

Waaamta

NEWSLETTER

August 2014

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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Please note there may be images of deceased persons within this publication.

Our kids





A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

Firstly I'd like to welcome our new CEO Ian Bodill to the community, he started with us at the end of July and has been working well here in Lockhart.

If you haven't met him and you see him around please make him feel welcome.

Our biggest news is as of this month our subdivision is finally completed, which will be of some relief to the 52 people on our waiting list for housing.

We only have 28 blocks so hopefully another subdivision can be built in the near future, depending on how quickly we can build these ones.

Starting shortly Council will be building eight new houses in the community and seven of them will be on the subdivision and one will be replacing Lot 23 Kuyumu Street.

We can continue with rolling out of all our new social houses now and they will be managed by the tenancy management mob

If anyone is interested in home ownership I think this will be an ideal situation for people to purchase a new house.

The Council is negotiating with the Government on the sale of houses, and that's for existing stock as well as the new stock.

Land tenure issues (the old Katter leases) are also in the process of being addressed.

There's going to be a workshop in the near

future with lease-holders, the Council and the Government about how we can try and get that sorted.

In other news our fencing is progressing well and our road gang is doing a wonderful job on the Old Mission Road at the moment – that project is being 100 per cent managed by the Council

The other roadworks around town are Roads to Recovery Projects which are the seal on the Cemetary Road and the little road near the workshop.

And the other good news is we have is that we're going to spend some TIDS (Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme) money on putting culverts on the main access road out to the Pascoe River and along the Old Site Road.

A culvert is a pipe in the ground to improve the little creek crossings, it makes the crossing more accessible so you can have as much as a couple of extra months to get through after the wet.

The Federal Government has also funded \$200 million into the PDR, the Peninsula Development Road, and they're going to seal



Welcome to new CEO

Council has welcomed new CEO Ian Bodill to Lockhart River.

Mr Bodill spent five years working in East Arnhem Shire in the Northern Territory and has just spent 18 months in Western Australia.

“East Arnhem Shire was a newly created Shire by the Northern Territory Government which had nine Indigenous communities,” he said.

“Qualifications are I have a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) and I have a Local Government Diploma.

“I’m busy now with another Masters Degree which involves Property Valuation.”

Mr Bodill is married and said he was looking forward to meeting the Lockhart River community.

In early July he attended one of the Lockhart Shire Council’s most important meetings of the year.



“This week has been a really, really good week to have been here; I’m glad I didn’t miss it,” he said.

“I was supposed to start on the 28th of July, but we had the Council meeting where all the Councillors adopt a Budget, including the three-year Budget, an Operational Plan, which included a 10-Year Plan and a 10-Year Forecast, and the long-term Asset Management Plan.”

between Laura and Weipa over the next five years.

They’re putting down about 40–50 kilometres this year; by December there’s going to be more sealed road.

The Cape Indigenous Mayor’s Alliance (CIMA) has lobbied hard for this and we have managed to get the State Government to invest in our roads. The Peninsula Development Road (PDR) is the artery of the Cape and community roads are our veins.

And hopefully Lockhart River will get a \$5 million dollar investment out of that over the next five years.

In other CIMA news, our main focus has been the government owned and retail stores.

We want community ownership over them, so we’re lobbying the government very hard at the moment to hand those stores over.

My final word is important and that is to say to all our parents, please, please, please send your kids to school!

If we are going to have any chance of maintaining what little independence we have, we must have those strong attendance figures, we must have more kids at school, and we must have more kids learning so they are set up for life through their education.



**Send your kids
to school!!!**



Wayne Butcher
Mayor, Lockhart River





Corporate Services

New Budget at a glance

The 2014/15 annual budget message was loud and clear – we need to be doing what we can afford effectively and efficiently ensuring Lockhart River community service levels are not compromised Corporate Services Director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

The Council has approved this year's budget which focuses on reducing dependence on grants and subsidies.

Diversifying and generating own revenue is our priority in this new strategic direction as evidenced by our determination to increase other sources of Council revenue.

The budgeted operating revenue approximated \$10.5m and corresponding operating expenditure of \$10.4m with anticipated operating surplus of \$0.105m.

New initiatives to improve recoverable works revenue targets increase to \$3.6m and other general increase of fees and charges will be in the range of 5–25 percent.

More good news came from the Capital budget that increased by almost 5 percent to \$3.8m due to seven new houses coming up in the new subdivision.

The Council will enforce more accountability and transparency reporting.

