



WUJAL WUJAL ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL Newsletter December 2009

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Mayor appeals for community feedback on 40-year lease proposals

The big issue around government proposals to set up 40-year-leases for homes in Wujal Wujal is land tenure and Council's number one priority is to talk to the community about it, says WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley.

Mr Tayley said the Council had yet to sign up for the system and at this stage was working with other Aboriginal Shire Councils to seek legal advice.

At a round table meeting in Cairns last month Indigenous Mayors reaffirmed their commitment to improving housing on communities, but asked the Government for at least four extra months to consider the deal so the full impact of the system could be adequately assessed.

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, Queensland Indigenous communities were given a December deadline to sign the over control of their land.

In exchange they were to be eligible for more than \$1 billion in social housing funding over the next decade which would deliver 1,100 new homes and the upgrade of a further 1,200 by 2018 across all communities in Queensland.

"It's a catch 22 - you're damned if you do and damned if you don't - but I think we need to look at the fine print before we sign," Mr Tayley said.

"Council had some concerns and the CEO gave us advice on a few of those things, so we've actually got points we want to look at in regards to the proposal as well.

"Our number one priority is to talk with our people here in Wujal Wujal.

"We need to come to an agreement where the government is happy and the community is happy.

"At the end of the day we as a community will be affected by this.

"We want to consult with the community and Traditional Owners to make sure they're okay with Council going ahead with these leases."

Mr Tayley urged the community to keep an eye on notice boards for any community meetings coming up to ensure they had a chance to hear what was going on and to have their say.



They did it!!! 2009 year 12 graduates celebrate with community

Wujal Wujal's Christmas, end-of-year, Q150, arts centre celebration party held earlier this month was the perfect opportunity to recognise our outstanding young people's achievements at school and in the community over the past year. For more + pics see pages 7 & 16...



A quick word from...

WWASC CEO Kevin Wormald

Financial matters are always among the highest concerns of any Council, and 2009, I am pleased to report, provided an excellent outcome for Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council.

Our audit was passed as 'unqualified' which means we received a total clean bill of health for the first time in six years.

The result was met with a high level of satisfaction from the Department of Infrastructure & Planning, who helped Council achieve this goal.

This year's Annual Report is also a credit to everyone at Council, and since its completion I have taken the opportunity to send a copy to the Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Desley Boyle.

Reaching this position over the past six years has been at times difficult and expensive.

We have strived to keep costs down and now we are in a much stronger position to comply with state government legislation, since we have become part of the mainstream model of governance in Queensland.

Council also participated in Performance Assessments through the year, and I am pleased to say we received a complete tick of approval in that area too. The first assessment was completed by June 30.

The purpose of that assessment was to see how we were complying with the Local Government Act in relation to financial and strategic management, and also in relation to the conduct of our council and its meetings.

All of these tests were passed.

More good news relates to other policies we have worked hard at implementing and achieving to a high standard.

These include policies relating to councillors, covering code of conduct, training, expense reimbursement and remuneration.

This result has come about with the co-operation of staff, council members, and its leadership.

It goes without saying that organisations like WWASC can only succeed from having a strong, skilled and dedicated staff behind it.

Although not a requirement related to Government compliance, Council has taken the step to start initiating the 'High Five' staff development plan,



which will be brought into place during 2010.

The purpose of the plan is to have a system which recognises value in its employees.

This will be done by implementing a set of codes and systems so that employees know they are a valued part of the Council structure.

It will also make transparent their entitlements and obligations to Council.

Through High Five we are hoping for improvements in productivity, attendance and harmony in our workplace.

An important part of this process will be to provide employees with a better understanding of their jobs and expected level of performance.

Workplace health and safety issues will also be put in place to help this process along.

I can see that this is an ambitious task for a small community, but it's a step we need to take and the Council is right behind it.

So these were some of our highlights and immediate plans for the future as we look ahead to 2010.

On behalf of the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council, I would like to thank Councillors and staff members for their hard work and dedication throughout 2009, and wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Strong demand for fresh food from Outback Stores

Wujal Wujal's retail store has been in the hands of Outback Stores relief manager Mike King for the past month or so while Council tenders for a full time replacement.

