



WUJAL WUJAL

ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Newsletter September 2008

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Great work Wujal Wujal!

For a long time rental problems in Wujal Wujal were an annual "in tray" item for the Queensland Audit Office but today they are no longer an issue, says WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley.

"This is a story which can be traced back to October 2006 when the Council at that time developed strategic cooperative alliances with the Department of Housing to tackle management problems," he said.

He said as a result of this measure, and using the ATSI Housing tenancy benchmark, there were now no outstanding rental arrears in Wujal Wujal.

"The statistics show that the majority of tenants are actually ahead with their rental payments," Mr Tayley said. He said when the scheme first started there were a number of teething problems – difficult clients, for example - but this had not deterred the council.

"Together with representatives from the Housing Department and the Community Housing Advisory Committee, the Council adopted a problem-solving solutions-based approach," he said.

The end result involved sitting down with tenants and listening to their concerns, utilising community public meetings to enable the whole of community to air their views, and providing tailor-made solutions to the clients who were experiencing problems.

Mr Tayley said the success of this housing strategy could be attributed to:

- Tenant Education;
- Close and better working relationships with families on payment plans;
- Adoption of wage deduction strategy instead of bank deductions;
- Regular visits by highly committed staff from the Department of ATSI housing; and,
- A good working relationship between the Council and Housing staff.

Mr Tayley particularly commended Housing Department employee Renae Cunneen whom he said had been "impeccable" in her dealings with both the Council and community.



Mayor Desmond Tayley (right) sharing the good news with SBS journalist Stefan Armbruster

He also said he hoped Wujal's solution to problems in tenancy management could signal a new era for dealing with Indigenous issues across the board.

"There are lessons to be learned from this success story for a number of Government Departments on how to deal with the multitude of problems facing indigenous communities," he said.

However Mr Tayley said he was disappointed that the government had won two awards for the joint-initiative but had failed to acknowledge the community's contribution.

"The government focuses on a lot of negative in the community and I don't feel they focus on the positive," he said.

"Over the past 18 months we've had people come in from the Department of Housing and they're using Wujal as a training ground, which is good in one sense, but they've failed to recognise the contribution of the people of Wujal and the Council here.

"What I'd like to say to our community now is 'keep up the good work' - you're being recognised by the Council and you have our support, but we need to stick together so we can go to the government and say 'we're doing well'.

"And that's not for the government's benefit, that's for ourselves."

**STOP
PRESS!**

WWASC has successfully moved a motion to support all Aboriginal Shire Councils at the recent Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference in Cairns. The motion requested that the LGAQ to make representations to the Minister for Local Government and the Queensland Treasurer to re-release funding earmarked for the Aboriginal Community Councils in 1998 to upgrade and develop Council Chambers. The motion was passed unanimously.

Environmental health team studies on

WWASC's new Environmental Health and Animal Management workers are now on-board and in the process of training, even though they are still facing barriers to effectively being able to do their jobs.

Environmental Health Worker Regan Kulka (*pictured right*), who is studying his Cert III in Environmental Health, said while a recent training trip to Lockhart River had been a success, not having a vehicle or a set of enforceable by-laws to provide a framework for what they were trying to do in Wujal Wujal was "a bit frustrating". "We recently went up to Lockhart for a workshop which was really good, it was about environmental health, animals and we got to chat to the Environmental Protection Agency about dump sites," he said. "We can't do much with the animals here because of the by-laws so we're stuck on that one. We're just waiting for the Department of Local Government and Council to develop the by-laws then residents will know exactly what to do with their dogs and other animals."



Community store in fresh hands



In May this year Dennis and Lin Richardson took over management of the Wujal Wujal community store.

Mr Richardson says while they want to make improvements across the store, they were tackling things "bit by bit".

"We're not making plans too far ahead so we don't disappoint our customers, we're just doing what we can to make the store better within a short period of time," he said.

"Our intention is to provide a larger range of product to give people more choice and to give them a good reason to come in.

"We want to keep our stock up to date and our idea now is not to carry so much of a particular product but to carry smaller amounts of two or three products to give people a choice.

"That way we find the product won't go out of date so people will get fresh produce every single time they come into this store."

Animal Management Officer David Jackson (*pictured above left*) said when the by-laws came into place they would include that there was only supposed to be two dogs per household.

"Their dogs will also have to be in the owner's control at all times," he said. "It is the owner's responsibility for their own dogs to be in good condition and to be looked after. We can help them, we've got a little bit of stuff here but we'd like to hold the green dream up at the clinic so any dog that does get injured can be put down humanely. We can only get a vet in once every few months because it costs a fortune but we could look after the dogs here if we had the gear and supplies. We should have a pet cemetery here too."

Kindy makeover on track with CDEP helpers

Wujal Wujal kindy is undergoing a minor makeover with the help of four CDEP workers, all studying for their Cert III in Child Care.

Coordinator Coraleen Shipton said a replacement sandpit was already completed but sorting out old files and writing submissions for a new mini-bus and building extensions were ongoing projects.

"We're also waiting for someone to come along and tell us our day-care is happening but its all gone quiet," she said.

"We've got 14 kids now and it should be 17 by the end of the year but I'm only licensed for 3-5 years so everyone under three misses out.

"It's a big thing when they come to kindy because we've got to toilet train them and all this sort of thing, which is hard when we don't have facilities here such as nappy changing tables."



