

Waaanta

NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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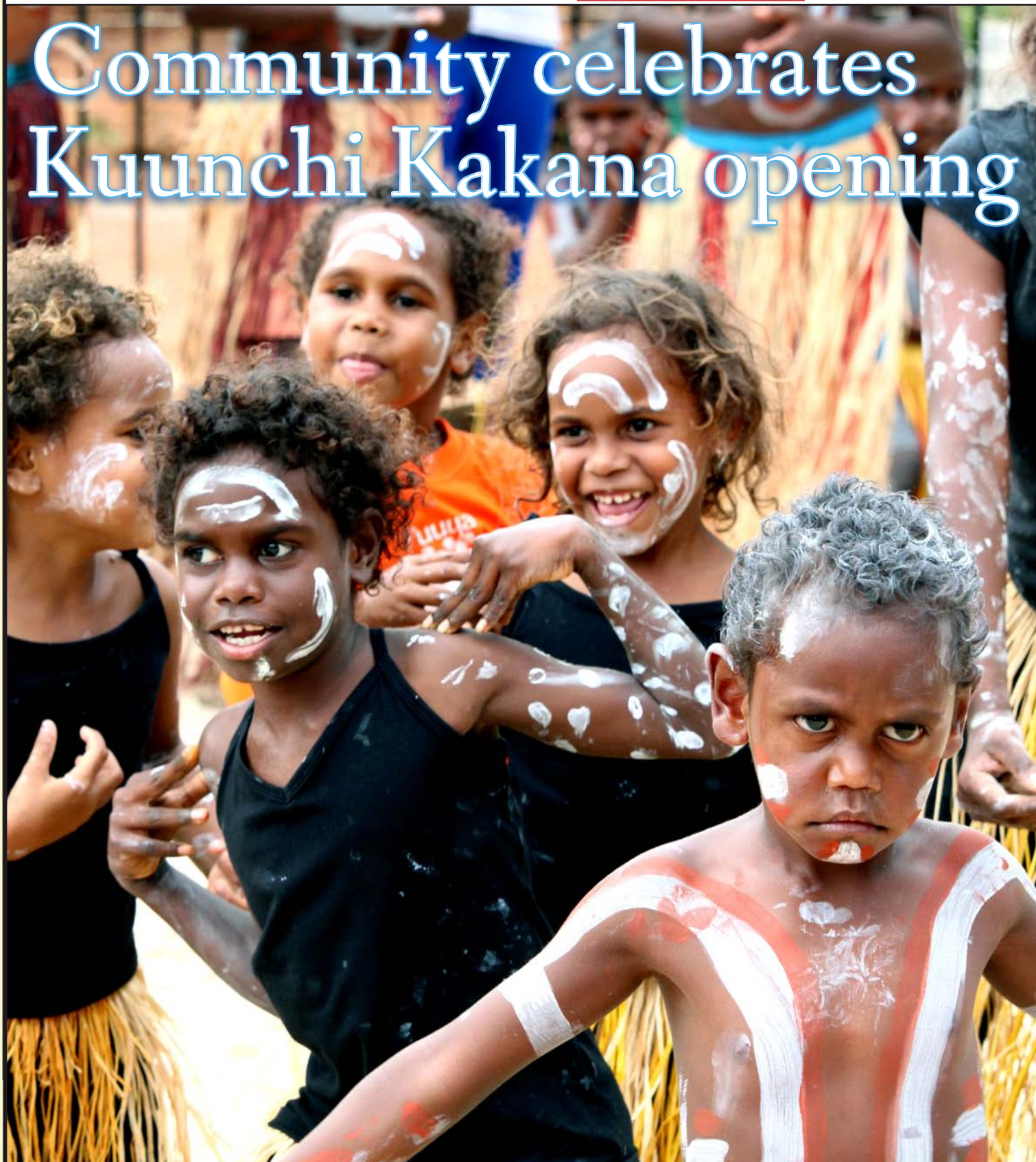
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Please note there may be images of deceased persons within this publication.

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

Community celebrates Kuunchi Kakana opening





A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

My Portfolios for this term in office are Education, Governance and Infrastructure Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

Education

My main focus over the next few years will be on Education and the importance of getting all our children in the community to school regularly – that means everyday.

I will work with the school principal and staff to monitor every child's attendance and work with them to build a strategy to improve on the worst attendees.

We will also work with parents to improve child's every day presence at school, especially through the P&C Committee, to build stronger relationships.

