



WUJAL WUJAL ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL Newsletter September 2011

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'X' marks the spot for bridgework to start!



Although Wujal Wujal was largely unaffected by Cyclone Yasi itself, residents would be very aware of ongoing effects of damage from the aftermath. CEO Kevin Wormald said one of the better side effects of the damage was the construction of a road bridge was now expected to be underway far sooner than expected and hopefully by the end of this dry season. "The storms that followed in the wake of cyclone Yasi, washed away the Bloomfield Crossing and severely damaged our roads," Mr Wormald said. "The lack of access for people



Repairs to the causeway were undertaken in June/July this year

from the south side, both locals and tourists, caused tremendous problems, but very quickly the Department of Communities and Council got on to it. As a result the SES was able to arrange a boat to act as a ferry service for varying times in the day."

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Wujal Wujal first to be surveyed on wellbeing

Wujal Wujal residents are the first Indigenous community to take part in a groundbreaking wellbeing survey being conducted for the Local Government Association of Queensland.

LGAQ officers Tony Goode and Cathryn McKenzie visited the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council on 6 September to talk with the Mayor Desmond Tayley and to facilitate a focus group to assist with the wellbeing survey questions.

The survey, aimed at ensuring local governments better understand what influences their community's sense of wellbeing, is being rolled out in five Queensland councils that volunteered to be part the project.

The Queensland Local Government Act (2009) now requires all councils to prepare long term community plans based on community views gained through proper consultation.

The plans are meant to represent the people's vision for the future, as well as the Council's.

Given that these plans are based on asking people to help achieve a vision for their community, Councils need to understand what is important to people and share their local wisdom.

INSIDE:

**Who is our
deadliest
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hit the
Jackpot!!!**

A quick word from... **WWASC CEO Kevin Wormald**

Here in Wujal Wujal I think we have a tremendous period of growth ahead of us, says CEO Kevin Wormald (otherwise known as 'Young Kevin').

In terms of infrastructure we've seen the redevelopment of the old clinic into a training centre for Cairns Regional CDEP that will incorporate trainers' accommodation and offices for CDEP. It is a \$400,000 project and it will result in a great facility for the training of employees in Wujal Wujal and potential employees.

The other two good things I'd like to mention are the rising main project and a new housing subdivision.

We've purchased a new skid steer loader to enable the new water main to be laid, and Council is the contractor for that job.

That will involve the extension of drinking water to the south side.

And we will be able to extend beyond the south side houses for future housing.

That's a very positive thing, which will involve employment creation and benefits for Wujal Wujal workers.

We also finished our housing subdivision consultations recently.

The community has approved the location, which is proposed on freehold land in the Ken Frost compound area, off Douglas Street at the entrance to Wujal Wujal from the north.

That is on freehold land and three houses have been approved for that location.

We hope to have the subdivision started by

Christmas time, so that's very, very good news.

These first three houses on freehold blocks will still be subject to 40-year leases, for which there has already been community consultation. There will be more about other sites within Wujal Wujal. The other exciting news from an overall perspective is at last we're getting some improvements to the aged-care centre.

We have \$280,000 to upgrade the kitchen and car parking facilities and we hope to continue a program of improvement with additional funding from the Commonwealth.

So when I say there is a tremendous period of growth ahead of us, this is what I'm talking about.

The Council's financial position remains strong.

And finally, Council elections are coming up and the Department of Local Government has already conducted a workshop for potential candidates for 31 March 2012.

There will be a new Local Government Elections Act 2011 in place for the election, which will mean the Electoral Commission will be responsible for the election process, not the Council or the CEO, as has been in the past.

So it will be the Electoral Commission of Queensland that will run the election, removing the last connection between the people running the election and the Council itself.

I am proud to be part of Wujal Wujal and its progress. Every day I go to work happy.

Our employees do a great job and they, too, are proud to be part of the progress we are making.

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"This eventually culminated in a full-time service run by Cairns Regional Council for locals and for tourists alike.

"The Cairns Regional Council then got on to the job of reconstructing the causeway itself in April.

