



Yarrabah News

Volume I, Issue 8 THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2017

Rain fails to dampen arts festival success

It was hot and then it rained and then it was hot again and then it rained again, but nothing dampened the spirits of 300 or more festival goers at the Jabu Birriny (land & sea) Open Day last Saturday. Brad Higgins and Finanin Richards (below) were the faces of welcome for busloads of tourists who came over the bump to enjoy a day of music, culture, art and food. We'll have a full set of pics in our next issue!



Pics by Jaeleen Geary

Yarrabah joins national assembly

A record number of Indigenous mayors attended the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly where public housing, health and mobile black spots were all up for debate.

Yarrabah Mayor Ross Andrews said the meeting was attended by various indigenous local government representatives in Queensland.

"Cr Ian Patterson, CEO Janelle Menzies and I attended as part of the Yarrabah delegation that travelled as part of our wider Yarrabah Mayor/Councillors and CEO Leadership Group," he said.

"Important issues were discussed including an invitation to Indigenous Health Minister Ken Wyatt to visit

the Yarrabah Community in the near future.

"NAPARIH (National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing) funding was discussed with Minister Scullion and delegates also met with the Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and Senator Pat Dodson on a dialogue framework to place important issues at the table as part of the political process.

"We were all encouraged by the deputations and look forward in progressing our issues to government

in terms of the indigenous struggles."

LGAQ workforce strategy executive Tony Goode said the unprecedented representation of Indigenous councils meant issues pertinent to Indigenous communities, particularly public housing, could be fully explored.

"The federal housing program – NPARIH, is due to expire in 2018 and communities are waiting for an announcement at a federal level for a replacement program," Mr Goode said. *Continued...*





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Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said the Indigenous delegation to the ALGA general assembly pushed hard for a replacement NPARIH arrangement to factor in growing populations,

“Queensland has been a shining light for delivering the NPARIH program and I welcome further investment,” Cr Lacey said.

“Another round of investment after 2018 would go a long way to providing families and communities certainty and move beyond simply playing catch-up to provide affordable public housing for growing communities.

“The growth of our Indigenous shires need to be factored into a new round of investment.

“Most importantly, the program

brings a windfall in terms of money hitting the ground, which means local employment outcomes, apprenticeship and training outcomes.

“The fact that the program is delivered by councils is key.”

Delegates at the General Assembly had the opportunity to engage with several other key Members of Parliament including Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Fiona Nash.

The meeting also passed a resolution calling on Assembly members to encourage Australian councils to

consider efforts they could take to lobby the Federal Government to change the date of recognition of Australia Day.

The Board of ALGA will meet in July to consider this and other Assembly resolutions and determine what action the Board will take.

Words with thanks to Cr Ross Andrews, Cr Alf Lacey and the LGAQ, pics with thanks to LGAQ, Cr Wayne Butcher and Suzanne Andrews.



Yarrabah Councillor Nadine Cannon (on the right here) was thrilled to meet champion netball player Belinda Friday. With help and support from Yarrabah’s own netball development person, Shennae Neal, Belinda will be running some coaching clinics through the schools. Watch this space for more!

Stronger voice one of several key outcomes sought from local government leaders' forum

Earlier this month the Local Government Association of Queensland's (LGAQ's) Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF) called for a stronger voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in policy formulation at both a state and federal level.

Mayors, Councillors and CEOs of 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils also called for consultation and progress on the future of Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) in their communities.

Alcohol Management Plans in their current form were put on notice by the group, who agreed to lobby the State via the LGAQ to expunge criminal records associated with breaches of AMPs.

Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Mark Furner has said he supports a collaborative approach to Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs).

Service delivery, water security and on-the-ground training for locals in mental health awareness and care were also high on the agenda at the two-day gathering.

Delegates also pledged to continue to advocate the Federal Government to replace National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

(NPARIH) funding, which is slated to end in June 2018.

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council mayor Ross Andrews said the forum was a good vehicle to bring key issues



directly to all levels of government and play an advocacy role for his community.

"Housing, employment and economic development are our priorities for Yarrabah," Mr Andrews said.

The future of local leadership within Indigenous communities

was also a cornerstone of discussion.

The youngest mayor in attendance, Pormpuraaw Mayor Ralph Kendall, said the Indigenous Leaders Forum had been a helpful opportunity to catch-up with more experienced councillors over the past few years.

Key outcomes included:

- The ILF agreed to continue to call for community input into AMPs and lobby to expunge criminal records associated with breaches of AMPs.
- Renewed agreement to call on Commonwealth Government to keep finding housing in remote Indigenous communities, with current funding slated to cease on June 30, 2018.
- A commitment to work to increase the number of Indigenous councils included in Stage 3 of Mobile Black Spot program.
- Full time mental health practitioners located in communities are needed.
- The future of waste management in Indigenous Queensland communities was also under the microscope.





