



WUJAL WUJAL

ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Newsletter December 2008

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Mayor meets PM at local government meeting in Canberra

Representatives from more than 500 local Councils around the country responded to a call from the Prime Minister to come together in Canberra last month.

It was the inaugural meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government and covered issues such as constitutional recognition for local councils and the announcement of a \$300 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

Every local Council will see at least a \$100,000 share in the new program, including Queensland's Aboriginal Shire Councils.

Mayor Desmond Tayley was at the two-day meeting, along with Hopevale, Yarrabah, Palm Island, Cherbourg and other mayors, including representatives from our neighbouring Shires of Cook, Cairns, Tablelands and Cassowary Coast.

Mr Tayley said it had been a unique opportunity to network across states and territories, as well as the opportunity to look at the whole of the north Queensland region from a national perspective.

"Also it was an opportunity for us to meet the PM, make that contact, and talk to some of the Ministers as well," he said.

"When I was there I spoke with Jenny Macklin about some of our housing issues and she was very receptive to what I was putting across to her.

"Just recently WWASC adopted a document to take to the Ministerial Roundtable in Brisbane so I'm also going to give a copy of that to Minister Macklin as well.

"I feel I gained a lot there for the community, it's important to make contacts like that and it's a way of helping us to make things happen for the benefit of the community."

Mr Tayley also said he was surprised at the level of interest in Aboriginal Councils from the 'mainstream'.

"They're all trying to close that gap between Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, and how they can improve their services to their respective communities," he said.

"A lot of the Councils have a large number of Indigenous people in their area so they wanted to get some ideas from other people from different states.

"A lot of our own Councils also, Sam Murray from Cherbourg and Greg McLean raised their issues as well and even though it was a mainstream forum

they were well-received.

"There were people there from Adelaide City Council talking about their cultural awareness program working on how to engage Indigenous people a bit more, that was an eye-opener for me as well, it was good to see."

Mr Tayley said after workshops on the first day, the second day focussed on a national agenda.

"They spoke about the Roads to Recovery program which will also mean funding for Councils, along with housing money," he said.



"There's \$300 million for local infrastructure projects and we have until September next year to spend that fund which is tied with project guidelines which include employment.

"With this global recession happening now they're trying to maintain local employment throughout Australia, and they're looking at local projects, climate change projects and infrastructure.

"They spoke on issues like housing, education, health and infrastructure and how we can work together to achieve those things within local government.

"Overall I think it was good to have other Councils from other parts of Australia and to have that network, I met a lot of people who made some good points on the issues raised."

WWASC staff comings & goings & comings ...

WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley wanted the community to know there have been a few changes to staffing arrangements within the Council.

"We've had Jeff Brown on as acting-CEO for six or eight weeks now," he said.

"He's done a good job for the Council here, implementing a lot of policy working closely with myself and the Council.

"He seems to be well-liked by the staff here and they enjoy working with him.

"I think during Peter Opio's time, I would say honestly he's done a lot of work for Wujal.

"Way back in 2000 we went through a very difficult time there and we had a lot of support from Peter way back then when he was with the ACC, Peter Wallace was the chair then.

"I can remember countless numbers of meetings we've had since then, there's been some very big changes since then and Peter was part of those changes.



"I think it was important during that whole process, with the transition from Community Services to Local Government, that there was a smooth transition and there was, thanks to the work he's done.

"I've spoken to him since he left and he's said he's just going to work on his house and play golf for now."

Mr Brown said they expected a new CEO to be in place in early 2009.

"I've been here for about two months and hopefully the new CEO will be on board in early January, the process is under way," he said

"As soon as we know we'll call a special Council meeting and the decision will be ratified.

"I've come here with about 38 years experience in local government and the same rules there need to be applied here.

"I actually retired about two years ago, now I do various things such as play golf, but I've been sent on three or four occasions now to fill-in by the Local Government Association of Queensland, replacing staff, making sure everything happens.

"I got a phone call asking me to come to Wujal, the first thing I asked was 'where is that?'

"I found since then it's an absolutely amazing place, some of the staff here have described it as 'heaven on earth' and that's how I see it.

"I'm very happy with the staff and there's some great people up here.

"I'm thoroughly enjoying it and it will be a sad day when I leave here but I need to go back to my best mate who is waiting at home for me."



After 15 years of service, CDEP Manager Wendi Rowlands is also leaving to take up a position as Human Resources Manager for the Carpentaria Shire Council in Normanton in the new year.

WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley said Wendi had worked with at least three Wujal Councils, including during his two terms.

"Wendi has been with the organisation for a long time and I think she's been very good, she's worked with a lot of people," he said.

"She's been a valuable member of our staff, she's worked very hard for our community and she's leaving very big shoes to fill.

"I think CDEP is a big issue in all the Cape communities and Wendi has been one of the people who has been there since the beginning, so she's got a pretty fair amount of knowledge about that stuff.

"It's sad to see her go, she'll be moving onto bigger and better things, but on behalf of the Council and community I'd like to thank her for her service."