It will not be business as usual for managers who do not understand their budget figures and link them to the performance of their departments.

The Council will require senior management to prepare and present to Council meetings departmental budget updates to ensure that everything is going to plan.

Wishing you good budget performance.

Busy times in Lockhart River

There's a lot of work going on in Lockhart now that the extended wet season has finally ended.

"It's so much easier now that the rain has stopped," said Deputy CEO Dora Accoom, who was Acting CEO until last month.

"The main road going out of town is getting fixed up and they're doing the old Mission Road. And the subdivision is finished with the machinery. The contractors now are waiting for the builders to come in and do the houses up – 28 houses."

Dora was much busier than usual, also helping out in the Bank/Post Office until a new worker is found. Meanwhile, Council worker Noleen Clark was also very busy.

"Noleen was the Administrative Officer so she was busy doing admin," Dora said. "She also does the Small Business Mentoring and has helped get some boys through to getting their business up and running."



Top: Dora Accoom;
Left: Thelma &
Faye Hobson





Engineering Services

Roads in full repair for dry

Cyclone damage to roads, most recently from Cyclone Ita earlier this year, is now fully repaired Director of Engineering Services Sangarapillai Rajanayagam – otherwise known as Raja – writes...

We have completed all the Emergent Works from extensive monsoon rains in January/February in Lockhart this year, followed by Cyclone Ita. Even though Ita didn't come this way it affected our roads. We have completed our emergent work on the full 100km

of the Portland Roads. That included grading as well as upgrading the water crossings so the trucks can get through. We've also done quite a lot of pothole patching and lining some of the gravel roads around town. The Mission Road is now open and I understand a lot of people

are now using that road to get to the beach or to visit the remaining buildings there. Now we have started on to more 'normal' work such as restoration work, which is bringing the whole infrastructure properly repaired to original standards.



Top: Renvoators Roy Namok & Jyren Kyle; Above: Napo Short & Josh Hubbard; Top Left & Left: Plumber Paul Jansen





Living and working in paradise Toby says

New Council Store Manager Toby Dagan (*pictured right*) said he feels like a lucky man to live and work in Lockhart.

"I love Lockhart – it's paradise," he said.

"It's a good community, nice and peaceful, lovely, green and breezy and nice people.

"And I'm enjoying the work.

"I'm very lucky."

Toby said he's also lucky to work with such great people like Purchasing Office Jenny Theocari and his assistant Mark Sandy (*on the right above*).

"The lovely Mark is my offsider and



Jenny's been the invisible force behind us," he said. He said he was really enjoying the work and learning a lot.

"I'm the Manager in Training," he joked in June.

"You'll have to ask Jenny for the real report of how I'm doing!"



Top & Above:
Road workers;
Right: the
fencing
team

Subdivision ready to go!

Director of ESW Constructions Shane Smythe has nothing but praise for his workers, who have been busy lately working on Cemetery Road.

“The boys have been going really well,” he said.

“They certainly can take pride in the way they did the roads last year; it was really good.”

Shane said they are surpassing Indigenous Employment Policy (IEP) requirements.

“We’re over the quota for our IEP,” he said.

“We’ve smashed it by 100 per cent at the moment. The requirement of the IEP on this job was 2,500 hours; we’re well over 5,000.”

Like the rest of the community, Shane can’t wait for the housing construction to begin.

He sees it to be a huge benefit to the community in many different ways.



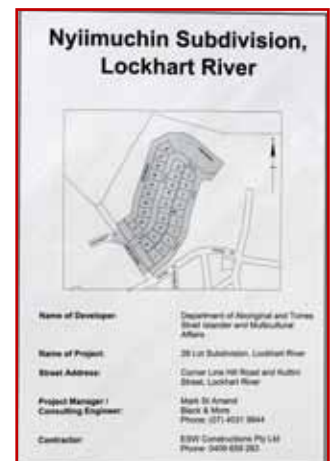
Above: Shane’s crew at the subdivision

“It’s going to help with a lot of the overcrowding in the community,” he said.

“And two of the houses will be built by the locals, which is just great.

“It’s also going to help the apprentices here develop new skills.

“It’s a very good thing.”



Emergency housing works take priority – Jasmine

Building Services’ Jasmine Accoom (*pictured below*) has been wearing different hats for Council over the past few months – it’s been a busy time!



“We’ve got a sub-division happening; we’ve got a demolition happening at the moment and we’ve got the Cemetery Road getting new curbing and bitumen,” she said.

