



WUJAL WUJAL ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL Newsletter June 2009

Wujal Wujal, Via COOKTOWN, QLD, 4895
Phone (07) 4083 9100 Fax (07) 4060 8250
Email chambers@wujalwujalcouncil.qld.gov.au

New CDEP promises more real jobs

The new CDEP service provider in Wujal Wujal has met with the community to assure them they want as smooth a transition to new arrangements as possible.

Cairns Regional Community Development and Employment Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation (CRCDEP), who sometimes trade as Indigenous Job Connections, say they want to work with the community.



Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley (pictured left) said most of their concerns had been answered at public meetings and it was now just a matter of waiting to see how it played out.

"These people gave a commitment at the public

meeting to make sure everything will work with the new changes and within the community," he said.

"They want to provide us with every opportunity for



Indigenous Coordination Centre Solutions Broker Eddie Fewings with Wujal Wujal CDEP Coordinator Josh Patterson

training and employment within the community and they want to work with the Council with the new changes.

"So we'll all be working as hard as we can to make sure it's a smooth transition."

The three-month transition period started this week. CDEP Coordinator Josh Patterson, now employed by CRCDEP, said there were some obvious and some not so obvious changes.

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Over Easter this year the Wujal Wujal elders and community participated in a program called Culture Love which gave young people, including Marshal Winkle and Dale Sykes (above), the opportunity to access traditional stories, art and music to help them express and learn about their identity. It is hoped Culture Love will become an annual event.

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New CDEP promises real jobs

"The new provider itself won't change the delivery of CDEP that much, they're very accommodating and willing to work with community and continue the program as closely as possible to the old program," he said.

"But the government has also made some decisions about the way CDEP is now going to be run and that will involve a few changes.

"Basically it means CDEP will be broken into two streams, a work readiness stream which will be about 70% of participants, and a community development stream, which will be about 30% and mirrors the Work-for-the-Dole program.

"For now the big changes people will notice are that payroll won't be run through Council any more, it will be run through CRCDEP.

"The other change is that people won't be able to sign up through this office, they'll be referred through their job services network.

"So if you want to get onto CDEP after July 1 you'll need to talk to your job services network and they'll refer you to me."

CRCDEP CEO Chris Martin said at this stage they knew all the services previously supported by CDEP would continue to be provided, at least throughout the transition period.

"Most of the services will have real jobs attached to them, even though nothing has been officially signed off on yet," he said.

"We do know that within the transition period it will be running as normal, and for now that's as far as anyone can really say."



Indigenous JOB CONNECTIONS

Information from
<http://www.warrama.com>
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Cairns Regional Community Development and Employment Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation (known as CRCDEP) has been delivering CDEP services in the Cairns region since 2002. The number of CDEP participants has fluctuated from between 100 and over 500 since then and the various project sites have changed too.

With substantial changes to CDEP, the demise of ATSIC, more complex Commonwealth funding models, new governing legislation and the subsequent need to change our constitution and not least the prevailing economy and unemployment rates, there is a constant need to review the way in which CRCDEP operates.

We aim to maximise the opportunities available to deliver greater benefits to indigenous people in the region.

VISION:

Our people shall have meaningful and worthwhile employment which will contribute to strong economic growth and development.

We shall seek significant improvement in the economic, social, cultural, political and spiritual life and well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our region.

Indigenous Job Connections Board Members (elected at AGM 20/11/08 for two year terms):

Libby Morgan (Chair)

Kali Sailor (Secretary)

Vanessa Tongs (Treasurer)

Bevan Ah Kee,

Rhonda Duffin,

Rhonda Brim,

Tommy Brim,

Alf Richards,

Maria Richards,

Julie Go-Sam.



A belated welcome to WWASC CEO Kevin Wormald, who was appointed to the position in January this year. Kevin originally comes from the Tweed and Gold Coasts and has worked for mainstream Councils for many years – a little different from the rainforest experience he is having now!

Wujal Wujal set to benefit from new rent policy

On 1 July 2009, a new rent policy for Indigenous Council-owned housing commenced in Queensland's 34 discrete Indigenous communities.

The new policy is part of Queensland's one social housing system, which ensures that social housing rents are calculated and applied equitably across the board, no matter where people live.

The rents collected for social housing owned by Aboriginal Shire Councils, the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, will now reflect the councils' costs of providing housing.

It will help councils to carry out repairs and maintenance, as well

as upgrades to their housing stock. So this is a better and fairer system, which will benefit everyone involved, particularly tenants.