Wendi said she would still love her hometown.

"I still love Wujal but I guess everybody needs a change, I've enjoyed many many years here," she said.

"It is and still will be my home."



Cyclone season prep essential

Environmental Health Worker Bobby Kulka has urged anyone who hasn't cleaned up their yard in preparation for this year's cyclone season to do so as soon as possible.

Mr Kulka (pictured on the right) said response to the free rubbish pick-up offered by the Council had been good.

But those who hadn't taken advantage of the offer were still obliged to clean up their yards at their own expense.

"It's your responsibility to make sure yards don't have anything that's going to blow away during a cyclone," he said.

Mr Kulka also reported that he has recently attended a Cape York Weeds & Feral Meeting in Bamaga.

"It was just to identify weed



problems within the Cape, we haven't started a program here in Wujal yet but we will," he said.

MEANWHILE here in Wujal, he said, a new Animal Management Worker has also been appointed.

"Mervyn Prior is our new Animal Management Worker, he's only been with us for a few weeks but he knows what he's doing," Mr Kulka said.

Mr Prior (pictured on the left) said he was born in Townsville, "but my mum was taken away from here when she was seven-years-old".

"My mum's mum was Minnie Ball and Mum's name was Milda Blanket," he said.

"So since I've been here I've met a lot of family."

It's the first time he has worked in animal control, but he said previous worker, David Jackson, had done a good job.

"They've got all the dog situation under control now, the other bloke did a really good job with Bobby," he said.

"But then there was the croc up at the Falls so Bobby and I went up there, took some photos and alerted the rangers from Mossman."

EPA advises Wujal to be Croc Wise



Recent reports of a crocodile located above the causeway on the Bloomfield River at Wujal Wujal have been acted on by the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A male croc, 3.67m long, took up residency above the causeway in recent weeks. Earlier this month a trap was set and a few days later the croc was removed. It has been relocated to Melaleuca Crocodile Farm in Mareeba as a breeding male. People are advised to be aware of the presence of crocodiles. Of particular concern to the EPA are the activities of people that may attract further crocodiles and put people at risk of an attack.

- The cleaning of fish and turtle should not be done by the waters edge at the causeway or upstream between the causeway and the falls, and should be done well away from the waters edge or places where people access the river such as boat ramps and causeways.
- Swimming at the causeway and above the causeway
- Walking across the causeway especially on a high tide or at night.

Residents were also asked to take note and be careful near the water.

The EPA and Wujal Wujal Council are working together towards developing ways to maximise community safety.

WWASC Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes said crocodiles were a major issue which needed a concerted "whole-of-government" approach.

"The paramount importance for Council is that the welfare of community members is preserved while also taking into consideration environmental and emotive issues associated with crocs," he said.

"Response time to reporting is also an issue since our Animal Management Worker has no ability or jurisdiction to act on these reports - children and adults regularly swim at the crossing and they cross by foot during tidal inundation."



Main photograph above taken of croc trapped at Bloomfield Falls and supplied courtesy EPA's Claire Murrell.

WUJAL WUJAL WARRANGA COMMUNITY JUSTICE GROUP

MAGISTRATES COURT:

We had a total of 45 offenders who faced the courts during August and September with offences ranging from possession of one can of beer to rape.

These numbers are extremely high due to a no tolerance approach from the Wujal Police in relation to alcohol and driving infringements, and in keeping with the views of the Justice Group. Some habitual drinkers are carrying fines totalling \$3,500.

Two members of the community were sent to jail for breaching bail conditions by getting drunk and causing fights.

The Justice Group believe that the community is finally getting the message, as the community is very quiet during the weekends which was unheard of six months ago.

We have received confirmation that Wujal Wujal will be holding Magistrate's Courts here every second month starting January 2009.



AGENCIES:

1. Justice Group met with Fran Maddern to discuss amendments to alcohol legislation raised at the Round Table Forum held in Ayton some months ago. We also sought advice from her on difficulties dealing with child safety. She has spoken with the Director and some of the difficulties have now been resolved.

2. Child Safety: We have had two visits from Child Safety regarding unacceptable behaviour from a group of prep and Grade IV children. After investigation and discussion with parents, children and the school we are hopeful that this behaviour will cease.

3. Correctional Services: The CJG in the process of setting up a regular video link with both Townsville Correctional Centre (Stewart Creek) and Lotus Glen Correctional Centre (Mareeba).

4. Births, Deaths and Marriages: Following a very successful visit from the Commissioner of BDM where community members were able to meet with her and explain their problems with obtaining Birth Certificates due to a lack of identification. We now have a special Aboriginal Liaison Officer based in Brisbane who is able to utilise other Government Departments to find out information to enable Birth Certificates to be issued.

5. SPER: Two representatives from State Penalties Enforcement Registry met with a number of community members to arrange for payment of fines and to transfer some offenders who could not meet their fines into the Community Service Program. It was good to be able to put a human face to this department and we now have a representative Jonathan Wills who is able to cut through a lot of the red tape offenders have had to deal with.

