



WUJAL WUJAL ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL Newsletter September 2010

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New ways of doing housing business ready to roll



A new era in housing and infrastructure will soon be dawning in Wujal Wujal as the Council continues the process of signing off on each stage of the new social housing package.

Mayor Desmond Tayley said he was satisfied the package had the support of traditional owners and community people. He said he was also happy that the government had listened to, and taken on board initial concerns they had raised about the package.

"It's been very positive and things are progressing well" he said. "I still want to encourage Traditional Owners and community to come forward and be part of the process and, you know, see the changes that they want to see, not just government changes being implemented into the community. We've set up a technical working group (*pictured above*) which includes the Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program Office, QBuild, the Council, and other the state and federal government agencies, amongst others. Hopefully this time next year we should see some sort of infrastructure delivered if things go ahead as planned."

Executive Director of the Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program Office Allen Cunneen said they had held the first of what was called a 'technical working group' meeting, which was about all three tiers of government – local, state and federal – working together.

"We're all working together for the delivery of

infrastructure into the community," he said. "The role of my office is to pull those players together to make sure we have a co-ordinated approach towards delivering several different programs. We're looking forward to clearing up the land tenure issues and that relate from not having proper surveying or a town plan. Part of our process is to start to put surveyors into communities to clear up the land boundaries and also co-ordinate other agencies coming into a community. We've also called for tenders for a town planner. That's so it's all done in an efficient way while we also engage with Councils on training and development. The end result is we have a more co-ordinated and efficient way to deliver government services from an infrastructure and planning point of view. Also hopefully over the years, this will give more opportunity for Indigenous employment long term. We're also moving forward with the roll-out of the new housing. The Council has agreed to a 40-year leasing package over the land which makes home ownership an eventual outcome from all this."

Mr Tayley said it was agreed the group would set up a team to provide information to the community about each stage of the package.

Mayor Desmond Tayley says he has been encouraged to see people working in the community's new garden and the completion of various other "little" projects the Council has worked hard to secure.

"It's encouraging to see and hopefully it's a sign of good things to come," he said.

"Just looking at some of the projects Gary and Nikki have been working on has been good.

"And there are good people working around them and supporting them.

"As all of these little projects come to fruition we know it's all been worth it, you know.

"You see the community out there, they are a lot happier and more people are volunteering.



"People are taking pride in their community now, which is good.

I think we are leading the way in many of the things we are doing."

A quick word from...

WWASC CEO Kevin Wormald

In the last newsletter we talked about our Council Staff Development Program.

The objective of the program is to value our employees, to see they're productive and to improve their performance and contentment in the workplace. In order to do this a number of things have to happen.

Firstly staff need to be inducted correctly into the organisation so they know what the Council's values and objectives are, the purpose of their work, how valuable it is and what is being achieved.

And we had workplace meetings, and we found that our employees appreciated that and responded to that.

One of the next phases to move on to is health and safety in the workplace.

Very few, if any, Aboriginal

Councils have a workplace health and safety system in place but we have just started one and we are being used as a model for the other Aboriginal communities.

The system we're using is called Safe Plan.

Through this we have a Safety Committee which has management and employee representatives on it.

It's important to remember this doesn't mean the role of management has been changed in any way, it simply means management has an additional responsibility to have the correct housekeeping in their various workplaces.

Workplace Health and Safety is a legal requirement, legislation requires it.

So we have an accredited Workplace Health and Safety

Officer now, and that's Nerida Carr. And we have a monthly action plan in place which is part of an overall plan which will run over 13 months.

The first few months have been ticked off already.

I think if we are going to be a model for the other Aboriginal communities to follow it's important we get our processes in place so the model can be used effectively by others.

And I also think it's a feather in our cap that we were chosen to be such a model by our insurer who is Local Government Workcare, which is the Workers Compensation insurer for most of the Indigenous Councils.

Staff development is an ongoing process and we will continue to seek out further training and other opportunities for our employees.

Wujal Wujal 'seniors' Doreen Ball and Lily Yougie have been congratulated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Desley Boyle for winning one of 15 Premier's Awards for Queensland Seniors last month.



Ms Boyle praised the winners' tireless efforts in their communities.

