



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

# Waamta

## NEWSLETTER

February 2016

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

c/- Post Office, Lockhart River Q 4892

Ph: 4060 7144 Fax: 4060 7139

PO Box 1037, Cairns Q 4870

Ph: 4031 0155 Fax: 4031 5720

Email: [ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au](mailto:ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au)

Web: <http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>



As our Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council term comes to an end for 2012–2016, with Local Government Elections being held on Saturday 19th of March, I want to thank the people of Lockhart River for their support, commitment and involvement over the past four years, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

During those years we have seen many improvements to our community and that wouldn't have been possible without a team effort from Councillors, Admin staff, field workers and community people in general.

There has been enormous effort in lobbying Government for the benefits of our community – effort that is basically unseen and done outside our Community.

Work which has paid off in many ways, and in practical outcomes such as our new sub-division, new houses, every

house with fences, concrete drive ways, new culverts and bitumen on the access road around Brown's Creek (just to name a few).

We have also attracted a good investment into the Old Site road, which will re-connect our Community back to the Old Lockhart.

These infrastructure investments have meant major improvements for our community, which then sets a platform for further improvements.

In the following pages I have highlighted some of our

other major infrastructure projects that are in progress and expected to be delivered over the next couple of years.

These projects will bring extra jobs and business opportunities to our community.

I believe we need to strategise around our community's growth through social wellbeing, business development, youth participation, managing our environment and support for education.

We need to build our community's capacity and capability! *(continued...)*



*Meetings with Internal and external auditors, part of Good Governance Practise and Financial Accountability!*



# Lockhart hosts its first citizenship ceremony



After a long process, much paperwork and a narrow time frame, Lockhart River was proud to celebrate the first citizenship ceremony to ever be conducted in the community for Enoch and Lisa Perazim and their family.

CEO David Clarke said for a while they wondered if the Certificates would arrive on time.

“It was a long-winded process but everyone was very happy with it’s final conclusion,” he said.

Mr Perazim said they found out in October last year they had qualified.

“We’re just grateful – coming here on a temporary visa and then successfully meeting all the requirements thereafter to permanent residency; we were then told my our Migration Agent that we qualified to apply for Australian citizenship in October 2015,” he said.

“We had an option of choose to have a ceremony in Cairns or in Torres Strait Island and we thought ‘could we have it in Lockhart River?’

“We were able to get permission from the Council and provided all the details and the Department was only too



happy if the Council could facilitate the ceremony here.

“On the day of the ceremony, after we took the pledge, we were handed with our certificates.

“We were just happy that we had it in Lockhart and we’re just grateful that the Council also hosted a barbecue and a light meal so we thought that was nice.

“So, it makes our time in Lockhart here very memorable one because we’ve come here for a number of goals and little did we know that we would also get our citizenship here. Wherever we go it will always remain a certain part of the start of our generational family here in Australia.

“Lockhart and the people in the community will form that important part of the beginning of our Australian life.”



# ***From the Mayor: Achievements 2012 – 2016***

## **Administration and Finance Management**

**Organisational Structure** – At the start of our term the new Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council needed to re-structure the organisation operations and management.

We also needed to realign budget

expenses against actual working activities (practical outcomes).

It was, and still is, important to us ensure the Council got value for money and a workforce to reflect the Council's and community's goals.

**Financial Management** – After a bleak financial start to

the 2013 financial year, when our funds and bank were not healthy, it took a few years to turn things around and we are pretty healthy financially as a Council now.

This gives the Council financial stability and flexibility to invest in other areas of the community.



*Left: Nazareth Ware & Daniel Temple in their new home; Right: Building Manager Regis Edmond & Cr Butcher*



## **NYIIMACHIN Village – New Sub – Division**

The Council was persistent in lobbying the state Government for a new sub-division during the 2012 – 2013 calendar year – it had been more than 20 years since we had a sub-division built in Lockhart (the last one was Twin Peaks in the early 1990's).

A new sub-division would mean more housing for Lockhart, which was overdue by too many years!

The 28-lot sub-division means 28 more houses and we have built 19 houses already.

Future new houses will address overcrowding in our community and also give young people changes to start their own family lives.

## **Housing**

LRASC is the principle contractor in the delivery of Social Housing in Lockhart, we have lobbied the State Government alongside every other Indigenous Shire Council throughout Queensland for this.