"I have just come from a little community in the Northern Territory called Manyalluk on the southern border of Nitnuluk National Park, which is the traditional name for Katherine Gorge," Mr King said.

"Prior to that I was about four or five months with Outback Stores travelling to different places as a relief manager."

He said Outback Stores' mission was to improve the health and wellbeing in Aboriginal communities.

"Nutrition and healthy food options are our priority," Mike said.

"We've introduced fresh sandwiches here for lunch and we're gradually phasing out the fried food options."

He said the changes were so popular that the store's staff were working harder to keep up.

"Reatha makes the sandwiches and she looks after the fresh produce and that sort of stuff."

Mr King said he was happy to see so many people



coming to the store.

"We filled a need that obviously wasn't identified before, people actually do want fresh type food and a different variety," he said.

"In the first five weeks I've been here we have increased fruit and vege sales by 50 per cent so it's very reassuring.

"We've even sold bean shoots and alfalfa, the kind of items you wouldn't think would sell...so that's been really good and really satisfying."

He said he enjoyed Wujal Wujal – "it's great, a top place" – and was keen to see the outcome of the tendering process.

Boundary changes may be on track for New Year

Discussions between Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and Cairns Regional Council have resulted in an agreement between the two Shires to work towards boundary changes.

WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley said the issue of boundaries had been on the agenda for a long time.

"Cairns Regional Council has been fully supportive," he said.

"The Southside Area's lots 8, 9 and 10 are freehold land which the Council owns but which are also within the Cairns boundary.

"We've been paying rates on that land for many years now, including to the previous Douglas Shire

Council, and hopefully we will soon have a result.

"We're now at the stage where we have agreed with the CRC to put in a joint application to Local Government Minister Desley Boyle.

"Hopefully we'll be hearing some positive news about that soon, maybe in the new year."

Council may take on unwanted horses

Taking on the hard work behind a growing horse problem in Wujal Wujal is Animal Management Officer Ed Madsen.

Mr Madsen said several horses were running wild on shire-controlled land, so he has taken steps to set up yards and paddocks to break in horses left in the community. But he said he would prefer to find the owners first.

"First you've got to find out who actually owns the horses," he said. "From there one option the council is looking at is buying the horses back from the community." Mr Madsen said there were many mixed issues with the horses.

"There are community members here that own horses on the land, so it's just a matter of sorting out those issues and then we can go ahead with the program."

He said the former cattle property Zigzag station, now owned by the council, was being considered as a horse training area.



Focus on: Community Development...

... FROM Community Development Officer **GARRY ASHWORTH**

HARMS REDUCTION

We have some money now from the Department of Communities for what's called Harms Reduction. There's two sorts of money in that, ongoing and one-off.

We've been working with the Men's Group on things like family fishing trips with some of that money. It means they can do the fishing trip, but it comes with conditions such as they have to include a family member, such as a son or nephew.

So it's a family outing, not just the "boys" going fishing! The aim is to try and get family units closer together.

We've been doing similar things with the Women's Group. They've had trips away where they have to take family with them as well, and following these things up with their own seminars and things.

With the one-off money we've been buying things like pool tables for the Men's Group and there's also Women's Group activities around the market gardens, so we've been able to put some money into that.

We can also make one-off payments for things like camping gear.

That money comes through every month and we work through the Council to put the activities together for each group according to what they want.

RIBS

Our radio station is doing extremely well.

We have five people working there at the moment, and they've had some further training with Triple A (Tiga Bayles) and Qld Remote Indigenous Media (GRAM).

They've also been involved in the computer training in the Indigenous Knowledge Centre with Work Ventures. Hopefully all this will mean they step up from just being announcers to actually being field reporters, putting programs together and all sorts of different activities such as archiving and things like that.

It's great to see they're excited about going to work and taking some leadership with what they're doing as well.



*RIBS workers Noelana Flinders & Meshach
Friday with CDO Garry Ashworth*

KINDY

The kindy is doing fantastically well, especially with a grant we have to do some upgrades and renovations to the grounds and the building.

It's been fully painted, inside and out, there's new air conditioning, new staff toilets and showers and other bits and pieces going on.

The windows on the house itself have also been refitted, which will help with security, so that's all been exciting.