Coraleen Shipton at the kindy with CDEP worker Lena Sykes

CJGhappy with new community court

Wujal Wujal's second Community Court is due to be held in October, say members of the Wujal Wujal Warranga Justice Group.

The first was held early in July, newly appointed coordinator for the group, Joan Beacroft said.

"All our Bama could come in one place and all their families could see what happens, instead of offenders getting in the car going to Cooktown and we don't know who's coming home and who's going down the road," she said. "We've planned four community courts in the next 12 months, three months apart, and with a view to start up a Justice of the Peace Magistrate's court where we can police the by-laws here in the community.

"It's been really good to see how the courts work, it's part of us now instead of being in a foreign place." Ms Beacroft said the Justice Group was also happy with the recently introduced powers to police the alcohol laws.

"The main effect of the new liquor laws is that if they have liquor in their houses the police can now come and search their houses and confiscate the alcohol, which we hope will go a long way towards resolving issues," she said.

The rest of the group – Kathleen Walker, Doreen Ball, and Lily Yougie – agreed, although they also said more needed to be done.

"The gambling," Ms Walker said. "And we need to see rehab in the community, more housing and more jobs for our young people now.

"We want the alcohol to go away but we need real jobs and more pay rise for our young people.

"We also have to use the outstations, taking our people, we don't want to see our people go to Cooktown or Mossman, we've got our own land to use for our people, to teach our young people to go out in the bush and learn about bush tucker and medicine."

Ms Ball said the community was "really quiet" now.

"A few drunks are still around, sly grogging is still around but it's really quiet, especially on the weekend and the police are doing a good job," she said.

"On the weekend I said to myself think about before when the grog was still in the community, now you don't even hear the police going out.

"To me if they still want to carry on with the drink, get out from the community and live somewhere they can get their grog."

Ms Yougie said getting a good night's sleep was important.

"What I see today now, it's quiet now, before we didn't have

the police in the community, it was really bad," she said.

"We had the music and people fighting on the street.

"We don't work for money, we're just helping our community, to keep the place quiet so our kids go to school and some of our people go to work, we need that."

Ms Beacroft said the Justice Group had a long history of working with police and the community which was starting to show results.

"For years the CJG has been patrolling the streets at night and it's been a lot on them because they're

volunteers and it's really good to see that things have quietened down now and they can sleep peacefully at night," she said.

"We'd also like to look at the truancy rates at the school, and maybe we can

help in some way towards getting the children back into school from an elders' point of view.

"We're hoping to see a dropping off of offenders who have to go to court every month, that would be our main aim, to drop that court list from month to month, especially for alcohol-related crime and domestic violence.

"We'd also like to pay very special tribute to Eileen Walker, who passed away earlier this year, a very close friend of Doreen's and sister to Lily and Kathleen, we miss her very much."

WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley commended the group for the work they had done, and continued to do, and said they would continue to have the support of Council.

"Wujal has been a dry community since 2003 and we have 85-90 per cent of the community supportive of that," he said.

"Since then we haven't had any support from the government in regards to rehabilitation, when we look at this problem the government has isolated it to one thing – alcohol – but they haven't taken into account employment, education, overcrowding in housing. "They've failed to identify those issues and we need to get on top of these things.

"It takes a whole community to raise a child so the government needs to put a whole lot of emphasis in regards to building foundation, building capacity within the community.

"If people are willing to stand up and put their hand up, the government needs to get right behind them and support them."



A word from Technical Services Manager — *Jaime Guedes*

The objective of the Technical Services Department of the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council is to have a service department that meets the required accepted standards of performance for the Council and community infrastructure needs.

It is also to provide opportunities for employees to undertake training and occupational activities in a safe, healthy work environment.

The specific duties of the department I manage are roads and drains, construction and maintenance, community infrastructure, essential services, housing, environmental health/waste, and town planning.

One of our forthcoming projects is the rehabilitation of the old dump.

Landfills are no longer permissible in our area as they are not best practice and as such all waste, from building materials to household waste, has to be transported to Cooktown or Mareeba. As you might appreciate, this impacts greatly on the Council budget and we can foresee that in another three or four years it will have to go to Mareeba every week. A feasibility study of options is currently being developed for the old landfill site by a company called Cardno and we expect this project to commence after the wet season.



Above Left: Housing Coordinator Mark Zippel with Peter Ivanoff and Alister Gibson



Above Right: On the job doing renos are Patrick Nandy and Gauai Wallace

Housing team focus on renos and upgrades

Funding bodies in housing are working hard to bring community housing in Wujal Wujal “up to a certain standard” even though there is no money at present for new housing stock.

“But we are trying to address that,” says WWASC Housing Coordinator Mark Zippel.

“At the moment the department of housing is concentrating on upgrades,” he said.

“In addition we’re doing all the Q-Build work, which is the responsive maintenance.

“The tenants ring the call centre, it goes to Q-Build who generate a work order which then comes back to us and we do the work, and that’s working quite well.”

Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes said the housing construction team should be very proud of what they had done and were doing at present.

“We have been very good at achieving value for money and have responded very quickly to call outs for repairs and emergencies passed onto us from the Department through the call centre,” Mr Guedes said.

“We are very proud of the results and I think the Department is also very pleased with what we’re doing.

“The facts speak for themselves - up to June 2008 Council received 1026 orders for works from the call centre, and 1015 of these have been completed.