"To have six people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds recognised in this way only shows how well respected and admired they are by the people they help," Ms Boyle said.

"I would like to congratulate each and every winner for making their communities stronger and better places to be.

"Their selfless commitment should not go

unrecognised and their communities should be very proud of their achievements."

Ms Ball is currently the chairperson of the Wujal Wujal Warranga Justice Group and Ms Yougie a founding member.

The Premier's Award for Queensland Seniors recognises volunteers aged over 60 as part of Seniors Week celebrations.

The 15 winners from across the State are pictured above at Parliament House in Brisbane.

Art Centre set to be a huge boost

Wujal Wujal's Art & Cultural Centre is near completion and expected to be opened within the next month or so, says Mayor Desmond Tayley.

Mr Tayley said at least four or five local workers had been employed for the project, as well as road workers to bitumen the area and still more to come.

"It's going really well," he said.

"It will make a big difference to the community, I reckon most cars will stop now, instead of driving straight through as they do now, and that will mean we can really let them know what Wujal Wujal is all about."

Community Development Officer for the Council, Garry Ashworth,

said fitting out the inside of the Centre was underway.

"We have about \$100,000 worth of cabinets, display cabinets, benches, computers and everything else to go in there," he said.

"We've also had lots of different programs in place to start to get people employed there, including an admin course which 11 people have completed.

"And that was to start the process of management, we'll probably have about 13 people employed

there altogether."

He said they also were in discussion with the Premier's office (also the Arts Minister) about opening the new Centre.

"Over the past six months, we've had a lot of different activities, workshops around art, or the centre's involvement," he said.

"We've had pottery, jewellery-making, screen printing and we've also had painting, so there's a lot of different components being put together for the community to have those activities."



*Above: the Centre as a work in progress back in August
Right: Local workers Gauai Wallace, Patrick Nandy, Rick Ericson, Peter Henry & Adrian Nandy were all employed by the project*



New retail store owners aiming for local employees



Retail store mainstay Reatha Williams has been working hard to prepare great sandwiches and healthy alternatives to the community since new owners Island & Cape have taken the reins.

“We started having the kitchen in March,” she said. “In the fridge over there we have sandwiches and salad rolls and we’ve got fruit salad there, banana and custard. We have chicken and gravy rolls, which are popular.

“We also do about 40 cheese and tomato toasties which sell out very quickly.”

New managers Mick and Chris Carroll said the idea was to make the store happier and more nutritional.

“We’re going to make sure there’s plenty of fresh fruit and veggies because we have our truck in weekly which makes it easier and fresher,” he said.

“We’ve already started like with salad rolls.

“We’re going to do chicken packs, salad packs, all your different types of salads and that sort of thing, as well as hot packs.

“We’re always happy to take the feedback from

people, we want to get things in the shop that they require and they want.

“I’ve had local people come in and ask me for Cairns Post and I’m going to try and get Saturday’s in for a start.

He said Cairns-based company Island & Cape had a strong policy of working towards self-determination.

“Island & Cape have big plans for a lot of the communities,” he said.

“We’ve got four stores in the Torres Strait on four communities and since we’ve been on the mainland we’ve taken over Aurukun, Wujal Wujal and Hopevale.

“Their main philosophy is to employ, train and get as many locals as possible, hopefully running the places eventually.

“That’s what it’s all about, trying to improve life around the community.”



Field Officer Brian Barry is working on an identification project at the cemetery, auspiced by the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation. The idea is to record and identify everyone there to add to the history and identity of the community, particularly those in unmarked graves.

Centrelink Agency should be full-time says Mayor

Council will be taking lobbying for full time payment for a full time Centrelink agent to politicians after being unable to secure more than 10 hours a week to provide their services to the community.

Mayor Desmond Tayley said at present the Council conducted the agency for an allowance of ten hours per week.

“Probably at the moment they are paying half of what we expect them to pay,” he said.

“We believe the government needs to re-look at that and fund it properly.

“So Council has agreed we should seek an audience with our local federal MP to try and get some funding for a proper wage.”

CEO Kevin Wormald said it just didn't add up.

“The community of Wujal Wujal has a deficit of \$12,000 a year in providing the Commonwealth Government's Centrelink Service for it,” he said.

