



WUJAL WUJAL

ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Newsletter January 2013

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**From a Merry
Wujal Wujal
Christmas to a
Happy
New Year!**

More Christmas Party pics on p 16!



Bridging gaps in housing and jobs

Wujal Wujal Mayor Clifford Harrigan is excited about 2013, particularly because he is hoping we will all be watching the construction of not just new housing but a brand new bridge over the Bloomfield River, as well as seeing some new apprenticeships and other projects in place.

"Our main agendas have been probably been housing, the new bridge at the Bloomfield Crossing this year and more apprenticeships," he said.

"Last year some more young people in the community were offered apprenticeships and I hope we can get some more.

"We have one young fellow doing mechanic work and another young painter.

"We'll need them with all the new housing coming through, and the bridge work as well.

"There's quite a process to new housing, through town planning and all the other policies and legislations in place.

"The new subdivision finally has electricity, plumbing and all of that

connected, we're just waiting to be able to build.

"We have also got confirmation that the bridge is going to go ahead and the tendering process was started this month.

"I think a lot of people have been waiting for this for a long time.

"They've been promised and promised and I think once they see the first pylon driven into the ground they'll be happy.

"The design is pretty good, it's straightforward, but high enough so the flood waters can go underneath.

"It also has a walkway so people can walk or ride bicycles across safely.

"This year we have funding for an amenities block over at the



south side, which has all been approved.

"That way we can utilise the football oval on the south side, and have some football games."

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"We could end up having some home games here in the Three Rivers comp," Cr Harrigan said.

"I've been in office just over six months now, and I enjoy it.

"I thought it would be harder, and I think this year is going to be a

big year for the Council as we have a new CEO coming in, but I'm enjoying it.

"We have some pretty big projects in mind for the year.

"I can really see this community going forward now with the young

Council and I think the community is starting to see what we are doing in the community.

"I've received a lot of positive feedback, especially about how the community is looking, and that the community is generally very happy, which is good to see."

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

CEO Kevin Wormald will be leaving Wujal Wujal at the beginning of next month as his successor, Alan Neilan from Mt Isa, prepares to take his seat. Wujal Wujal Mayor Cliff Harrigan said Mr Wormald had been an asset to the community during his time here and thanked him for his commitment.

"While we look forward to a new era here in Wujal Wujal, as a Council we'd also like to thank Kevin for his hard work while he was here," he said.

Mr Wormald said his original three-year term was extended twice into a four-year term to take into account the finishing up of the previous Council.

"That's something I'm very glad I did because it gave an opportunity for the Councils to finish off the work they were doing and start off fresh," he said.



TWO MAYORS

"I've had good working relationships with both Mayors I have worked with, that's been very important to me."

He said three new Councillors, including the Mayor, made for an interesting year in 2012.

"It's been particularly interesting to see how the Councillors have developed from their training and acquired knowledge about Local Government," he said.

"That was a big step for most of them.

"And it isn't easy, even in a small community, because the Councillors realise that the job isn't quite the same as what they thought it might have been when they first stood for election.

"It's been very rewarding to work with the Councillors through that process."

GETTING THINGS DONE

Mr Wormald also said the general attitude of Councillors and staff, as well as the community, had helped them all to get things done.

"During my whole time here, Wujal Wujal has had a good attitude to me personally and, whilst everything is not always smooth, it's been a pretty good term here for being able to

achieve what the Council wants with a minimum of fuss," he said.

"The Councillors have a good attitude to one another and they have a good attitude to the staff.

"And that enabled things to be done.

"I've had a good staff to work with as well.

"I personally have an open-door policy – citizens and staff members can come in and go – and that's worked out well.

"I think we have achieved a lot in our time of working together in this way."

He said the achievements he was most happy about were the new Arts and Cultural centre, an extension to the water supply system through the new rising main, the imminent construction of the Bloomfield River bridge and the refurbishment of the Training Centre

"But the things that I actually get the most satisfaction from are the things that are not seen by others, and they're the

Accounting for need - bridge required over croc-infested waters!