The Director, Coraleen Shipton, is doing really well, and she will have a new assistant starting with her in the new year.

Her position is funded by the Creche & Kindergarten Association, the kindy itself is run by the Council, but it's paid for elsewhere, which is great.

ARTS CENTRE

The Arts Centre has been a struggle, but Dawson's Engineering recently won the tender for the building component of the \$1.4 million project.

They'll start building this month and it should be finished by the end of May or June next year.

We've also picked up some extra funding for internal fittings.

That's going to have a big impact on the community, we've already had a lot of skilling up in pottery, jewellery-making and painting for when it opens.

News from Wujal Wujal Community Care

HACC, CACPS & DSQ

From Coordinator, Sharon Anderson

As 2009 is nearly over, I pause to reflect on the year we have had. There have been many achievements, happy times and sad times. The staff at Wujal Wujal Community Care is proud of their care and of the services we provide to the frail elderly, younger disabled and the carers of the Bloomfield River Valley.

This year Sonya Doughboy, Irene Walker, Anna Baird and Gladys Friday successfully completed their certificate three and we are very proud of their achievement. This certificate was done over fourteen months on the community with the teacher Sandy Kelly coming monthly. As qualifications are important to fully understand and do the work we do, this is a major quality improvement for our service. Staff hope to continue to study in 2010. The four staff who completed their studies now have real jobs and are no longer on CDEP!

Many of our clients have had remarkable recoveries after operations and strokes and we realize what an effort by the person in particular, their family, the clinic and our service makes to help this happen. We also reflect on the success some of our clients have had in continuing to live on our community. One client in particular a year ago was told she would never be coming back and would be cared for in a home. Well she came back, became a client and with the support of her family, the clinic and our service she is enjoying her life here at Wujal and will continue to do so.

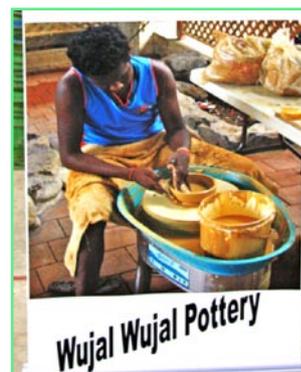
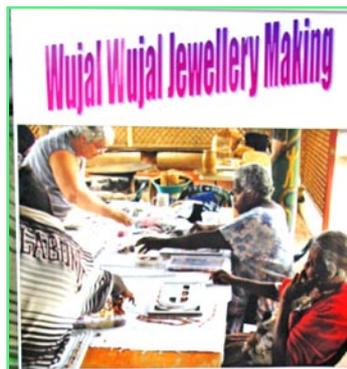
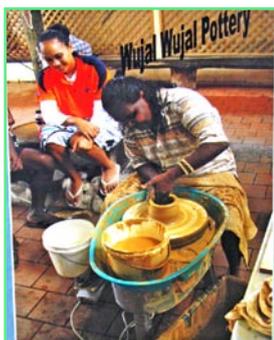
Sadly, but fondly, we remember those who we lost. We feel privileged to have been able to assist them and to be part of their lives.

It has been another busy year and as the New Year approaches we look forward to continuing to serve our clients in 2010 and to continue to improve the quality of our service.

From Sharon and all the staff at Wujal Wujal Community Care we wish you a happy peaceful Christmas and may the New Year be productive and positive. To all the wonderful people at Wujal Wujal we thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship.



Community Care staff: at back Irene Walker & Sonia Doughboy, middle Sharon Anderson & Gladys Friday and in front Anna Baird & Junibel Doughboy.



IKC hosts Work Ventures computer training



*Above: Standing Shontell Walker, Penny Winkle & Virginia Piccone
Seated Jarret Bassani, Joash Minniecon & Lyman Flinders*

Based on the success of a computer repair course at Hopevale, the Wujal community have their chance to acquire new skills through a computer course being conducted in Indigenous Knowledge Centre.

Work Ventures Repair Centre Division Manager Ralph Gatt said the Personal Computer (PC) course was aimed at giving the Wujal Wujal community the skills to fix computers without having to ask for help outside of the community. He said the end result would establish a pool of grassroots community-based basic repair and maintenance skills for the community to draw on.

Mr Gatt said one of the many rewards for finishing the course was a PC to keep at the end of the course.

