



WUJAL WUJAL

ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Newsletter August 2012

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New council young but vocal, and a 'good mix' says Mayor Clifford Harrigan

Newly elected Mayor Cr Clifford Harrigan says he is still finding his feet in his new position, but thanks to training and networking down south he is starting to get the idea.

"In the first six months I'm finding my feet, just working my way around and then we can go from there," he said.

"I am still a bit surprised to find myself here.

"We have a new Premier in Campbell Newman so a lot of what we're doing is meeting all the different Ministers and working out the new Departments and what their roles are.

"We've also had Local Government training for the Mayors, Councillors and CEO.

"So that's why I've been away a lot – doing a lot of training and meeting a lot of different people.

"The new Government now, the Newman Government, has been very supportive of all the

Indigenous Shire Councils, which is good because there are a lot of new Mayors and new Councillors all across the Cape.

"And a lot of people, like myself, are first time in Government and first time in political Government areas, so it's good to catch up with all the other Indigenous Mayors and Councillors from the other regions and exchange ideas.

"On Council itself, I feel we have a good mix of experience.

"We're actually probably one of the youngest Councils in the Cape, but we are very vocal.

"So far they've been very supportive of me and vice versa – they're pretty switched on.

"What we all really want is to see this community continue to go



forward.

"I'd like to see more of our young people in good-paying jobs, like getting apprenticeships and that.

"So by the time I finish my term here I'd like to see a lot of people with certificates and apprenticeships under their belt, so in the future they have the basis for having a good job for the rest of their lives.

"So that's one of my goals, getting people employed and in to good-paying jobs so they have a good life, and I think we can do that."



Above: Mayors meeting in Cairns for the LGAQ's Indigenous Leader's Forum in May: L-R: LGAQ CEO Greg Hallam, Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher, Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs Minister Glen Elmes (front), Woorabinda Mayor Terry Munns, Torres Council Mayor Fred Gela, Napranum Deputy Mayor Ernest Madua (back), Local Government Minister David Crisafulli (front), NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie (back), Napranum Mayor Philemon Mene, Hopevale Mayor Greg McLean (front), Kowanyama Mayor Robert Holness, Wujal Wujal Mayor Clifford Harrigan (front), Mornington Mayor Bradley Wilson, Yarrabah Mayor Errol Neal & Mapoon Mayor Peter Guivarra.

A quick word from...

WWASC CEO Kevin Wormald

Wujal Wujal CEO Kevin Wormald is hanging up his hat after more than three years at the helm.

At last month's Council meeting he offered his resignation, effective on or before 31 January 2013.

He will, in the meantime, assist the Council in the recruitment of his successor.

"I will be resuming semi-retirement and will be, hopefully, doing relieving CEO appointments at my discretion for the foreseeable future until I want to retire full time," he said.

In the meantime he said the new Council has settled in very well.

"They had a wonderful post-election meeting where there was a traditional welcome by traditional owners and a little function on the back veranda at the Council," he said.

"The relatives and friends witnessed the Councillors taking their Declaration of Office.

"Since then, they've been involved in induction of Council roles by myself, to start with, and they've also had a program conducted by the Department of Local Government.

"The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been to the Civic Leaders Summit hosted by the Local Government Association of Queensland on the Sunshine Coast where there were another six Aboriginal Councils in attendance, as well as other Councils throughout the state.

"The photo here is of myself and the mayor at the Indigenous Leaders Forum which was very valuable.

"This is a great learning curve for our new Councillors, a good introduction to their roles and they're taking it very, very seriously."



Above: CEO Kevin Wormald & Mayor Clifford Harrigan at the Local Government of Queensland Association (LGAQ) Indigenous Leaders's forum in May this year.



Vera's retirement morning tea - L-R Office Manager Wilma Donahue, Finance Officer Berni Moore, Accounts Clerk Vera Auld, Receptionist Robyn Bloomfield & Corporate Services Manager Nerida Carr. Vera's position was filled by Wendy Rowlands. Berni Moore has also recently resigned from her position – watch this space for more!!!



Above: RIBS Announcer Keely Flinders, Receptionist Robyn Bloomfield & Office Manager Wilma Donahue

Wujal's new Councillors...