What it means is every investment in Social Housing in our community is managed by the Council and that includes: new construction (building new houses), major upgrades (renovation), minor repairs and daily maintenance.

**New Build** (our New Houses Construction Program) built 14 new houses in 2014–15; five new houses in 2015–16 and expects to build five more new houses in 2016–17.

We have also finished and continue to work on major upgrades and renovations, our house fencing program and concreting driveways.

## **CIMA and PBA**

Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance (CIMA) is made up of Indigenous Mayors, Councillor and CEO in Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands.

CIMA has been an initiative by the Mayors ourselves.

The aim is for more regional autonomy, one voice of the elected arm speaking on behalf of our constituents and working together towards gaining meaningful outcomes.

CIMA member communities have each had a chance to host CIMA meetings and we take turns hosting and catering for those meetings.

CIMA also gave us the chance to discuss political, social, environment and economic opportunities  
*(continued...)*





## *From the Mayor (continued)...*

directly with Ministers and Senior Government workers.

We have also visited Government Minister Offices in Brisbane on a regular basis throughout the term.

We had more wins than our few losses, times were tough when we didn't get result but that's expected in the political arena.

### **Road Works**

We finally attracted investment into the Old Site road through NDDRA and QRA funds.

Our main Community access from Garraway Creek to Wenlock River is also to be funded through the same programs.

Council has also managed to secure funds through the Cape York Investment Package that will replace the two lane bridge along the airport road and more seal (bitumen) for the main access track.

Below are the major highlights of our roadwork activities to date:

- \$1.2 million allocated from Old site turn off to Wachee Creek and a further \$800,000 from Wachee to Old Site (2015 – 2016)
- \$1 million for a two lane airport bridge (2016)
- \$4.8 million for the Lockhart access road (Garraway to Wenlock) more bitumen (2016)
- \$4.2 million for culverts from Garraway to Browns Creek (Nyuku) 2016
- Water Front upgrade – bitumen beach front road and concrete barge unload area
- \$1.5 million for a causeway across the Pascoe River (2016)



*CIMA in Napranum, July 2015*

### **Support for Local Businesses**

There is a shortage of small businesses in our community, even though private enterprises is what drives most towns.

Council is committed to supporting local business to assist in establishing a local economy.

We had a few local people involved in the delivery of the Old Site roads (civil construction) in 2015, where by individuals lease machinery and played a sub-contractors role to the LRASC.

It's important that we keep as much investment in our community as we can so we can start building our own economic growth.



## Youth Employment Initiative

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council has been very proactive in offering employment opportunities for our young people coming out of Secondary Education (high school).

It's very important to ensure that we as a community lay the platform down for our future generations and one of the best ways Council can do that is by providing an employment and training pathways.

To that end we have developed an in-house policy to support and assist our youth develop working skills

where we have been providing paid work experience to senior secondary school students (year 10 – 12) over their holiday breaks.

This gives our young people an opportunity to test trades or administration works and get a feel for what they might experience in future jobs.

That's also why our Councillors have made an effort to attend our kid's graduation ceremonies and sponsored family members to attend; we are investing in our children and communities future!

It's important to create employment and educational

pathways for our children; we need to build strategies that see our children leave school and get straight into work or continue their education (university).

We have also been developing a relationship with Bond University on the Gold Coast.

The idea is to build a strong relationship to support our young people who have University-potential.

Universities are great challenges that open the doors to vast opportunities for our young people and we must lay that platform for future growth in education!



## Renovation Old Canteen

Council will also be investing into the renovations of the Old Canteen with the aim being to get the building repaired to Liquor Licensing standards.

This will allow the Council to tender the building out

to a sporting club with a management structure which can deliver a social drinking environment.

We all know the current Alcohol Management Plan isn't working we need to search for alternatives.

A social drinking environment will allow for more educational-based alcohol consumption methods, designed to minimise harm.

It will also mean less alcohol in houses where our children and elders are.

*(continued...)*





## Community Family Water Park

Council has applied and been successful in obtaining funds for a family and community water park which will be a place where our children can safely swim and have fun.

The water park will be

designed to cater for families to spend the day there, with BBQ plates, stools and shaded areas to be incorporated.

The water park will run in conjunction with school attendance; it's a mechanism designed to encourage children to attend school on

a regular basis.

For example, the water park will only be open from 3:30pm during week days and children who have attended school for that day will be given a pass by their teacher.