“In other words we are paying \$12,000 on behalf of the Federal Government for their own Centrelink, and that is very wrong.

“We have two hours a day to provide Centrelink services nearly 500 residents.

“But we engage our Centrelink officer for 20 hours a week because we regard that as the minimum amount of time – that's four hours a day – for

people to conduct their Centrelink affairs.

“We also provide the phone service to Centrelink for queries and for changes and people have to make their various applications through Centrelink.

“So we don't think a two-hour per day window is a sufficient service, we have lots of Centrelink customers, and we think it's unfair that we are not being fully reimbursed to the cost of the service.” He said other Indigenous Councils have had the same problem.

“Some, I understand, have closed down, put the employee off and not conducted the service, and even said to the Commonwealth Government find another place for Centrelink,” he said.

“We are not going to do that.

“One, it isn't our style. And two, it would be unfair on our recipients.

“If we don't have it here people will have to go to Cooktown or Cairns.

“It's terrible, unfair, and mean-spirited. So the only option we have now is to make political representations, we've got to be paid properly.”

More training, more help needed, especially for young people

Centrelink agent Marie Creek continues to be concerned about youth in particular being unable to secure a “proper job” on the community.

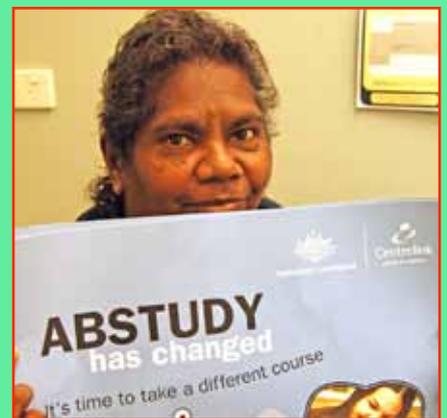
She also says there should be more training, more help for parents with kids at boarding school and more done about stopping high school drop-outs.

“There should also be training opportunities with the community in different areas when they come from boarding school during the school holidays instead of letting them get bored and getting in trouble with themselves.

“And why do we send our kids to boarding school when these kids come back to community lifestyle and can't get a proper job?

“I think it's about time the community look at these students and give them a proper job, a decent job, where they can keep for real.

“I'd like to see young trainees come forward from boarding schools and be a part of our



community also, you know, because they are being left out all the time.

“People should be talking to our young people, you know, when they come from boarding schools or even the high school dropouts when they at home.

“Talk to them and explain to them what this government doing, they should be willing to work – two days a week is not good, it's like taking them back to the old days, giving rations to them.”

Wujal Wujal's new Manager of Corporate Services Daphne Harvey prefers to be called just 'Daph'.

"I started here at Wujal on the first of June, I've been very happy to roll over into the new financial year because it's going to be an exciting period for the community.

"I've got a reasonable background in local government.

"I started off in Victoria and I have worked in Banana Shire in Queensland (west of Rockhampton) and I also worked for five-and-a-half years, in Injinoo at the tip of Cape York, so I have lived in an Aboriginal community before."



Long-serving local police moving on



Earlier this year there was not one but two local police officers 'moved on' to southern postings after time spent on Wujal Wujal.

Mayor Desmond Tayley thanked Senior Sergeant Craig Roberts and Senior Constable Mick Rumble for a job well-done in the community over the past few years, and to wish them well in their new postings down south.

"On behalf of Council and community, I want to thank them for their job well done and for their support, and I want to wish them all the best for their future endeavour," he said.

"A big thank you from Council and community for your work here."



Team effort works for Justice Group

We have had a very good year this year with the police and our Community Justice Group working as a team.

The message about alcohol consumption in the community is finally getting there because the number of people appearing in the courts due to alcohol has dropped off considerably.

We've also noticed a definite decrease in the amount of domestic violence in the community and the numbers are showing that at the clinic.

The Indigenous Policy Unit came from Brisbane last month to interview people living on the south side and to meet with the Council, the Justice Group, the police and any other interested entities regarding making the south side houses dry.

They said there was a clear need for this because of the harm caused.

From the community health clinic, the police and the number of people appearing in court it's clear there is harm occurring on the south side so they are looking to bring that into the AMP by making a special Act. That's been a loophole since 2003 and a lot of people have been stockpiling alcohol over there.