Community Small Business & Private Enterprises

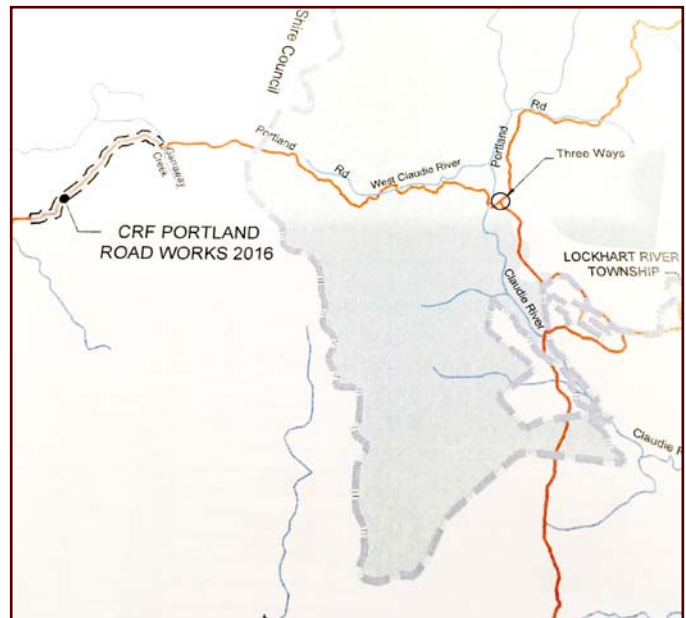
Council is encouraging and supporting small business development in our Community, we want to see more local private enterprises established.

Private businesses are an important step towards building our own local economy; we need to build strategies and policies to cater for local business growth.

More local businesses lead to more jobs for the community.



After the Council successfully bid for several million dollars to seal 8 kilometres of our roads, seven tenderers were in town recently to investigate the site and put their prices together. Lockhart Council is the principal contractor.



This is our project which will also soon see 16 floodways built between Garraway and Browns Creeks.

Top Pic: Tenderers scoping the Pascoe crossing, where there are plans to stabilise the cement links and raise the course way by 300mm (30 cm), as well as to lay a platform for future culverts.



It was a big day for the community to see the Kuunchi Kakana (Families Together) Centre open, late in June. Pictured on this page is Mayor Wayne Butcher with Gabrielle Sinclair, Jim Waterston, Cr Saunders, Margaret Murphy, ready to do a school tour and playing up a storm as part of the celebrations.



PUUYA Foundation – KUUNCHI KAKANA Centre

The recent opening of the Kuunchi Kakana Early Years and Family Centre is a very important step towards getting our young children ready for an

educated future.

The Centre is designed to work with young parents towards to build their capacity and working with their children for a brighter future – this is so critical.

The centre is utilising the Montessori teaching methodology which is designed

around self-taught practises.

It's important for the community to take advantage of the centre to develop their children's future!

**FULL STORY AND
MORE PICS ON
PAGES 13-16**





From the Mayor (continued)...

Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance (CIMA)

Recently in Cairns we had a meeting with Cape York Shire Mayor's, CEO and Councillors.

Joining us in the conversation were Torres Shire and Torres Strait Regional Council Mayors and Councillors.

The aims of the discussion were to update the newly

elected Mayors and Councillors on CIMA, why we developed the group and the purpose of establishment.

I provided a background on CIMA and the challenges we endured, also highlighted achievements to date.

Each of the Mayors or Councillors were given the opportunity to present their

thoughts on CIMA as a united body that represents Cape York Councils.

The meeting was held the day after the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) hosted their biannual Indigenous Leaders' Forum (ILF) in Cairns.

Wayne Butcher



Top Row at the LGAQ Meeting were: Mayor Wayne Butcher with Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey, CEO David Clarke with Crs Dottie Hobson, Marshall Saunders and Gina Nona (Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council); Above: CIMA Mayors, Councillors and CEOs meeting at Apunipima Cape York Health Council in Cairns.





A word from the CEO...

A lot has happened over the past three months, CEO David Clarke writes...

We have got some exciting challenges in front of us with a record number of projects to be rolled out over the dry season.

An upgrade to the Pascoe crossing will make it wider and a bit higher.

14 new crossings and flood ways will be going in between Garraway and Browns Creek.

That's a lot of concrete.

Our Airport will be completely resealed with new bitumen and a new layer underneath which will keep it strong for the next 20 years.

This will make some problems because it will be closed for one month but we have to do it to keep it safe for planes. We apologise for the nuisance this will cause.

On top of this an expansion of airport bridge will help make this dangerous place safer.

We have had two elections.

The federal election saw no change with the same bloke elected.

Our Council saw two changes.

A big thank you to Veronica for her long and loyal service to the people of Lockhart River and to Rebecca for her injection of the views of young mums and parents.