“It’s busy.

“Most of the things I do are to do with maintenance.”

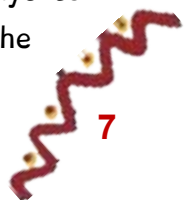
She said emergency

jobs had priority over all jobs in the community.

“If, say, the water pipe busts then that’s an emergency.

“If it’s something like a broken door or window, it could take like 14 days at the moment because the boys are working with priority calls.

“There’s usually two to four hours to wait in an emergency and there’s seven to 14 days to wait for maintenance. I want to let the tenants know they should call 1300 738 616 if they have any damage or need maintenance.”





Community Development Team

Dottie says come & join us!

Community Development Team Director Dottie Hobson says she would love it if everyone in Lockhart would join in community activities like the recent NAIDOC celebrations.

"We had a great turnout for our NAIDOC Day," she said.

"We had day-time activities and night-time activities with sports and games for the kids and for the older people.

"We want the whole community to come in and join us in our other activities too.

"Some organisations here at Lockhart are working with us too, so that's good. Working together with others makes it much better.

"It's easier when there are other people involved and help out."

Dottie's areas include HACC, Justice Group, Women's Shelter, Men's Centre, Kid's Club, After School Care, Families Together and the IKC/Library.

"Ivy's the coordinator at HACC. She's looking after old people and doing activities with them," Dottie explained. "At the Puuya Centre, Willy Clarke is the Justice Group Coordinator and he looks after Justice Group with Court and where he can help.

"Ethel at the Women's Shelter asked me to go and do three days training with her, so we did that.

"I've got Rodney at the Men's Centre. He's



Standing above, Tanya Koko with Community Development Director Dottie Hobson

planning to get something happening there.

"Cate Adams left Lockhart in August.

"During her time here she was a great help in many ways within the CDT and we wish her and her family well for the future."

With funding being harder to get, Dottie is ensuring all her team know how to complete funding reports properly.

"Reporting is very important to us," she said. "That is what the funding people look at – they look at the documents that we send in our report.

"Our coordinators are aware that it's important that they keep records of their numbers and take photos."



Culture and sport high on Beno's activities list

After graduating from St Brendan's College in Yeppoon only last year, Beno Macumboy feels lucky to have landed his idea of a perfect first job.

Beno, who graduated after four years of boarding school at the college, is the newest Lockhart River Youth Worker.

"It's a really good job," he said. "I was lucky to get this straight after school. I really like it."

And he brings plenty of passion to the job.

He loves organising cultural and sporting activities for the youth and networking with other communities to share experiences.

"During NAIDOC week we ran sports events for the young people in the community," he said.

He is also involved in the Northern Cape Rugby League, helping to send Rep players to places like Cairns for competition, and he helped organise a visit from the Hopevale Youth Group.

"We took them out camping for two days," he said. "Some of our youth here came, took them

on country and showed them around."

Beno also likes organising chill-out nights for the youth.

"Heaps of kids come down for that and we have a lot of fun," he said.

He encourages more youth to come and join them and be part of the fun.

"It's always good to see our youth having fun, and we'd like to see as many here as we can."





KID'S
CLUB
CULTURE
DAY
-JUNE 2014-







Men's Group networking expanding horizons



Men's Group Coordinator Rodney Accoom (*pictured below right*) is on a mission to get more men of all ages to join the Men's Centre and enjoy the benefits.

"We get a few fellows coming in during the day to practice their music and at night they practice as well. Sometimes they make a fire and practice the dance," he said.

"I'd like to see more fellows and young fellows turn up at night. I know most of these fellows got work in the day, but the Men's Centre is here for them.

"And the fellows enjoy it when they come."

Rodney is working with My Pathways to join the Men's Centre with Men's Shed Australia.

"Jesse, who used to work with the Men's Centre in Bamaga and is now from My Pathways, is really keen to get us into Men's Shed Australia, so he's going to help us," Rodney said.

"We'd like to take men up to Bamaga and other places to see what the Men's Centres are doing. I reckon it would be

good to know the others and see what they're doing.

"It'll keep us interested and we can help each other.

"And the more ideas we get the better."

Rodney says all Lockhart men, young and old, will benefit a lot by visiting the Men's Centre more often.

"The Men's Centre is to help get everyone happy here," he said. "So we want all the fellows to come in."



Paperwork pays off with better and long-term futures for Jimmy & Peter

Jimmy Hobson and Peter Ropeyarn had every reason to be very excited back in June when word came through they were ready to go.