Also this year we've had a lot of problems with Diva Chat. Diva Chat is a system that is a message chat line that operates from Canada.

You can make up a profile and go on to Diva Chat for 95 cents a day you can be whoever you want to be. You could be yourself with a profile or you can be pretend to be somebody else and you can post messages on other people's message boards.

That's caused a lot of conflict in the community. We had at least four or five big fights in the community where people have come to blows over it.

And we've seen an increase in the court appearances for young people, including people who have never been in trouble with the police before, and some adults, mothers who have never been in trouble with the police before.

And that was because of the nasty connotations of the things that were happening on Diva Chat we have seen an increase.

We have managed to put a lid on it for a short time but then it seems to break out somewhere else.

We know that we've probably got the least problems of all the communities because we have



a way of blocking the user names directly with Canada.

We've got very good co-operative police who have been able to do that so our community is a lot better off.

Because of the problems with Diva Chat I've been asking for a mediation course for a number of entities in the community.

We're trying to make headway on getting a grant to do that but in the meantime I've gone to the Attorney General's department and I have passed the course.

I'm just waiting for the written assessment part of course which will come out this month.

We've also been setting up a Road Advisory Group because we've had a lot of problems with parents not having car seats for their children and they're starting to get fined.

It's a \$400 fine so we'd like to get those regulations out and about.

I think the next one they'll start on will be helmets for children on bicycles, so what's happening in mainstream is coming to us.

Finally on a positive note, we've had a few things happening, including our Child Safety Day, which was very successful.

That was an information session for parents with very young children, or expecting, and was just to talk to them about what they can do to make sure their child didn't come to the notice of Child Safety.

I think those who came found that very useful and I hope they'll pass that information on so we can keep our families together happily and healthily.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in that.

Joan Beacroft

Community Justice Group Coordinator

Focus on: ... Community Development ...

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

There's been a lot going on in Wujal Wujal says Community Development Officer Garry Ashworth.

"We've had a lot of completion with things like the sports hall toilets finished.

"We have another second-round of the stimulus package so we're putting together some access paths outside the sports hall down towards the arts centre. And for the third round of that funding I've put an application in for that for a continuation of our bike track.

"The market garden shed is on completion and a lot of things have been planted, chillies and all different sorts of things.

"So the women's group has been busy and the men's group is just starting to get going again now.

"The men have been doing the digging and the fencing in the garden, and the women have been starting to look at

the different foods they want to plant to cook with.

"There has been an activity happening every week down at the Women's Centre on cooking and so I think that they'll all blend together quite well.

"We've also put in applications to fund healing centre activities, so the results of those should be known soon.

"There's a new training centre that's actually being funded by CDEP, and we have a \$400,000 upgrade of the old clinic that will be completed later on this year.

"So that will give us more places for the training facilities and meeting areas and that will have a two-bedroom accommodation added to that centre just here.

"I think that one of our other major steps at this moment is

that sports hall now has a full-time person working there as our PCYC Sports and Recreation Officer.

"So lots of things have been happening to me, all positive and growth.

"Our Life Promotions Officer Dawn Harrigan has also been doing some activities with different kids and families, camping and trips to Cairns.

"She's been dealing with a lot of stressed families, family issues, some suicides.

"I think she's doing an excellent job, as are the many other staff on our team, so I'd like to thank them for that and I look forward to all of us continuing to move forward in a positive way for our community."

Harms reduction supporting Women's & Men's groups

Harms Reduction Officer Nikki Gong says she has a big job to do, but with support from the Council is able to help activate the Women's and Men's Groups in particular.

"The Council receives funding from the Department of Communities to provide men's support services and women's support services," she says.

"So it's creating activities for people to engage with rather than substance abuse, and it also helps provide support services for families who are affected by alcohol.

"There is lots going on at the moment.

"We had a really successful school holiday program and the kids from the primary schools had three different excursions.

"Setting up the community garden was part of an Alcohol Demand Reduction Program.

"Now that we've got the market garden space we're just hoping to get the produce out of it.

"We're working with the women's group on an operational plan for the produce which is why we've had Indigenous Community Volunteer (ICV) Gael Walker with us.

"We asked ICV to send somebody to work with us on capacity building and governance.