I've been with the Justice Group for three months now, and we are all very happy with the way the group is moving. We have approached a number of community members to join the group which will help us to incorporate in the future.



CJG members Lily Yougie & Doreen Ball with young Alicka Yougie



CJG Coordinator Joan Beacroft

Joan Beacroft

C-link training included segment on Welfare Reform but no real answers

Working to limited hours, and with computers dubbed as "ancient history", Centrelink Officer Marie Creek has asked community residents be aware that she is only contracted to work from 9am-12pm every week day.

If she is ill, or unable to come into work, no one is available to take her place.

Ms Creek (pictured) also said at this stage she had no answers in regards to if and when Welfare Reform would come to the community.

"When I went for my Centrelink training we had a session on welfare reform and how it was happening in the four trial communities," she said.

"One of the Centrelink officers was explaining to us how Centrelink would take over the welfare (money) with our students not attending primary and secondary schools.

"When I came back here to the community I was explaining to some people about it but a lot of people don't like it because they want to find out from the start, and how it's going to end.

"They're saying that this is going to hurt a lot of people in all the communities in the Cape York, which is happening now.

"We like to hear it from the horse's mouth, whoever invented this thing should come and explain to us



before it's going to happen here, for me to explain to my own people, I feel out of place.

"A few of the community people are saying that if welfare reforms come in it's going to be like the old ration days instead of stepping into the real world to get the dollar coming in for our community.

"I've 53-years-old now and I've lived to see a lot of changes happening, especially with our young kids.

"There's a lot of people concerned about that and what's going to be happening with this welfare reform if it does come in - we just want someone to come in and explain to us."

WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley said it seemed unlikely at this stage the government would move towards implementing Welfare Reform in Wujal Wujal.

"They've spoken to me on two occasions and what I've said is that without the community's support Council would not even consider it," he said.

"That's the bottom line."

He said whether or not the Government would impose Welfare Reform without consent depended on the community.

"If they feel that things are getting bad that probably would come in and do an intervention, but at this stage I wouldn't think so," he said.

The Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) is currently operating in four Cape York Indigenous communities trialing Welfare Reform.

From July this year, the communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hopevale and Mossman Gorge started trialing the Reforms in partnership with Commonwealth and State governments, and the Cape York Institute.

FRC conferences are presided over by two Local Commissioners and FRC Commissioner former magistrate David Glasgow.

Local Commissioners are respected leaders in their communities and conduct proceedings with local people in both English and local languages. Conferences assess notifications about children's school attendance and safety, housing and family

alcohol and drug-related problems.

Notices are sent to the FRC by relevant agencies and people are interviewed and offered appropriate avenues of support such as counselling and money management.

Local Commissioners draw on their wide knowledge of their communities to assess each case and, ideally, secure an Agreement with family members.

If problems persist, they can direct income to be managed by Centrelink.

A pool of Local Commissioners in each community enables the FRC conferences to observe kinship protocol and family or community obligations such as funerals.

Between its first sitting in August and 23 September, the FRC sat for 21 days in communities to deal with 278 agency notifications relating to 220 community members within its jurisdiction (residing within the community and drawing CDEP or Welfare payments):

- 106 school attendance notifications
- 60 Child Safety notifications
- 91 Offence notifications
- 1 Tenancy Breach notification

Local Commissioners have made three orders to date for incomes to be managed by Centrelink after people failed to attend conferences.

Source: FRC Media Release 3/10/08

Community store sponsors free hydrobath

Several new fridges and freezers and a new ticketing program are helping to build and maintain confidence in Wujal's community store.

Manager Dennis Richardson (pictured) also says anything close to being out of date is put on special so buyers can pick up a bargain.

"We've also had a full service of refrigeration throughout the shop so we've got everything at the right temperature and quality is almost as good as we can make it," he said.

"We've got a ticketing program to make sure that everything in the shop has got its own product label with the right price on it, so when people walk in they can be confident that the ticket that's on the product is the price they'll pay at the checkout.

"And we remain vigilant about any out-of-date product, anything that's about to expire is put on special so people can pick up a

genuine bargain if they so desire."

He and wife Lin have also taken a special interest in caring for animals around the community.

A container for small change near the checkout is going towards the costs of free de-flea'ing hydrobaths every fortnight for dogs and, when enough is saved, towards a free worming program.

"We're purchasing some product for the animal hydro bath including some wash so we can try to get rid of some of the fleas, ticks and mange that affects almost every animal in town," Dennis said.

"We're hoping people will put their change in the box and when it all adds up everybody's dog will get looked after free of charge.

"The first purchase is about \$180 worth of chemical, which will keep us going for a few months, the next one will be worming tablets.

"If people contribute their 5-cents



after every shop we'll have enough money there to make sure that every animal gets wormed regularly free of charge as well."

He said the hydrobath would be set up every second Saturday.

"All people have to do is bring their dog down on a lead, and if they bring a spray bottle with them they can take home the residue from the hydrobath and spray it around the dog's sleeping area.