Councils' tenancy managers will work out how much rent is to be paid based on a household's assessable income and including any Centrelink Rent Assistance the tenants may receive.

Tenants will pay up to 25% of the combined assessable income for their household, but this amount will not exceed the maximum rent that has been set for each dwelling.

Tenants will receive a letter from the department or tenancy manager giving them two months' notice before a new

amount of rent will be charged.

The Department of Communities will continue to work closely with Indigenous Councils to ensure tenants and communities are aware of the new rent policy.

The department has also developed a series of fact sheets to assist Councils and tenants to understand the new policy and explain in greater detail how rent will be calculated.

These fact sheets will be available on the department's website after Wednesday 1 July at www.housing.qld.gov.au

This article was provided to the WWASC Newsletter by the Department of Communities (Housing and Homelessness Services)

The Department of Housing is now the Department of Communities

Following the State election in March this year, the Department of Housing joined with several other government agencies to form a new Department of Communities.

The former Department of Housing is now referred to as Housing and Homelessness Services within the Department of Communities. The new department will continue to provide housing assistance to Wujal Wujal through the Far North Queensland area office in Cairns. The area office will continue to be the first point of contact for tenants' housing needs, and all existing maintenance telephone numbers will stay the same. The new department is focusing on improving its services in regional Queensland. We look forward to continuing to build on the positive relationship we have with the Wujal Wujal community.

If you have any questions about the new department, please contact the Far North Queensland area office on 4039 8822.



We can make this work – Mayor

Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley said he was confident the community would help to ensure the Government's new rental policies worked in everybody's favour.

Mr Tayley said it was important to remember the new arrangements did not necessarily mean all rents would rise to a blanket 25 per cent across all household incomes.

"They've assured us that some income will not be included at all in the accounting, and that maximum rents per household will apply," he said. "When we met with the Minister she made it clear

to us that the policy won't change, it's going in across the State, and that's why the changes have been implemented. The way I understand it, each individual tenant will receive a rent assessment notice and they will be given 60 days notice of any changes, which is in line with the legislation."

He said anyone who commenced a new tenancy would go directly to the new policy.

"It's out of our hands, it's happening on every community and I have every confidence our community can pull together to make this work in everybody's favour," he said.

Focus on: Community Development...

Earlier this year a new Council position, Community Development Officer, was taken up by Garry Ashworth.

Mr Ashworth is already known to the community for his work over the past year or more co-ordinating the new Arts & Cultural Centre project, which is included within his new role's portfolio.

He now also works on coordination and fund-raising for community agencies run by Council including the Indigenous Knowledge Centre/library, kindy, HACCS and sports and recreation.

And he is supervisor to the community's new Alcohol Demand Reduction Coordinator Zanna Gibson and Life Promotion Officer Dawn Harrigan.

Mr Ashworth said his overall message to the community was to "be excited".

"Be excited and be prepared to put your hands up for the new jobs that will be available," he said.

"A lot of training and things will be going in place and we really encourage the community to take these jobs and run with them, or get involved with the administration of it all, so we can make it work for us as a community.

"Already over at the Arts & Cultural Centre we're looking at three trainers going in which will involve training for between one and three years for management and admin, and retail and hospitality which will include cooking and waiting tables.

"On top of that they will each have two trainees underneath them working to be qualified as well.

"Within the next two to three years we want whoever takes those positions to take over the roles and responsibility of running the arts centre.

"Our main goal is to create those jobs and there's also spin-off jobs



In April this year local artist Ross Ramsey spent nine weeks helping budding-painters in the community develop the skills and confidence to display and sell their artwork.

His work culminated in a small exhibition supported by Arts Queensland and attended by UMI Arts, based in Cairns.

Mr Ramsey, who owns the Black Cockatoo Gallery in Bloomfield, said he taught a group of about 12 artists concepts around preparation, sizing, shape and colour coordination.

"I'm very impressed with their passion and their commitment, and especially their commitment in a cultural sense," he said. "You can't teach that and it means that in a couple of years, if they keep going with it, they'll be artists in their own right, so they'll be confident enough to do things like this little exhibition here today."

Participant Glen Williams said he just used to "muck around at home" with pencils. "I wanted to work with colours and heard about Ross in camp so I just came over and asked him if I can throw some colours around," he said. "From there on in I just picked up and started drawing and I think I will be here for a while yet."

CDO Garry Ashworth, who initiated the classes, said the exhibition was a step in the right direction towards supporting the new Arts and Cultural Centre, expected to be open later this year.



such as gardening and cleaning."