“For us to maintain these results we need to develop a long term strategy and schedule of works to enable us to continue to create local employment and training, which in turn, of course, allows us to build capacity and opportunities.”

Mr Zippel said the construction team was presently doing “pretty much” all the work on the community.

“In addition we also do planned maintenance for Q-Build over the financial year,” he said.

“We’ve got two carpenters, two apprentices and a trades assistant as well as a contract electrician, plumber and painter, and, of course, myself. ->

One of the ways we work to address the issue of the cost of running the municipal services, is to ensure that all our heavy machinery and earthmoving equipment is contracted and sub-contracted to external work.

This also provides a training ground for CDEP and staff, as well as the means to upgrade and replace plant and equipment.

We are all very mindful that we have to operate in all areas on a commercial basis whilst focusing on capacity building. When working on a contract, employees are often required to work ten hours a day perhaps for a fortnight straight - they can't stop because if a day is missed, the contract could be forfeited to another organisation.

This would then have a direct affect on the revenue stream for Council as well as our ability to train employees.

I would like to say thank you to the workers who have been involved in this, as they have been marvellous.



Repair work on the Bloomfield River causeway



The Bloomfield River causeway is the sole artery linking the two halves of our community which straddles both sides of the Bloomfield River.

The causeway is not only tidal but also a well known crocodile habitat that becomes inundated on a 2.4 metre tide – our high tides can reach 3.4 metres.

In addition to inundation by tides, the causeway is subject to flash flooding which is common during the wet season and no advance warning is possible.

In particular this can disrupt access for emergency services across the river and there is no safe access to work, school, clinic, Council office, bank, post office, supermarket and service station for tourists and residents.

These things are of paramount importance and a constant concern to Council.

As we are all aware, risk to life and loss of property as a result of being washed off the causeway is a common and annual event.

The previous and current Council believe that the construction of a bridge above flood and tidal levels would resolve these pressing issues of access and safety, and is currently in negotiations with appropriate departments and agencies and our neighbouring council as a matter of high priority.

As a result of their work the Department of Main Roads is currently undertaking a feasibility study that will be finalised by the end of November.

Continued Next Page

-> "Another project which we're just bringing to completion is the ablutions block at the crossing.

"There are a few other projects, like we're going to do an extension to the Council Chambers shortly."

He said over the past few years nearly 20 renovations had been completed.

"There's enough funding there to do another four renovations so over the past few years we'll have done 23 renovations all up," he said.

"Wujal housing has done 11 of them and outside contractors have done 8 of the 19 so far, but we'll do the last four.

"Apart from that, general maintenance for Council buildings is always ongoing as well."

Mr Guedes said there was also a

new kit home about to be built on the community.

"We'd like to let the community know that another project happening is Q-Build's work on a three-bedroom kit home up in Hartwig St, they've actually commenced that," he said.

He said an evaluation would be carried out at the completion of the kit home project to test whether or not value for money had been achieved against industry standards.

WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley said he was disappointed the kit home was actually being manufactured down south and that project had already taken two years.

"We're trying to tell the government we've got to build the capacity of our own people in regards to trades and life skills, but now they're building this kit home in Townsville or Cairns," he said.

"And the house itself costs about half a million dollars, how do they figure that out?

"They're always asking the Council for reports and there are requirements for transparency and accountability, but where's the accountability there?

"We could have spent the money on the ground here and we could have done it for half that price.

"Not only that we've just built nine houses ourselves here in less than two years."

Sewage plant on the way to peak performance

Wujal Wujal's state-of-the-art sewage plant is well on the way to peak performance under the management of Water and Sewage Officer Graham Harris.

"The sewage is going quite well, it's a brand new machine and it takes a bit to iron everything out," he said. "It's still not operating fully on automatic and we're doing a bit manually, but otherwise the boys are getting used to the training and it's been working well." He said a new water reticulation system was also about to be installed into the community.

"We've just put brand new compressors and dryers into the water plant so we've got that running well, we've got to put new membranes into it but we can't do that until we've got the new water intake, so that will happen by the end of this year hopefully," he said. "We'll be doing the house hook-ups as well, that's starting to happen within the next month or two."

"There's going to be a lot of broken old pipes and things like that but it's pretty straight forward and should only take a couple of months and that will be better for the town too."

Technical Services Manager Mr Guedes said tenders for the construction of the new water intake and new reticulation were closed and about to be announced.

"The installation of a ground water reservoir has been completed and it's working right now," he said. "These are issues we've focussed on over the past two or three years because there was a series of needs that were identified."

"What we are addressing in particular is the lack of pre-filtration at the water plant; there were difficulties in the isolation of flow for reticulation repairs and also dangerous and inadequate water intake."



Left: Putting the finishing touches onto the new ablutions block on the road to the Falls Above: Water & Sewage Officer Graham Harris with workers Jackie Ball, Rodney Denman and Raymond Sycamore



A word from Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes

(continued from previous page)

In reference to the parks and gardens gang, they are responsible for the maintenance of all common community areas in Wujal Wujal and Council-owned land in Ayton.

Their dedication to detail and their commitment has been beyond reproach and we thank them for that.

And finally, Essential Services would also like to congratulate the community as a whole for reductions in water usage.

At present we are using 229 litres per capita per day which is a great improvement, and this was achieved through strategies that introduced a higher level of asset management and conservation awareness.