On weekends the water park will be open all day including during school holidays.



## Church Renovations

Renovations to the old church have seen massive improvements to the building which matters, because the church is an important place for the community and it deserves respect.

Council donated funds towards the project which was managed by Mark "Casper" Spencer (he did a great job co-ordinating the whole project) and we got all our building materials donated by Council suppliers as well as labourers time donated by Council sub-contractors.

The church was finished on time for St. James Day, which is our church day, and it was great to see the old people happy.

That night Father David Thompson gave us a slide show of the Old Site church and the building of this church.



*Wayne Butcher*  
Mayor, Lockhart River

## *A word from... Cr Norman Bally*

Deputy Mayor Cr Norman Bally recalls he was 23-years-old the first time he was elected to Council.

"That was back in 1993, and a lot of things were pretty rough back then compared to what it's like today," he said.

"I really look hard back to those days and think to myself we have travelled a very long and hard journey in terms of making changes in Lockhart

River – changes that will be beneficial to our people in the future.

"We as a community need to think about what sort of future we want for ourselves and our children.

"We also need to support each other in various ways by working



together which will allow us to build our community to a better future, as one.

"Everyone has a role to play."



Lockhart River State School Principal Siobhan Jackson reports attendance has been over 80% for the years start and many students are in uniform.

"Congratulations Lockhart River families!" she says.

"Also the Broncos and the Cowboys are enjoying a game of rugby league every Monday at 5pm down on the oval.

"Come down and join us, everyone – boys and girls – are welcome, as you can see pictured above!

"And finally, we have a big focus on reading this year and

students will be bringing readers home. Read with your kids to help improve our reading success!!"

More footy pics on pages 14-15!!!





# A word from the CEO...

Now is the time we do our scheming, dreaming, planing, and strategising to get positioned for the coming dry season CEO Dave Clarke writes...

Council have set some ambitious targets this year with 15 new crossings between Garraway and Browns, the Lockhart Family Water Park, the waterfront development, roadworks galore to Old Site and Pascoe Farm, not to mention the five new houses we will be building in block at Nyimuchin Village. We have to get our planning right up front and keep our work force focused so it's lock down time for our team leaders as we map out our plans together.

As Lockhart moves into its next Local Government election I want to take this opportunity to thank our Councillors for their tireless efforts over the past four years. You all have much to be proud of. From my experience it is easy to stand outside and growl about this and that but whether you agree with decisions or individual Councillors or not, one thing is for sure, being a Councillor is hard work and demands your time, energy, and commitment to team Lockhart. Respect to all those who are



putting their hands up for this difficult job and huge thanks for your work to those who choose not to run again. Take care everyone

*David Clarke*  
CEO, LRASC



*Left: LRASC corporate staff Noleen Clark, David Clarke, Deanka Omeenyo, Temina Hobson, Joel Omeenyo & Faye Hobson; Top: CEO getting hands-on with Cecil Macumboy Snr*

## New PCYC officers welcome

Two new and enthusiastic Indigenous Community Sports and Recreation Officers, Reniat Sandy and Daniel "Custard" Temple, started work in late February and are excited about providing active sports and recreational activities for their community. Both are local and both have a passion to make a difference. They will be working to provide young ones with school activities, after school activities and school holiday programs to help keep them occupied and happy. Reniat and Custard will also be developing a weekly program of activities for 25+ age group and elders to keep them active and engaged with youth by taking them on fishing trips and getting involved with other cultural activities.





# Corporate Services

The 2014/15 ended quicker than we expected and that 2015/16 has aged faster than we thought due to our cracking calculators and computers being busy throughout, Finance and Administration Manager Stanley Mugwiria writes...

We really enjoyed their noise because that is the only way we could have achieved the following results:

## Audit Results

Audit qualification – good results and all target financial outcomes were achieved.

The Council's financial statements have received clean bill of health for the last seven years in a row and this is a testimony that our Cairns office has delivered good results for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council and Community.

These results were achievable because of the support and policy guidance we received from the Council.

Council leadership allocated the resources required and essential to achieving this good outcome and the finance team has been highly encouraged and motivated by that support.

