

Waamta

NEWSLETTER

July 2015

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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

Nazareth Ware & Daniel Temple
enjoying their new home



Housing big news for LR

Housing is the big news in Lockhart River at the moment, Mayor Wayne Butcher says...

"There's 14 houses being built right now, so four are completed, and there's another 10 going to be handed over this month," he said.

Continued next page...



Footy finals action p 14!



A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

It's been a big year for houses, there's going to be 19 new houses all up within the next 12-18 months Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

There's a lot of painting going on to houses' exterior and interior, so that's happening, and we're also doing more driveways.

Fencing is nearly completed for all the houses in town and we got a few more major renovations.

Then we're going to build five more houses between now and December, so that's huge.

Council is looking for extra young workers, we need more local labourers.

We want apprentices eventually, so we'll be advertising looking for more workers to do that as well.

ROADS have also just been finalised on the main access track, we've got a fair bit of money invested in that this

year again from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority from Tropical Cyclone Nathan.

The Old Lockhart Road is on track and we've got some money from Roads 2 Recovery also to do some bitumen along the beach front and fix the car park.

In particular we want to concrete the barge area for loading the trucks, so that will happen.

And then we got some more bitumen to go down on the Lockhart Access Road, so we're hoping to try and stretch another five kilometres this year as well.

The Federal Government has also invested \$5 million to reseal the air strip.

The drainage was one part of that, and then we would

actually do is put new tar on the airstrip itself, so that's happening as well.

So, we have a fair bit of work happening between now and Christmas.

REBUILDING the Church has been a huge community event with some marvellous work being done there.

I should mention Mark Spencer – Casper – as the orchestrator behind that – he organised everything together with Paul Piva and his My Pathway boys. And then we all just went along and check in wherever we can.

The Council invested a lot of money in that and we had donations from Cairns Hardware and Tom Abraham, a local painter who donated the paint and spent two days free



Meeting and speaking at the Local Government Association of Queensland's Indigenous Leaders' Forum held on Palm Island in May this year.





*Aerodrome mechanic
Mark Spencer
(Casper) checking
the WW2 monument
after clean-up in
preparation for the
ANZAC Day dawn
service*

labour to put it up.

We also had volunteer labourers from HC Buildings, so they've done some wonderful work too.

Council bought new fans and lights and the electrician volunteered to put it all together.

We bought all the front door, new glass-sliding door, and aluminium windows, so they were all put in by the builders, who also volunteered and put it all together for us.

And a heap of other people all chipped in and painted the interior and exterior, the inside and

outside of the building so now it's looking brand spanking new!

We had a great Church day the first week it opened, all the old ladies were so happy; it's their little sacred place in their community.

We had the Church service in the morning and a feasting that night with a slide show after that.

The Reverend David Thompson, who built the Church in the 1970s, was also here.

So it was a good community event and we will have the community hall sorted over the next few weeks as well.

Pics of the church are on p 9.

WE'RE CONTINUING with our youth initiative, which is paid work experience for young people.

We've got about four or five young students who have come back from high school during their school breaks.

The great thing about it now they do it themselves.

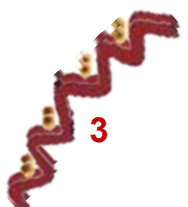
As soon as they get off the plane they just come straight here and say: 'I'm starting work tomorrow', and away they go.

Nobody needs to chase them up, they want to be involved.

...Continued next page...



Indigenous Leaders on Palm Island – Back row: Derek Walpo (Aurukun), Ken Bone (Cherbourg), Errol Neal (Yarrabah), Clifford Harrigan (Wujal Wujal), Bernard Charlie (NPA), Wayne Butcher (Lockhart River), Bradley Wilson (Mornington Island); Front Row: William Gulf (Woorabinda), Philemon Mene (Napranum), Robert Holness (Kowanyama), Terry Munns (Woorabinda), Margaret DeWitt (LGAQ), Keith Fell (Torres), Ian Stewart (Police Commissioner), Frederick O'Keefe (Doomadgee) & Alf Lacey (Palm Island).





From the Mayor (continued)...

AFTER A GREAT SEASON of rugby league we made the finals in Weipa last month.

Unluckily for us we lost our semi-final to Napranum Twals, so we didn't make the grand final but the boys have had a fantastic season.

They've been training and playing well, so commiserations to all of them but well played.

We must thank our community supporters who made the journey across as well, we hope you enjoy the photos of our final game for the year in that competition on pages 12-13.