Lastly, I would like also to thank all our workers for their commitment to their jobs and in particular the WWASC for their continued support and initiative.

CDEP NEWS

...from CDEP Manager Wendi Rowlands...

I would like to once again thank all CDEP participants for your excellent work since our last newsletter - CDEP funding is reliant on the participants turning up for work and undertaking training.



Fristly, congratulations to the girls in the Remote Indigenous Media (RIBS) activity for passing your Certificate IIIs in Radio Broadcasting. Hopefully our new RIBS equipment will be installed before the end of the year and they can then develop a regular radio program.

Also best wishes to the girls in Aged Care who, having completed Certificate IIs in Aged Care, are about to start Cert IIIs and some units of Cert IV - good luck!!

We must also congratulate the park and gardens gang for the presentation of our community, we should all be very proud of the job these guys are doing!!

Please assist these guys by putting your rubbish in the bin.

It is your community and you should help by keeping it clean!!

We have lots of new and exciting projects on the go for 2008-9 and we will keep you posted.

News from the horticulture front is that the nursery infrastructure is nearing completion, with only the potting benches and power connection to see this phase of the project complete.

Coordinator Josh Patterson, is pictured below at the new nursery / greenhouse. The nursery opens up several new areas that we are now able to set in motion including:

- Town Beautification;
- Botanical Gardens; and,
- Supply of plants for the regeneration of road verges and erosion.

Some work has already been done, with members of the public donating cuttings and plants.

A special thanks to Keith Rush whose cuttings have struck and should be seen around the community soon.

Members of the horticulture team have all been showing a keen interest and are beginning to understand their new responsibilities.

Thanks guys keep up the good work.

All CDEP participants are also strongly advised to join with one of the two job networks CHR or JOBFIND.

It is to your advantage to join as they can assist financially with boots, uniforms, blue cards, identification, licensing and specialised training services to help you find a job or vocational pathway. Participants are required to attend job network meetings as a condition under the federal legislation.

Managers, Section Heads and Supervisors must allow participants time off work to attend these meetings.



If you are directed by your CDEP supervisor or Manager to attend training or training courses and you do not attend you will not be paid for those days. It is a requirement under the CDEP guidelines that all participants must be willing to undertake training. If you fail or refuse to meet your mutual obligations to the Department of Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council CDEP you will be EXITED (terminated). Note also that this is Federal Government policy and that funding for our CDEP projects and workers depends on compliance with these policies.

Deputy Mayor Cr Talita Nandy

I wanted to be a Councillor because I wanted to be proactive in the decision-making processes involving the betterment of Wujal Wujal community.

I have a strong desire to make a difference and ensure community needs are met – this includes making sure the trust bestowed upon me is not abused.

Having moved from a big city to a remote community, I was aware of the opportunities out there, so I guess on a personal level I wanted my family to have the same opportunities kids elsewhere have access to. I hope we are able to see outcomes achieved and that we can move forward.

I also hope people are able to see this elected Council has genuine and honest intentions, and shares the same vision for a better future for our community and people. I hope also that this Council will one day be in a position to embrace positive change and outcomes, new initiatives, programs and processes that will inevitably lead to the betterment of Wujal Wujal and its people.

Importantly I also hope that Wujal Wujal community, its Council and all the forces of Government can work in unison to move forward and create better opportunities and better resources, and learn to manage these things in a long term and sustainable fashion.

On a personal note, even though I am not originally from Wujal Wujal, I am here for the long haul.

It's a whole new world out there and I am enjoying it. It's interesting to learn how decisions are made about things like community management, etc.

I'm touched that the community respects me enough to have elected me to be one of the voices to speak on their behalf.

I believe I come across as honest and respectful, I hope I am a positive role model and I know I'm easy going and cheerful.

I also know that my husband and family are proud. I'm fortunate to be in a position to show my daughter and other females that we can achieve anything – young girls in particular should realise it's not a man's world, it's what you make it.

My mother always pushed the importance of education and encouraged my sisters, my brother and I to be good strong leaders, I think she'd be very proud if she was here today.



Council Comm

WWASC has established five Council Committees where all community members are invited to participate. WWASC is also planning for a Traditional Owners meeting which will advise the council on issues of cultural relevance to Council policy and programs.

Administration & Finance

(Corporate Services & Human Resources)

Cr Desmond Tayley (Chair) & Cr Alister Gibson

Infrastructure

(Works & Housing, Essential Services)

Cr Zeila Gordon (Chair) & Cr Desmond Tayley

Economic Development

(Tourism, Arts, Culture & Marketing)

Cr Alister Gibson (Chair) & Cr Desmond Tayley

Community Lifestyle

(Education, Health, Sports & Recreation)

Cr Talita Nandy (Chair) & Cr Zeila Gordon

Law & Order

(Justice Issues, AMP, By-Laws & Enforcement)

Cr Cedric Friday & Cr Alister Gibson

Cr Cedric Friday

It's a bit of a change for me to be a Councillor. I haven't started training yet but they've bought me a laptop and it will be the first time for me to use one, that, a bit of a challenge.

I'm working on culture and the outstations, Community Lifestyle portfolio, and also Law and Order and Economic Development.

With the culture we've got the art centre that's coming on soon, it will be good to work with them on that and hopefully we can get some more funding looking forward to working with that.