They both have started their own business and both secured Council contracts to kick-start their new ventures.

With the invaluable help of Noleen Clark, Business and Economic Development and Trainer, and Indigenous Business Australia, Jimmy and Peter were able to secure business loans to get their businesses started.

Jimmy is the proud owner of a front-end loader to use on road works and Peter now owns a water and gravel truck. Both will work as contractors for Council.

“It has been a long road, quite a few years, but we finally got the outcome we wanted,” Noleen said.

Noleen was instrumental in helping Jimmy and Peter work through the paperwork and assist them to learn all they need to know to start their own business.

Even though it took a few years, Jimmy and Peter are happy.

“We just kept coming to the meetings with Noleen and Indigenous Business Australia and we also did a workshop,”



Jimmy said. “It was a bit of a wait, but we finally got it.”

Peter also said the preparation and the wait was worth it.

“It has taken awhile, but I’m happy to get the business going,” he said.

“There was a lot of paperwork that had to be done.”

Jimmy started working with Noleen in 2009 to go through the process.

He will use his machine to work on the roads, picking up gravel, earth and other loads. He also has a fuel tank and a compressor.

“I’ll be working most of the

time on the roads,” he said.

“And later on, I’d like to get a compressor to add to the back of the truck for tyre repair work.”

Peter also has a fuel tank as well as a dual water-and-gravel truck, which can be adapted to do water runs on if needed, simply by replacing the tank.

Both are thrilled to own their vehicles and start their own business.

“I never thought I’d have a truck like that,” Jimmy said.

“I’m very happy.”

Peter agreed.

“I’m very excited,” he said.





HACC workers taking up training opportunities

Staff members at Home and Aged Care Centre have had a busy year undergoing further training to help make life easier for their clients.

“We recently had a teacher from TAFE in Cairns that came for two days training,” HACC Coordinator Ivy Hobson said. “There’s another one coming up very shortly for more training. “We’re waiting back on TAFE to let us know when we can go there and do some training. “We’ve done food handling, how to work with our clients and how to work with dementia, working with clients who have challenging behaviour, things like that. We learned to do things differently and approach them and work around their behaviour.”

HACC staff have also been busy doing activities with their clients (*see pics on p 14*). “Our activities include taking them fishing, cooking for them and bingo,” HACC worker Bessie Hobson said. “We have about 25 clients. We cook beef, chicken, stew, things like that

for them. That keeps us busy.” HACC worker Leila Clarmont said bingo was also very popular at the Centre. “Everyone enjoys it,” she said. “And with the TV screen, they can see the numbers too, so that’s good for them. “We all have good fun.”



Lockhart River Primary Health Care Services News

All the Nurses and Health workers at the clinic would like to congratulate all the adults in town who have come to the clinic for their yearly Adult Health Check!

It’s great to see so many people taking an interest in their health and making healthy choices when it comes to food, smoking, drinking and medications. Keep up the good work guys. For those people who have not had their yearly health check we have a deadly nurse, Troy, who is at the clinic every week from Tuesday to Thursday and we encourage everybody to come down and get checked out! Staff at the clinic would like to remind people that after hours

calls are for **EMERGENCIES** only. The nurses have been having a lot of calls for panadol, dressings and phone numbers recently. If the nurses are kept awake all night with non urgent calls then they are not at work the next day and people will have to wait longer to be seen. Below we have provided a list of numbers that we often get called for at night including the number for the Cairns Hospital and some accommodation places in Cairns.

Please save these into your phone.
Cairns Base Hospital: 4226 6333
Townsville Hospital: 4433 1111
El Dorado: 4051 6122
Kuiyam: 4051 6466
Mookai: 4045 6333
Red Cross: 4047 6100
Reminder that is anyone has not had their **FLU** needle yet there is still time to get it before the flu season starts proper. The flu makes you proper crook, with bone sore, fresh cold, fever, cough, and sore throat.

Come to the clinic and ask for your Flu needle today!





Lockhart River State School News

A great first half to 2014!

On 5 June Lockhart State School hosted the Cape York Stronger Together Conference. The team, including George Ottero, a community advisor from New Mexico, travelled to four Cape communities culminating at Bamaga, where the principals and some parents all met to discuss family and community involvement in their schools.

George and the team loved their Lockhart experience and really appreciated the kup murri, dancing and community meeting. Our community meeting had the best turn out of all the Cape meetings.