"It costs nothing, the hydrobath is here and it's free."

New inquiry - Remote community stores in Aboriginal & Torres Strait communities

The operation of local community stores in remote Indigenous communities is the focus of a new inquiry by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

The Chair of the Committee, Richard Marles MP said "The quality and cost of supplies in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities is of critical importance to the health and economic outcomes of these communities."

He added "The Committee will consider the food security and cost of living pressures of these remote Indigenous communities which may go some way to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians on life expectancy, educational achievement and employment opportunities."

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has asked the Committee to inquire into and report on the operation of local community stores in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities, with a particular focus on:

- food supply, quality, cost & competition issues;
- the effectiveness of the Outback Stores model & other private, public and community store models; and,
- the impact of these factors on the health and economic outcomes of communities.

The Committee invites submissions by Friday, 20 February 2009. Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/atsia or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or emailing atsia.reps@aph.gov.au

An inquiry into remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community stores will be undertaken by the Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs says local MP and committee member Jim Turnour.

"The inquiry will focus on cost of living issues and store ownership models and their impacts on health and economic outcomes," he said.

"I know how important cost of living issues are to indigenous communities in the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula and the impacts they have on communities and local businesses.

"This inquiry will provide an opportunity for members of those communities to outline the real problems they face in sourcing quality food and other items at a reasonable price and ideas they may have to improve the situation.

"I am working with the Committee to organise a trip to the Torres Strait and Cape York early next year to take evidence directly from local communities.

"I would encourage a broad cross section of the community to make submissions to the inquiry."

Individuals, community organisations, councils, store owners and operators or anyone who would like further information phone 1300 301 917 or email jim.turnour.mp@aph.gov.au

CDEP NEWS

...from CDEP Manager Josh Patterson...

The Christmas break is coming up so many of the CDEP projects are winding up for this year. It has been a great year and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the workers who have made it such a great success.

Congratulations also to the participants who have found full-time work as a result of their training while on CDEP.

CDEP can offer up to 110 people the opportunity to participate in work, develop work experience and receive training. 90 people have taken up this opportunity, and there are a further 20 people who have applied to join. While not everyone has embraced the opportunities offered by CDEP, most are showing commitment to, and enthusiasm for their given roles.

On an official note, Wujal Wujal's CDEP is achieving the necessary key performance indicators and community improvement goals. Overall we're assisting the Wujal Wujal Council in their day-to-day business and providing many training opportunities to our residents. At the moment we have computer training with Vicky Burrows and joint initiative literacy training with Jobfind. We have also just run a Blue Card (construction) course - this was a great success with 20 people with passing. CDEP has also developed two income generating activities, the nursery and the Wujal Wujal mowing service.

As we all know Wendi Rowlands is leaving and we wish her well. Thanks Wendi, for all your hard work over many years. You have left Wujal Wujal CDEP in a great position. As the new CDEP manager, at least until June, I will strive to maintain the high standard set by my predecessor. I'd like to encourage all CDEP participants to visit me at the RTC building to discuss the future of CDEP and their role within it.



Blue Card graduates November 2008



More than 700 people, at least 20 of them from Wujal Wujal, have earned their construction Blue Cards on communities over the past six months.

Principal consultant for the Department of Employment & Industrial Relations' Wal-Meta Unit, Bruce Stedman, said the cards were needed to ensure jobs.

"Under the new 20% policy they must have a Blue Card to get work – no Blue Card, no work," he said.

"We just had 20 people (here in Wujal) complete their Blue Card construction course.

"The next course we're running is a Workplace Health & Safety Representative course, which we'll run in

about February and then a month after that it will be the Workplace Health & Safety Officer course.

"They're all accredited and part of a three-stage approach to get them up to a Workplace Health & Safety Officer level so the Council's meet their obligations under the Workplace Health & Safety Act.

"If there's ever 30 or more people employed, they must have a Workplace Health & Safety Officer.

"As an Officer you could go from \$80,000 to \$200,000 a year, so it's excellent work.

"We want to train at least 12 people from different organisations within each community."

A word from...

Technical Services Manager *Jaime Guedes*



Chemical storage for Wujal Wujal is in construction phase now says Essential Services Manager Jaime Guedes:

It's being built at the water treatment plant site.

This was one of the pressing issues we were faced with.

Last issue I talked about rehabilitation of the old Wujal Wujal landfill - an invitation to offer was presented to Council and we are studying the tender documents for that project.

In this coming week we will speak to the project managers about it and Council has instructed me to submit an in-house bid for the work.

We'll see how all that pans out.

We are doing the costings for it as we speak and if we are successful we will be starting this project in April next year.

Town planning is also an issue we're still working on.

The Council, Mayor, CEO and I keep flagging it as a priority so we can address the future needs of the community in a strategic manner. Budget constraints haven't allowed us to undertake this major expenditure.

A current Total Management Plan (TMP) has been identified as an integral component of the Council planning.

To be able to move forward we need a TMP.