This car, stalled and stuck in the middle of the river, was driven by Damien Seaton, Queensland Manager of Civica (the company that provide the WWASC accounting system). It was high tide and water was running through the car. Eventually CDO Garry Ashworth, Accounts Clerk Wendy Rowlands and mechanic Tony Brown were contacted to tow the car - which later started - out. This multi-skilled team was rounded up via Corporate Services Manager Nerida Carr – who was on leave in Cairns at the time!



Plc from 2012 Annual Report



improvements in our organisation including proper planning processes, and the restoration of our finances through having better financial systems.

"There's been a big improvement there."

NEXT STOP

Mr Wormald said he was headed for Banora Point in the Tweed Valley in New South Wales, where his home is.

"I'll be resuming retired life there on the bowling green and generally enjoying my children and grandchildren," he said.

"While my health is good I would like to do relieving work anywhere in the state where they need a CEO.

"I would have no hesitation at all in going to another Aboriginal community."

Top Left: Post Office & Bank Assistant Nikita Walker; Above Left: The Corporate Services team: Payroll Clerk Wilma Donohue, Finance Officer Kerri Enever, Manager Nerida Carr, Receptionist Robyn Bloomfield, Accounts Clerk Wendy Rowlands. Above: Incoming CEO Alan Neilan





*Pictured above:
Parents, children and
members of the Wujal Wujal
Community Justice Group
meeting at the Women's
Centre before Christmas
last year. CJG member
Kathleen Walker said she'd
like to see more respect and
appreciation in 2013 for the
work they do.*

*"For the Justice group and
the Traditional Owners here,
I hope people respect the
Justice Group, and also the
police in 2013," she said.
"Because of what we have
done and can do for our
community, we just want
some appreciation."*

*Below:
CJG coordinator
Joan Beacroft*



Plc from 2012 Annual Report

QPS working with Warranga Community Justice Group

Wujal Wujal Police would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

It's now getting to the hottest part of the year and no doubt some of you might think about a quick swim in the river to cool off.

Remember on these hot days a crocodile is more likely to be in the water than getting too hot in the sun.

The kids in particular need to be reminded of the dangers and rely on the adults to show them the right thing.

It is also a time to share with family and friends and many of you may be travelling some distance to do so.

Please take care and drive safely, wear your seatbelts and don't drink drive.

On the topic of drinking, it is sad to see empty containers of alcohol around the community, some in plain view in front yards!

There are a lot of kids home on the holidays, this is setting a bad example and sending them the wrong message.

If you wish to have a drink, do so responsibly and not in the zero alcohol area.

Wujal Wujal is an alcohol-free community, there are no exceptions on any day for any reason!

We would also like to thank the members of your local Community Justice Group for their tireless efforts all year.

Those ladies work very hard for their community please take the time if you see them to have a yarn and say thanks!

And lastly, thank you to the community of Wujal Wujal.

You live in a beautiful place, let's work together to keep it that way.

I hope 2013 brings good times for you all, and let's hope it also brings that bridge for the crossing!

Respects,
Wujal Wujal Police

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

**They've done it!
Community Care
Centre celebrates
brand new kitchen**



It's been ten years since the Community Care Centre applied for their new kitchen and facilities and 2012 was their year as it finally happened.

Co-ordinator Sharon Anderson said it had been a long journey.

"2012 was an enormous year for us," she said.

"Not only did we get this beautiful new resource, this lovely new kitchen, but all the staff upskilled as well.

"The girls completed their second Certificate III in Community Care, which means they're the highest skilled workers in the Cape.

"And I completed my Diploma of Community Services Co-ordination.

"So, we're hoping in 2013 we can put all our skills and good resources

to very good use, and continue to improve the quality of our service.

"And we're hoping for some extra training to do the Food Safety and Food Safety Supervisor's course so we can provide a really good meal service.

"We see no reason why we can't be as good, if not better, than anywhere else.

"2013 will be a very busy year.

"We have more clients now because we've had the return of our people who are on dialysis.

"Previously they had to live away, but now they are able to live back on the community, and we're able to provide services to them, and they go to Cooktown three times a week on the bus - we've now got a bus service - and have their dialysis treatments.

"They are finally, after many years, able to live on their own community.

"In the future we'd like to see our own dialysis unit here at Wujal so the clients who are already on dialysis and the ones who are going to come on can remain in their own home."

