCIATION BAIL SUPPORT PRACTITIONER DAVID BAIRD

## PILLAR 2: EMPLOYED COMMUNITY

Training, workforce development and employment is very important to our community, as is passing those skills on across the community and empowering individuals.

Lack of employment and other services in our community – all the things we talk about behind these pillars we have developed – lead to addiction.

Business opportunities and delivering on programs are very important to healing.

One of the most important things is taking on local people and training them



David Baird [right] speaking with Minister Di Farmer & Mayor Ross Andrews



Ailsa Lively working with Yarrabah Seahawks President Sam Bann Snr, GMYPPBC EO Helen Tait and Djunbunji ED Dale Mundraby



Bettina Rosser working with WDS Scott Global chair Philip Cormie (and his wife and daughter looking on), Wugu Nyambil Manager Rob Friskin & YSS Deputy Principal Kerry Hardy



Cr Cannon working with Youth Justice Services Regional Director David Goodinson and YLF Coordinator Cleveland Fagan



## PILLAR 3: SMART COMMUNITY

We want to see a smart community, full of people with the skills, knowledge, attributes and capacity to take control over their life choices, not just for themselves, but for the benefit of the whole of our community.

Yarrabah State School, in partnership with the YLF, has embraced this challenge.

We must make sure we improve opportunities across all levels of our

## PILLAR 5: HEALTHY COMMUNITY

An important part of life in Yarrabah is life itself from birth to end of life – and how we are able to live that life.

We all want to be disease free and that means we want health infrastructure that meets our needs and supports our service delivery.

And it's not just Gurriny's health focus, we're looking at social determinants involving all our health statistics

## PILLAR 4: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

The infrastructure we have represents the structural support we need to continue to move forward.

Critical to that from the Council's point of view is the ongoing development and implementation of our Master Town Plan, Business Centre Redevelopment and a housing strategy.

Councils have long moved from 'Three Rs' – road, rates and rubbish – to 'Three S' – shape, size and sustainability – which means we need to ensure we build those foundational structures to support our journey to being a better community.

Telecommunications, resourced organisations and animal control are just some of the areas we need to ensure are managed with an eye to the future.

Hard work, dedication and commitment is a

from drugs and alcohol through to our aged care facilities through a health lens – a high end strategic look at what we can do and how we can do it.

What we know is we need to address all those elements with the support of all of the six pillars and then we will see the successes – people living healthy lives – we want to see.

GURRINY YEALAMUCKA HEALTH SERVICES CEO SUE ANDREWS

prerequisite of making our community sustainable, not only in terms of the work the Council is doing, but in all the many and varied interests and areas of concern to all of us including the development of social, sporting, cultural and tourism infrastructure, all of which can help to sustain us long into the future.

It is our intention to work in partnerships through unified leadership and a shared vision that is owned by the Yarrabah people.

It is imperative Council and other peak body organisations gain access to capital infrastructure investment which will enable us to complement our other strategic pillars, so we too are contributing to the wellbeing and long term future of Yarrabah people.

YASC CR NADINE CANNON

own ways of learning in the delivery of the State School's curriculum, and influencing this cultural change with community members actively participating in decision-making about the future of our school.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world".

YARRABAH JUNIOR SECONDARY CAMPUS PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER (COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT) BETTINA ROSSER

## PILLAR 6: SUPPORTIVE FOUNDATIONS

The Pillars of our 'One People, One Fire, One Journey' house were first conceived at the 2015 Community Summit and have been developed – and progressed – from there.

Our foundations – Pillar 6 – are about the need to ensure all our organisations working with the Pillars understand their role in Yarrabah's bigger picture and are able to operate effectively as the engine rooms for change for our community.

This means not only working to develop and grow our shared cultural, community and spiritual values, but also to make sure funding coming in through external organisations ultimately ends up with local organisations – and we can only do that by making sure all our local organisations are able to meet



governance and corporate requirements.

We need to be accountable to each other and support each other.

We also need to ask ourselves: what can we all do more effectively and efficiently across all the Pillars?

Where can and should we be working most effectively?

Where might we be able to step in and help?

Working together is the only way forward to effectively enable long term and sustainable change because we all want Yarrabah to be a safe, smart, sustainable and healthy community.

YLF COORDINATOR CLEVELAND FAGAN

## Even our colours have meaning....

Pillar 1: we took the colours of the logo of Gindaja Treatment & Healing Centre, it's the brown of the cassowary and golden for the people which demonstrates we want to see a Safe Community.

Pillar 2: the green and the blue symbolise leaves and water, and green also represents the colour of money, so that's about being able to create money and be an Employed Community.

Pillar 3: Smart Community uses red to reflect the colour of the Yarrabah State School, and the guyala is from their logo.

Pillar 4: we took the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council's gold colour and another small component from their logo to reflect a Sustainable Community.

Pillar 5: is in Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services' colour even though we recognise there are three organisations working in the health area – Mutkin Residential Aged Care, Gindaja Treatment and Healing Centre and Gurriny – so the circle in the middle is the health circle they are sitting around and working collectively towards a Healthy Community.

Pillar 6: our Supportive Foundations for all the pillars colour was taken from the Seahawks colour maroon and we inlaid the white and the orange there in that housing design as a reflection back on the Yarrabah Aboriginal Community's support for what we're trying to do.

# RSAS success part of the YLF story

YLF Member Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services delivers the Remote School Attendance Strategy through the Yarrabah State School (also a YLF member) as one of the first health services nationally to tap into addressing aspects of social determinants from a health perspective.

*From reports in Gurriny News & Yarrabah News*

Gurriny CEO Sue Andrews said it was about addressing truancy.