We've just got a new Justice Coordinator and it's good to work with the Justice Group as well. So we're happy to help them and it's good to have them to help our people out here.

First time for me as councillor and I'll be working with the CEO and the other three new councillors and we'll be learning a bit more.

We've been to the first big meeting in Brisbane where we met other mainstream councillors. That was a bit of a challenge to spend time in a new environment, good experience and we look forward to working with them the next three years.

Warrnambool Shire Councillors

2012

Committees

Council Committees to which
to join and participate in.
Regional Owners' Committee
that have traditional and
decisions.

Resources

Talita Nandy

Services

Smmond Tayley

Net Gardening

Cedric Friday

Creation

Zeila Gordon

Community Police

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d as we're going along we'll

ne at the Convention Centre
s from all over the state.

n Brisbane but it was a really
orking with them as well over



Cr Alister Gibson

It's good to be on the Council and good to
get out and show your mob what you can do.
I wanted to try and get more houses and
more jobs for our people here, more trainees
and apprentices happening.

I'm still doing my apprenticeship until
October when I have my last block in
carpentry then I'll be on the Council full-time.

I'm also still learning as a Councillor.

I'm looking forward to making things happen in the community.
My portfolios are Law and Order, and chair of Economic Development
which covers tourism, the market garden, arts and culture.
Cedric and I are sharing Law and Order, it is a big thing and it's going
to be challenging for me over the three or four years as a Councillor.
I just see what the Justice Group is doing and give them support
from the Council side.

The tourism, at the moment the Walker family is doing their
tourism business, I'm looking forward to helping all that.

The enterprise is looking to re-open the café and the butcher
shop and create some more jobs for our people here and some
more training and apprenticeships happening.

I'm happy about having that portfolio, it's pretty easy for me.

I really want to get involved and just start opening things for the
people here.



Cr Zeila Gordon

I wanted to be on the Council because I wanted
to do something for my community and my
people here in Wujal.

I like being on the Council, it's a new challenge
for me and I'm enjoying it.

I'd like to see a lot more happening in the
community, more housing, training and jobs for
our people here.

My portfolios are Infrastructure, which covers
works, housing and essential services, and the
other one is Community Lifestyle, which covers education, health,
sports and recreation.

Talita is the chairperson of Community Lifestyle and I'm the
chairperson of Infrastructure with the Mayor.

A lot of people here have brought some good ideas for the
community and hopefully we can try to do something about it now.
From 2004 until I went over to become a councillor this year, I was
doing my Certificate III in Social Housing.

It's different being a councillor, you see the other side of things like
why you can't do this or can do that.

It makes you think.



Housing Minister congratulates Wujal

Since November 2006, the Wujal Wujal community has been working with the Queensland Department of Housing to improve housing conditions in the community. *(Article courtesy Department of Housing)*

This joint effort has been so successful that other communities are taking notice of Wujal Wujal's lead and adopting a similar approach.

Queensland Housing Minister Robert Swarten congratulated the community on its achievements.

"It is great to see this community playing its part in ensuring residents have safe and secure accommodation. Your commitment to improving housing in your community is to be applauded and local people are benefiting as a result," he said.

"I also want to acknowledge the efforts of tenants who are paying their rent on time and helping us maintain their properties."

Here are a just a few areas where your community is achieving housing success:

- 72 properties are currently tenanted
- the six properties that are currently vacant are being maintained or upgraded before being allocated to new tenants
- overcrowding has been reduced
- the blue maintenance phone is being used by the community to contact the Department of Housing's Call Centre for responsive home repairs
- rental payments have improved as more tenants sign up for direct debit payments or payroll deductions; and
- rent arrears have decreased to a very low rate.

"In particular, the reduction in overcrowding and improved condition of the homes is a significant achievement," Mr Swarten said.

Applicants for housing are listed on the department's housing register and assessed for housing assistance based on need.

The department's staff are working well with other stakeholders in the community such as Centrelink, QBuild, Home and Community Care (HACC), the



police, justice group, Department of Child Safety and Queensland Health to ensure a more positive future for the Wujal Wujal community.

Staff Renae Cuneen and Carmel Ryan have also formed good relationships with the community as a whole, the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and tenants as individuals.

This will continue as Toni Coult (pictured above left with Renae Cuneen) is welcomed to the team, replacing Renae Cuneen who has obtained a position elsewhere with the department. You will get the chance to meet Toni, if you haven't already, during her regular visits to the community — be sure to stop by and have a yarn with her.

Finally, all tenants are encouraged to enter the department's Garden Awards which are coming up soon. Such great efforts were made last year — the first year Wujal Wujal participated in the event — so be sure to participate again. Contact your Council Housing Officer for more information about the awards.

Well done Wujal Wujal!

If you have any questions, please contact Toni Coult on 4039 8847 or talk to her during her next visit.

Wujal Wujal police station officially opened

Police Minister Judy Spence officially opened Wujal's new police station last month. Construction of the new station commenced in July 2007 and was completed in April this year. At opening celebrations elders Agnes Walker and Doreen Ball offered a welcome to country and speakers included Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson, Mayor Desmond Tayley, Francis Walker as a Traditional Owner and Lachlan Walker on behalf of the Justice Group.