Ms Anderson said she was grateful for the long term commitment her staff had shown.

"This year Sonya Doughboy is going to spend more time doing administrative tasks because that's an area we need quite a bit of work on," she said.

"As well as that, we've got some very good Outreach service providers providing services to clients.

"So we've got all different social services happening in the area for all the people who live here, indigenous and non-indigenous who are eligible.

"This year we are looking forward to a wonderful year of quality improvement and continuing to provide really good services to our clients."



Team working hard for camping, fishing, cook-ups and culture

Healthy Communities Co-ordinator Joh Anthonis says he's been working closely with Royal Flying Doctor Service youth worker Cr Vince Tayley and Life Promotion Officer Dawn Harrigan, as well as Community Support Officer Waratah Nicholls over the past couple of months.

"I've been working together with Vince (Tayley) a lot," he said.

"For a while, a lot of his time was taken up with going to Cairns for his course in Community Services. He's completed the Certificate IV now, so we've been focused on getting activities happening.

"The weekly fishing trips for the Wujal men have been quite successful, with between 10 and 20 people coming along. We've also done cook-ups at the Kindy. While Vince does activities with the kids like spear making, I get the parents to help out with cooking the lunch. We did an outing to Weary Bay and some of the dads helped me cook a healthy lunch at Granite Creek while the kids went for a swim there.

Another really good thing was the Certificate III in Fitness course. Two Wujal boys have now got a qualification to assist people that want to work out at the gym. I would like to see them help out Cr. Allister (Gibson) down at

the sports hall with the PCYC activities. There are always lots of kids after school and Allister is flat out just looking after them, so it's really hard for him to run programs on his own.

"We had a lot of fun with boxing during the Cert III course, so we might push to get a little boxing class happening this year and hopefully some supervised weight training as well for anyone that's interested.

"There is also a weekly Zumba class in Bloomfield now; a few Wujal ladies already go down for it, but it would be good to see a few more of the Wujal girls there.

"Waratah and I have also put in a funding application to continue with the activities on country, getting regular interaction going between the elders and the younger generation and connecting to country."





Variety aplenty in support activities

The Community Garden, cultural camps, trips to the beach to make ash's damper and fish, NAIDOC celebration, art, including sewing and cooking at the Women's Centre, and leather and woodcarving classes at the Men's Centre... These are just some of the activities Community Support Officer Waratah Nicholls has been coordinating.

"I get to do lots of things within the community and go out on country, I support the men's and women's centres with coordinating programs and projects. I'm really enjoying the variety in my job," she said.

"I think the Women's Group has really warmed to me, which is nice, and I've warmed to them. I've even been learning some language which has been good – some of the women teach a language program with Gungarde in Rossville, and I've been to some of them.

"Council is purchasing some Kuku Yalangi language dictionaries and grammar books, so every Wujal household will get one of those by the end of February and if they don't receive one they should come and see me.

"The Women's Centre funding has finished for the moment, but we're keeping it going and looking to source funding from else where."

More pics next page!



While the sun was out kids were busy going down to the river and spending time there, IKC Co-ordinator Carol Toby said, but as expected, the cool library has been busy again since it started to rain. Meanwhile there was internet, movies and reading for those who had the time such as those pictured left – Anne Nunn, Penelope Winkle, Carmel Haines and Sarah Tayley – were doing in December.





2012 camps

*Pics courtesy
WWASC Community
Development Team*



2012 Christmas Party
(Pics by Christine Howes)

Wujal Wujal artists in 2012

Pics courtesy Bana Yirriji Wujal Wujal Arts & Cultural Centre



They've been from the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (above) to Cardwell (below), Hopevale (facing page) and everywhere in between...the Wujal Wujal artists are certainly going places!







Good sports and musos!

Wujal Wujal's sports and recreation worker Cr Alister Gibson loves working with anywhere up to 50 kids every day when the doors to the PCYC go up.

He says when his contract runs out he'll definitely re-apply.

"I've been there awhile now and I'm loving it there, working with all the kids.

"Main activities are touch football, basketball and indoor soccer.

"I'd like to do more fun activities with the kids – go out on country with Elders so they can talk to the younger ones, and have more fishing trips.