"We've also started a music/band program through the Alcohol Demand Reduction program.

"So my work is really just about creating the opportunities and now it's just really up the people to engage in them.

"And we can't force them, it's up to people to choose to participate.

"This community has got really valuable resources, great camping and recreational equipment, for example, which is there for them to use, and I'd just really like them to be aware that these programs are on and it's all there for them to start using."



Garry is also the SES controller for Wujal Wujal. With a new vehicle, the jaws of life and first response gear on board, the community is now well-equipped to deal with river rescues and other incidents. "That's another great attribute to the community," he says. The SES position he holds is voluntary and separate to his Council responsibilities, although members of the SES team of volunteers include Mayor Desmond Tayley.



Women's Group working to teach and learn basic skills

"This is the Women's Centre where women meet together and we'd like to teach all the girls with young babies come down here and learn how to cook damper, tart, cake, scones, whatever you know," Doreen Ball says.

"But they want to learn and we here, Lily, myself, Kathleen and Alice and Elma.

"Monday we got cooking, Tuesday we got arts and craft, Wednesday is sewing and tie dye t-shirt.

"Everyone is welcome young and old."

Indigenous Community Volunteer Gael Walker said she was finding the women inspirational.

"The women that have been coming along are particularly concerned about the young women in the community," she said.

"They're the ones who can do some of the things like the cooking and sewing.

"They are so committed to the young people.

"I absolutely love it, I find these women inspirational."

MEANWHILE the Men's Group will be featured in the next issue of the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council newsletter later this year. Mayor Desmond Tayley said the building was completed, had been fully refurbished and the Group would be meeting regularly.



*Top Pic: Making tarts were Kathleen Walker, Lilly Yougie, Alma Ball, Nikki Gong, Doreen Ball, Gael Walker & Alice Walker
Left: Lizzie Olbar
Right: Charmaine Nandy & Vikki Burrows*



Wujal Wujal Community Kindergarten co-director Coraleen Shipton has moments of frustration about government policy on kindy numbers, but she and colleague Gillian Snape have secured some funding for upgrades.

“Gillian took the year off from Innisfail just to come out and help us out because we were short of staff and the kindy was always closed which was no good at all,” she said. “Now we also have one CDEP worker who Council tops up to three days. “And we have Lilly Creek, who does the parent and learning program. “That’s for parents to get more involved with reading with children.

“We’ve been putting out surveys and asking the community what they want to see.

“But then at the end of the day every time it goes to the government it’s always about numbers, not about the need



in the community, which is frustrating really - Cooktown is the next nearest place they can go.

“We’ve also received about \$16,000 which helped us out with resources such as puzzles, books, and even some

technology. The only other thing we’d like to see is more parents involvement, that would be great. This is a community kindergarten and it’s an open door policy here, so they can’t say they’re not invited.”

Local radio moving onwards and upwards for staff & community

Wujal Wujal’s RIBS (Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services) is continuing to move forward in leaps and bounds agree manager Garry Ashworth and assistant manager Noelana Flinders. Ms Flinders said there were now five broadcasters working out of the studio.

“There’s myself and two other girls, Ethel and Penny Winkle, along with Russell Bowen and Breanna Denman. We just play music and do some of the public notices. Last year we made our own rap DVD which was launched a few months ago with Tiga Bayles from 98.9FM in Brisbane. It’s called ‘Where the Rainforest Meets the Sea’. The launch was at the PCYC and the DVD is



about the rain, the waterfall and some of it was filmed around here and at the beach We also got a local band, Dalkan Boys and Cold Water. We’re hoping to get a recording studio done up here for the local people around here.”

Noelana has been to Brisbane to study her Cert III in Community Broadcasting.

“I went by myself which was a bit scary but I was billeted with a Murri family so I got used to it,” she said.

“But it was the coldest place, one day it was 10 degrees, I couldn’t wait to get out of there.

Mr Ashworth said Noelana had shown a good deal of leadership by taking on the trip.

“While she was down there they went to some of the major radio stations and a big outdoor ceremony they had down there at the Murri School as well so it was pretty good for her,” he said.

“And she went down by herself which showed a lot of leadership so she’s now employed as an assistant manager for BRACS and she actually does 32 hours a week now so she’s doing very well.”