The previous one was done with support from government but for the moment we haven't been able to source funding.

With continually escalating costs and no corresponding increase in the budget, current funding does not cover the cost of a TMP.

We will endeavour and strive for best practice but how far the dollar goes is another issue.

On CDEP, we are aware that there are big changes happening on that we just have to go with the times and cross each bridge as we come to it.

Also at the moment, a feasibility study is being carried out by Main Roads to upgrade the Bloomfield River Crossing.

Following this we will have an estimate of costs.

I am aware that Council has been making representations to the Ministers and the other neighbouring Councils to establish the upgrading of the Bloomfield River Crossing as a high priority.

There are some major issues concerning safety and access.

In particular the safety of residents on the southside and the responsibilities of all the services - police, ambulance, and fire brigade - to provide response in time of emergency is of great concern.

Projects on track — wet season permitting...

Wujal Wujal's new water reticulation project is running on schedule – pending the wet season - and should finish on time say WWASC Essential Services Officer Graham Harris and Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes.

Mr Guedes said, however, that the project would have to be revisited in the near future because the budget hasn't allowed for the total installation of the new pipes.

"The project was scaled down to fit within the budget and at this stage, the south side housing will not be connected with the new reticulation," he said.

"We're doing about 80% of what was required and we will have to revisit the project."

He said the new intake was going ahead.

"I have confidence that the Wujal Wujal team will keep up with the hook-ups and the installation of the water meters as we have a compact unit working on that part of the contract.

"We have two plumbers and two ESO workers on this project."

Mr Harris also reported that the new sewage treatment plant was now finally running on automatic.

"There's still quality control and testing and daily housekeeping, which is an ongoing thing, but basically the plant is running well," he said.



ESOs Rodney Denman, Charlie Walker, Ray Sycamore

'Water-Wise' winners announced



Wujal Wujal residents Ruby Friday, Kathleen Walker and Robyn Bloomfield were among those recognised for their green thumbs recently in the Department of Housing's Garden Awards.

Budding gardener Gauai Wallace's efforts were also commended in the Children's Garden category.

The Garden Awards, held for the second year in Wujal Wujal, are judged on how well gardens promote water-wise principles.

Prizes included a lawn mower (provided by Cairns Hardware), wheelbarrow, outdoor table setting, gardening tools and plants from the local Community Development Employment Project nursery.

For more information on the Garden Awards, please contact Toni Coultas from the Department of Housing, on 4039 8847, or talk to her during her next visit.

Other housing news

In the past two months, the Department of Housing's tenancy team offered housing to five families. A factory-built home was completed and an existing property was made available for social housing.

Most people will have seen the Department of Housing's two new officers in Wujal Wujal. Toni Coultas, introduced in the previous newsletter, has replaced Renae Cunneen. Toni has been with the department for nine years. Morrison Risdale has also joined the team, after working for the department in Hopevale.

At the Wujal Wujal Garden Awards were Morrison Risdale (Dept of Housing), Deputy Mayor Talita Nandy, Mark Davies (Dept of Housing) & Toni Coultas (Dept of Housing)

Tips to keep your home safe

If you go away, lock up your house and let the council know how long you will be gone.

Be storm safe – secure loose items in your yard.

To request any repairs to your home:

- call the Department of Housing's Call Centre on 1300 738 616 (for the cost of a local call, extra charges may apply from mobile phones)
- or, use the free blue maintenance phone at the Rural Transaction Centre
- or, contact the Council.



New Housing Officer Anthea McGreen has taken over from Cr Ziela Wallace's former position.

"Anthea is a former Hopevale health worker who's currently signing up for a Certificate IV in Social Housing to improve her qualifications," Housing Coordinator Mark Zippel (pictured left with Anthea) said.

"It's a qualification that's nationally accredited, so she'll be able to use it wherever she is. Anthea handles all of the tenancy issues, she works with the Department of Housing's client services and I look after the construction side of it."

Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes said Anthea had already shown her enthusiasm for the position.

"It seems that the new Housing Officer is getting on nicely and we are very happy with her performance," he said.

Nursery Manager Vincent Tayley (pictured right with Kia) is leading the Council's new Parks & Gardens team in work around the community including emu parade and a number of landscaping projects around town.

"We're working at the RTC centre now, we're just landscaping, we'll be putting some sprinklers in and then some plants," he said.

"I had about ten on the crew but it's back down to four now.

"Then we'll probably be starting doing up around the Council Chambers, making it a bit beautiful."



School art on display in library

It sure is hot out there and that's exactly why Wujal's library worker, Carol Toby, suspects more kids might come in from the heat after school and during the holidays over the weeks to come.

Not only for the weather, of course, but for their recently tidied and sorted collections of books and magazines, as well as to see their own artwork on the walls if they were lucky enough to be involved in recent lino- and cardboard-printing workshops at Bloomfield State School.

Community art is also featured on the walls after a successful series of workshops hosted by the library in jewelry-making and painting.

"We had about ten ladies coming in for a few months but we'll get some artists coming in with some canvas and painting gear," Carol says.