L-R: Cr Talita Nandy, Cr Clifford Harrigan, CEO Kevin Wormald, Deputy Mayor Alister Gibson, Cr Natasha Duncan & Cr Vincent Tayley

Deputy Mayor Cr Alister Gibson said his primary reason for wanting to go on Council again was to continue his work with teenagers and youth.

"I felt that being on that previous Council was a learning experience for myself, so I wanted to run again because I want to work with the youth and also the teenagers," he said.

"Economic Development is another of my portfolios and I have that because I'm keen to find jobs for Bama here, to better their skills for themselves and also their families and for their future as well.

"If Council could be involved in helping them with those opportunities it can change their life around.

"It's something I wanted to get into.

"My other portfolio is Community Lifestyle and I'm currently working as a Sports and Rec Officer, so working in with the kids, just getting involved, just to better their skills as well, teach them better respect – you got to respect your elders – and all that.

"I started at the PCYC about two months ago and I'm enjoying it down there, just doing activities, afternoon activities, with the kids – basketball, touch footy, colouring for the kids.

"It's been good.

He said the Wujal Wujal rugby league team was still part of the Three Rivers competition in Cooktown.

"We haven't won any games, we need more training, but the boys are enjoying it," he said.

"I am happy that I got elected again; it's good to run again after that four years, so I'm running, I'm Deputy Mayor and I'm looking forward to those hard challenges."



RFDS Mental Health Promotions Officer Michael Marriott & CDO Young People Cr Vince Tayley

Social & Emotional Wellbeing worker Cr Vincent Tayley is proud to have been elected a Wujal Wujal Councillor and says he's doing things he's never done before because of it.

"Now I know where I am and the people are starting to see what I'm doing and planning to do, help them out in my ways," he said.

"My portfolios as Councillor are Housing and Justice.

"Over the next four years, I'm hoping to help keep people out of trouble and work with them a bit more closely. I'm also hoping to see more housing around the community. It's been plenty of meetings so far, on top of my job which is with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

"That involves liaising with them, Mental Health, Child Safety - it's just been full-on, mostly in a good way.

"I'm sort of getting used to the people and then they get to know me, and that's been great.

"I'd like to thank the community for supporting me and getting me up into this position."

Crs Talita Nandy & Natasha Duncan will be featured in the next WWASC newsletter (December/January)

Focus on: **... Corporate Services ...**

This is the busiest time of year for us, with all of the end-of-year financial reporting, Corporate Services Director Nerida Carr writes.

We have just had an interim audit, following up on last year's report, and the annual audit is due in September.

The last two weeks in June were disrupted by intermittent lack of internet, email and phones, and also by staff succumbing to the dreaded flu at various times!

This made it difficult to carry out the routine functions.

On a brighter note, the office is looking much better with the replacement of old furniture and creation of additional storage space. We have also moved our computer servers out of the main office and into a more secure location.

This has meant more room to move in the Office Manager's area, and less likelihood of damage to the valuable equipment that controls our accounting, internet and email systems.

Wendy Rowlands joined us in the Accounts Clerk position in April.

Wendy has worked for the Council in other areas in the past, and this experience with the people and procedures has helped her settle in well.

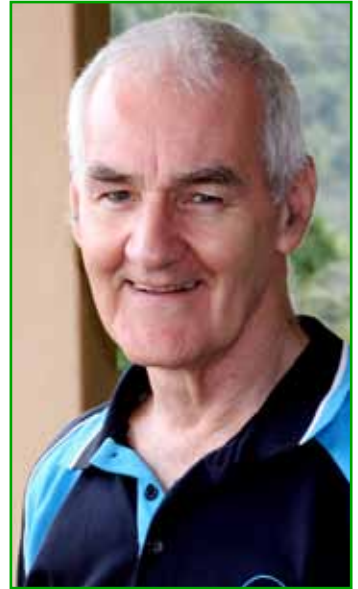
Berni Moore has just resigned from the Finance Officer position, so there are more staff changes on the way.

Harry Gauvin (*pictured above right*) from Partners in Business is here as a consultant for both staff training and helping meet audit requirements.

He has been a regular visitor over the past two years, and will be returning before the annual audit to give us the benefit of his experience.

Harry says he loves coming to Wujal Wujal, and working with people who have a good attitude to learning.

We look forward to applying the knowledge imparted by Harry's twenty years experience and knowledge in Local Government.