IKC hive of activity

Indigenous Knowledge Centre coordinator Carol Toby says the library is usually quiet until 3 o'clock every day until the kids come out of school – then until 5 o'clock or so it's all happy mayhem.

New computers where they can download music, network and games have proved a popular addition to the library, which still has a wide collection of books and local historical database all available to look at or for loan as well.

"We've had workshops here for the computers and there has been about 20 people on board learning about things like Facebook, which is really good. "Also internet banking, you know, so we can pay bills and things.

Council Community Development Officer Garry Ashworth said the IKC had 11 new computers in total. "Carol has stepped up really famously with the new introduction with the internet," he said.

"Our archive computer has been donated, or put together, by Indigenous Library Services and you know we're archiving a lot of their own data and photos and videos and doing interview and things like that so that's going to be another major component in our activities."

Ms Toby said anyone could come and see what they were doing.

"People are invited to have a look at collections about their great grandfather, parents or school



days," she said.

"It's here in the data base which has got a storage of old photos and things.

"I've been asking the old folk's home if they want to come across, sit and have a cup of tea and have a look at some of what we've got here.

"They might even see themselves on it which is which would be really great, brings back memory.

"We've got a lot of other activities to do like art work and jewellery.

"And we've got other activities like doing just drawing, watching videos and some new DVDs."



Focus on: Technical Services...

... FROM Technical Services Manager *JAIME GUEDES* ...

Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes says the bread and butter work of the Council – the Works Department, which includes Roads, Parks & Gardens, Water, Sewage and Waste Management – are all progressing well for the Council and the Community.

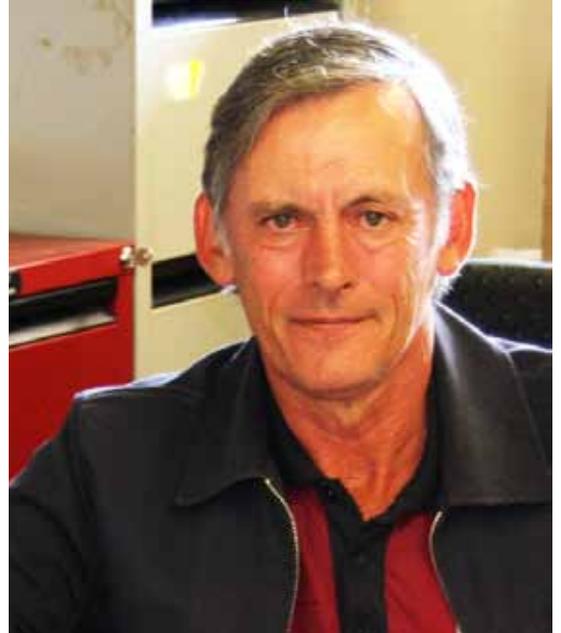
Road works including the reseal of Wujal Wujal town streets, a new seal on Bloomfield Falls Road to the Arts Centre and Car Park, the Council's depot, and south side up to the river causeway have all been completed.

Works crews were kept very busy after the wet season, cleaning up damage caused by high rainfall and winds associated with Cyclones Neville and Olga.

Meanwhile waste management continues to be an issue for all of us locally. We can expect dumping fees for disposal of waste will double within five years.

WWASC is an active member of the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC). Membership has enabled WWASC to access the services of FNQROC and

its officers to facilitate a network of our neighbouring local councils and other local land managers. We are trying to adopt a regional approach to feral animal and weed control. As these pests have no shire boundaries, a regional approach will benefit all of us. Within our borders pest and weed management has been quietly progressing. A new Pest Management Plan 2010-2014 has been drafted and will be presented to Council before a final draft will be made available for public comment by the Wujal Wujal community.



Keeping an eye on water management

Essential Services Officer Graham Harris said staff had done “an absolutely brilliant job,” when he returned from his annual leave back in July.

He said all the water and sewage plant upgrades were now completed. “Now it’s just a matter of keeping an eye on things,” he said. “If we get leaks we fix them but everything is good. The new water intake is finished, which completes all the funded major works. We check a meter to see how much water is used daily, and can compare this usage with other data, which gives an average consumption.”

WWASC Essential Services employs five full time staff, including a CDEP participant.

Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes said the Essential Services team had worked very well together, for Council and the Community over the last few years.

“They have been delivering 110% to us,” he said. “We are very pleased with their work.”

WWASC has been progressively upgrading the water and sewage systems and has secured financial support from the Department of Infrastructure & Planning for a new rising water main.

“It is the last main area of the water supply to be upgraded,” Mr Guedes said.

“The existing rising main is at least 20 years old, and in poor condition.

“A new rising main will bring reliability and we will be able to maximize the potential for filtration.”



Wujal Wujal wins second Tidy Towns award

For the second year in a row Wujal Wujal has won the RACQ Litter Prevention Award for 2010, Far North Queensland in the annual Tidy Towns competition.

Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes said Parks and Gardens staff were to be congratulated for their wonderful achievement. "The team worked very hard and have done their job well," he said.



"On behalf of Council, I would like to thank everyone involved.

"The boys' attention to detail throughout the community is recognised by all who travel through here.

"The fact that Wujal Wujal has won this competition two years in a row is testimony to the outstanding effort by our Parks and Gardens Staff."

Left are members of the Council Parks & Gardens team: Charlie Walker, Jacky Ball & Terrence Yougie.

Housing progress moving slowly ... for the moment ...

Changes to the Social Housing Package (see page 1), and reorganisation around that, has left the Housing Office a little quiet of late.

Housing Coordinator Mark Zippel said the reorganisation and transition period had not been all that smooth for the WWASC Housing and Building department.

He said funding allocated prior to the changes has been all spent with that work included an upgrade to the kindergarten and a new toilet block at the Sports Hall.

"That was part of the stimulus funding that the Council received," Mr Zippel said.

Although he said they did not expect a smooth transition, he said an inconsistent flow of work and lack of new projects was unexpected.

"The changes have left us in a fairly flat spot work-wise," Mr Zippel said.

"QBuild's Responsive Maintenance program, which is just general wear and tear, repairs and maintenance sort of stuff, has been flowing through, but that's not a huge amount of work."

Technical Services Manager Jaime Guides said all housing programs were now centralised and co-ordinated from the one office, which it was hoped would deliver better outcomes for the community.

He said disruption and teething problems happened whenever any big changes occurred.

"But we can see the light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

"It might be a painful period but things will get much better.

"We expect a streamlined all-inclusive process to come out of this – a one-stop shop.

"That's very important because then we will be able to fully engage our building and maintenance crews."



A recent upgrade program replacing the electric hot water systems with solar hot water systems has been completed.

This program was carried out by QBuild contractors.

Housing Coordinator Mark Zippel said there were a few houses missed.

"But we will ensure that these houses are upgraded," he said.

Council is committed to improving our environment.

As well as being a cost saving to the Community, solar power is more environmentally friendly.

The WWASC Housing Department is currently investigating the possibility of full solar connection for each house, with excess power generated sold back to the grid, reducing the individuals power costs even further.

CDEP working for Council



Six former-CDEP participants have taken on permanent work with the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council this year says Community Development Officer Ellie Starkey.

Ms Starkey said there was currently 84 participants on their books.

“We have a number of programs, training courses and work experience agreements and several community development projects,” she said.

“CDEP involvement for six of our participants this year have resulted in permanent work with Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Council with one participant who is still on CDEP but on call at the Council on a casual basis.

“It’s really important that people go to their assigned projects or jobs.

“It is only two days a week but they need to sign their attendance sheets so when they come in on the Wednesday they can sign their time sheets.

“It’s all computerised now, so it goes back to Centrelink as non-attendance if they don’t do that.” For some months after Josh Paterson left, Ms Starkey said she had taken on the position

of coordinator, but that spot has now been filled by Rachel Densmore, who grew up in Babinda.

Mayor Desmond Tayley said the CDEP transition over the year had worked out well.

“Two of our staff – Wilma Donahue and Nerida Carr – have taken charge of signing up and inducting our new employees,” he said.

“So I’m very happy with that, it has been a good thing for Council and I think they’ve been doing well.”

PROJECTS

Seven projects including the Falls walking track, cemetery restoration and community market garden, are currently on the CDEP agenda, along with work experience ongoing at the store and kindy.