THIS YEAR'S LAURA

performance was one of the best I've seen Lockhart put together for a long time.

You know, we're there just to share our Lockhart culture with our families on Cape York and the rest of the world.

Laura is an important part of our community's healing process and it's important to Lockhart.

It brings our entire Lockhart family together, all five language groups, and then you have all the different clan groups within that as well.

So it brings everyone together, and it demonstrates how powerful unity can be.

The biggest winner of the day is culture, and one of the main values of our culture is respect.

That's what dancing does, that's what singing does; that's what it does.

It's a 12-month preparation, and we're prepared in various different ways.

There is practising at community events, the Men's Group have their practice session, the children are always dancing at the school on their culture day every Friday.

It's just what culture does; it brings everyone together.

It shows that it's strong and it's alive and it's going to be around for a lot longer as well.

It's not a one-off thing, it's the continuity of an old, living culture and what we demonstrate at Laura is the fact that Lockhart's culture is still very strong, and we're there to share it with everyone not compete, and that's the difference.

FINALLY, for the past few months I've been co-chair of the Peninsula Business Alliance, or PBA, which has been particularly looking at securing road work contracts.

We've done a lot of work identifying the capacity our people have on Cape York in terms of the machinery they have, so we've released a statement to identify the machinery and skills we have to offer.

We hope that means principal contractors who get awarded a job will support our local Indigenous businesses.

The State Government says it's the contractor who decides how much support they want to provide to Indigenous business on Cape York or Indigenous employment and skilling.

We say they need to guarantee us some real employment opportunities or some proper business support.

There's no guarantee for Indigenous business for employment on Cape York, so I think that's the advantage of having the one Native Title claim in place at the moment.

I know the history of Main Roads and Road Tech on the Peninsula Development Road is that they have never supported Indigenous business and if there was employment it would be very little.

So investment in Cape York is basically being milked by southern contractors.

But if we want to build an economy on Cape York we need to hold on to as much as possible.

It's important for every community on Cape York.

Wayne Butcher
Mayor, Lockhart River



Foundation Day 2015





A word from Cr Piva...

There are lots of things happening around Lockhart River community at the moment, Cr Paul Piva writes.

We've had a good year with kids graduating from high school.

Houses are getting built, parks, gardens and trees are being planted, renovations, painting and so on are ongoing.

There are some really good opportunities here and right now for our youth to get jobs and a trade.

On the Council's part, we have pushed for more housing, better roads and greater jobs opportunity for our young people.

Our Mayor and CEO have been pushing the Government for more money for roads and ownership of the Government-run shop has also been high on Council's agenda.

And there has been some great projects this year, with the Anzac Day service, Church renovations and the 10th anniversary of the Lockhart plane crash.



It was a great effort by everyone in Lockhart to be part of these events.

I'd like to thank the people of Lockhart for giving your Council their support throughout the past few years.

Cr Paul Piva



Cape mayors say their alliance is paying dividends

Indigenous Mayors across Cape York have been working together in an alliance they hoped would bring results to their communities - and they have succeeded, Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher says.

Cr Butcher is also the chair of CIMA - the Cape Indigenous Mayor's Alliance - which he says is all about unity.

"We all have similar issues," he said. "We all get funded the same bucket of money from the feds and the state, so we learn from off each other how to do things better.

"In the three years we've done it, we've actually got results. One of the key results we've got is lobbying the government to become the principal contractor in the roll-out of all the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing programs.

"So all those social houses that are being rolled out, new constructions, major upgrades, some of the minor upgrades and the maintenance of all houses, we are the principal contractor, we get the first offer if we want to do it or not, if we choose not to, we do what we can and then we tender the rest out.

"And that has made a big difference especially new build with the type of houses that get built."

Cr Butcher said an offshoot of CIMA, the Peninsula Business Alliance (PBA), was also working on securing the same deal for road contracting across the region.

He said more than \$252 million was already on the table for contractors. \$52 million of that is meant for our community roads, so that's money that's going directly between all the Indigenous Shires on Cape York," he said.

He said the formation of the PBA was to ensure Indigenous business in civil construction on Cape York could take advantage of the opportunities on offer.

"And that goes towards their skills in civil construction but also an opportunity to skill people in the other



aspects of the area in civil construction, like building culverts and putting the seal on it and other things."

He said at a recent meeting in Weipa with Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk gave CIMA the opportunity to raise the issue of government-run stores in communities.