"This picture (right) is of the 'Kalamazoo' ledgers from the 1990s, which is what I used to prepare the annual accounts without the benefit of a computerised accounting system," Nerida says.

"To finish off at the end of every month I had to wait for bank statements to come in the mail - there was no internet!"

"In 1996-97 the Council got its first unqualified annual audit after using that system."



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

Are you currently studying or considering:

- Training
- Further education or
- High School

Have you claimed ABSTUDY?
Contact the Department of Human Services on **132 317** to lodge your claim or visit your nearest Service Centre or Agent.

humanservices.gov.au

Police to co-host croc-awareness session

Wujal Wujal Police are continuing to work closely with the community and are very encouraged by the general attitude of the community, Senior Constable Jason Manders writes.



Constable John Melandri with Senior Constable Jason Manders

We have a very positive relationship here and we work very closely with the Wujal Justice Group, the Wujal Clinic and other government agencies.

We continue to target alcohol related and domestic violence related issues and we continue to have a zero tolerance approach to anyone breaching the AMP.

We know there is a direct relation between alcohol in the community and domestic violence related activity.

But overall we are encouraged by the responsible attitude of this community towards the adherence to the AMP laws.

In the time we've been here we feel we've been welcomed by the community, particularly myself and Luke.

We have a number of relieving staff that to come at periodic intervals because either myself or Luke are away on leave, attending to other duties or training courses.

People we've had coming in here from Cooktown and Cairns to relieve here have all commented they've found this to be a very friendly community and they've all been made to feel very welcome here as well.

That's been a positive reinforcement for us as the local police.

We are fortunate here that we do feel that people support us, we welcome that and we thank people very much for that.

One thing I'd like people to make a note of is on the 22nd of August

at 1.30pm the Police and National Parks and Wildlife are attending the Bloomfield River Primary School where we're going to hold a crocodile-awareness session for the children.

We've got concerns about children swimming in and around the causeway and up and down the Bloomfield River so because of increased recent crocodile sightings at Weary Bay on the Bloomfield River we decided to ask National Parks to come and talk to the kids with us.

Parents and any other interested community members are more than welcome to attend that event.

We'd like to see as many people turn up to support their children or any other community members.



On Wednesday 22 August Wujal Wujal police and rangers from the National Parks and Wildlife Service will hold a croc-awareness session at the Bloomfield River Primary School. Parents and any other interested community members are welcome to attend. The photograph above was taken close to the mouth of the Bloomfield River - two big crocs can be seen sunning themselves on the far bank while members of the Wujal Wujal Women's Group fished on the other side (see pages 7-9 for more about Women's Group activities).

Focus on: ... Community Development ...

Community Development now has a fairly 'flash' office at the RTC building in the former CDEP office, CDO Garry Ashworth says.

"I share that office now with the Healthy Community's co-ordinator Joh Anthonis and our new Community Support Officer Warratah Nicholls," he said.

"Outside of that we now have Cr Alister Gibson doing the PCYC, probably until next month.

"Junibel Doughboy is now supervising the cafe down at the Arts Centre, she's running that with three other CDEP participants who are also studying their Hospitality Certificates through TAFE.

"The CDEP participants have one day a week Council top-up, so that's looking very positive for community participation in the cafe area.

"Vikki Burroughs the new Arts Centre Manager, she's employed by Council.

"We had some wonderful programs happen on the school holidays as well as the NAIDOC, which was a great success and also had a lot of participation from the community, so that was very good.

"The Women's Group has been progressing quite steadily, as has the Men's Group.

"Activities have been happening with the Men's Group – the pool comps are still going on, there's Camps on Country and a lot of other new adventurous sort of things.

"We've also got a lot of activities happening down at the Market Garden, a lot of planting, new beds and we've bought a new lawn mower for them as well.

"It's given them a great boost along to be able to manage that area in a more professional way, so it's been great."



Above: In the new Art Centre kitchen was Denise Bassani, new Healthy Communities Coordinator Joh Anthonis, Community Development Officer Garry Ashworth, Clara Nunn, Cynthia Bassani & Junibel Doughboy



*Left: New Community Support Officer Warratah Nicholls Below: Men's Group activities Facing page: Women's Group activities
SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE PICS*



New Community Support Officer Warratah Nicholls has been working closely with new Healthy Communities Coordinator Joh Anthonis to cover the Men's and Women's Groups in particular, but also sports and recreation and community events in Wujal Wujal.