"We've had a couple already and hopefully we can keep them going.

"I hope everyone has a happy new year."





Celebrating Christmas & New Year CDEP-style

CDEP's biggest projects are the Community Garden and Certificate III in Cultural Arts, Community Development Officer Rebecca Earley says.

"The Community Garden has been a long standing project, and we have seen a good harvest this dry season," she said. "All the men who work there, old and new, have contributed to making it a better place and together with the women from the Women's Centre there is now a great team to make decisions in regards to the Garden. We have also just had some young people finish a Certificate II in Horticulture and they have said they would like to set up vegie gardens in people's homes in the New Year.

"At the Arts and Cultural Centre, we have a permanent art teacher, supplied by CDEP, and who is working closely with the artists to help develop their talents. Jane is teaching a Certificate III in Cultural Arts and says many of the artists have a genuine gift. She also said she was thrilled people are choosing to learn new skills.



"I would like to say a special thank you to the ladies at the Women's Centre, who have persevered with sewing classes this year. Many of ladies have really tried to make it a positive environment for people to come and engage in activities which has given them a place they can go to and keep busy. I think the Women's Centre has a very important role in this community and it would be great to see more people supporting it."

Cold Water Band members and friends at the Christmas Party



Focus on: *Technical Services...*



No more troubled waters after bridge gets nod to go ahead



Plc from 2012 Annual Report



In our last update to the newsletter, we said we were project managing new housing in Wujal Wujal, Technical Services Director *Jaime Guedes* writes.

But Government has made some key changes that have impacted on our intended works and delivery of the new houses will now be carried out by outside contractors.

These houses are to be built using a design and construct contract of prefabricated or modular material. Council will deliver two of the 12 houses allocated to be built for 2012-2014.

Parks and Gardens have been helping with the fire breaks during the seasonal burn-offs.

They have also assisted with community clean-up in preparation of the upcoming cyclone season,

along with their regular maintenance of our community parks, gardens and open spaces.

Our road gang has been doing ongoing roadworks under the NDRRA and ATSI/TIDS funding programs.

We are working with a very significantly reduced ATSI/TIDS funding allocation for 2012/13, which was cut as a result of state-wide cuts.

Roadworks carried out as a result of these programs are:

- Bloomfield Road North has been resealed
- Bloomfield Falls Road has

been two-coat sealed

- Florence Lane has been given an uplift to kerb and channel and bitumen sealing, as it was previously an unsealed road, to bring it in line with other roads within the community
- Key signage and speed bumps have been erected in critical areas of the community. Further speed bumps and signage are planned.

Our weed management program has been working well in its attempt to eradicate African tulip and hymenachne from the community, as priority weed control.

Pictured below: Ranger Dianna Sheehan, Daintree North Ranger-in-Charge Richard Koch, Centrelink Agent Marie Shipton and Ranger Pat Minniecon who dropped in just before Christmas to wish the community a happy new year!



*Pics page 14: Jaime Guedes with his (now-former) assistant Berni Moore & Supervisor Billy Harrigan
Right: Housing Officer Mark Zippel (leave confirmation before Christmas in-hand!);*

Left: L-R: Parks & Gardens team members Terrence Yougie, Jeffrey Yougie, Jacky Ball and Environmental Health Worker Bobby Kulka.



Spraying has taken place along the Bloomfield River and is being closely monitored.

We secured a contractor to assist with the Horse Management Program.

The Animal Management Worker, working closely with the contractor, has been successful in removing 30 stray horses from the valley and relocated them to Normanby station.

This program was in partnership

with our neighbouring Councils, Cairns Regional and Cook Shire.

Essential Services are doing a good job and meeting all legislative requirements.

In an attempt to reduce operational costs we have embarked on a water demand project in partnership with DLGP (Dept of Local Government & Planning), ATSI Housing and Waterwise.

We have been asking residents to be conscious of their water usage

and make sure taps and hoses are turned off after use, and any leakages are reported immediately so we can address and rectify them.

I'd like to take the opportunity to wish all the department employees and contractors and their families a Happy New Year and to thank them for all their efforts and commitment in 2012. As a footnote, please be mindful of slippery roads, flooding in rivers and creeks and general road conditions when wet.



Christmas 2012