"The retail stores are an ongoing saga really with government; it's just like a hot potato, always in the hard basket and always at the bottom of the pile; no one wants to touch it," Cr Butcher said.

"We've been pushing now for nearly 30 years on getting community control over the retail stores.

"They are worth a lot of money.

"The six stores in Queensland still owned by the Government turn an average of \$24 million a year that comes out of our communities, and that's the last thing you want.

"I think the beauty of offering solutions from your side after identifying issues is a great advantage."

Mapoon Mayor Peter Guivarra said the Council leaders had welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Premier.

"She met with 10 regional mayors here and some from down south too," he said. "We've certainly put up a few of our proposals to her about some of the funding schemes, and there's a lot of long-running issues there that we brought to her attention.

"Hopefully we can get more favourable response in those areas, most certainly around economic development, we are demanding it, actually. We lived in here all our lives and we know that's the only

thing that's going to get us out of this jam.

"That's how the world goes around and we want to be part of that world."

Ms Palaszczuk said it had been a positive meeting.

"This is how I understand community issues - by speaking directly with community," she said.

"I look forward to more discussions with Cape leaders in the future about the issues that affect them."





A word from the CEO...

When I was growing up playing sport, especially rugby league, the game was dominated by Pama stars, **CEO Dave Clarke** writes...

Those blokes were blindingly fast, could step through a chain wire fence and were so much better than the rest of us they made everyone else feel shame.

It stayed that way through under 10s all the way through to about under 17s.

They had so much natural ability those boys didn't have to train, they just come game day and cut everyone to pieces.

They were real stars and walked around with their heads high and their chest out and everyone loved them for their confidence and natural ability.

The women loved them, the blokes would always buy them beers and they took their natural gifts for granted.

Somewhere along the way the game got harder as they got older and the need to train hard and become more of a team player started becoming just as important as the natural athletic gifts they were born with.

As they became men playing in the A grade they started to lose their place in the run on team because they were not training as hard as their team mates and not looking after themselves well enough, charging up too much.

Soon they were always on the bench, then in the B and

C grade.....then they just kind of vanished having lost their spirit. That mob blame everyone else too but never look in the mirror.

Sometimes you see those blokes getting around 20 years later, at the pub or at the junior footie game and other blokes my age would point to the old beat up looking bloke with the beer gut smoking on the sideline and would say, "Hey you remember him? Best player I've ever seen....he could have been anything....if only he had taken his chance to use his natural ability".

Don't get me wrong there are plenty of success stories of Pama shining bright on the sporting stage but they haven't got there without putting in the hard work and team-building to match their natural ability.

You can't play like Thurston, Inglis, or Thaiday without putting in the hard yards.

I look around our home here in Lockhart and I worry.

I worry about who we going to be as a town?

We all know we got loads of natural talent in our town but are we going to be the old "has been" who wasted his talent and was kicked off the run on team of life?

I like to think by putting in the hard yards and working as a team

we can over come any problem that gets in our way because together we are the A team.

We have the ability to take advantage of our natural talent by stepping up and taking our employment opportunities; by stepping up and taking our business opportunities; by stepping up and proudly putting our authority over our Ngaarchi; by stepping up and doing the training we need to grow into community leadership roles.

I call on everyone to think about where our natural ability can take us if we all train hard and focus on team work.

At the moment we have plenty of job vacancies but not enough people who want to take up the challenge.

At the moment I see too many people wanting to take the easy way.

Our town needs you to step up.

Our town needs you to be proud of your work no matter what it is.

Your Councillors have been working very hard to bring opportunity to Lockhart.

Don't waste the chance.

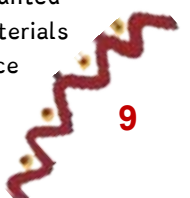
Stay strong, stay proud

David Clarke
CEO, LRASC

Church Renos



Thanks to:
 HC Builders for their generous donation of their expertise and the sweat of their great team over a vital couple of days in the lead up to St James Day;
 Newton Spencer Contracting for their generous donation of our new concrete driveway and the expertise to lay it;
 The My Pathways team, ably led by Paul Piva, for their tireless efforts in demolition, re sheeting and painting;
 Tom Abraham, for his generous donation of paint and sweat to put it on;
 Cairns Hardware for their heavily discounted supply of materials and assistance meeting our deadline.





Engineering Services

The 2013 National Disaster Relief and Recovery Works were completed by 30 June 2015 as required by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Black & More reports...