"It is now completed and people are crossing.

"So, in this period of six months we've seen a lot happen and a lot being rectified and I think we're well served by our neighbours

and by the State Government in being able to restore facilities in response to our representations."

He said funding for a new bridge had been confirmed in writing by State Government Minister Craig Wallace.

"It's a Main Roads project, they are preparing the design and have done the preliminary work," he said.

"So that's underway, and that's a positive thing."

Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes said they expected

to start the construction of the bridge over the Bloomfield very soon.

"It will not be finished before the wet season, but I expect by 2012 wet season it will be above the normal flood, and not subject to inundation or flooding by tides or rain waters," he said.

"That will be an enormous relief because we won't see anybody walking through our crocodile-infested waters or any of the other life-threatening situations as we have seen before."

Healthworker nominated for 'Deadly' award

Wujal Wujal child health worker Alice Tayley was one of five finalists from around Australia to be nominated for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker of the Year in the 2011 Deadly Awards.

Cape York Health Service District Chief Executive Officer Susan Turner said Ms Tayley had been with Queensland Health for 27 years.

"Alice is involved in numerous community activities, has a wide knowledge of various Indigenous health issues and a clear understanding of the local environment," Ms Turner said.

"She is always involved in primary health care in order to address community-identified health concerns.

"Alice is the epitome of the hard-working, quiet achiever, working diligently behind the scenes to improve the lives and well-being of those in her community.

"She also represents the Wujal Wujal Community Health Action Team, which advocates on the community's behalf and works with other stakeholders to achieve better health outcomes for her community."

Member for Cook, Jason O'Brien congratulated Ms Tayley on her nomination.

"Ms Tayley's work is vital to our region. Her work with Wujal Wujal kids and their families is very impressive and getting results," he said.

Ms Tayley said she was very honoured to have been nominated for a Deadly Award.

"As an Indigenous Health Worker I love working and sharing my knowledge with my people in the community," she said.

"My community, family and colleagues are very supportive of my work.

"I first started working at the Wujal Wujal clinic part-time, doing child feeding only in the mornings.



"Then, gradually I moved up the ladder into the clinical area and that's where I am at now.

"My portfolio is child health and rheumatic heart disease. As part of that, I do home visits, school and kindergarten screening, hearing health for adults and children, as well as health promotion activities.

"I run my child health clinic every Wednesday with a visiting child health doctor from the Cooktown Multi-Purpose Health Centre, as well as the support of the Paediatric Outreach Clinic which visits from Cairns every three months."

The annual national Deadly Awards, now in their 14th year, are designed to recognise the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to their community and to Australian society.

Overall Award winner Muriel Jaragba, an Aboriginal Mental Health Worker from Groote Eylandt, NT was announced last week.

Well done Alice!!!

Making the switch to digital TV



Wujal Wujal is on track to becoming digital with our local community contacts for the switch over working hard to make sure no-one misses out.

Suzanne Auld (pictured left with Sonya Creek) said installers had been through the community and the service was already up and running.

"One of the downfalls of having satellite television will be during cloudy weather but we had the same problems with free to air or pay tv during the wet season," she said.

"That's why we requested large dishes because you do get a more reliable service with the larger satellite dish."

New Retail Store managers Alisha and Luke are working hard to run the Store and Arts Centre Café as this newsletter goes to print.

Island & Cape's Aurukun supermarket assistant manager Simon Dyer stepped in while Alisha and Luke underwent training to support them in their new positions.

"We're also looking at the service station and the bakery in the wet season," he said.

"There will be a couple of positions opening up - one at the bakery, and we're going to need someone to cook down at the café.

"We're very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in cooking or has a skill in cooking, looking for a real job with real pay."

Retail store in good hands



Payments quicker online



Centrelink agent Marie Creek (*left*) said she is pleased to see more of her customers getting online to organise payments.

"It's quicker for them and quicker for us," she said. "And everybody who's on Centrelink can see on the screen their payments and when their forms are due or when their next payment due. They can also check on the computer to check failure or an overpayment.