Thank you Lockhart State School and community for a wonderful evening, Lockhart really showed what a strong community it is.





PUUYA FOUNDATION welcomes new staff in Lockhart River...

With a lot of hard work the Puuya Foundation has been able to secure funding to have three staff in Lockhart River who are co-ordinating and implementing the delivery of the early childhood programs in Lockhart.

These programs include:

Monday: Parents and Learning (PaL) in the afternoon. PaL is being delivered to about 10 families in Lockhart River. The resources are rotated weekly and provide a variety of educational tools for parents to use at home with their children.

Tuesday: Playgroup between 9 and 11am – this includes cultural activities.

Wednesday: Families as First Teachers (FAFT) between 11am and 1.30pm from the pre-prep building in the school – does not run on school holidays.

Thursday: Families Together activities.

Friday: Activities on a Friday vary – staff will keep you informed about what will be available.

All activities are for children with their parents and childcare is not available.

There is a wide variety of early years activities to choose from. Mums, Dads and little ones are all welcome to attend, including extended families.

Other activities have included sewing, craft, internet sessions.

The key to success of the early years activities is getting the community involved in the activities and education of their children, so please join in and participate.

If you want to know more information about the activities contact Tanya Koko (Kuunchi Kakana Manager).





The Diabetic Footwear Project was launched in May 2014 at the Lockhart River Health Clinic with patients attending (*pics below*).

As a result each chronic diabetic patient will receive a pair of sandals, footcare kit, health education materials and a letter from Chair Dottie Hobson.

The Puuya Foundation purchased sandals, funded by Cairns Sunrise Rotary and Office for Liquor and Gaming. This was a community priority commenced by our former Chair Johnson Chippendale. We continue to work with Apunipima Podiatry Services and the Lockhart River Primary Health Clinic to implement and evaluate this project.

Positive feedback was received from stakeholders including:

“This was an awesome partnership and awesome outcome. Puuya Foundation identified a community need and filled it,” Senior Health Worker Karen Koko said.

“I really like the shoes, I have never had anything like this before,” Patient Sylvia Giblett said.

“The sandals will help protect their feet and prevent serious issues that can arise from diabetes... that may

result in amputations. It has been very helpful to work together with Puuya Foundation and the Clinic – it has been rewarding and informative,” Apunipima’s Sylvia Rosas said. If you are a diabetic patient with the clinic you need to attend for an appointment to be eligible for the package.





Education Learning Circles commenced in Lockhart River in June 2012 (*participants pictured above*).

Six of the seven we have held have been in Lockhart River. The issues and challenges facing the community continue to be discussed and addressed.

Solutions are developed and actions taken.

As one participant said: “Blows me away – observing the growth and development in the community – focus on education

of the young, issues of foetal alcohol syndrome disorder is being discussed – understanding and developing the capacity of the kids”.

There were 24 participants at the June learning circle with an increased representation of local community (*pictured above*).

Representatives also travelled from Toowoomba, Brisbane,

Cairns, Townsville and Weipa.

The next Education Learning Circle will be held in October 2014.

There is a lot of goodwill from many partners to make the learning circles a success.

The learning circles have been funded through a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

The other exciting news is that we will be building an early years and family centre – Kuunchi Kakana centre in Lockhart River.

We hope to have the building started this year before the wet season.

Keep your eyes open for a new building on the old pre-school site.

From the new building and early years services to be provided employment and training opportunities are expected.

We are working with My Pathways to make the most of these opportunities to get local people involved.

We expect to be able to run many other types of activities out of the new centre, this is where the whole family can get involved.

For more information on the Puuya Foundation activities, please contact Denise Hagan (CEO) on 0419 681 025 or Dottie Hobson on 0429 853 228.



Video launch success

A hip hop video featuring young people from Lockhart was launched with three days of activities earlier this year.

Apunipima's Health Promotion and Tackling Smoking Healthy Lifestyles teams worked in partnership with Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) Indigenous Program Development Unit and commissioned Indigenous Hip Hop Projects to create music videos during 2014.

Young people from Lockhart



River attended a series of hip hop workshops in January. Facilitated by Indigenous Hip Hop Projects, the workshops saw the young people explore culture, community and health and write and perform their track Lockhart River Love for the Indigenous Hip Hop crew's cameras.

Activities included a Welcome to Country, Traditional Indigenous Games, cultural activities and a disco.



*Pics courtesy Apunipima
Cape York Health Council*