Partnering on projects such as the community garden with CDEP has also been an important part of developing a 'whole' approach to linking services and activities.

"The women have been doing some team development and capacity building workshops towards getting more things happening in the Women's Centre as well as creating a vision and working towards being self-sustaining," Ms Nicholls said. "Funding for the centre runs out in December and the women want to see it keep going."

She said the women have been active in creating a plan for the Community Garden.

"They are looking for a Focus Group for the Community Garden involving Wujal people who are dedicated to seeing the garden succeed," she said.

"CDEP is employing workers in the garden so I'm working with their new manager, Becks, as well as Joh because an identified community need is to have a local supply of healthy food.

"We're all looking at it from a capacity-building angle which is about how can we empower and help people to gain the skills to actually run a successful, bountiful garden which may become a business initiative in the future.

"The focus group may not be the ones doing the digging because they may be elders, but they will have an overview and guiding hand to keep the garden going without somebody from

outside coming in and driving it. "The Women's Group is part of it, but there would also be some men involved as well, it's a whole of community initiative.

"The other area Joh and I have been supporting each other is with the Men's and Women's Group.

"The Women's Group has been going out on hunting trips and once a fortnight we go to Cooktown and join up with the Hopevale ladies for some line dancing, and more recently bowls.

"Any women are welcome to come along, there are activities like sewing, cooking and artwork or just social gathering, so there is an opportunity there for all women to come and learn and share their stories and develop their skills and knowledge.

"The Centre is now open on a Wednesday for activities and the message I want to put out is: the women want more women to come and join them, especially young women.

"So I'm also here to support the Men's and the Women's Groups and sporting activities, because I'm a woman I work more with the women's group and it's just fortunate that we have Joh, who's Healthy Community Co-ordinator, to come in and work more directly with the Men's Group."

Mr Anthonis said his role was about supporting, encouraging and promoting healthy lifestyles around things like exercise, healthy eating and well-being

for the whole community.

"That includes spiritually and mentally," he said.

"One of the things I've done is help to organise a cultural camp up at Shipton's Flat.

"The first camp was awesome, we had heaps of people.

"We thought maybe 40 people, maximum; we catered for 50 just in case – on the Friday alone there was 80 people and the Saturday night I lost count at 100.

"It was textbook – people were eating healthy food; heaps of people were cooking fresh foods; they're all going out swimming, fishing, there was bush hikes with the rangers.

"The next camp is planned at Buru, closer to Wujal Wujal.

"Another thing I've done, is apply for funding from Men's Sheds Australia for tools, repairs to the Men's Centre and some money for fundraising for the Men's group.

"We've worked with a couple of blokes from Cooktown and one of them also works with the Laura and Hopevale Men's Groups, and he got funding for us all to do a camp together at Normanby Station."

Joh said he and his partner Becks from CDEP have spent the past five years working on various communities across the Central Desert, Kimberleys and Arnhem Land. We did relief work and we used to run shops," he said.

"We finally found ourselves here and we're feeling like this is it, after five years we finally found the place."









The team of now fully-qualified Aged Care Workers at the Community Care Centre are well-pleased with themselves and looking forward to formally graduating, acting coordinator Sonya Doughboy says.

"All the girls, we've all finished our Cert III in Aged Care, so we're just waiting to graduate now," she said. "We're fully qualified Aged Care Workers and we're pleased with ourselves."

CEO Kevin Wormald said the team was also looking forward to kitchen upgrades in the Centre.

"The scope of the works is to upgrade the kitchen by totally renewing all equipment and extending the kitchen area," he said. "That means new bench tops and fittings, adding a cool room and a dry store, and a staff room with its own kitchenette, and that will be the first stage. We also plan to do an undercover drop-off and driveway, but we need additional funding for that. Work will be starting soon."

Pictured above is Sonya Doughboy, Anna Baird, Gladys Friday & Delanie Shipton (missing Sharon Anderson & Mabel Yougie).

A number of activities over recent months have hopefully helped Life Promotion Officer Dawn Harrigan (below) to get the message 'help is out there if you need it' out into the community.