Works were successfully

completed under two Contracts:

1. Newton Spencer Contracting for Portland Road and Pascoe Farms Road; and,
2. Council completed the approved works on the Town Streets and Old Site Road.

Following Cyclone Nathan (11–21 March 2015) Council obtained an activation from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for Restoration of Essential Public Assets.

A tender has been called for these works which include re-sheeting of sections of Portland Road and restoration to a number of culverts along Portland Road.

This Contract will also include upgrade works funded under Aboriginal & Torres

Strait Islander Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme – ATSI–TIDS.

These restoration works are expected to commence before the end of September 2015 with works to be completed by 30 June 2017

A second submission has been prepared and submitted for the rectification of the Town Streets and other local roads and Old Site Road, excluding Portland Road.

A third submission will be prepared for the balance of Old Site Road when access becomes possible.

Illa and Wachee Street Upgrade (Sefton Street)

The Illa \ Wachee connection road has been designed to improve site access to the

newly constructed shed at the Council Store, and divert surface storm water flows around the new Council Store.

Council secured additional funding to allow the concrete entrance into the store shed to be constructed as well as the approaches to the Line Hill Road Culverts, which were installed by Council late last year.

The project was funded by the Commonwealth Government Roads to Recovery program and Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council.

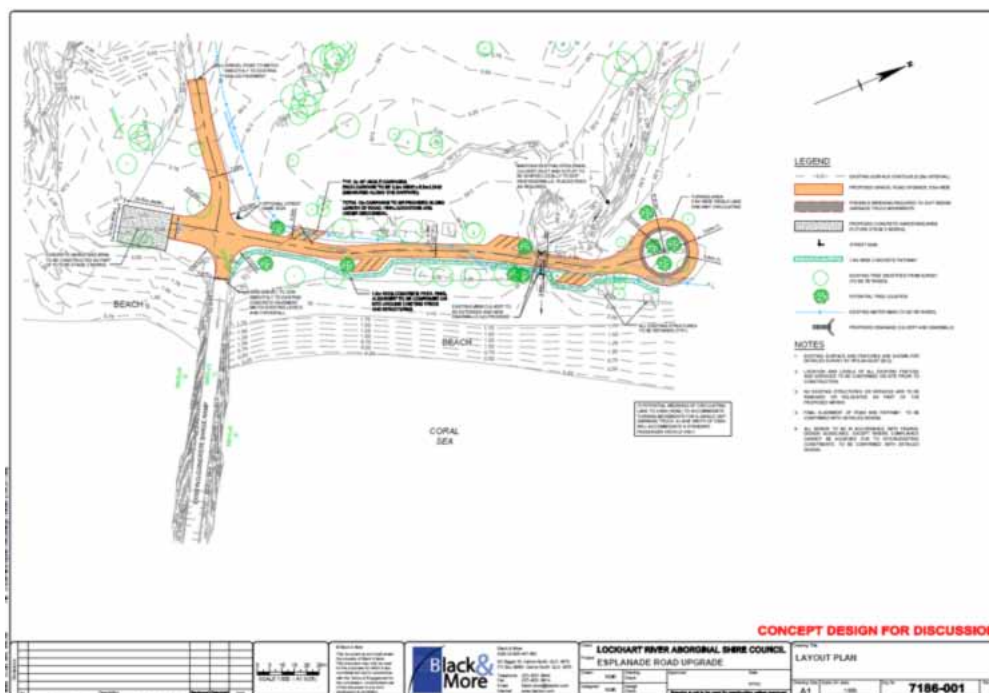
Blady Grass \ Cemetery Road Upgrade

This upgrade is providing all weather access to the Cemetery and is helping to mitigate drainage issues in the area.

Iron Range Airstrip Drainage Upgrade

Council secured funding for Drainage Upgrades at the Iron Range Airstrip and are currently undertaking these works.

Works on this project will be completed soon.





“We are doing very, very well, and we just want to get the work over the line – get it happening, Lockhart’s Building Manager Regis Edmond (*above*) says...

“We’ve been trying to source labourers from Lockhart to work for the Council, possibly in helping build these new houses because we need to get the job done,” he said.

“We do have quite a large volume of work coming to us this year.

“There’s another five houses that we’re going to be building on Tinta Street and we do have probably five fully refurbished houses under the program this year, as well as the minor works.

“We’re going to be working in conjunction with contractors to help us, depending on how many labourers we do have in town.

“I probably have eight or nine people in my team at the moment and there’s a need for three more to actually be on site.