## Support to capital projects

Due to our ever-reliable and hardworking finance team, the Council has been able to deliver the following projects to the Lockhart River Community:

- Construction of 14 new community houses ( two done by Council crew, six done by ESW, four done by Strategic Builders and two done by HC Building)
- Restoration works at Portland Road is progressing



well under partnership with Newton Contracting Services

- Restoration works at Old Mission Road is being carried out by our Road Gang crew and including local contractors
- Many other capital projects are underway.

We are proud to report such good results and projects as the term of the old Council nears the end. Our finance team is very energised and ready to usher the new Council after the upcoming elections because we are always ready for new direction.

---

Administration Officer, Training Coordinator and Assistant to the CEO & the Mayor Noleen Clark says she loves that what she does in her roles changes every day.

“Every day is interesting, every day is varied and I have a lot of contact with the community people, which is what I love; that’s why I’m here,” she said.

“And I just really enjoy being here and doing my job which is pretty well anything that comes along.

“Staff issues, paper work, help people out with paperwork or something else they might not

have dealt with before, all sorts of things – anything that comes along that people may need a hand with; that’s my normal work, which encompasses quite a lot anyhow.

“I’m in the midst of organising a big swag of training at the moment, all which I hope to have funded, so that’s one of the big jobs right at this very minute.

“If people do wish to have training for anything and it hasn’t been offered to them or they haven’t heard about it, they come and ask me something they can do or we can do for them, we look at it.

“So my work is really interesting and I love it.”





# Engineering Services



*Sprocket with his crew: Marcet Nomoa, Rodney Accoom, Brendan Hobson, Jayden Hobson & Alfred Johnson*

Engineering Director, Sprocket, says he and his team were mainly working around town now the rain had made a start across the region.

“At the moment there’s just work around town, all street signs going up, maintenance in town with the Esplanade; we’ve been doing work for this new

little car park we’re putting down there,” he said.

“There’s rejuvenation at the Airport, we need to restabilise and resurface the strip.

“On the Old Mission Road,

there’s pipes to go in as soon as we get them off the barge; we have three here at the moment, and there’s more to come.

“We’ve also put in speed bumps around the shop and there’s more to come.

“Since I’ve put them in everyone wants one outside their front door now to slow everyone down, which is and isn’t a good idea; I mean how far do you go?

“There’s fencing around the workshop, we employed My Pathways to do that on a contract basis.

“And then there’s a few other things around town here we still have to do.”





Building Manager Regis Edmond has a full whiteboard of jobs up in his office which he says helps him to allocate who is doing what and when.

“We do have some major reburishments currently going on in the community,” he said.

“A major refurb is total – we go in the house, we do the bathroom, kitchen, laundry, replace pretty much everything in there, all the doors.

“It means the family would have to move out so we liaise that with Housing who finds accommodation for them while we go in and get the work done.

“We have some major work that’s going on and some minor work, as usual, and that is giving us a lot of work this financial year, which needs to be completed by June.

“Building and Asset Services – the old Q-Build – are going to give us some more work very shortly.

“We are in the process of finishing the five houses that were allocated for Council to build on the new sub-division

at Tinta Street, and there’s a possibility another five will be allocated to the Council – that’s not confirmed just yet; it’s on the drawing boards.

“The crews have been very good.

“At the moment I have three qualified carpenters, three qualified Trade Assistants and one trainee.

“A lot of them are actually coming in and asking for work, and are in the process of going

through to Council.

“It’s going very well, and the community in general have been very, very supportive towards Building Services.

“It’s been very good to work with the community to make all this happen, the tenants have been very understanding that their houses need fixing and they’re allowing us to come around and get the work done.

“It’s been great to work in this community.”



Top pic: Dominic Macumboy, Chris Johnson, Arthur Pascoe, Regis Edmond & Graeme Orchard, Above: Will Gard & Daniel Short



*Plumbing and Environment Services Director Paul Jensen says he and his two workers T-Rex (Patrick Accoom) and Edward Dean (pictured left) have all but finished their work on the new houses. "Everything else is good," he said.*



*Above left: enjoying the new dongas' space were contractors Chris Goodhew and Ronald Getawan; Above right: George Brown; Above: Brian Macumboy and Frank Hobson (Environmental Health) with Cecil Macumboy (Local Laws)*



*Lockhart  
River Wet  
Season 2016*





# *Having a ball!!!!*

E  
Mon  
5





very  
day avo  
pm!





# Community Development Team

The Community Development Team continues to miss the leadership of former-Director Dottie Hobson but have rallied to keep on going and have these reports to offer for February 2016...