Mr Ashworth has also facilitated the signing off of an Memorandum of Understanding between the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and the Police Citizenship Youth Welfare Association (PCYC) for delivery of sports and recreation services.

The MOU will see PCYC provide for an Indigenous Sports and Recreation Officer who will work collaboratively with the Council.

Both groups will work towards the formation of a committee, drawn from community members, to oversee activities.

He said his work was about building capacity and infrastructure to support the community.

"It's all working well and we hope to be offering lots more opportunities for our community to grow and develop over the next few months, I think it's an exciting time," he said.



*Above: Chavanne Nandy, Ava Doughboy & Roderick Nunn
enjoying an afternoon at the Sports & Rec Centre*

News from Wujal Wujal Community Care HACC, CACPS & DSQ

It is with great pleasure we take this opportunity to introduce new staff member, Brian Barry. Brian has many people he is related to at Wujal Wujal and has come here from Palm Island. His mother was Kuku Ngungal and is buried at the Wujal Wujal cemetery.

It is a wonderful addition to Wujal Wujal Community Care to have a male staff member. As much as we hate to admit it there are just some things males can do better than females! The people of Wujal Wujal may have noticed how neat and tidy our centre is looking lately thanks to Brian and the community service workers.

Brian's duties are many and varied. Some of these include keeping our outdoor area clean and tidy, keeping our gardens maintained, personal care for male clients, yard maintenance for clients who do not have young people living with them, rubbish removal and hygiene of bins and whatever else we need to keep services running well.

Brian brings with him many skills and personal assets. He has great respect for the old people and a will to do things for them. He also has experience in this area, as well as horticulture, workplace health and safety, ranger work and a keen interest in traditional culture. He is also very interested in looking after our cemetery and maintaining accurate records.

With all these gifts he makes a perfect addition to our staff and complements our existing services.

Brian is a hard and consistent worker. He often goes beyond the call of duty. An example of this

was on the day of a funeral he came early in the morning and hosed and cleaned all of our outdoor area.

So if you see Brian working around the place say good day. We appreciate his work and commitment.

From Coordinator, Sharon Anderson



Focus on: **Technical Services...**

A word from...

Technical Services Manager *Jaime Guedes*



Over 2008-2009 a series of programs were carried out to address waste management and water supply and we are at the tail end of these projects now.

One of them was the replacement of the water reticulation mains.

We have a new ground level reservoir that has been completed and commissioned, and a new river intake is also reaching practical completion, as is a new chemical storage building .

The Council has undertaken two projects in regard to water and waste with Council as the principal contractor.

Water meter connections that entailed the hook-ups from the reticulation mains to the houses, including the installation of water meters, was one of them.

The other project is the rehabilitation of the old dump site, which is currently in progress.

I have to congratulate the people that have been involved in these projects, they've done an excellent job.

All the reports that I have from the project and program managers say they are very happy with our performance.

Waste management is an ongoing issue for this Council .

At present all waste materials from Wujul Wujal are currently being transported to Cook shire waste facility.

When the Cook Shire waste facility closes, our waste material will have to be transported to the regional waste treatment facility in Mareeba – as you can appreciate the transport distance is a major issue.

We have been talking with all levels of government to see if we can find a more cost effective solution to address this.

We are also preparing a Strategic Asset Management Plan, what we call a SAMP, and a Drought Management Plan.

These are requirements under the Water Act 2000 we have to comply with and they will be presented very shortly to the Department of Natural Resources & Water for their acceptance.

In regards to Parks and Gardens Team , I commend them for their efforts because its a pleasure to travel through the community and not see papers, plastics and tall grass.

The weeds have been sprayed for the year and we have done our follow up spray.

The nursery is also running very well, and we have a number of landscaping projects.

Overall we are running well, we always want to go faster, but things have been progressing.

We are lifting the bar all the time and we will keep endeavouring to do so.

Wujal Wujal's Parks & Gardens Crew April 2009



Chase for funding – esp housing – continues

Council is actively pursuing funds for housing, says Tech Services Manager Jaime Guedes.

Working with Housing Coordinator Mark Zippel, Mr Guedes said they hoped to hear soon about funding for project applications currently under consideration by various government departments.

“We hope we receive some good feedback by the government for future funding soon,” Mr Guedes said.

Mr Zippel said two other programs, one federally-funded, the other state, were about to draw to a close but at least two others were on the funding-drawing board.