"We had a Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention workshop with the Edward Koch Foundation for a few days, and that was well-attended by the community," she said. And then we did a couple of counselling sessions as well, and they went down really well.

"The other thing was all our NAIDOC celebrations, Life Promotions was heavily involved with that as well and that went really well."



"We had Youth Week Celebrations which we had some funding in for, thanks to Pastor James Hughes and his fellowship groups who made the evening even more fun and that was really good too."

"Letting people know that there's help out there is the most important message I can give to the community."

"They just need to know where to look for it, but the main thing is to ask."

Kids Helpline – 1800551800

Lifeline- 131114

Suicide Call Back – 1300659467

Standby Response Team – 0459299147



Left & Below: these well-behaved & happy kids were spotted having a quick kick one afternoon in July. Why so well-behaved? When they were asked to jump they did, of course!!!



Last month Kindy Teacher/ Director Coraleen Shipton held NAIDOC Day for her charges, with the support of RFDS in particular, she says.

"We're always trying to get more families and parents involved," she said.

"With the support of RFDS, we've built a gunyah today, and there's been various activities for the children as well as a barbecue lunch provided after that.

"There's been a few upgrades around the kindy and the girls here have been studying their Cert III in Children's Service through TAFE in Cairns.

"I'm at Deakin University at the moment, doing my Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood.

"So we've been going well."



Above: Elders, families and children at the kindy's NAIDOC lunch



New Bana Yirriji Art & Cultural Centre Manager, Vikki Burrows, says she would like to let everyone know EVERYONE in the community is welcome to come to the Centre.

"If people want to paint, make jewellery, do pottery or if you have any ideas you would like to share with us regarding what you would like to see happening up here at the centre, please come and let us know," she said. "The centre has two new Gallery Assistants, Alexandra Barlow and Samantha Hooker who are a great help at dealing with the customers and helping around the gallery. We also have Jude Edwards coming in every week to do hand-built pots so if you are interested, come on up or, if you need a lift up to the centre we are happy to come and pick you up.

"Our artists Maurice Gibson, Faron Nunn, Lexton

Nandy, Cedric (Sam) Friday and Jarrod Bassani have been creating some lovely paintings. Also Doreen Creek, Betty Skyes, Anne Nunn, Carmel Haines, Keryl Tayley, Laurel Doughboy and Florence Williams have been selling their jewellery, fridge magnets, bookmarks and pottery to the tourists."

Vikki said the centre was open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

"So everyone from the community is welcome to come any day they get the urge to be creative and want to make artwork, or if you just want to have a look you're very welcome," she said.

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Focus on: Technical Services...

In February we reported that we were on the point of finishing some of our infrastructure projects, in particular the water reticulation on the south side and also the new subdivision within the community, Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes writes.

Both have now reached practical completion without any major problems. Let me take the opportunity to say on behalf of the Council, a big 'thank you' to everyone involved, for their commitment and assistance in delivering this project in an orderly and timely manner, especially taking into consideration that much of the work was done through the wet season. There were touch-and-go days, sometimes it became a bit difficult but we did it and it's there for everybody to see. Embarking on these activities in the wet season is not something I would want to do much of again, as it's high-risk, but we are there now and we have learned from our experiences.

Currently, we are doing the project management for the new houses; we are costing them out and are going to the final drawings stage and finalising designs as we speak. From there we have to go to the engineers for certification and we will



be making best efforts to get the roofs up before the wet season. This will be an achievement in itself if we can do that, so this is what we're working towards.

The building crew have now reached all the targets required by our National Partnerships Program. We extended our workforce, as we tend to do when we need to, and this has enabled us to have delivered on time. Final inspections were carried out at the end of June and we are now in the warranty period for the works performed. There are some other minor upgrades we are still carrying out and that will give us enough work to fill before the new houses commence.

In regard to our Parks and Gardens team, it's always a pleasure to see the job they are doing, and also to hear how often visitors say how neat and well maintained the community area is. Our standards here are very high and we shouldn't take this for granted. At the moment the Parks and Gardens crew are supporting the road gang, opening all the firebreaks around the community.

We have a new Essential Services Officer, Peter Kirchmann (pictured on the left of Jaime above), who is employed by Council as a replacement for our previous operator who left us to go and work in the mines. He has good support from his workers, some of whom are relatively new, but most of the team have been there for some years now.