Justice Group coordinator Willie Clark says the community has not had a good start to 2016 but has hopes things will improve with support being offered from all the right places in and out of Lockhart.

He said at the moment there were far too many people on the Court lists.

"The main offence is domestic violence, and alcohol is the cause," he said.

"You can see in the photograph how much alcohol we have to go to destroy it in the dump; it's a lot of money's worth.

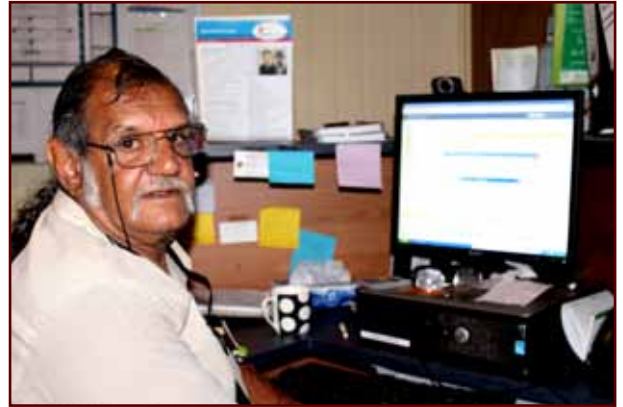
"We need to start thinking about the future now for 2016, and the first thing I'd like to see is less people going to Court. There's no need to go to Court; I'm here to help you and support you.

"You know where the Justice Office is and come up and visit me from 8am to 5pm every day.

"I need more community support, we need to stop misbehaviour which causes a lot of trouble in the community.

"Support means getting our kids to school by working together and networking together.

"We would become stronger in our community, we would become leaders and our younger



*Above: Willie Clark and Below: wasted at the dump, hundreds of dollars worth of seized alcohol*



people would become leaders so they can continue.

"If we start supporting each other we overcome that struggle, it makes it easier – the more hands we have the quicker we're going somewhere."



*Above: Cecil Macumboy jnr & Krystal Dean and Grieta Pasco & Haylene Macumboy at the Verandah Coffee Shop*

Youth at Risk Initiative (YARI) worker Krystal Dean and IKC Coordinator Greita Pascoe have been working hard together on planning activities such as sports, training and online services.

Ms Dean said afternoon activities were popular.

“I put on programs in the afternoons, normally sports

or any activities from 5pm to 7pm and during the day I work with Greita planning activities,” she said.

“I also catch up with youth to try and see what are they doing with their life and if they need any help looking for jobs or training.”

Ms Pascoe said the IKC was for all ages.



“Over the past few weeks, I’ve been helping a lot of women with internet banking, so they’re learning how to sign up on internet banking to transfer, how to use it, how to get on to it,” she said.

“Online shopping is another program I’d like to start.

“Also Krystal and I have talked about having catering classes – it’s lovely to work with Krystal and have her on board.”



*Top Left: Jemely Butcher & Charlene Rocky in the library; Below Left: Shakeem Accoom catching up on some reading; Left: Barista Shenika Rocky*



Men's Group coordinator Greg Omeenyo says there have been a lot of changes to the group and what it had to offer over the past few months.

"We've been getting programs through the RFDS for mental health, and now we're going to kick off some stuff through ATODS for Ending Offending Programs," he said.

"I hope to be able to look more into where we can get some support for other courses such as through Wuchopperen in Cairns.

"There's a lot of young fathers in here, so we're starting to look at opportunities now, like mental training programs and some expertise regarding the operation of starting up things within the community.

"I think what you'll find in the community is that men are more comfortable in their comfort



zone, so I think that the Men's Centre is more of a good area to go to, there's been more men coming up there now and it's been really good.

"We're getting a lot of support from the Council, especially from the Deputy Mayor Norman Bally."

The Women's Shelter is always open for women and young girls to come in and see what's on offer, coordinator Ethel Singleton says.

"It's not too early to think about the Laura Cultural and Dance Festival, it's only 18 months away now," she said.

"There's a lot of things to make for Laura, so I'm actually going to start on that.

"We have activities going on all the time.

"We're doing sewing and hopefully we'll be picking up more material for that soon."

On a more serious note, she said the national focus on domestic violence over the past 12 months had kept them busy. "We've been busy here with women coming in to get away, in case



anything happens," she said.