He said the whole thing was totally practical with no written exams, just a hands-on test finding and fixing hardware faults and basic operating system faults at the end of it.

“If they pass that, the PC is theirs,” he said.

A month or so later, students return for another week of the course where they learn more advanced fault finding and file formatting.

“And again, if they pass the next step of the course, they get to put a DVD player in their PC.”

Mr Gatt said there were no time-keeping or attendance sheets.

“You turn up and you pay attention, you’ll learn,” he said.

He said another aspect to the course was confidence-building.

“What we’re doing is two things actually, one is to run the PC course, but the other is about self-esteem, confidence building and we really target youth at risk,” he said.

The multi-media aspect of having more computers and digital cameras in remote communities has excited Work Ventures Social Program Manager Virginia Piccone.

She said the second part of the course even gave students the chance to make their own movies.

“We work with digital cameras and take pictures, make movies and then work on digital programs with music,” she said, adding that students were free to make a video of their own choice.

Work Ventures will be offering more courses in 2010 in Wujal Wujal and throughout northern and central Australia.

“We’re going to be in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Darwin next year,” Virginia said.

For more information, check out Work Ventures at www.workventures.com.au.

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” ~ Nelson Mandela

Wujal Wujal’s end of year Q150 arts centre celebration held in early December was a big hit with music, dance, food and, of course, Santa’s presentations to all those children who have been good this year!

The night was a combination event which included laptop presentations to five kids who had successfully completed an Incentive Program to stay in school and certificate presentations for the record number of students who completed Year 12 this year.

Mayor Desmond Tayley said Council had also supported the event to show their appreciation to the community “for a job well done” over the past year.

“It was a very good night and I’d like to thank the Deputy Mayor Talita Nandy, Garry, Wendy and all the other people who helped organise it...thank you very much to them,” he said.

Community Development Officer Garry Ashworth said it was a great party.

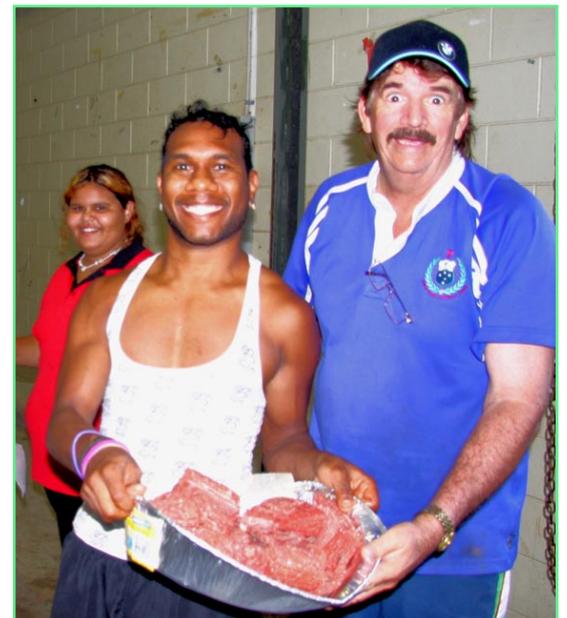
“It was absolutely wonderful, and they had wonderful prizes that inspired,” he said.

“Not just the dancers but all the people from the school that had recognition of their achievements at school, which I think was a great recognition for the community at large.

“It was something that was a milestone for the community.

“I think they realised that there are rewards for doing good things and I think the community came together a lot.”

“In a nutshell it was fantastic, a lot of hard work but it was fantastic.”



Above: Mayor Desmond Tayley on the night; Right: Chief Renatta Williams, Derek Beaut & Garry Ashworth; Below: Incentives Program recipients with Work Ventures staff Virginia Piccone, Joash Minniecon & Ralph Gatt (far right).



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

... FROM Technical Services Manager JAIME GUEDES

One of the highlights of the past six months was the recognition for the great work that we already knew the Parks and Gardens team was achieving.

Wujal Wujal won the Litter Prevention Award, at the annual Tidy Town Award for South East Cape York Communities.

This was part of the Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland campaign.

Recognition like that, and in comparison with the other communities around us is a first for us, and a sign that we are actually going forward.

I'm very happy and want to congratulate the gang for the Award.



Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes (on the right) with his new PA Sandy Gurton

In other areas, the fire season is upon us and we have been involved with fire breaks and maintaining and opening drains for the wet season.

The rehabilitation of the old land fill (dump) has also been finalised.

The Council was the principal contractor for that project.

The inspections were carried out and everyone was pleased with how the project was handled and delivered.

So was I and I really want to congratulate the road gang which was involved with that, especially for the professional way in which they delivered.

There is also revegetation, the grass is actually growing so that means it's probably much wrapped up.

We have completed some roadworks on the south side and that was out of some monies allocated to us from the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) and under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery arrangements.

We are using these works to further train and upskill our road gang.

Some work sealing the area in front of the future arts centre has commenced, and we've already created a bit of a car park which also compliments part of the training we've been doing.

The team is fixing up some of the erosion we had through the last wet season.

All of these jobs now are wrapping up, we have to bring the machines home because the wet season is starting, and that means we're going to be busy with maintaining and cleaning of the drains here in Wujal Wujal.

Finally I'd just like to say Season Greetings to everyone and thank you very much for all your efforts and being part of the Team.

Housing team staying busy

As Wujal Wujal's National Aboriginal Housing Strategy (NAHS) renovations come to a close Housing Coordinator Mark Zippel says his team will still be busy.

Mr Zippel said in the immediate future it may only be upgrades, but there are changes in the wind.

"There's no new housing in the immediate future but hopefully there will be new housing further down the track," he said.

"They've been changing the way they're going to deliver funding so we've just got to wait until they get sorted and then we can start doing things."

In the meantime, he said, there was always QBuild.

"QBuild have taken over the project management of all the upgrades," he said.

"Previously we did our own project management but now QBuild will be the project managers and we'll just price it and do it."

He said the team had remained largely unchanged for the year.

"They seem to be going really well at the moment," he said.

"We've still got a good team of workers, we're just trying to keep the work flowing to keep them all gainfully employed.

"We always do manage to have work, we've got a lot of side projects like the toilet block at the hall there."



He also said last month Housing Officer Anthea McGreen (*pictured above with Mr Zippel*) finished her Certificate IV in Social Housing.

Ms McGreen said she was happy to help anyone in the community who had any housing issues.

WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley said Ms McGreen had 'done a great job'.

"She's been doing well, she had a lot of involvement working with the housing and rental collection and she's been working in the council reception area too, so she's come a long way with her commitment," he said.

He also said renovations had been going well.

"The building team has been doing a wonderful job," he said.

Essential Services staying on track

"Wujal Wujal's state-of-the-art sewerage system is working well," Essential Services Officer Graham Harris (*left*) says – apart from just the one small part causing continued problems.

"All the samples sent to Cairns for testing, passed with flying colours," he said.

In other areas, he said the new water reticulation system was almost complete, now running at about 98 per cent.

"We've got the brand new intake, that's finished now," he said.

"There are fewer leaks in the water lines, and that's a big thing."

"Even though we've had a few little defects with it, they've been fixed very quickly, and that's good."



Smooth change over for CDEP workers

Jobs in Wujal Wujal have been hard to come by, but since the start of the Job Creations program earlier this year, Cairns Regional CDEP coordinator Josh Paterson says he has seen the number of Indigenous people employed in the community rise by about a third.

All up more than 20 people have been employed out of Job Creations over the past six months and Mr Paterson said it was encouraging to see most of them had held their positions for all that time.

“Job Creations was a program specifically designed to move CDEP positions out of community service jobs that should have always been paid at appropriate award conditions,” he said.

“So it involves government-funded positions like aged care, municipal works, library and kindergarten – the program identified these positions and found funding so they could be transformed

into ‘real’ jobs.

“All of these roles within the community should have been real jobs for the past 20 years.”

He said the government funding meant Council was able to afford to employ more people, which had changed the mechanics of the community.

“It’s created aspiration for participants to move into these jobs if vacancies arise, and it’s been a really positive move,” he said.

He said he wanted to give WWASC credit for the way they had embraced the recent CDEP change over.

“The change over has been

really well-run from Council’s perspective, they did a really good job of being co-operative and going along with all the changes that needed to be made,” he said.

“And the people who participated in CDEP absorbed the changes really well.”