“QBuild work is still coming through and we’ve been upgrading the men’s centre,” he said.

“Over the last few years we’ve been doing a lot of renovations and as such the condition of the housing stock has improved. We’re coming to the end of the upgrade program and the only other work in progress is the NAHS renovations.

“The last four of those have been started and will finish that program.

“NAHS is National Aboriginal Health Strategy federally funded program started quite a few years back.

“We’ve done 13 renovations so far and with the last 4 will take it up to 17 houses.

“We are also pursuing some funding for the guest house upgrade.

“The building itself was built as a piggery and when that became defunct they stripped all the piggery gear out and made it into a dormitory accommodation.

“It’s now run down, there’s some fire safety issues associated with it, so plans have been drawn up to renovate it.”

He said as of last April they had a team of more than ten workers.

“We’ve got two carpenters, two apprentices, a trades assistant, truck driver and a labourer who are all local, as well as an electrician, plumber and two painters,” he said.





Pictured: Above: Essential Services Officers Clive Sykes, Ray Sycamore, Herbie Henderson & Rodney Denman. Left: A bit of fun was had with guest workers Charlene & Nikki in April when they were told full head and safety gear was required - in the hot sun and all! - to paint water meters and signage around the new water retic system throughout the community. Below: Water retic workers (it wasn't them, by the way!) Wellington Baird, Tony Farnell & Andrew Solomon



Health Centre reports no dengue or swine flu – with help from community & Council

Neither dengue fever nor swine flu have broken out in Wujal Wujal with thanks to the Health Care Centre, working in conjunction with the Council's Environmental Health Officer, doing all they can to educate the community on how to prevent such outbreaks.

Health Centre Director of Nursing Pete Fenton said the dengue checklist was still very important.

"There are over 900 cases in Cairns," he said.

"It's important that the community picks up on these issues so the Council and our community health workers have worked together on that.

"It's still important that everybody discards and wipes dry all their pot plant and other dishes or any other water catching apparatus sitting outside.

"The second issue is the Swine Flu outbreak.

"The most important thing to understand is that with all flu's there's two very simple principles – it doesn't matter whether you have a flu or haven't – always wash your hands.

"Secondly, you should use coughing or sneezing protocols which are putting your hand over your mouth and then again, washing your hands.

"It's very important not to cough or sneeze on people, and to remind others if they do cough on you to put their hand over their mouth and to teach your children.

"There is a lot of people here at the moment with the flu, but most flu's are regular flu's or standard coughs and colds.

"The normal treatment is good healthy nutritional intakes to keep your immune system up – fruit and vegies, a little bit of meat every now and again, keep your fluids up.

"If you have the flu and you're getting a sore throat or getting a bit woozy in the chest or major symptoms



Health Centre staff members Polly Fenton, Dr Margaret Scanlan, Alice Tayley, Danielle Weise & Pete Fenton

come up to the clinic and let us have a look at you.

"If you feel any form of worry concern or misgivings about your flu cold symptoms come up to the clinic.

"It's highly unlikely, we're very lucky in Wujal to be isolated but we are exposed to the tourists coming through so we do keep a little eye out."

Mr Fenton also said two new permanent nursing staff have been on board now for a few months.

"Polly's been here for a while, she is my wife and she has now taken on the Clinical Nurse Consultant position which is the senior nursing position below myself," he said.

"She held this position previously in Aurukun.

"The second person to be appointed a position is young Virginia Kavanagh, she is our Clinical Nurse Consultant and is now in a permanent full-time position."

Mr Fenton also wanted to remind the community about Child Health Day, held at the clinic every Wednesday.

"We have a visiting Doctor and Child Health Nurse who work closely with Polly and Child Health Worker Alice Tayley and we're getting a wonderful response from the community and the mums," he said.

"The kids are coming up for immunisations and checkups and health checks and so forth.

"We're also looking forward to having a Mums and Bubs day soon.

"I congratulate the community for participating."



MEANWHILE Environmental Health Officer Bobby Kulka said apart from working with the Health Centre on dengue control, the Council had also done some work in partnership with Cook Shire Council on weed control.

He also said a new Animal Control Officer was due to start soon.

"And another vet visit will be due soon, so keep an eye out around the community for signs," he said.

"They are coming monthly now, we're trying to get all the dogs fixed up."

He said the hydrobath, outside the community store, was also happening every week in an attempt to control fleas and mange.

The hydrobath is an initiative of the community store, funded by community donations, and free to residents.

A quick word from...