"One day we'd like to display it on the verandah, maybe take it to the markets at Cooktown or Mossman, maybe sell it down there.

"Whether it's carving or doing jewelry, we're not short of any material, our local seeds can be collected, they're all here at our front door, all we have to do is go and get it.

"We want to bring changes here, if our people would get up and do something, that's the only way we can make that money.

"Whether it's lino or screen printing or dilly bag making, it brings in money.

"Think about it and get up and do it.

"In that way they can make that money because CDEP won't last here forever so this is another thing our people should look at in making a good thing for themselves.

"I'd like to see our young people get into artwork too."

Carol said some of the kids work was already on display in the library over the Christmas/January break.

"At the moment we've got artwork displayed by the children here and I hope the parents will have time to come and have a look," she said.

Bloomfield State School art teacher Antonie (pictured with Carol above) said the work was the result of a four-day session producing lino or cardboard prints.

"They all come together in a storyline, those are going to be put into a book form, and made into a film," he said.



"They will be up all holidays and towards the end of January they can come in and take them home."

Carol also said they had recently visited Cairns.

"A few weeks ago we went down to Cairns to see some artwork by Arone Meeks and Billy Missi, they were doing lino print work and it was an eye-opener for a lot of us, and they talked about their work, what they do and how they sell their work," she said.

"We also visited TAFE and met some of the artists from Hopevale who were putting up their art there.

"There was a lot of good artists."

Cr Cedric Friday went as well and said he had also got a lot out of it.

"We went down to Cairns there about a month ago to take some artists down to look at the TAFE and UMI Arts' new building," he said.

"We do our own things and down there they do different sorts of things.

"It was good to go down there and probably in the next coming year we will be starting up our own cultural centre so I'm looking forward to working with the other artists there."

The library will close on 17 December and open again in the 2nd or 3rd week of January.



Yalanji arts & culture building due for April start

Construction of the Yalanji Arts & Cultural Centre should start in April if all goes to plan, says project manager Gary Ashworth.

"The tender has been awarded to Drewell Constructions to design and build the Arts & Culture Centre, the engineers have been put in place as well," he said.

"And the Town Planning should be completed in early January, because it's in Cairns Regional Council area, that has to be done.

"Sometime middle to late January we'll have a decision on the re-zoning of the land, building and construction will start somewhere around April."

In the meantime he said there had

been lots of community activities.

"Working with Carol in the IKC, we've brought in some teachers three days a week to support that," he said.

"We've also put together some leadership camps to look at the training and employment side of things so we'll have a workplace pool we can look into.

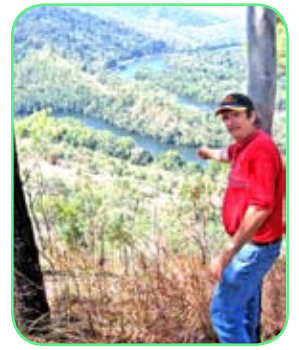
"We need a fair bit of training and we also need to develop enterprises as well, to be able to supply retail sales and manage the micro-business.

"There has been a number of people chosen to sit on a steering committee, they've been nominated by the elders."

WWASC
M a y o r
Desmond
T a y l e y
said it was a matter of 'wait and see' for what happened next.

"The Cairns Regional Council is very supportive of what we're doing, it's creating employment so they see the benefits of it," he said.

"We've just got to wait and see, cross our fingers, and hopefully we'll get the approval we need."



Project aims to help reduce brain injury trauma

Cr Cedric Friday has, for the moment, wrapped up his work on acquired brain injury with the recent printing of a new awareness raising poster featuring local artwork.

Cr Friday (pictured below with Charmonique Olbar) said the project he had been involved with was one close to his heart...or his head, as the case maybe.

"Myself, I was in a bad car accident and I couldn't think straight for about 18 months and that changed my attitude," he said.

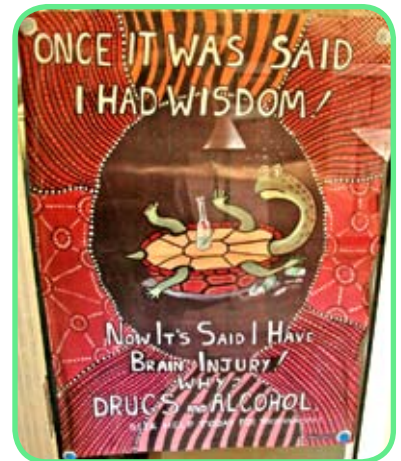
"Before I didn't get tempered up too quick but nowadays my attitude has changed, especially for people telling lies."

The Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service (ABIOS), which is part of Queensland Health, received funding in 2006 for a two-year project to work in partnership with Wujal Wujal and Lockhart River.

The project aimed to find out what ongoing supports people with brain injury and their families needed.

It also explored what supports were currently available, and how each community wanted to respond to their particular needs.