“We have quite a large volume of work coming up and we have to carry those jobs over the line, which Council did very well last financial year, so we want to keep up with what we’ve done and, hopefully, maybe do a little bit better this year.

“That’s what BAS (Building and Asset Services) is expecting from the Council, because we want to let the money stay in the community rather than going to an external market or external tenders.

“We are trying to get to people’s houses as fast as we can, but we don’t have the capacity at the moment.

“There’s fencing being done by an external contractor through the Council and Tinta Street is keeping the rest of my crew busy.”





There is a lot more to be done but hopes for a new era of professionalism within the Council's Mechanical Workshop, Parks & Gardens and Road Gang are high on Works Superintendent Warren 'Sprocket' Davis' agenda.

"At the moment we're just trying to fix everything up with the Works Department," Sprocket (pictured on the left with George Brown and Tristan Elu) said.

"The team has about nine workers on it and the new apprentices have been turning up pretty well too.

"The thing is if you haven't got the elders there with them to teach them you have some hard days.

"There's a lot more to be done here."

One of his proudest achievements has been the new drainage system out at the airport.

"American soldiers built Lockhart River's airstrip in 1941-2," he said.

"The actual road come in from the port, that's where they had the harbour out there in the second World War.

"And that was all bitumen



there until about 2000 when we reopened up that Port Road from the freeways back out there. But there hasn't been any major expansion or work on it since then.

"I'd say, by the looks of it they might have resurfaced it a couple of times, but there's some holes in it now.

"It also looks like it's been

floating so what I've done is opened this drain up after it was tested.

"The outcome of that was there was a big spring underneath.

"And when I did open it up, the water did run down here pretty rapidly.

"It's just like a big swamp all around here.

"As soon as you see that tea tree country, you've got swampy country.

"But this is to drop the water table down so that it dries the airstrip out a bit. There's another one to be built on the other side there."

He said he wasn't sure when that work would go ahead.





*Left: Billy Sandy & George Alan Warradoo;
Below left: Lance White, Brandon Piva & Napoleon Short; Right: James Bally, John Butcher & Stanley Butcher;
Below: Solomon Hobson & Tristan Elu*



Main Roads gang trainee 18-year-old Tristan Elu is drawing some attention for his fine work with the odd grader or bulldozer.

Supervisor Solomon Hobson said he was particularly good on the grader.

“Hopefully in the next two to three years he will be a final trim fellow, doing the roads,” Mr Hobson said.

“You don’t get many final trim fellows around now, even on the airport strip, it’s got to be to dead-on level.”

Tristan said he was enjoying his work, and his study time in Mount Isa.

“I was over there in Mt Isa

first doing civil construction over there,” he said. “Alfred Johnson and Jason Pascoe also went.

“Our first project with the Council was out at the airport; when you fly in you’ll see the big drain on the side there.

“We were out there for a couple of months doing that drain. It was a good project for us; taught us how to operate the grater and dozer. It was pretty good learning how to operate those machines, first time driving it.”

He said it could be hard work. “It depends what type of task you get,” he said.

“You get tired; sometimes you have to rotate in operating machines, so me and Alfred when we were working out at the airport project, digging the drain, we swap.

“It may sound easy when you talk about it, but when you are in the machine and operating it, it’s 10 times different.”

Weipa 2015



More pics at <http://www.chowes.com.au>







Corporate Services

Busiest Time of the Year

The 2014/15 financial year closed with a very busy period as we transitioned from the close of the 2014–15 financial year and start of 2015–16 financial year.

Notable achievements were:

- Successful start of 2015–16 financial year without hiccups or delays
- Processing tax invoices for the recoverable works carried out by the building team on the community houses. There was a spike in revenues and this kept everybody very busy.
- Also, the team was preoccupied with preparing and presenting non-current assets data to APV Assets Valuers & Managers to enable them determine their fair values for financial reporting purposes.
- Preparation of the end of year financial statements, readying for the audit
- The team facilitated the preparation of the 2015–16 budget and corresponding Operational Plan that stipulates annual objectives. It was a good feeling when we managed to get the documents together on time and have them adopted by the Council on the due dates.

Our staffing numbers has remained the same throughout this period, which is good for us as a finance team trusted with the role of delivering accounting services to the Community.

We have also managed to install a new phone system both in Cairns and Lockhart River offices, which would give us more reliable and higher quality communications between the offices and the rest of the country/world.