Constable Mick Rumble

The most significant issue I see is the kids not going to school.

If parents want children to have a successful career in life, they need to have a solid education, that's very important.

The kids are missing too much so we're working closely with the Justice Group and the school to improve attendance levels – at the moment they're not good enough. Parents need to be aware that it's their responsibility, all the excuses in the world aren't going to educate their children.

They need to make sure lunches are ready and the kids are dressed and ready for the bus every single day. If kids are not attending school parents are liable to be prosecuted and can be fined up to \$900 under the Education Act.

On other matters, we find ourselves telling Wujal Wujal people to wear seat belts, make sure cars are registered – no bald tyres, no panels hanging off and that sort of thing – all the time.

Our cars have to be safe because our roads aren't safe, so it's more important than running a vehicle on a bitumen road in town.

Licensing is another issue, we seem to have lots of people who drive without them who then find themselves in front of the courts, which is no good.

It only prolongs the time without a license, so it's really good to see Queensland Transport here in town to help with that.

In relation to grog, the drinkers in the community need to accept that Wujal Wujal is subject to an Alcohol Management Plan and the reason for that is that in the past people haven't handled alcohol in a socially responsible way.



The AMP is not going to change until behaviours in relation to grog change, so it's important to know you can't bring grog here, and your relatives who come to see you know that as well.

One of our primary focuses at the Police Station here is to keep grog out and we do our best.

It would be nice to get help from the community in relation to that as well.

If people know there's people bringing grog into town they should tell us when they see us.

We're approachable and if people do have information for us, they should know we don't go carting yarns about who is telling us what, our goal here is to make the community a better place for all of us, not to make life hard for people.

The community wanted the Police Station here, they asked for it and us to be here, so here we are, I live in the community, and that's what we're here for.

And finally, Sergeant Roberts and Jenae, his wife, have brought home a little baby girl called Saje in April – all is well and we want to congratulate them and wish them the best.

CJG Report

The Justice Group offers a service to the community of Wujal Wujal in giving people a local voice in the courts system, help with organising the payment of their fines, access to legal services and access to identification documents through Births, Deaths and Marriages.

We have recently added three new services:

1. Community Service with one of our justice members taking on the role of Community Service Supervisor, devising projects in conjunction with CDEP and Correctional Services.

2. Murri Court where justice group members sit on the bench with the Magistrate and offer help and advice to offenders. This has been well received by both the Magistrate and the community.

3. An advisory group consisting of two local Aboriginal Health Workers, a counsellor, Life Promotion and two justice group members sitting with one set of parents at a time to tell them about the services available to them in the community because they may be having problems with alcohol, domestic violence, gambling and parenting.

The overall operation of the Justice Group is becoming more clearly defined having worked as a team for a period of nine months.

We are looking to increase our membership so that we have a representative from all the main clan groups and families in the community.

Alcohol in the community remains our biggest problem.

**CJG Coordinator
Joan Beacroft**

ATSI Drivers License program offers testing in Wujal Wujal



Local testing for licenses from motor vehicles to heavy combination vehicles with the **ATSI Drivers License program is set to become a regular event for Wujal Wujal residents, depending on demand.**

Department of Transport & Main Roads' Driver Examiner Sandy Beckett (pictured on the far left

with Alison Evans, Pam Madsen & Marita Stecko) said they would visit the community on an "as need" basis. "We're here to extend our services out to the communities, for people who would have to travel a long way to get drivers licenses and renewals," he said. "We've travelled to a lot of the Cape communities."

Council recognition for Oz Tag team's local success

In April this year Wujal Wujal's locally successful Oz Tag team travelled to the Gold Coast to compete in a state wide tournament with the help of Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and the PCYC.

Cr Talita Nandy said it was the first time a rep side from Wujal had competed down that way.

"Council wants to support our players 110 per cent," she said.

"It's now Council policy to support individuals or groups to get to a higher level in their sport. "It's the same for everyone, it's Council policy to support teams and players who have a track record and who want to travel to compete.

"We have a lot of talented kids up this way and it's good that they're being recognised now."



Recognition has come at an early age for some rising Wujal Wujal sports stars!

In March this year Patrick Nandy travelled with an AFL Indigenous rep side to play in Papua New Guinea. According to news reports at the time young 'PJ' emerged as a clear leader for his team, known as the 'Flying Boomerangs'.



***ON THIS
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Kids &
parents
enjoying the
facilities
at the
Community
Hall / Sports
& Rec Centre
last April***