He said there were still some issues about people knowing exactly what their responsibilities were as NewStart participants.

“There is still some confusion about whether to keep putting NewStart forms in or not when they come on to CDEP.

“But generally it’s been a smooth transition and a positive one – it’s all going pretty good.”



Above: Many of the curtains going up around the community have been made by Denise Bassani & Vikki Burrows. Holding some of them here are Dianne Winkle, Stella Bassani, Charmaine Nandy with Cynthia Bassani and Vikki Burrows in the back row.

Right: CDEP workers Anne Nunn & Glenda Chookie



CDEP nursery crew 'blitzing' Wujal Wujal's back yards

An ongoing CDEP success story is a growing thing or two out of the Wujal Wujal nursery. CDEP Project Supervisor Charlie Giffard is behind a new initiative aimed at giving the community a fresh look in their homes and back yards.

He said the 'Backyard Blitz' project involved CDEP participants using plants from the nursery to 'do up' people's yards.

"About half a dozen people working in the nursery are involved in going around to people's places and planting new trees and shrubs," he said.

"We're using some exotic ornamental plants but we're also trying to emphasise local native plants to use as ornamentals and for bush tucker."

But the project doesn't stop at planting and pruning, there's a cleaning crew as well.

"The crews can go in and clean people's houses on the inside and on the outsides, clean the gutters out and do whatever people particularly want done to their house or their yard, the yard especially," he said.

"We're building a pretty good stock here in the nursery and the cemetery crew are doing a great job as well."



Above: Vincent Tayley, Eric Murgha, Bobby Ball & Charlie Giffard working at the Nursery

CRCDEP coordinator Josh Paterson said it was great to see CDEP having a positive impact on people's community and personal living conditions.



Above: the rest of the crew: Ivan Bird, Eric Murgha, Charlie Giffard, Vincent Tayley, Andrew Yougie, Harold Tayley & Bobby Ball

Focus on: Council Staff...



Since Nerida Carr started working in Wujal she has taken on several roles and enjoyed every challenge.

"Initially I was in the bank and post office on a temporary basis to see if it could be operated any more efficiently, doing things like surveying customer numbers at peak hours, that type of thing," she said.

One of her more recent challenges as Finance Officer for the Council was to sort out duplication between different community services.

"There was some duplication of service between the agency and the supermarket in selling power cards and phone cards and so on," she said.

"We decided it was probably better to have them all in the one place and just leave the bank and postal agencies to their contracted functions, which is Commonwealth Bank customers and the Australia Post Community Mail agency."

Two young women, Nikita Walker and Keira Creek (*pictured above*) have now been employed as trainees under CDEP. "They've taken up the challenge enormously," Ms Carr said.

"They rarely need assistance nowadays and this is their first employment." She said similar jobs in the 'mainstream' world would be full-time starting positions for people in customer service or banking.

"So they're doing really well," she said. Ms Carr said she also lends the occasional hand with training while she attends to other important roles.

"With the Council now I also have the portfolios for IT and telephones, and we're just arranging an upgrade of our IT system for increased internet speed," she said.

"Our internet service comes and goes just as a result of being in a remote location so that in itself is challenging as well."

'Making life a bit easier' is the motto WWASC's Life Promotions Officer Dawn Harrigan has adopted in her role to coordinate help for those in need.

Although she often helps to sort out some of the 'little fights and heated arguments' that happen in the community from time to time, she also has a broader role of helping people into the care of specialists.

She says much of her work is generated from court orders, helping to direct those in trouble to training programs and counselling.

The work is mostly funded by the mental health branch of Disabilities Queensland, offering counselling services for teenagers and young adults.

Since taking up this position in March this year, Ms Harrigan has brought specialists in parenting and anger management to Wujal Wujal for community workshops.

"These are the things that people often need a little bit

Life Promotions Officer: Dawn Harrigan



of help with," she said.

"I also run a lot of programs for the wider community as well so that no-one misses out."

She refers challenging cases to the mental health team in Cooktown.

However, most problems can be handled in Wujal Wujal within the range of services coordinated by Ms Harrigan.

"We've got a lot of services right here," she said.

"If I can't help, I'll put them on to someone that can so we come to some sort of solution."