"All they have to do is ring the Indigenous Call Centre on 136 380 and ask whoever they're talking to for a password that's very confidential for them to keep.

"Then every time they come in here they can just come in and go on the computer."

A quick word from...

The past year has seen a change in Police officers at Wujal Wujal with myself, Sergeant Luke Tulacz being appointed as Officer in Charge and Jason Manders appointed into our Senior Constable position.

Jason moved to Wujal Wujal last November with his wife, Fiona and two children.

I began my appointment here in August 2010 after working in the Far North, including in the Cooktown and Gulf areas, for the past seven years.

Jason has worked throughout the Far North for the past five years, in Cairns and the majority of communities in Cape York.

We would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for to the community for welcoming us. We look forward to working with the community over the next few years.

Luke TULACZ
Sergeant / Officer in Charge
Wujal Wujal Police Station



In August seven of us travelled to Lotus Glen for the NAIDOC celebrations, writes CJG coordinator Joan Beacroft.

Four of the group had never visited a prison before and were a bit freaked at all the security in place and they got a real feel of what it means to be locked up.

Our boys are all doing well and they cooked a beautiful lunch for us and entertained us with some fantastic dancing from many Cape York clan groups.

The worst part was driving away and leaving them behind.

The Justice Group has also met with Laurie Cohen from the Attorney General's Department.

Laurie is the North Queensland coordinator for victim assist.

This is a government agency set up to help victims of crime.

He gave us some good information and contacts from other agencies which will help our community. He was most impressed with how this Justice Group runs as there were constant knocks on the door from community residents looking for help.

He thought we would be a good role model for other Justice Groups elsewhere in the state.

We also had a visit from Samantha and Fiona, two family court lawyers from ATSILS who met with

the women's group to give us a talk on getting legal protection from domestic violence –17 ladies attended this session.

The Justice Group is proactive in talking to repeat offenders to encourage them to try other ways of going about things and to think carefully before they put themselves in a position where they can reoffend.

When we have cut down on the number of offenders going through the courts; when the incidents of domestic violence go right down and when the attendance levels at the school go up to mainstream levels the government will consider lifting the alcohol restrictions.

But the bottom line is responsible drinking.

Alma Ball has joined the Justice Group and we welcome her to sharing the load.



CDEP workers (above) and left is Sue Muller (The Learning Workshop); Donna Williams (TLW trainer); Claudia Doughboy (mentor/trainer CDEP); Ellie Starkey (Cairns Regional CDEP) & Roderick Nunn (supervisor CDEP)

Money matters under State Local Government Act

Corporate Services Manager Nerida Carr is settling in very well to her new job says WWASC CEO Kevin Wormald.



“Nerida has embarked on her first budget, and her first lot of annual financial statements is also underway,” he said.

“We’re looking forward to getting an unqualified audit again this year, for a third year in a row.”

Ms Carr said her work, after quite some time in the position of Finance Officer, was now ‘hectic’.

“I’ve been here for awhile in the position of Finance Officer, and in April this year the Manager of Corporate Services resigned and I was promoted to this position,” she said.

“We’ve had a few changes to our accounting system and our chart of accounts in the last financial year, and me being

the third person in the role in a very short time, I’ve got a lot of catching up to do and comparing current systems to previous, but interesting and never a dull moment.

“Now we have Berni Moore (*pictured above right with Nerida*) as Finance Officer after she originally started as a casual temp covering for other people in the section who were on leave.”

Ms Moore said she was living locally and loves her work and the community.

“It’s quite varied, so it’s not just finance,” she said.

“I’m also covering Information Technology (IT), so I do call-outs, which is quite fun, and some human resources work

and payroll.

“This is a great little community.” Ms Carr said there were some new things afoot for her and her staff.

“Now that Wujal Wujal Council is fully under the requirements of the new Local Government Act, we have to perform to the same standards as the large councils and produce the same reports as the Cairns Regional Council and others have to do,” she said.

“We’ve been involved in a couple of new things, for example a full-on asset management program for the first time, and also for the first time we have to do a 10-year financial forecast so there’s the new things which we are learning.”