Pictured Above: Mayor Desmond Tayley, Minister Judy Spence and State MP for Cook Jason O'Brien

Left: Wujal Wujal dancers perform a Yalanji corroboree

Pics courtesy Gary Ashworth

Arts and Craft Cultural Centre will be up & running in 2009

A community-based project that will have a spin-off in tourism best describes a planned Wujal Wujal Arts & Craft Cultural Centre which should be up and running by the middle of next year, coordinator Gary Ashworth says.

"The end result should be traineeships and contracting or micro-business," he added. "But the main objective is for the well-being of the community, and their being able to utilise it, and as an introduction to tourism."

"This has been in the pipeline for about two years now, and its part of the Q150 which is the State Government's celebration for Queensland's separation from New South Wales in 1859."

He said there would be many spin-offs from the project.

"It's going to have a lot of spin-offs in the sense of potential tourism and industry," he said.

"Two years after the completion we'll be looking at dormitory accommodation as well as some sort of motel accommodation with a conference room so that will be another spin off in the sense of hospitality and administration."

"Other communities will be able to come and utilise those facilities as well."

He said there was a lot involved with getting the project up and running.

"In the sense of actually having it viable, there's business planning and workshops to be put in place for next year," he said.

"That will give a stable base for the centre to work off and then all the other stuff will be micro business in the sense of people doing their art and selling it at the actual centre, as well as traineeship for hospitality, retail, management, administration and then all the other things from that such as gardening and cleaning."

"I think it will have a rather large and very positive impact on the community."



Knowledge Centre working to support artists

Wujal Wujal Indigenous Knowledge Centre's Carol Toby says "come along and see what's happening here" as she works hard to support artists and storytellers alike in their endeavours.

"We're recruiting our own people, artists on the community, to come in here and do their artwork and it's going to be a good thing for our community, further down the track," she said.

"I think it's going to become a bigger thing for our people because one day the government will take away what we have now with CDEP and give our people good jobs where they can earn money by putting our stories into artwork and writing them down."

"I've spoken to people here and some of them are still a bit shy but I talk to them and say 'come along, there's a lot happening here'."

"We've got things that can help artists like paints and canvas if they just make themselves available to come along."

She said quite a few had already come through and they were already working with Arts and Craft Cultural Coordinator Gary Ashworth.

"We've got a painter and a fellow who carves things like turtle, snake and spears," she said.

"I keep telling my people we can help one another."

Ms Toby, who has been working in the library since moving from Cairns late last year, said it was good

to make the library work for the community.

"I have children coming in here after school to get books out and watch DVD's," she said.

"It's good to come together and make this thing work for us."

"We've also had people come in from outside the community and give us talks on how they got their business up and running and they're also Indigenous people, which we like to see."



Centre urges healthy engagement

Wujal Wujal Health Centre's new Director of Nursing, Pete Fenton, is keen to engage the community in what they have to offer.

"I'd like to thank everybody for their welcome," he said. "I'd also like to let the community know we're currently advertising for two full-time healthworker positions and we'd like to find those people within the Wujal Wujal, Bloomfield or Ayton area.

"We can provide everything from training through to full employment for people with qualifications." He also said a monthly activities calendar - so everybody knows ahead of time what medical and health services are available - would be posted in the community and Ayton stores.

"If you have any questions about that please come and talk to us," he said.

"In addition to that we have a healthworkers health promotion activities list which will go up every month around the community and you'll see Anna Cleary out in the community with Alice Tayley and Florence Walker providing all sorts of help with the womens', gardening, kids, etc groups.

"So please engage with them if you can."

Mr Fenton also said they were looking forward to working with the new Health Action Team.

"They've been trained up over the past six months so we look forward to working with them," he said.



Standing L-R: Clinical Nurse Mary Louise Wilkinson, Pete Fenton & Admin Officer Kathleen Diprose Seated L-R: Healthworker Florence Walker with nurses Virginia Cavanagh & Helen Walker.

"They are working separately from the health department and with, I believe, Apunipima Cape York Health Council who are supporting the development of community health action requirements.

"They will be working with the community and the clinic to identify needs in the community."

Queensland Government - Alcohol Reforms

New laws that Wujal Wujal community members should be aware of

New laws will commence on 1 July 2008 which involve some changes to the application of restrictions in your community.

You should be aware that:

- **Drinking in public places will be banned** in all Indigenous communities, as is the case with the rest of the State. However, as your community has a zero carriage limit, alcohol cannot be drunk or stored anywhere in the community and for that reason there is no change in the law for Wujal Wujal.
- **Homemade alcohol and home-brewing (including any equipment associated with home-brewing) will be automatically banned** as Wujal Wujal has a zero alcohol carriage limit. Home-brew equipment includes anything being used or which has been used to make home-brew, not only home-brew kits.
- **Roads will be included in the restricted area.** It is anticipated that the Bloomfield Track and carpark will be included in the restricted area from 1 January 2009.
- **Private places will be included in the alcohol restrictions.** For Wujal Wujal, this means that a person must not have any type of liquor in the home.
- **It will be an offence to attempt to enter the community with alcohol** and the maximum fine a Court may impose is \$37,500. This means police can enforce carriage limits before illegal alcohol comes into the community.
- **Police can search people, vehicles (cars, planes or boats) and houses without a warrant if they reasonably suspect** that you have alcohol on you, in your house or in your car (they will need to get a post-search approval order from a Magistrate afterwards). This power is not new and is already used to detect and seize illegal drugs and weapons.
- **Police can also seize and dispose of a container of liquor** (opened or unopened) in a person's possession to prevent the drinking of illegal alcohol.