Based at the RTC building, which she describes as the 'blue' building, she says anyone is free to drop in.

"We also use outside counsellors as well like Lifeline, Relationships Australia and the bush crisis line."

She said those in need should feel free to use the phone in her office at any time.

Lifeline's **13 11 14** service is staffed by trained volunteer telephone counsellors who are ready to take calls 24-hour a day, any day of the week from anywhere in Australia. These volunteers operate from Lifeline Centres in every State and Territory around Australia. Lifeline answers around 450,000 calls per year from people needing emotional support.

Anyone can call Lifeline. The 13 11 14 service offers a counselling service that respects everyone's right to be heard, understood and cared for. We also provide information about other support services that are available in communities around Australia.

Somewhere in Australia there is a new call to Lifeline every minute. People call about many things and needs of callers may vary across

genders and age groups and between rural and metropolitan areas.

Lifeline telephone counsellors are ready to talk and listen no matter how big or how small the problem might seem. They are trained to offer emotional support in times of crisis or when callers may be feeling down.

Sometimes it helps to just know that someone is listening, that you never have to be alone

If you feel that you might need telephone counselling, you can call about anything that might be troubling you.

If you feel you or someone you know may be at risk or just need someone to listen, call Lifeline now on 13 11 14.

<http://www.lifeline.org.au>

Big Andre leaves big 'feat' steps

Some kids in Wujal Wujal may not have seen a train before, but they did see the 'A-Train' earlier this year – the nickname of the former Brisbane Bullets basketball star Andre Moore.

Senior Constable Mick Rumble organised the visit last month as part of an informal program to get local teenagers into organised team sports like basketball.

Mick runs basketball and other activities at the community hall on Tuesday nights.

Earlier this year he applied for funding to get big Andre and his youth-oriented 'Big Feat Program' to Wujal Wujal.

And yes, Andre does have big feet – size 17 in fact!

And 'feat' is not a spelling error.

As the name suggests, Andre's challenge goes out to young people to go beyond just playing sport – to achieve a 'big feat' in life.

Mick said Andre talked to the kids about healthy lifestyles and healthy choices, and that they can make something of their lives.

"Our regional office provided the funding to get him up here for that program," Mick said.

"Lots of kids participated, and even a couple of adults turned up, which was really nice to see."

The visit, clinics and talks from Andre wrapped up with a sausage sizzle on the Friday night, and Mick recalls everything about the Big Feat program was a great success.

Meanwhile, he has kept the Tuesday night basketball running since Andre's visit.

"From a policing point of view, when kids are idle and don't have things to do, they get into mischief," Mick said.

"By doing the basketball



competition we're hoping to achieve several things.

"One is improving our morale and rapport with the kids and the community, and also to provide an activity which diverts them from getting into trouble – and to make friends with them."

Mick says he is keen to keep it going and to get the word around that it's still on.



A Christmas message

From the Mayor

Wujal Wujal

Councillors



We'd like to say a big thank you in general to the staff, they've been really great.

I think without their support throughout the year, a lot of what we have done wouldn't have been possible.

I'd also like to thank my colleagues, our Councillors, who have had a good year as well.

They're been very busy doing a lot of training and getting involved so we're starting to gel together as a team, which is good to work with.

And the community for their support in regards to the various projects we've done throughout the year so thank you to them for their efforts and understanding.

I hope we can continue to work with the community and Traditional Owners as a team into 2010, that would be great. **So from all of us, I will finally wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope you all enjoy your holidays.**

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2010

(All welcome)

MONTH:	DATES:	TIME:
January	Tuesday - 19 - 2010	8.30am
February	Tuesday - 16 - 2010	8.30am
March	Tuesday - 16 - 2010	8.30am
April	Tuesday - 20 - 2010	8.30am
May	Tuesday - 18 - 2010	8.30am
June	Tuesday - 15 - 2010	8.30am
July	Tuesday - 20 - 2010	8.30am
August	Tuesday - 17 - 2010	8.30am
September	Tuesday - 21 - 2010	8.30am
October	Tuesday - 19 - 2010	8.30am
November	Tuesday - 16 - 2010	8.30am
December	Tuesday - 14 - 2010	8.30am



Christmas 2009!!!