“The newest project is the walking track maintenance one at the Wujal Wujal Falls and Josh actually set that up,” Ms Starkey said.

“We’ve also got the Men’s Art and Culture Group and the Women’s Art and Culture Group, which the Community Garden comes is sort of tied in with that as well, so that women have

a choice of doing different art and craft work as well as the Community Garden.”

Teamleader and stonemason for the Falls walking track project Aitu Tanga said the track work was hard because they couldn’t get machinery into where they were working.

“We can’t get any machines through because it’s too rough so we’ll have to do it by hand, by bucket or wheelbarrow,” he said. “Half a bag of cement, 18 shovels of sand is what it takes.

“So we’re going to take all this down to there and mix it there instead of mixing it here and then having to take like a 30-kilo wheelbarrow full of cement down there. It’s a big project.”

Market gardener Lucille Cassar said the Womens’ Group were responsible for the community’s (giant!) vegie patch.

“The Women’s Group thought it would be a great idea with all its health benefits it could have to start the Community Market Gardens,” she said.

“And CDEP have been helpful in setting up the fencing around it. “But we’re always looking for more volunteers to be physically here helping out.”

Pictured: Previous Page: CDEP CDO Ellie Starkey with trainee Benita Williams; Middle Right: Participants Anne Nunn & Raylene Shuan; Top Right: CDEP Coordinator Rachel Densmore; Bottom Right: Bobby Ball & Lucille Cassar This page: Below: Eric Murgha, Alfred Smith & Jimmy Olbar with Glen Williams in front; Right: Ernie Baird, Stanton Walker, Thomas Yougie, Aitu Tonga & Kelvin Greenwool



OZTAG success stories!!!



A new Youth Sports and Rec Committee is running well at the moment with Samantha Hooker as the chair, says Cr Zeila Wallace.

Over the last June-July school holidays we ran three camps, targeting primary school kids with 80 per cent or better attendance so we took three lots of camps down to Cairns & they were all successful," she said. "The kids were all well behaved and mannered. Myself, Deputy Mayor

Talita Nandy, Cr Allister Gibson, and also Jody Minniecon and Nikki Gong went on those camps. "We've also been involved in Oztag in Cooktown and our team came runners-up in the comp so that was good.

"We also played in the Suncorp Games where we won silver medals.

"From there about six of us were chosen to play in Brisbane for the North Queensland Brumbies."



At the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair last month was the Nandy family & friends (left) and (above right) Mossman artists Margaret Rocky & Carol's sister Doreen Creek

A few months back a group of our young men, all artists, went down to Cairns, says IKC manager Carol Toby.

There are a couple of local people, Des and his wife Jackie, who have been helping us with crafts. Our artists are very good but they need to know things about technique, like how to mix texture and use the right canvas. So they went to Cairns to spend a few days looking at different galleries and studios.

I did a similar trip last year with about eight people and it was an eye opener for us all from the community. It was good to meet other artists and to see how they go and how they got where they are today. We've got a lot of artists here in the community. I try to encourage young men and young women, especially.

They like to do jewellery, which is really good.

For example, my cousin, she was good at making jewellery.

Her name is Doreen Creek and at the moment she's living in Mossman with her sisters.

They do a lot of arts and craft and between them taking it down to a store in Cairns, and to the markets in Mossman and Port Douglas.

They make a big amount of money, you know.

When she comes back up here she asks me to go bush to get seeds. She got the talent and I've spoken to Des and Garry about taking a group of young women and men down to Mossman

Gorge, because they've got a lot of good artists down there.

They do a lot of screen printing and things like that.

It's not just like a ladies group thing, it's for both men and women.

You know, you feel good when someone says: 'hey that's really fabulous what you've done, you know, I didn't know you did that'.

I think it's the encouragement of the community and Garry here giving them the push and also Des and Jackie helping us, which has got us so far.

They've come here to the IKC to try and help our people, which is really good.



Proud grandparents Alice and John Walker want to extend their thanks to the Wujal Wujal community for supporting their fundraising efforts for grandson Rex Liddy.

Rex has been offered two scholarships through the AFL and is now signed up to play for the new Gold Coast team's inaugural season in the AFL national competition.

"Rex is very grateful to the Council and the mayor in particular for their support with fundraising," Alice said.