



Mayor calls for more rights and better education after building lost to vandals

Our community needs more rights to deal with mindless, ignorant vandalism and disregard, Woorabinda Mayor Josh Weazel says.

"It needs to stop," he said. "Council is investigating what action we can take legally and advocating with government to obtain more rights for our community to deal with these matters in a culturally-appropriate way."

He said the loss of the HACC building had hurt the community greatly.

"Over its lifetime the HACC building served multiple functions," he said.

"It's been our preschool, an elders and community meeting place, hosted health aged and community care programs and, most recently, a place for our artists who had painted the building with their beautiful artwork only weeks before.

"The artists used the building to produce work which is shown and sold at our Woorabinda-owned gallery in Duaringa and at a recent exhibition in Springsure to mark Reconciliation Week."

He said the messages to children and their parents was clear.

"For those children who have committed this arson attack on our building, your actions have affected the broader community who cannot utilise this building anymore," he said.

"To those parents, and all



A sad loss: Above: the new murals on the HACC building, as reported in WASC News earlier this year, and Inset: Nickeema Williams next to the building last week.

parents if you have accepted responsibility for your child's action, as shameful as it is, we are grateful.

"To those parents and families who have shown their ignorance by lying and covering for their children, you can be assured your actions have been noticed.

"Our services are not responsible for these acts, we ask everyone to take on board their obligations and responsibilities as parents and to provide ongoing and consistent education to children at home – we need to teach them what is wrong and what is not acceptable to us as a community."

MEANWHILE Woorabinda Art Centre Manager Nickeema Williams says the art group's work will go on.

"The arts is very adaptable, and given the importance of what we do to peoples' wellbeing and mental health, we have to be able to work around whatever problems arise," she said.

"It was really important to quickly find an alternative venue for our artists so they could continue to work on their art in a positive way.

"We'll be working from the Opal Hall and Shed Space until something more permanent is set up."



New work nearly done!



LEFT: Labourer Dion O'Chin & Apprenticeship Carpenter Alfred Skeen; ABOVE: Supervisor Kenny Beckett; BELOW: the new gym, almost ready to go.

An upgrade to our CBD area will good for the community as the area is a popular meeting place and will look good once turf and a small garden is completed, WASC Works Manager Neville 'Dooley' Perkins says.

He said it will also help with the storm water runoff as the new grated drains will let water clear faster.

"WASC are also putting in new seating arrangements in the area," he said.

"The new gym will be ready to go in the next two weeks, operating hours are still a work in progress but this will also be a great asset for the community once it's all done.

"Six new accommodation cabins, given to WASC by the State Government, are almost installed out at Black Boy Station after their relocation from the Rockhampton Ring Road area.

"WASC have restumped them and are connecting all the

services, and new awning and patios will also be completed in the next couple of weeks.

"These are all self-contained and again, will be a valued asset for the WASC."

He said there was plenty of work to go on with later this year as two new three bedroom houses are expected to be started on Freeman Street.

"WASC are also tendered for three new education house on the corner of Mimosa Creek Road and Munns Drive, negotiation are happening and these we hope to make a start on those in July/August," he said.

All projects were funded by the State/Federal Government through Works for Queensland (W4Q) funding.





Our Kulgoodah Dancers: ready for Laura Quinkan Dance Festival!



Woorabinda's favourite Kulgoodah Dancers and their support team are leaving next week for the Laura Dance & Cultural Festival.

Organiser Bowlie Cameron said about 15 of Woorabinda's famous Kulgoodah Dancers, aged from 17-48-years-old, have been practising hard for the opportunity to share their culture at this year's Laura Festival, set to kick off at the end of next week in the tiny town north of Cairns. Choreographed by Kruga

Adams and introduced by Damien Watson, they said they were ready to share their culture and enjoy seeing families and friends. They said support from the community, Council and friends had been amazing.

Group pic thanks to Trent White Photography, also in the pictures are artist Jacob Skeen, who has made several artefacts for the dancers to take with them, Kruga and Bowlie (pics by Christine Howes).



There's always a smile somewhere around Woorabinda - bus driver William Gulf and Cr Gerry Doyle were all smiles last week, if you have a smile or two you'd like to see published, send them to us - details below!

WOORABINDA ARTS
Proudly Presents
Roxanne Oakley
Connecting Back to Country
A Healing Journey
Solo Exhibition
THURSDAY 24 JUNE 10am
WOORABINDA ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE 18 Edward St, Duaringa QLD 4712
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT
info@woorabindaartscentre.com
OR VIA FACEBOOK
Woorabinda Arts + Cultural Centre

What's Up?

...a back and forth look at the Mayor's Diary...

Friday 11 June: Ministerial & Government Champion meeting (online)

Monday 14 June: Koori Mail journo and WASC News co-editor Christine Howes in town for the day (Woorabinda)

Thursday 17 June: Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) meeting (Rockhampton)

Friday 18 June: Presentation of carbon opportunities for Woorabinda properties (Woorabinda) + Budget briefing for Mayors of remote communities (online)

Tuesday 22 June: Yoonthala Services CEO Petulia Stokes meeting (Woorabinda) + Employment & Training Group meeting (Woorabinda)

Wednesday 23 June: WASC Council meeting (Woorabinda)

Friday 25 June: Bowen Basin Regional Roads and Transport Group (RRTG) Meeting (Moranbah)

Tuesday 29 June: Yoonthala / WASC meeting (Woorabinda)

Thursday 1 July: Queensland Beef Corridors - Mayors' Roundtable Meeting (online)

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

The **DEADLINE** for our next WASC News will be **THURSDAY 1 July** for publication on **THURSDAY 8 July**.

WASC (Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council) News was edited by Jacob McQuire (JMcquire@Woorabinda.qld.gov.au) & Christine Howes for WASC ©2021