We have continued to support major capital projects within Lockhart River Community that includes Airport drainage works and NDRRA by providing financial processing and reporting as required. All the acquittals have been done on time to ensure the flow of funds is not jeopardised. We have a big responsibility here.

Stanley Mugwiria

Finance & Administration Manager, LRASC



Former receptionist, administration officer, stores manager, Centrelink back-up, Post Office back-up and Housing Officer Jasmine Accoom says she will still be around as back-up for the Council but after nine years on several jobs, she's headed for home to care for her children.

Although, she says, she still has a few months to go as Land Trust Support Officer.

"My position with the Council until I left, was Building and Assets Officer," she said. "I was working five days a week, half the day as a Land Trust Support Officer."

She said, however, that it was time for her to look after her 2- and 3-year-olds at home.

"I just feel I can't believe that I'm leaving," she said. "I loved working here, loved it, helping the community, helping people."

She said she'd like to thank those who had supported her over the years, particularly the Councillors and other staff, and her family.

Cape York Footy Finals



Weipa
2015





Community Development Team

HACCS coordinator Ivy Hobson has left her position and is already missed, workers Bessie Hobson and Leila Clarmont say.

They have taken on Tamene Hobson through My Pathway to help them out while third worker, Beverley Hobson is on leave.

"We serve 24 meals a day for our clients, so we're pretty busy," Bessie says.

"We've also been a full house in terms of our rooms for the

past few weeks.

"People come in nearly every week now, we have four rooms and 11 beds."

She said they had also been trying to maintain their activities with the elders.

"We like to take them somewhere on the beach so they can fish," she said.

Leila said they were also doing laundry for their clients who needed help.

"And we've got some new equipment on order," she said.

"There's new kitchen ware on order and we have more outdoor furniture too, a barbecue and some tables and chairs."



Above: Leila Clarmont, Tamene Hobson & Bessie Hobson in the HACCS kitchen



Council is also sorry to report Dorothy 'Dotty' Hobson has left her position as Com Dev Team director (but is still working with the Puuya Foundation)...her great work will also be missed!





A coffee shop venture – made famous after a recent appearance on ABC News – taken on by the Lockhart River Secondary School has proven to be a popular smoko venue for locals and visitors passing through.

As an enterprise, it's a non-profit affair, but as a work experience opportunity it's invaluable.

"We've got the Primary School kids helping out too," Miss Sandy (pictured above with

Sheriah Macumboy & Denise Fruit) said.

"So if they work hard in their class and earn a pass they can come and be a barista for a morning. That means they get to take people's orders, deal

with their money and serve them their coffee.

"We're now a six-day-a-week venture with a full time employee. We have a machine donated from Melbourne and it's good coffee!"



Lockhart River's radio station joined the Black Star radio network, operated by QRAM – Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media – back in 2012 and the relationship is still going strong.

Manager Denise Fruit said they were not far now from being able to interview people on the phone and put them straight to air.

"I've been busy with the old girls, talking to them, but I don't have any way to record them, just sitting and yarning,"

she said. "So at the moment I'm waiting on my boss to come from QRAM in Cairns to help me with transferring from the phone into radio so I can talk to people.

"I've also been to the school and helping out down at the

Kids' Club.

"They want to sing their song again so we're looking at ways of doing that.

"And I went to the Laura Festival and spoke to some of the kids there."





Yarning and daily sewing classes are part and parcel of the routine around the Women's Shelter at the moment.

Worker Lorraine Clarmont (*below left*) said there were a few ladies getting involved.

"Anyone can come," she said. "We've been really busy with sewing for Laura, now we can concentrate on what we want to do with women at the shelter.

"We want to start the Women's Club again, so we can be with the Elders and try to get the young kids into the culture.

"We also want to try to get a fishing competition going with the Men's Group."

She said new worker Luka Getawan (*below right*) had been a great help to them.



After a break from taking on youth support positions in the community Krystal Dean (*above*) says she is glad to be back with the Lockhart River Council as the new YARI – Youth At Risk Initiative – coordinator.

She said she's trying to get some daily activities up and running for all the community's young people.

"I'm trying to do an activity every day so there's something on for the youth," she said.

"And I also want to go down to the YARI Centre in Cairns and probably have a week down there so I can get some ideas for things to start running up here.

"So we're not just doing the activities that we've done before like pool comp and darts comp or just night-time activities, sports, but some things that could help some youth get a job or training.

"I'm only just getting started but that's what my focus and my plan is."

She said she was happy to be back.