Yarrabah Found

Pics by Christine Howes & Jaeleen Geary



Reconciliation Day 2017



School celebrates early NAIDOC

Yarrabah State Primary School has introduced a new arts program and after a semester of visual arts the student artwork was transformed into an interactive enchanted forest with lights and sound effects to accompany it.

Hundreds of pieces of student art was displayed for community and families to see and it went off smashingly with hundreds of community members and children viewing the exhibition.

During our annual NAIDOC celebration the exhibition was one of the attractions to see along with local dance troops, class displays, achievement awards and pre-holiday celebrations.

A wonderful day was had by all.

By Emma Taylor

Art Teacher Yarrabah Primary



Pictured Above: Alfred, Alfred and Leurlene Gray; Errin Mundraby and Talan Mossman; June Noble, Emma Taylor (me) and Hope Patterson; Cassandra and Cissie Ambrym; Renartha Bounghi, Jalaba Murgha, Wilton Bulma and Jikarni Murgha, and, Corrina Atkinson, Connie Ludwick and Edna Keyes.

SCHOOL TUCKSHOP: There will be some changes to the operation of our school tuck-shops next semester. A local provider has successfully tendered for the operation of the school tuck-shop at the primary & secondary campus. For the first time in many years our high school campus will have tuck-shop in operation. This will mean a significant change of practice for our high school students as they will no longer be able to leave the school grounds during school hours to go to the shop. Once our high school tuck-shop is operational, students will be expected to remain in the school grounds for the entire day. We expect this will have a positive impact on attendance. We appreciate community support around this initiative in the interest of health, safety and wellbeing of students at our school. There will also be some change in processes for ordering food at the primary tuck-shop. More information will be distributed to parents via the school newsletter.



NEW FENCE: You may have noticed a new security fence being installed around the school grounds. This fence is being constructed to improve the safety of students in our school by keeping dogs & horses out of the school grounds as well as to reduce vandalism and break-ins that cost the school significant time and money. We have had a couple of incidents recently with aggressive dogs in the school grounds around children and this is of serious concern. A concrete footing is also being laid to keep dogs from digging under. We are extremely grateful to the Department of Education & Training for this significant investment in our school. The work has caused some disruption to traffic and parking around each of the sites and we apologise for any inconvenience this has caused. A grid will also be installed at the entrance of the Jnr Secondary campus to keep horses out of the school grounds.

The gates will be locked out of school hours however the school is always available to be used as a resource for the community and if any community organisations want access to any of the facilities, this can be easily arranged by contacting the school.

This extra security will enable us to invest more in our school grounds in terms of gardens, sitting areas and more targeted play areas for the children. We look forward to planning and developing these changes with the support of our students and the community over the coming years.

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM

REFURBISHMENTS: On the June / July holidays our high school science block and manual arts block will undergo refurbishments. This is another positive investment in our school and the education of students in Yarrabah. These upgraded facilities will provide our students with modern learning environments to better support their achievement at school.

Access to Rubbish Bins on Rubbish Collection Days

Please be advised that ALL vehicle owners must have their vehicles parked OFF the following streets every Monday and Thursday mornings:

Stanley Street

Smith Street

Gribble Street

Loban Lane

This is to allow the YASC garbage truck access and to collect the rubbish Bins, without causing any accidents or damage to vehicles. We apologise for any inconvenience.

**Volunteers are
wanted for the
Yarrabah Fire
Management
Advisory Group.
First meeting with
be on 10 July at
10am at the Council
Chambers (lunch
included). Contact
Selina Ansey on
4056 9120 sansey@
yarrabah.qld.
gov.au for more
information.**



Yarrabah Mayor Ross Andrews has passed on his congratulations to Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation on achieving 25 years as a community controlled entity within the indigenous health sector.

"On behalf of myself and the council, I'd like to congratulate them on achieving this milestone," he said.

"They are community-led which is empowering for the community.

"Well done to all including elders, former and current leaders/directors, staff and the community for what they have all achieved together.

"This is a big thing for Yarrabah and all efforts of those visionaries must be applauded in making this a reality for the community of Yarrabah."

Council Roundup

- Road works are continuing on Bilma Road and then the Road Gang will be moving onto Point Road next week
- The range is being slashed on Monday & Tuesday – drivers please slow down and take care
- The 1st of the new houses is due to be completed in mid July
- Council has been carrying out tree lopping throughout the community over the past week.

Advertise Here!



Yarrabah News is published fortnightly by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Jaeleen Geary & Christine Howes. Members of the Yarrabah community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community notices, pics, yarns and letters to the editor.

For more information contact Jaeleen on 4056 9120 or Christine on 0419 656 277.

You can advertise in Yarrabah News!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner across nominated page): \$120
Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST
Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day and all material submitted no later than COB the next day. Print approval required by Monday COB. Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook!

Yarrabah News is online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

E-mail JGeary@yarrabah.qld.gov.au or yarrabahnews@chowes.com.au

**OUR NEXT DEADLINE IS
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