HACC, CACPS & DSQ moving onwards & upwards

*By HACC Coordinator
Sharon Anderson*

Services are running well for the frail aged, younger people with disabilities and their carers at Wujal Wujal and in the Bloomfield River Valley.

We have been recently accredited with Disability Services Queensland and a 'high' rating has been achieved for our HACC services.

We are proud of these achievements which prove we are not only meeting the standards required but excelling in them. Five centre-based staff – Sonya Doughboy, Gladys Friday, Delphine Nipper, Anna Baird and Irene Walker – have also successfully completed two modules of their Cert IIIs in Community Care.

Most of our training is done on community, which is an appropriate method of service delivery for us as it is vital for Wujal Wujal to have skilled



Sonya Doughboy, Gladys Friday, Irene Walker & Delphine Nipper

people from this community in the hope that one day they will be able to run the service.

Trainer Sandy Kelly has been contracted by the HACC Workforce Council to deliver this training and CDEP hours are used for training, as intended.

Our clients can only benefit as staff learn more because they are able to help and better understand what they are dealing with.

Services we provide include

meals, transport, domestic assistance, social support, personal care, centre-based day care, respite care, case management, client care coordination, home maintenance and counselling/support information and advocacy.

If you know someone who you think needs these services please refer them to me, if they are eligible we'll be happy to help them out.

Call for parents to support ABSTUDY travel arrangements - Centrelink

Centrelink Community Agent Marie Creek has called on parents to support her when it comes to keeping their children's travel arrangements for getting to and from school.

Ms Creek, who has worked on the community with Centrelink for 12 years now, said she was worried about students on Abstudy in particular.

"Children from here go out to boarding schools in the cities, Townsville, Cairns, Tablelands, and with students flying out from here it's hard," she said.

"It's been a big worry on this community, especially with only one agent working with all the students.

"I need the parents to cooperate with me because all the kids should be at school and I'd like to see more kids come out of boarding school with good knowledge and understanding, go to TAFE and not come back just to do two days of CDEP.

"They're going onto Youth Allowance but I've been sending so many children to boarding school, talking to the principals on behalf of their parents every year, and even I have to be a role model for other parents

myself because I've got two girls at boarding school, one of them will graduate this year.

"I don't want someone from the government to come into the community and start laying down the law for our children for not going to school so I like to see each child make an effort to go to school every day."



Roads, rates & rubbish...but wait, there's more!

State Government expectation may be that the Councils should be focussed on local government function but Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley says the Council still believes there should be more.

"The expectation from the Government now is that Councils should be focussed on local government function in regards to service delivery and that's the direction they're going in," Mr Tayley said.

"That means roads, rates and rubbish and things like that but we feel we still should have that support for community services as well."

He said the Council had written community services into their Operational Plan and Budget for 2008-9 as well as their Corporate Plan for 2008-2012.

"All of it complies with the legislative requirements we have to follow," he said.

"We've got to have a corporate structure and operational plan that will determine our operations over the financial year, which includes what we want to achieve for the council and community over the next four years, so it's very important to have these structures in place.

"And we also have our website and annual report close to being finished as well."

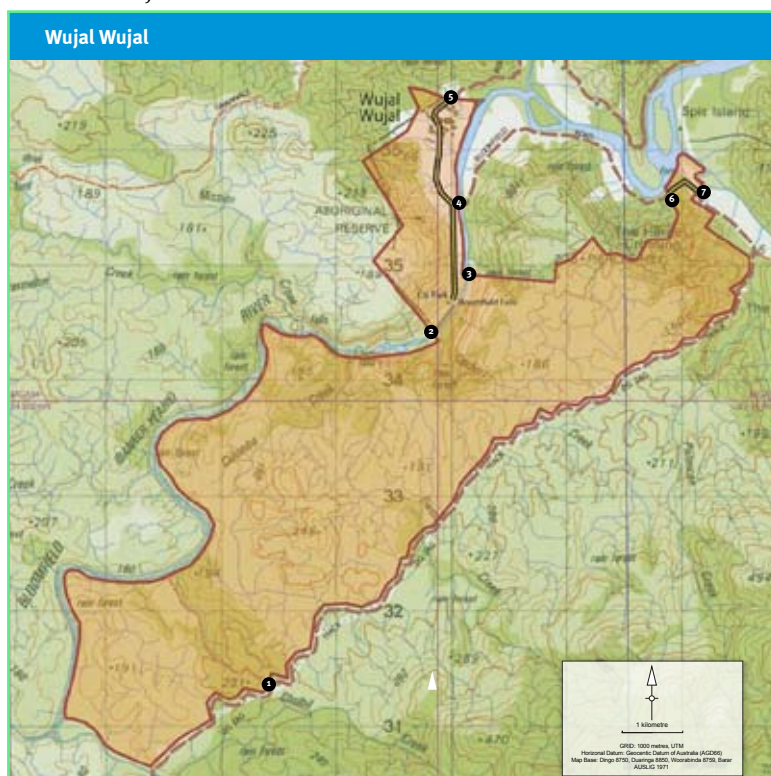
He said the bridge across the river, boundary changes and town planning were high on the list of priorities, as was upgrading the Council offices and chambers.