"When I heard kids were not going back to boarding school I just wanted to know what the real problem was with them, so I wanted a job where I could have that sort of access, to help these youth that are at risk.

"I've just put in a huge order for youth activity materials, like the dartboards and I've ordered more pool sticks and more pool balls, and an overhead projector so we can start having movie nights on that big white space there.

"I also wanted to start up a girls' night here so we can just talk and do girl things like hair or make-up, not just to keep the girls occupied, but I want to talk to them about their future and see how I can help them."



Dancers @ CIAF



*Top four pics by Colyn Huber;
Bottom four pics by Kerry Trapnell*



Kuunchi Kakana Centre is getting closer

The time has arrived and we can see the beginnings of the Kuunchi Kakana Centre being built. Just like the new houses in Lockhart, this is a very exciting time.

The building has commenced and hopefully it will be completed before the next wet season.

Puuya Foundation has a temporary home

The Foundation has taken up temporary residence at the old Playgroup Building next to kids club until the Kuunchi Kakana Centre is built.

Our early years program and activities operates Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 12 noon.

All activities are for parents/carers and children; it is not child care and all mums, dads and little ones are welcome to come and participate in the Montessori program including culture.

Our team of workers is diverse being led by Tanya Koko (Kuunchi Kakana, Manager).

The team delivers Parents and Learning (Pal) kits each week to the families with pre-prep age children.

Montessori a new beginning

In 2015 the Puuya Foundation is using the Montessori approach for our early years program. We have worked with the Montessori Children's Foundation to deliver a training program over the past six months.

A committed group of Lockhart River locals including Puuya Foundation staff, the Council, My Pathways, the School and mums participated in the training and have learned lots about early years development in little ones.

At the end of the training the participants gained a qualification and useful skills to use with helping young children and babies to learn.

The Montessori Children's Foundation have partnered with the community to create this program for 0-3 year olds (babies, toddlers and their caregivers) and are aiming for this to be a long-term partnership.

The Montessori Program has shown results around the world for more than 100 years and we believe it will make a difference in Lockhart River.

The Montessori motto is *"helping me to do it myself"* – so come along with your little ones and help them learn

Girls from Oz

Through recommendation from our Patron, Dame Quentin Bryce, the Girls from Oz arrived in Lockhart River in July.

They partnered with the Puuya Foundation to implement a program that will enhance opportunities for the children, girls and young women of the community.

It was the first time Girls from Oz travelled to the east coast of Australia to deliver a Performing Arts intensive.

There were many partners to this initiative including the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, Lockhart River State School, My Pathways, Girls from Oz and the Puuya Foundation. Girls from Oz worked for a week with a wide cross section of the community including from our little ones at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre to the women involved through My Pathways implementing music and dance routines.

The culmination of the week included performances/activities by all of the children/youth/women involved.





Montessori is a way of working to support children's learning and development from birth to four-years.

Their motto is 'help me to do it myself' and they believe the first six years of a child's life are the most important for brain development.

Manager of the Kuunchi Kakana Early Years Program Tanya Koko said babies start to learn from the minute they are born.

"We want to make everyone feel welcome," she said.

"Through this program our children are achieving certain milestones they wouldn't

normally achieve in their own household.

"We're teaching them everything they want to know about from gluing to cutting along lines.

"They all know when we have food time that they sit and eat; they're only allowed to sit and eat at the food table.

"Through the Montessori Program we are helping the little ones in Lockhart River to do things for themselves,

so it makes them independent and able to make much better, greater choices.

"It also gets them ready for school.

"One of the big outcomes we've seen is the children's behaviour is changing for the better.

"Through our Montessori Program we want to help them make the right choices for later in life so that they can become our future leaders of Lockhart River."



For more information on Puuya Foundation contact Dottie Hobson or Denise Hagan on 419 681 025, or about Kuunchi Kakana activities speak to Tanya Koko (KK Manager) on 0438 255 474. More pics next page!!!



Kuunchi Kakana Centre 2015



*The Montessori motto
is “helping me to do
it myself” – so come
along with your little
ones and help them
learn...*



New midwife will make a difference

Mums in Lockhart River are set to benefit from Apunipima Cape York Health Council's award winning maternal and child health service as Apunipima Midwife Judy Buckley heads to the community for a full week out of every fortnight.

With 15 babies born each year, Midwife Judy is also looking for a community based maternal and child health worker to support mums in community when she is working in her other community of Wujal Wujal.