Art centre booms for tourists & locals

Wujal Wujal's brand new Arts and Cultural Centre opened just five days before a week of deluge caused flooding which tore away the Bloomfield River causeway in February.

But after a rocky start, the Centre is up, up and away, with a full-blown café, artists using the space regularly and busload after busload of tourists pulling in to buy at every opportunity.

Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley said earlier this year the break in the causeway gave the community more time to prepare.

"I think we've been overwhelmed with a lot of traffic coming through and they pull up and have a look," he said.

"That's great for us and it's good for business, the more people we have the better.

"Overall it's created an economic opportunity for us here in the valley."

Artist Betty Sykes said she liked to get to the Centre three days a week to paint.

"This is my first time doing the arts painting, I really do beading," she said.

Deputy, and currently Acting-Mayor Talita Nandy said she wanted to congratulate the artists for working so hard at the Centre.

"We'd love to get some further funding to keep it operational for more

than three days a week," Cr Nandy said.

"More and more people wanting to see the place open five days a week, at least.

"We're very proud of it – we're proud of the building and how it's all come together, we're proud of the artists who are keeping it all together and the Arts Centre Committee we have up and running now who are helping to steer us.

"We'd love to see more artists come in and be involved."



*Pictured:
Above: Keryl
Tayley &
Doreen Creek;*

*Middle:
Lexton Nandy &
Adalene Williams
Below: Betty Sykes*



Community Development Officer Garry Ashworth said since they had opened their doors, even when the causeway was out, people had come from the north to see what they could find there.

"It's been overwhelming," he said.

"The only problem we've had is operational funding from major agencies from the government, but as a success story from the community side of things, we've had at least 20 to 30 people actively being down there doing art, doing jewellery, doing pottery.

"The artwork is in great demand and some of it is selling before it even gets to the walls.

"I think this Centre is going to be a great success for our community, not just for the artists, but there are spinoffs here for everyone."





Acting Mayor Talita Nandy and the community would like to pass on their congratulations to Mayor Desmond Tayley on the birth of a beautiful baby girl last month.

"I just want to say: 'Welcome to the club'," Cr Nandy said.

"He has a beautiful baby girl and she'd be very, very proud of her dad and mum, so congratulations."

Meanwhile Council business in Wujal Wujal was otherwise progressing very well, she said.

"We've accomplished quite few things during our term," she said.

"To name a few we have been successful in obtaining another subdivision on which there will be three 2-bedroom houses constructed, a rising water main project, an extension of the water main on the Southside of the river, to host the Ministerial Indigenous Roundtable in Wujal Wujal and construction of the new Bloomfield River Bridge to start by the end of the year. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the Council staff/ employees and Community for making this possible."

Cr Alister Gibson

"Firstly, I'd like to congratulate our footy team, the Wujal Wujal Yindili on their hard work throughout the year," Cr Gibson said.

"I'm captain and coach, working with Robert Bloomfield and we're very happy for the boys to have such a great result. They have been turning up for training every week, taking it out on the footy field and winning most of our games."

Cr Cedric Friday

"One of my portfolios is the Arts Centre gang here," Cr Friday said.

"We've got a new Arts Centre going, and selling pretty fast.

"Every community has a different way of painting and style.

"It was good to see our people go down to Cairns for the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

"A couple of us went down last year.

"And actually they've been doing really well this year selling their paintings.

"And everything is not only arts, but we've got some of the boys play in a band here too and they have been playing in Cairns as well."

OzTag success for Wujal teams



OZTAG has had ongoing success for Wujal Wujal with Cr Zeila Wallace happy to report on winning their Grand Final in Cooktown earlier this year.

"From there six players from Wujal were chosen to go to Toowoomba to participate in the OZTAG State Cup," she said.

"From the Toowoomba Cup, there were three boys from here that played in the Under 20s boys' team, and myself, Vanessa, Kaylie, Jonathan Bassani played in the opens and we went into the quarterfinals, but lost.

"The Under 20s went into the Grand Final and they won the State Cup.