"So it's been more of a prevention thing – they might stay for a night or for a couple of nights – it's up to them, they'll go when they're ready to go.

"We also worked with the women from the My Pathways program over the year and we've welcomed that too – they're looking for something different to do and want to help however they can."



Healthier meals based on recipes used nationally by Meals on Wheels are on the menu at the HACCS Centre, coordinator Noella Clarke says.

"We've actually been given a book – a very, very comprehensive book – on all the healthy recipes that are used across Australia for Meals on Wheels, and so we've been looking at this book trying to find some healthy alternatives," she said.

She said a broader timetable of activities was also "on the menu". "I've been in touch with the clinic and Erica, the Chronic Disease and RFDS Nurse, and she wants to come down and talk to our ladies when they're having their activities," she said.

"Our ladies love bingo, and we love that they love bingo, the only thing is we can't spend government money on bingo prizes.

"So what we did is we thought we might try and raise some money so we can have some nice prizes.

"Luckily for us, we were donated 16 Island dresses by a very, very generous lady.

"It was extremely successful and I do want to say that none of that money goes to us in any shape or form; it's only for bingo prizes."

Mrs Clarke said there was also a visit

from the Cancer Council in the pipeline.

"The Cancer Council run a three-day give-up-smoking course, and they will actually pay to get here providing we provide the accommodation and the venue, so we will be doing that," she said.

"The other thing that's probably quite important is Ergon Energy will give Power Cards to pensioners and others who don't have a rebate like they do in mainstream.

"They'll send \$80 worth of electricity cards every three months.

"Apparently Wujal Wujal, Pormpuraaw and Palm Island have been on to this for ages.

"You've got to have street name, street numbers,

you've got to have the meter of the box and you've got to have the main person or renter of the house, so it's been a bit of a slow process."

She said they've also been trying to organise some home and garden maintenance for the very elderly.

"It's free of charge, so we can cut their lawn and clear their yard and things like that," she said.

"We're trying to get that happening as well, and they know that.

"A couple of them have had their lawn mowed, but it's not



turned into a consistent thing yet, but that's what I want to do for them as well."

Workers Leila Clarmont, Beverley and Bessie Hobson said things were moving along well for them.

"We got a new TV, new fans, new drier, we're waiting for our new industrial washing machine, and we've got two girls from My Pathway working here at the moment helping us, and they are very good," Ms Clarmont said.





# Puuya Foundation



The Kuunchi Kakana Team would like to welcome our newest member, Rhonda Temple. We are very excited that we are moving into our new Kuunchi Kakana centre in the coming weeks. We invite all of the 0-4-year old children and their parents/carers to attend our brand new centre. We are implementing the Montessori program and all our staff are fully trained with their 0-3-years Montessori Assistants Certificate, which is an internationally recognised qualification.

We believe through the Montessori program we are:

- Seeing good results of much improved children's behaviour
- Eating habits improved
- Older children showing younger children how to do activities (role modelling)
- Children are able to work and play together in a nice clean quiet environment
- Children are more independent



The Montessori Program runs Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am – 11.30am at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre.



*Our Kuunchi Kakana Worker Rhonda says: "I am very pleased with the children who come to the centre because they are making their own choices of activities. It's a good connection between mum and bub, we would like to see more mums and bubs coming when the new centre opens."*

*Our Kuunchi Kakana Worker Moira says: "We encourage all the mums to come with their bubs to the brand new KK centre. We have noticed this year the pre-prep children who attended our centre last year are much more settled and school ready."*



*Our Kuunchi Kakana Manager Tanya Koko says: "Come on let's get together and set our children up for life. Every child in Lockhart River deserves the best start in life."*

*More pics next page...*



# Puuya



# Foundation







# Lockhart River Art Gang Punya Kuntha - Strong Heart

**“It’s been a very positive transitional change for us,” new Art Centre manager Enoch Perazim says.**

“From September 2015 to January 2016 we had Brad Evans from the Indigenous Art Centre Alliance come in as Interim Manager,” he said.

“And the work that Brad did was to stabilise the Art Centre out of the transition from the former managers and working through a number of Key Performance Indicators required of us to bring the year to a good end.

“The Board and Brad subsequently had a discussion and I was offered the role as Manager, so I willingly put my hand up to assume that role and responsibility.”

He said he was looking forward to a productive and useful relationship with the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council.