The project finished in June 2008 having completed a range of activities including community information meetings, gatherings and activities, training with HACC staff, talks at the school aimed at prevention, and the production of a dvd and poster. "Brain injury could happen to anyone," Cr Friday said.



"We had some people here who have been in car or horse accidents.

"We went down to the school there, telling the kids to be aware of things like diving into the water after flood, we did a poster on that as an example."

He also said brain injury wasn't just about trauma, it was also about alcohol and other substance abuse which could affect the brain.

ABIOS said they would continue to work with Wujal Wujal and Lockhart River into the new year with a Round Table on Brain Injury being planned for Cooktown in June 2009.

Russell Bowen will be the local contact for this, from February next year.

The DVD is available for public viewing on the HITnet touch screen at the Wujal Wujal clinic.



Wujal Wujal Community Care

(HACC , CACPS & DSQ)

Providing services for the frail aged, younger people with disabilities and their carers in the Bloomfield River Valley continues to be both rewarding and challenging for the staff of Wujal Wujal community Care.

We are committed to continuous quality improvement, which means we are always trying to improve the way we do things for our clients and run the service.

Recently the government changed the Food Safety Act and all businesses and places that serve food to people have until October 2009 to comply.

Older people and the very young are considered vulnerable and even more care with food handling is required.

We provide approximately 120 meals per week to our clients.

The meal service is vital to many.

To continue to provide this service after 2009 our kitchen must:

1. Meet the new Food Safety Standards
2. Have a Food Safety Program in place
3. Insure all staff who handle food have a Food Safety Certificate

We have commenced the process, however:

- The kitchen has had an audit and inspection and does not comply. We have commenced seeking funding.
- A Food Safety Program is being developed and will be implemented over six months commencing at the beginning of 2009
- All staff who are involved with food handling (six of us) have commenced our Food Safety Supervisors course.

The HACC Workforce Council provided a trainer who came to our community and delivered the theory. We expect to complete our assignments and workplace competencies early next year.

Achieving the Food Safety Standards is a huge and demanding challenge for our service.

When obtained, it will mean the meals that are prepared and delivered or served to our clients will be of the highest possible standard.

Sharon Anderson



"I presently training in Wujal and in Bamaga, and next year I'll be going to Aurukun and maybe Hopevale. It's a short term project that will be finished in July next year. I love what I do,"
Sandy Kelly – QATSIHWEPAC / HACC trainer



The Wujal Wujal clinic is pleased to have had new healthworker trainee Mary Barlow on board since the beginning of November 2008. Mary is studying Certificate III & IV in Primary Health and will be a valuable addition to the team.

Action, lights, camera!!!

Applications for entry into Wujal Wujal's annual Christmas lights competition are available now from the police station, clinic and Council reception.

Organiser Kylie Madsen (pictured) said entries close on Friday 19 December, followed by judging on the 22nd and a prize presentation in the Sports Hall on the 23rd.

"We've got household goods to the value of \$280, \$150 and \$70 for each prize, things like toasters and microwaves and things like that," Ms Madsen said.

"I wanted to organise this because I wanted to bring the spirit of the

community together.

"Next year will be bigger and better again, to get the whole of community involved and supporting this.

"It brings families and friends together to communicate with their children, it's a big thing."

She said for this year only Wujal Wujal residents within the DOGIT area would be eligible for prizes but anyone can enter and everyone will receive a photo and certificate for their participation.

WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley said he was impressed with the level of community involvement in the competition.



"The Christmas light competition is just to encourage people into the Christmas spirit and I was quite impressed to hear they're moving along with that," he said.

Councillors pass on best wishes for festive season



All five of Wujal Wujal's elected representatives would like to pass on their best wishes to the community for this year's festive season.

Cr Talita Nandy says she is all set to enjoy the summer break with her family, especially Patrick Jnr and T'kehya who are back from boarding school for their holidays.

Patrick Jnr has been attending St Peter's Lutheran College in Brisbane, thanks to an AFL scholarship, and will go into Year 10 next year. He said he's been playing footy for the Kenmore Bears and dreams of joining a professional side.

T'kehya is also at St Peter's and going into year 12 next year. She said she's always wanted to dance and has been doing so with the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA) in Brisbane. She added that she was happy to be home for the holidays, "especially to breath fresh air".

Talita said she was very happy the kids were home.

"We've got a lot more family time now and hopefully we'll do some camping and fishing and singing," she said.

"I just want to wish everyone a merry Christmas, we've had a fantastic year, and I hope everybody thinks safe over the break."

MEANWHILE Cr Alister Gibson says he's ready for break before 2009 which he expects will be a big year.

"I've just finished my last block so I will be fully qualified but I'll work until August next year and then I'll focus on Council," he said.

"It's been a hard four years for me but I've really enjoyed it. I'd like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a happy new year, hopefully there'll be something good next year for everyone - more jobs hopefully."



Mayor takes opportunity to visit Aboriginal Tent Embassy

It was WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley's first visit to Canberra last month, and one of the places he went to as a "tourist" was the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

"I had a day just to look around the nation's capital, that was my first time there, I was trying to find where the coast was, you know," he said.