"So, they're the State Cup champions at the moment, and the players were Clayton Baird, Jayden Denman and Liam Chookie.

"We also had school holiday camps in Cairns where we took children from grade 3 to high school age to participate in a Northern Pride Holiday Coaching Clinic as well as getting along to NAIDOC activities around Cairns."



Focus on: **... Community Development ...**

The biggest change since our last newsletter is the Men's Group seems to have a lot more direction than it had before under the guidance of new co-ordinator and mentor, Guy Stephens, writes Community Development Officer Garry Ashworth.

So that's really good, from what we've seen he's very good, very enthusiastic and has a lot of good ideas. There has been a couple of activities such as fishing and doing a pool comp on Wednesday nights, where they have a meat tray for the grand prize, and I hear they're getting 20-30 men to those nights. He also wanted to bring some of the men down to the Arts Centre to do some art and spear making, so I think that can have some good outcomes. And it's not just the older men, it sounds like some of the younger guys are starting to come on board, the ones that have left school too early or having a few problems at home.

At the kindy we've been looking at having part-time early childhood caring from 0 to 3s. Some of the programs they're running with at the moment are exciting because they're becoming a part of the child's education, for when they move from kindy into preps. So they've been working with the state school to be able to achieve the start of those learning process and I think the kids going

through will have an easier time of it. At the moment Coraleen's got some great helpers on board too, one to do the bus and cleaning, two to do special caring.

The library is also doing very well with Carol. She's just been to Brisbane again for training and networking, and she's got new programs and new computers in place, and a whole new look on after-school activities as well, so that's been fantastic.

Our Harms Reduction Coordinator Nikki Gong is doing some great stuff with the men's and women's groups in the arts and crafts and the community garden.

With Sports and Rec, we're still a little up in the air with all that but I think making the finals of the Three Rivers was a great feat. There's been a little bit of interest from outside in big companies trying to help our sporting activities because we do have quite a high rate of kids with success in sports.

Community Garden looking good

*Pictured: Top L-R:
Alfred Smith; Tim Olbar;
Stanton Walker &
Roderick Nunn*

*Below: L-R: Andrew Creek;
Michael Bamboo;
Lance Green;
Jarrett Bassani &
Eric Murgha*



For the love of culture & language, see Carol at the library / IKC!

IKC Co-ordinator Carol Toby says the Culture Love program, which went ahead in April this year, was a big hit with the kids and much different from last year's popular event.

"A couple of things pretty much different from last year because we were able to take the kids up to the Arts Centre, and we also had one of the artists working with us," she said. "At the end of that day, the kids really enjoyed it and I enjoyed it, with the artists coming up to participate in the Council program. Our main aim with that was to take the kids back on country and we took some voluntary workers with us. So they went walkabout, picking

up different things we found in the rainforest like leaves, seeds, small sticks and different flowers, and the kids had a good time collecting what they could find. And then when we travelled back, we pulled up at the beach, took the kids down there and collected things that were on the beach. Different environment, and when you look at it it's like collecting things on country from the rainforest onto the beach, and the kids were very exhausted at the end of the day, but they enjoyed it. The next day we put the things we collected into storage. There were a lot of things that they found they put together, like on to the collage, what they done, talk about country which is really good because the kids wanted to know more about their home land. We had other pictures on display for parents and carers to come and have a look. We had quite a few come in and they were very pleased. Every year when we have our Culture Love it's different."

Ms Toby also said she was working on some translations with some of the artists.

"They illustrate a story and I translate into language," she said. "Once it gets all done up in a booklet, that booklet will come



back into the community for our kids to have a look and some of the community people if they want to come and have a look at it. We're trying to encourage our kids to do a story in English and then translate. We need to get them to translate to their own language, which is that thing, you know, because nowadays our kids are lacking in language speaking. I see that happening all the time in the community. It will be lost forever and we need to bring it back. We need to get all our Indigenous people to get involved, interacting with school and teaching language to our kids. A lot of our people don't understand about the language, we need to put it back into the education curriculum."