They have a very good understanding of the routine maintenance that has to be carried out on a daily basis and we are very happy with the high standards maintained by Peter and his team.

The weed management program keeps progressing every year and we continue to see ongoing development. We have a very good relationship now with the neighbouring Councils and we work very closely with them to coordinate operations.



QBuild Snr Supervisor Upgrade Program Wayne Pavey & Snr Supervisor Maintenance Program Michael Crooks.

...Continued Next Page...

Wujal Wujal is one of the first Aboriginal Shire Councils in Queensland to be authorised for water quality reporting only once a year, Essential Services Officer Peter Kirchmann says.

"That means the Queensland Government has great faith in what we do," he said.

"Normally drinking water is reported on every quarter to the Queensland Government, but we've just gone through all the procedures and proven that the highest of safety standards are maintained and that shows that everyone's been doing a great job.

"We are also one of the first Aboriginal communities to complete our Drinking Water Quality Management Plan. All councils must have this in place by July 2013.

"Wujal Council was congratulated by the water regulators for taking the proactive approach of completing this at such an early stage.

"The ESO crew have also been involved with development of an interactive training tool with James Cook University for water quality testing.

"It's a training tool you can use on the computer and the guys can actually run through scenarios of testing water in the proper manner so it ends up at the laboratory in good condition.

"We've been down to JCU and they've also been up here.

"Once complete, it will be released to other indigenous communities around the state and then, at a later point, they'll probably roll it out across a lot of different Councils, including non-Aboriginal Councils."

Mr Kirchmann has been with the Council for four months now.

Prior to working at Council, he was Group Maintenance Manager for a large hotel/adventure tourism chain.

The job kept him travelling a lot, so he said he was now very happy to be working with a great bunch of people and living in Wujal Wujal.

ESO Staff:

Rodney Denman

Ray Sycamore

Herbie Henderson

Trainee Operator

Kelvin Greenwool



Above: Paden Salt, Lenny Ball & Peter Ivanoff working on extending the footpath from the Indigenous Knowledge Centre to the Health Services buildings and beyond...

...From Previous Page...

We are progressing on the Horse Management Program that has now been endorsed by Council and our two neighbouring Councils, Cook Shire Council and Cairns Regional Council. There was a fair bit of work involved due to the cross-boundary issues. The jointly signed agreement means we are all on the same page at the same time, and we all agree on the methodology and the process that has to be carried out to deal with the stray animals wandering around the region.

Safe road access to and from our shire remains

unresolved. The two major infrastructure projects to address this issue are the Woobadda Crossing and the Bloomfield River Bridge. Cairns Regional Council, as the Land Manager for the Woobadda Crossing project, advises that this will be delivered in the 2012-13 financial year.

Negotiations are ongoing between Wet Tropics Management Authority, Cairns Regional Council, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council, Cook Shire Council and Main Roads.

We also hope to see some movement on the Bloomfield River Bridge, within the next few of months.



"We download our day-to-day work onto the computer and then that's our filing system there for anybody to view," Animal & Pest Management Control Officer Eddie Madsen (pictured right) says. "And we can also download it onto Google Earth, which gives the other Councils around access to our data base. They can then use the information or see what we're actually doing with pest management and animal management, so we control this all under the one umbrella."



Left: digging a trench for a Telstra cable on the South Side & Below Left: the Parks and Gardens crew not quite lost in the grass, but working on fire breaks, also on the South Side. Below: the new sub-division in January this year and then in July...it is hoped building can start soon on the new allotments.





Above: Nursery workers L-R Brandon Yougie, Tony Yougie, Alfred Smith & Jason Smith

Below: Paul Carr, Lance Green, Clarence Ball, Jordan Diamond, Stanton Walker, Michael Bamboo & Harvey Fourmile installing new garden beds at the community garden.





Clockwise from above right:
Bana Yirriji Arts Centre
Manager Vikki Burrows
& Assistant Manager
Alexandra Barlow; bead
artist Carmel Haines, Cedric
(Sam) Friday, vase painter
Charmaine Nandy, key ring
artist Laurel Doughboy;
and, painter Jarrod Bassani
with Indigenous Job
Connections' Jane Heraghty