“The Council has been very supportive during the transitional period, particularly the Councillors, Mayor and CEO,” he said.

“They’ve provided strategic support, and I’m happy to say their support has been ongoing.

“We’re now in the process of developing the brand of the Art Centre, which has been known for many years as the Art Gang.

“We want to

reinvigorate the quality of our art and work with the artists’ current body of work as well as where and how they can further develop their talent and skills.

“So, we’ve got an exciting future ahead of us, it’s one step at a time from day-to-day as we make progress towards the goals we want to achieve.”

He said he was determined to capitalise on the history and reputation of the Lockhart River Art Gang’s previous successes.

“The Art Gang will stay; that’s a historical heritage of the Lockhart River art and also it’s representative of the original members, some of whom have passed on and some are still with us here today,” he said.

“So, the Art Gang will always remain an integral part of that, and there is no immediate or long-term plan to change that; I have that totally out of the equation.”





#### More about Enoch...

I have been married to my lovely wife Lisa-Marie for 18 years and we have two daughters and two sons.

Our two eldest daughters attend Peace Lutheran Boarding College in Cairns whilst our two sons attend Lockhart River State Primary School.

My family and I migrated to Australia in June 2011 and became Australian Citizens on 26 January 2016.

I have qualifications in Business Administration and Justice Studies which I obtained from Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE in Townsville.

Prior to joining Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation in January 2014, I worked with South Pacific Brewery Ltd, Coca Cola AMATIL PNG and Colgate Palmolive PNG in sales management roles.

I have also worked for

Woolworths in retail in Townsville and have done a three month volunteer work attachment program with Townsville Community Legal Aid.

I am a loyal Sydney Roosters Rugby League Club Fan.

My spare time is family time.

My family and I have been living in Lockhart River since October 2013 and it is a privilege to be here.



*Pictured above: artists Leroy Platt & Silas Hobson*



## Mike 'n Davo flying high

New General Manager of the Lockhart River Aerodrome and Iron Range Cabins, Michael Castrisos, only started in early January but is already impressed by what he describes as an “amazing place”.

“I had no idea of what was ahead of me here,” he said.

“I just want to get on top of my job and do as good a job as I can.

“Number one is to fly people safely and by that we have to look after all the planes, provide good fuel and monitor that.

“I see great potential around here but it will take baby steps and not rushing people so I'll try and introduce my ideas through the right channels which will mean everyone can have a good look at what I want to do in the future.”



*Pictured above are Kuuku Ya'u Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC workers Lionel Hobson, Haston Bally, Talani Coutts, Colin Pascoe and Leroy Platt...these guys keep themselves busy looking after their country, whether it's putting up a shed at Tozer's Gap, dealing with vandalism at Chili beach and/or managing weeds, they're on top of it!*

My Pathways supervisor Lena Bally said she was working with the women to do some catering, sewing and bead-making in preparation for market days, still in planning.

"We're trying to get this pizza up and running and get some girls involved so they can come involved in the afternoon and do some cooking, making some

pizza," he said.

"They'll be here from 6 to 9 at night selling pizza.

"It should be good, and if the girls get paid for doing it, I'm

sure they'll come in and do it."

She said the markets would be a selling point for the sewing and bead work they were doing, along with fresh vegies from the farm.



# Community benefit focus to My Pathways' ventures



Community benefit is behind a push from My Pathways to keep workers away from ‘just doing an activity’ and into the ‘real’ world of managing businesses, My Pathways Regional Manager Les Robinson says.

“At the moment, we’re trying to get the ladies set up so they generate their own income,” he said.

“And the men have also taken on some contract work.

“They can then decide how that profit’s spent; it might be something that we’d not normally fund.

“I’m just providing the framework and those guys do their hours then they get the

benefit from it.

“It’s a way of introducing people (to business) with no risk – well, the risk is with My Pathways, not them.”

He said there were a few things on their agenda over the coming months including greening up the footy field and working on some slabs for the cemetery.

“Basically many people can’t afford a proper cover for a

grave, so we make up some concrete, put glass in it, polish it up and it looks really flash,” he said.

“They cost about \$100; that’s what we charge, just a bit of cost recovery, so we’ll keep on doing it.

“Then we’ll start doing some concrete furniture around town.

“Everything we do it’s got to be a benefit for the community.”

*Continued page 27...*