"I did a tour of Parliament House and after that I went to Old Parliament House, the Tent Embassy is still there.

"I saw the five people who live there and they've got to keep the fire burning, it's been lit since 1972 - they were all Indigenous from around the Canberra area.

"They told me that particular area was designated for the Embassy and for Indigenous people.

"I sat there for probably an hour talking to them, reflecting on previous marches and protests where people went down there to stand up for Indigenous rights.

"My reflection on the whole thing was that it wouldn't have been possible for people like myself and other Indigenous leaders throughout the Cape and Australia, to be sitting where we are right now if it wasn't for those people.

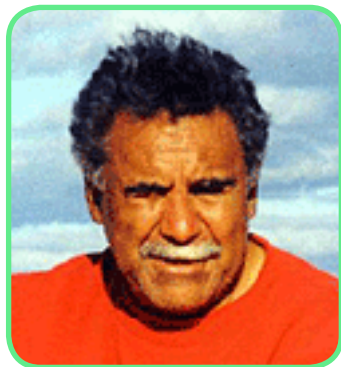
"Just being there made my hair stand, it was very powerful.

"It made me understand that this is where it all started from for Indigenous people.

"I was impressed with a lot of the people there, they spoke very passionately about Indigenous issues and they try to keep the Indigenous agenda up there.

"They're like every day people, just like us here in Wujal, and I guess it makes me proud to be an Indigenous person, to see those guys down there fighting for these issues.

"I think everyone if they have the opportunity should go there to the Tent Embassy and sit down and talk to people."



*Embassy founder,
Michael Anderson.
Photo courtesy Brigitte
Simon-Enderl.*

Mr Tayley said his only disappointment was to have missed speaking to Elders, who he was told he had missed by just a few minutes.

One of the founders of the Tent Embassy, Michael Anderson, now living in western New South Wales, said it was good for Mr Tayley to have visited the site.

"Desmond had a realisation that there is something there



and that shows the mark of a truly sensitive leader who sees value in things," he said.

"Especially given the fact that he's acknowledged that without the Embassy things might not have happened today, and I think that's impressive in itself.

"Now he should understand the importance of the Embassy and the fact that all our people around our country really can take advantage of that - we can use it to exploit and talk up our political, social, economic and cultural ambitions to other parts of the world.

"A lot of the foreign Ambassadors in this country, including the US, accept delegations from the Embassy speaking on behalf of their own people.

"They would treat them as diplomatic representatives, they would be able to meet with attaches of all those embassies and talk to them about cultural differences and cultural exchanges.

"There are enormous opportunities there."



Sports & Rec hall open for business



Kids looking for something to do over the holidays should keep their eyes and ears open for opportunities to get down to the beach with Sports & Rec Officer Johnathan Bassani.

Mr Bassani said activities – “just fun stuff” – will be organised from the Sports Hall during the break.

“Just keep an eye out on the notice boards and we’ll go around and tell the kids,” he said.

“We’ll be having some activities for the kids for the holidays, just fun stuff, days out down at the beach if that’s what the kids want.

“Austag will also be something for the kids for the holidays.”

The Sports & Rec hall is open every day from 2.30-6.30pm.

Also making use of the Community Hall of late was a suicide prevention workshop delivered by the Edward Koch Foundation and supported by the Cape PCYC’s “Something Better” project. Participants were

Annie Lamason, Nick Rayner, Lara Baker, Anthony Torso, Dulcie Pensio, Dulcie Bird & Liv Gray.



A rising star...

As an outstanding athlete and student there’s almost no doubt Wujal Wujal’s own Cameron Hooker will be relieved to take a break over the holidays.

In November Cameron was one of four Abergowrie College students chosen to travel to Newcastle at the invitation of Athletics Australia for the Indigenous Championships.

Students were selected to attend based on their performances and their commitment to athletics training.

While there Cameron competed in the 14-year-old 100m, 200m, Long Jump, Triple Jump and 200m Hurdles.

His long list of awards for 2008 include:

**Representative for NQ ATHLETICS +
Gold Medal Winner QLD ATHLETICS**

Within Abergowrie College he was

**U/14 RUGBY LEAGUE BEST & FAIREST
2008 as well as U14 HERBERT RIVER
ATHLETICS AGE CHAMPION 2008 +
JUNIOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR 2008.**

To top it off he also won an academic award for Industry (outstanding effort) for Year 9.

Go Cameron!

*Information and photograph courtesy
Abergowrie College’s Gowrie Times!*

In September Cr Zeila Wallace (nee Gordon) married Gauai Wallace Snr with their son, Gauai Jnr, playing the part of ring boy.

The ceremony was held on Zeila's grandmother's traditional homelands at Archer Point.

Zeila said a lovely sunny day by the sea was the perfect place to make their vows to each other.

"Gauai & myself would like to give a big thank you to all the people who help with our wedding in anyway at all and from the bottom of our hearts," she said.



***Works
around
Wujal***