“It includes intensive family support and we have employed nine local workers to help to make that happen,” she said. “Obviously our core business is health, but this is about us looking for where the gaps are and seeing what we can do to fill them.”

RSAS Team Leader Erin Mundraby said they were about supporting families to engage positively with their child’s education.

“We want our community to know that they have the support of local

services walking with them on their journey, and that there is every possible opportunity for our children to be the great leaders of tomorrow and into the future,” she said.

The RSAS team has a high profile in the community with their now-regular ‘Back to School’ marches and school holiday camps.

The marches drew strong praise from Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey and his wife Mrs Kaye de Jersey, when they visited the community in May this year.

“You are fortunate in having families, school staff and a local community so invested in your success,” he said to students.

Coordinator Dixie Hari said this year’s winter camp had also been a success.

“The camp rewarded identified students and their families who improved their school attendance during the first semester of 2019,” she said. “The camp finished with a day trip to Fitzroy Island. Big congratulations and thanks to our RSAS team, who worked tirelessly to make this camp a success.”



‘Wugu Nyambil’ (holding on to work) was the result of a partnership between the Yarrabah Leaders’ Forum, Council, the Department of Small Business and My Pathway. Launched in July last year, the aim was for every staff member to be either a resident of Yarrabah, or have very close connections to Yarrabah. Since June 2018 more than 14 good positive stories about Wugu Nyambil have appeared in Yarrabah News. Here is a sample of those stories and the successes they have shared with their community.

### New employment service ready to kick off

The Federal Government’s investment of \$5 million over four years for the trial of a new job active network based in the community and staffed by locals kicks off on Monday.

“Wugu Nyambil” (‘holding onto work’) is the result of a partnership between the Yarrabah Council, the Department of Jobs and Small Business and My Pathway. Acting General Manager, My Pathway’s Darren Birt said recognition existing programs were not suitable was behind the idea.

“One of the key aspects of the new employment service, apart from myself in an acting GM role, is all of our staff members are either residents of Yarrabah or have a very close connection to Yarrabah.” Mr Birt said.

“And the hope is the end result will be that having local people delivering the service means we can more specifically target areas of need.

“No body will know the challenges facing job seekers living in Yarrabah better than people from Yarrabah. “One of the biggest differences will be more flexibility in around how the service is delivered and one of the key aspects will be utilising local stakeholders, which will result in more positive outcomes for the community.

“So, in a nutshell, we’ll be able to run activities to build people’s capacity and skills, confidence, and we’ll have a wide scope as to how those activities can be set up.

“It’s a tailored, individualised employment service for the community of Yarrabah.”

Pictured above are local staff Dale Thomas, Kyleen Tyson, Jasmine Joyes, Raynard Modu-Elliot, Neil Mayo, Raissa Connelly-Nwal, Palsan Lester O’Barran & Shakira Tinsley with Acting General Manager Darren Birt and from the right in the back row. Missing from the pic is Zoe Thomas.

Staff in concentration! Rangers and Yarrabah Councillors Colin Cedric, Ian Paterson & Natalie Cameron were pictured here at the hugely successful ‘Thinking Beyond Borders’ conference hosted by Mandingitay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation in Carnarvon last week. See the MYAC Facebook page for more!

### Myuma Group celebrates Yarrabah graduates

Five students from Yarrabah – Laila Basani, Rhina Cedric, Brent Pearson, Daniel Yeatman-Wason and Tristan Yeatman – graduated from the Myuma Group’s Duganji Pre-vocational Training Program Camooval last month.

The five spent three weeks with five other participants from North West Queensland at the English Camp visiting alongside staff from the Myuma Group, being trained in carpentry that will assist them in future work in the resources industry and experiencing a general course of life.

Department of Transport and State Roads in a recent training session, get a professional look at their work in their own words.

“The advice was a great success and gave a strong message to the participants, a great teacher for the future.”

“The feedback from participants was very positive with many saying they had been wanting to do this for a long time and now they have the opportunity to do it. The independent learning from the training also helped them to learn on their own.”

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### Dale is set behind the wheel!

DALE THOMAS has been driving a car for the first time. Dale, 21, is a resident of Yarrabah and is currently studying for a Certificate II in Security Operations at the Yarrabah Community Centre. Dale is the first person to have been licensed to drive a car in Yarrabah.

“I’ve been driving for a while now and I’m really enjoying it. It’s a great feeling to be able to drive a car and I’m looking forward to driving to work and to school.”

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### Future looking bright for new trainees

Yarrabah’s own employment service Wugu Nyambil, has played a key role in three of their job seekers finding employment with Wogges Indigenous Tourism Australia.

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### Lychee project puts 15 in work

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As many as 15 job seekers from Yarrabah CDP and Wugu Nyambil Employment Services have or will secure work for up to six months picking lychees and avocados on farms in the Mareeba district. YASC CDP Manager Djungan Paul Neal says.

Mr Neal said what’s been called the Mareeba Lychee Project was the brainchild of himself and Alwyn Lyall and was first established in early 2018.

He said since then they had increased the Yarrabah stakeholder positions by 15.

“We had organised with Wugu Nyambil to hold an information day that attracted more than 20 job seekers on the day, and then we organised a work induction on the Mecheli Farm, 15 minutes west of Mareeba,” he said.

“Zac Rosser, Aiden Kennedy, Earl Gordon, Alex Davidson and Wesley Harris will be employed by Mecheli until early February before going on to pick avocados for the next three months.”

“Kristen Maloney and Andrew Creed started with the lychee project but have gone on to picking mangoes at the Golden Drop winery.

“As for the others, it was great to see the smiles on the faces of Alex and Valentine Davidson, Frank Koozwotha and Brent Pearson Jr, all of whom were proud of their achievements in their first employment opportunity.”