Community Care boss earns 'OAM'

Community Care centre coordinator Sharon Anderson is excited, and not just because her work has been recognised through an award.

We'll get to that later, but in the meantime the buzz around centre is to look forward to a full upgrade of their kitchen facilities.

"We have an architect drawing up plans for a full upgrade of the kitchen, which will probably take most of the money, and we're also going to get disability-friendly toilets and bathrooms," she said.

"It'll be really good.

"And we've also got money for re-roofing and various other things from the Commonwealth Government.

"We hope to actually have the kitchen done by Christmas time." She said staff were also busy upgrading their qualifications.

"The girls are currently doing Certificate III in Community Care, and I'm just about to start a diploma in Community Care which is all funded by the Commonwealth Government," she said.

"Hopefully the results from that will flow on to the clients.

"I've retained my staff for a long time, and I have one new casual staff member as well, that's Delaney.

"She's only 17-years-old but we've put her into Certificate III as well.

"We're hoping very much to encourage her into looking at aged care as a career because we do need more young people in the sector.

"You notice when a young person delivers a meal that the older ones do enjoy seeing young people around them.

"We also have Danny Gordon as our yardsman at the moment and we have a wonderful garden happening.

"We've got cucumbers, beans, lettuces, silver beets, and pawpaw trees coming on nice and green, and we're really looking forward to the clients being able to eat those lovely things."

Now about you Sharon!

"The Order of Australian

Medal was quite a surprise actually because it's good to have someone in the sector recognised, but there's lots of good people out there who do fantastic work and who never get recognised, so I was just very lucky that I was nominated," she said.

"I know the people who were involved now.

"I was told it might be handy on funding applications and I suppose it's sort of in recognition of 20 years of work, of building up this service from nothing to what it is today.

"It's very nice.

"I'll probably appreciate it when I'm very old.

"When I'm sitting at home no longer working I can look at that medal and I will probably like it then because it was a little bit overwhelming to me at first, particularly with the ABC and all the people ringing up.

"There's so many people that do good work."



Pictured: Standing L-R: Sharon Anderson; Gladys Friday; Danny Gordon; Anna Baird (seated); Sonya Doughboy & Delaney Shipton

Focus on: Technical Services...

Repair of roads damaged by Cyclone Yasi is still ongoing, writes Technical Services Manager, Jaime Guedes.

On top of these Yasi-related repairs, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council continues with its programmed daily business within the Shire.

One of the projects quietly progressing has been the Woobadda Creek crossing which is about 12km south of Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire. A business case has been presented to the State Government by the Regional Road Group and funding was made available. This crossing is considered a critical point in terms of safety and access.

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*Above: Bill Harrigan; Jaime Guedes & assistant Linda Leftwich
Left: what used to be the 'top road', now under repair
Below: road gang workers: Jeffrey Rosendale;
Trevor Yougie; Leslie Walker & Merv Nunn*



...From Previous Page...

New horse yards have been constructed to control the horse population within the Wujal Wujal Shire Council area under the supervision of Animal Management Officer, Eddie Madsen and with the assistance of the Environmental Health Officer, Bobby Kulka as well as workers from the Parks and Gardens Section.

Now the yards are built meetings between WWASC, Cairns Regional Council (CRC) and Cook Shire Council (CSC), with technical support from DEEDI and FNQROC, have occurred to address the problem of roaming horses, a problem which crosses the boundaries of these three Shires. The Bloomfield Valley Horse Management Program is expected to deliver:

- A concise identification of the issue;
- A statement of management intention and aims;
- An implementation and reporting structure;
- A strategy for communication

and community engagement;&

• A timeline for implementation and review.

Desired outcomes are:

- Established ownership and responsibility for all horses;
- All claimed horses moved to an appropriate and permitted fenced enclosure;
- All unclaimed horses are removed from common areas of WWASC, CRC & CSC;
- Horses claimed and re-released into common areas will be impounded;
- Impounded horses will be processed as per procedure
- An ongoing collaborative plan will be implemented across the three LG areas.