"We recently spoke with someone from local government in regards to what we want to achieve over the next four years in those areas so that's in the pipeline now and we'll be pursuing that more through our operational plan over the next four years," he said.

"Town planning is very important, we're moving in a direction where we need proper town planning for infrastructure like housing, sewage, roads, powerlines, telecommunications, all of that needs to be taken into account when we're doing town planning.

"We've also been successful negotiating with Cook Shire for getting some of our land brought back into Wujal Council, and that's been done already.

"The problem is that the southside is still in Cairns Shire so we want to be able to get that back into Wujal council as well."



Map courtesy Liquor Licensing - for a more recent map of Wujal Wujal boundaries visit the WWASC chambers today!

Tracey Wone

I've been with the Council for about three months now as Personal Assistant to the Mayor and CEO.

That means I do things like book accommodation, maintain correspondence that comes in and out, type up letters, do the minutes for Council meetings and make bookings and appointments for the Mayor and CEO.

I was in hospitality for about ten years, then I did a Bachelor in Community Welfare majoring in Child Welfare at James Cook Uni in Cairns and this is my first job since then.



Robyn Bloomfield

I was working as a Community Participation Officer but I decided to do something different so now I'm on a three month trial as receptionist for the Council. I just take messages, answer the phone, do receipts and whatever else.

Nerida Carr

I restarted with the Council just recently, relieving in the bank, post office and Rural Transaction Centre, I worked previously for the Council in the 1990s as the Finance and Accounts Officer.

They've asked me to evaluate the system with the bank to see if I can come up with any improvements and the council will eventually recruit to have a permanent person in here.

After that I'll be helping out the Council's Manager of Financial Services.

David Peachey's lessons for life



Hey – it's David "The Peach" Peachey here again! I'm the ambassador for Strong Community Life – which is all about making responsible choices. As a father and role model for many children, I am always keen to see more of our young Indigenous kids doing well and making their families proud. One of the most important steps in setting our kids up for success is education and although sometimes with my busy schedule it is difficult, I have always tried to enforce the importance of staying at school with my kids. Going to school on a regular basis is necessary to give your child opportunities later in life. If they can read and write, and have a knowledge about the world we live in, life gets a lot easier, and they will have better chances of getting a good job, or playing professional sport – yes, you do need a good solid education behind you to play elite sport.

That all sounds very nice, but in reality we have the challenge of helping our kids feel good about going to school. But don't worry - this can be a bit of a challenge, no matter where you live! Trying to get young kids excited about learning can be hard – that's why you've got to tell them how much fun it is! Tell them about the projects, the art, the sport, the reading, the writing - focus on the fun of learning. Learning and keeping your brain active is important at any age – and it's never too late to learn. And remember – keep those young ones in school, so they can make Strong Community Life decisions for their future!

David "The Peach" Peachey

NAIDOC success at Small Schools Sports Day

After a break last year, the Small Schools Sports Carnival for the Cooktown cluster region came back this year with the added bonus of combining the athletics with NAIDOC activities over the two day event.

Bloomfield River State School Principal Nathaniel Train said the idea behind the 'small schools' carnival was to provide an opportunity for schools who wouldn't normally run a sports day to socialise and interact.

"It's been set up for quite a while, it's probably the main opportunity for the Wujal Wujal and Bloomfield River communities to get together and promote what they're all about and because we've got such small schools it's an opportunity for them to socialise as well," Mr Train said.

"This year we have Lakeland, Laura, Rossville and Bloomfield River, normally that would include Coen as well, but approximately 100 kids are here this year.

"The winners from this year normally go into the Cook clusterr carnival, which is held in Cooktown, and they might then go onto Cairns, if they're successful there."

Laura State School Principal Martina Leiter said the logistics of getting her seven students to the event had been "interesting".

"We've got one car and we borrowed a HACC car from the Laura area so between all of that there's every seat taken and then we had to squeeze all their gear in between that, so it's been interesting," she said.

"And this year we tried to coincide our sports carnival with the NAIDOC celebrations for the Wujal Wujal community, so we've had some traditional cooking and there's also the opportunity for those traditional people to share their lifestyle and their culture with our kids."

A positive focus on participation, rather than competition, was what it was all about said Rossville State School Principal Greg Crosby.

"The carnival allows for competition and the kids that do shine are given a pathway then to excel at regional trials," he said.

"It's a carnival that's really focussed on getting the smaller schools that live in our cluster together to participate in a positive and cooperative environment and to foster fun in athletics.

"It's a low-key couple of days that's really well supported by the community, we have parents being involved in it and as you can see there's smiles on kids faces, which is what it's all about."



Pictured above: Masks made by the kindy kids for NAIDOC activities - More pics on page 16

Some of the smiles at the NAIDOC / Small Schools Sports Day

(Full Story on Page 15)



Pics on this page were taken by Wendy Ashworth & Christine Howes, and used with permission

Meeting Schedule for WWASC & Management Staff

Council Meetings:

September 16-17, 10am, Council Chambers

October 21-22, 10am, Council Chambers

November 18-19, 10am, Council Chambers

December 2-3, 10am, Council Chambers

Management Staff Meetings:

September 9, 2pm, Council Chambers

October 14, 2pm, Council Chambers

November 11, 2pm, Council Chambers

Community members who would like to place items on the Council agenda are required to complete an "Agenda Form" and hand the form to the PA at least seven working days before the Council meeting day.