Head of Apunipima's Family Health Services Rachel Sargeant said it would mean a much better service for new mums.

“Previously the maternity service was fully fly in fly out on a fortnightly basis,” she said. “So this will mean that mums and mums-to-be will get a much more comprehensive service.”



Rangers and Elders working together for their country

“The old people should be making decisions on what should be done on country; we’re only there to crack the whip for them,” ranger Greg Omeenyo says.

“I’m actually working on setting up a committee based around Sea Country in regards to implementing a permitting system for turtle and dugong.

“It’s about giving recognition back to the old people again and also getting the structure based on Indigenous governments which should be governing by the old people.

“That’s reality, where it should be from.

“We’re actually looking at Cape York Sustainable Future as an auspice body because we want to do what we have to do ourselves.

“Cape York Sustainable Future is all mixed agencies – pastoralists, eco tourism, community development.

“Cape York Natural Resource Management only deals with operational things, but Cape York Sustainable Future deals with a variety of things because everyone has their say in there.

“Last year Cape York Sustainable Future and Cape York Natural Resource Management joined as one which is really good.

“It’s not only us here in Lockhart River; you’ve got other people from around the Cape too, like Aurukun and Weipa, so

they have their say too.”

He said the biggest problem the Traditional Owner groups – Kungkai and Kanthanumpun – had was the range of different agencies they had to deal with on top of different land tenures on top of layers of legislation from the Native Title Act through to the Queensland Aboriginal Land Act.

“In the middle of all that you’ve got Local Government, which is the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, and they are the trustees,” he said.

“We need, as a community, to sit in and start to strategise so we can come to some sort of agreement where everybody moves forward.

“In the past there was too much of what I call ‘black tape’ – not red tape but black tape – where you have to go and speak to these organisations whether you’re leasing the land or whether you’re going to do something on that land in regards to a research point of view.

“By us moving forward we can start looking at avenues of getting funding in, look at



Greg Omeenyo, Shapelle Accoom & Taylor Omeenyo

the capacity side in regards to rebuilding the community, but also giving the people employment and that’s where the opportunity is, looking at avenues outside.

“It comes back to kinsman law, customary law, where the governing structure belong to the Indigenous peoples; they stay in the community and still be respected.”

He said in other matters they had a successful clean up at Chilli Beach with Tangeroa Blue and other agencies supported by the Reef Guardian Program.

“It’s like an event now, every year,” he said. “We worked in with them, so from a joint management perspective we worked together to make this event happen.”



Cape York Sustainable Futures (CYSF) is Cape York Peninsula's peak body for social, economic and sustainable environmental development.

A series of community forums across the Cape earlier this month, finishing in Lockhart River, was well attended by local community and Council leaders.

The forums were open to the public as a chance for people of the Cape to express their views on the matters concerning them.

Issues raised at the forums included land tenure, native

title, cost of living, business development, tourism opportunities, roads and water infrastructure upgrades, agricultural endeavours and community wellbeing.

The cost of living topped the list of concerns, along with tourism opportunities.

CYSF are: Isha Segboer from Tourism Cape York, Kate Sutcliffe, Pixie Hughes,

Treasurer, Jack Wilkie-Jans, Deputy Chair, Trish Butler, CEO, Mike Hintz, Chair CYSF and Chair Tourism Cape York and Kevin White, Business Development & Special Operations officer.

Lockhart River attendees: Dave Clark, Lockhart River Council CEO, Councillor Paul Piva, Councillor Veronica Piva and TO Lucy Hobson.



In July, 36 volunteers from a variety of places around Australia and different walks of life travelled together to join local students and community members for the annual Chilli Beach Clean Up event in the Kutini-Payamu National Park near Lockhart River. A huge thanks goes to the Tangaroa Blue volunteers, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Clean Coast Collective volunteers, Lockhart River State School, QPWS and Land Trust Rangers at Kutini-Payamu National Park, Cook Shire, 1300 Truck Hire Cairns, Queensland Government's Everyone's Environment Grants and Parley for the Oceans.

Bromley & Wuthathi

Determinations



*Pics by Christine
Howes, courtesy
Cape York Land
Council*



Out & About!

*Top: On the Red Team!
AFL footy friends in*

*Weipa and Lockhart River; Left: Verona Platt from Coen with her
cousin Reniat Sandy, also in Weipa for the AFL U13s weekend; Above
Right: Johnson Chippendale and Beverley Pascoe at the National
Native Title Conference in Port Douglas in June.*

NOW AVAILABLE



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