In other areas of Animal Management, we have acquired capital grant funding from Queensland Health to construct a dog and cat pound.

Public comment was sought (in the form of door knocking and questionnaires) and the response by the community was pleasing.

This project is expected to

be completed by the end of December this year.

Bobby Kulka, our Environmental Health Officer, is continuing his studies in Environmental Health and is currently enrolled in the Diploma in Indigenous Environmental Health at QATSIHWEPAC, Cairns.

He has been working on a weed-spraying program in collaboration with Cook Shire Council and Cairns Regional Council.

We have just completed the follow-up weed control spraying and it is pleasing to see the advances made over the past four-five years.

Parks and Gardens are now back working on general maintenance on our green areas around the town.

They've also been working on our fire breaks with support from our road gang.

All the fire breaks are now cleared and we are prepared as much as we can be for any outbreaks of fires.



Horses roaming the community (top left) will soon be coralled in the new enclosure (below left)

Above: ESOs Ray Sycamore; Rodney Denman & Herbie Henderson

Wujal Wujal's 'new' old – or is that 'old' new – training centre is just about completed and should be ready to be opened within the next month or so.

Housing co-ordinator Mark Zippel, (pictured on the left below with carpenter Gauai Wallace) whose team has worked on the project for some time now, said it was close to being finished at the time of printing. "We're just trying to wrap up the final bits, the vinyl, the tiling and the final bits of carpeting," he said. "I guess the CDEP can then move in. Other than that we have got a reasonable



amount of upgrade works which has just come through and which we'll have to then move on to once we can get the training centre wrapped up.

"That's things like fencing, repaints, new cupboards, repairs – anything in the house that's been damaged, basically, to bring the house back to new.

"There's also some new houses in the wind.

"At the moment we have about seven on the team – carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians, trade assistants.

"It's a bit hard to sustain apprentices at the moment with the amount of work we got going, but hopefully in the not too distant future we'll have someone on board again."



→ Our Essential Services Unit (Water and Sewerage) has continued to deliver very high standards of service to the community. The men have really taken ownership of their section - they are running a tight ship and doing a really good job. The contract for the construction of the new raw (untreated) water rising main from the river intake to the water treatment plant was granted to CTE (Civil Team Engineering) and this project is

to commence in the fourth week of September along with some minor works and improvements to the treatment plant.

The contract for the new water reticulation to service the residents along the south side of the Bloomfield River has been awarded to, and will be carried out by WWASC.

I acknowledge the continuing support offered to this community by the Department of Local Government and

Planning on these much needed infrastructure projects.

Our Building Unit is, at present, busy with responsive maintenance, constructing driveways, minor renovations and putting the final touches to a new training centre adjacent to the Council Chambers. This building will be a great asset for Council and the community throughout the coming years.

In summary, I see a busy three to four months in front of us.

Right time, right place!!



FOR Wujal Wujal elder Doreen Creek (*above*) the annual pilgrimage to Townsville with family members to see the Brisbane Broncos defeat the North Queensland Cowboys 34-16 in August 12 was her favourite trip.

Doreen has been coming to Townsville for the best Queensland derby in the NRL since the Cowboys entered the competition but this year had special significance.

"It was Darren Lockyer's record breaking 350th NRL game and we just loved it," Doreen said.

Doreen was with six children and five grandchildren amongst a huge crowd of 26,463 at Townsville's Dairy Farmer's Stadium.

They were also outside the Holiday Inn the morning after where they managed to meet and greet most Broncos players.

At the game there was also a big contingent from Hopevale who saw their own champion, Cowboys back Matty Bowen, and also some from Cooktown. One of Doreen's daughters, 27-year-old Jessica Creek, said a highlight for her was getting their picture taken with Broncos three-try hero Josh Hoffman.

"We always come along and get their autographs and get them to sign footballs," she said.

Riding the airwaves



Letisha Denman, pictured above right with Noelana Flinders, has been on board with RIBS since February this year and says she likes what she's doing. A new broadcaster also joined the team last month to work with Noelana and Letisha as well as Carmel Haines and Ethel Winkle.