Council has been spoilt with experience with the return of our experienced former Chairlady, Dottie Hobson, and the business savvy that second term Councillor Marshall Symonds brings to the table.

Welcome back.



On another matter, isn't it great to see an expansion of our local blokes putting their hands up and having a go at private contracting.

These countrymen are people we should all be proud of. They are not sitting back but are having a real go and keeping money here in Lockhart.

We've got plant operators of our own building our roads, we have our own men delivering fencing contracts so we are looking for more men and women to follow their lead and come to Council with their private enterprise ideas.

It would be great for our young people to have the chance to open their own business and Council is committed to helping them with their goals and dreams. Congratulations also to the entire Puuya team for giving life to their vision in record time.

The Board, the management and construction teams should all stand tall which combined with a wonderful opening event.

David Clarke





Corporate Services

With 2015/16 financial year just ended, and 2016/17 ushered in, the finance team is back again to the busiest time of the year.

As usual, the team is devoted to continue to deliver efficient finance and administration services to support the Council services and Lockhart River Community.

Our interim audit was completed in April 2016 and the matters arising report was presented to the Council and management.

Our final audit is scheduled

for September 2016 and the finance team is well-resourced and ready for the task.

The Audit Committee has been very effective and have convened two important meetings during the year.

The first discussion of 2016/17 Draft Budget by the Council was held in Cairns in June 2016 followed by several managers/supervisors briefing sessions.

The final Budget will be ready for adoption in a Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 20 July 2019 at

the Cairns Office.

Views and ideas of how to deliver better services to Lockhart River Community are always welcome subject to affordability.

We have had a solid finance team throughout the year.

In 2016/17 we would like to encourage young ones with interest in finance and administration to utilise the training and mentoring opportunity our experienced team can provide.

Wishing you all busy 2016/17 financial year.

Stanley Mugwiria

Jennifer Hobson is excited because she will finish year 12 this year and Business Manager Noleen Clark is excited because Jennifer has spent her school holidays doing work experience in the office – and Jennifer is very good at what she does.

“It’s a joy having her here, and she’s very good at what she does,” Ms Clark said.

“She’s punctual, efficient and always comes in when she’s supposed to.

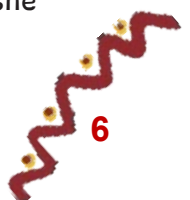
“We do have other work experience here from time to time as well.”



Jennifer said she had been coming in to Council on her holidays for two years now.

“I like it, I do paper work and answer the phone,” she said.

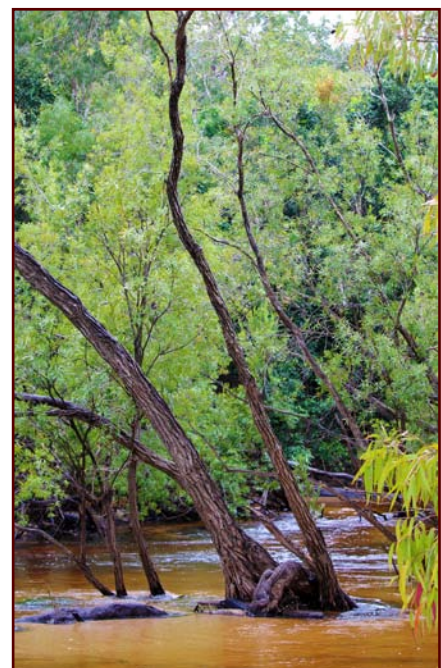
Students are welcome to approach the Council for work experience over their holidays.





Deputy Mayor Norman Bally, Mayor Wayne Butcher, Cr Paul Piva, CEO David Clarke and Building Services Manager Regis Edmond were very happy to sign on eight enthusiastic apprentices into various positions, including building, plumbing and diesel fitting within the Council workforce. We wish all of them to be the best they can be!

Council Store workers doing their stocktake, left to right is Benedict Macumboy, Mark Sandy and Fabian Tabuai.



The tourist season is on, Iron Range Cabins Manager Lisa Perazim says. "We've been really busy these past couple of weeks, just enjoying all the flow, tourists coming in, government workers coming in and the place is looking great," she said. "We're looking forward to doing bigger and better in the new financial year."





Community Development Team

Anita Egginton is working with the Community Development team as their Interim Manager to help coordinate our efforts and keep important programs running in the community.

“I’ve been working with the team for many years now, and will be in town for a week each month to make sure that the team feels supported and on track,” she said.

“In between time, I’m on the phone and email most days with someone in Lockhart.”

She said she would love to be able to support and mentor someone to take over the Comm Dev Manager role

in the longer term.

“We have a lot more rules from government funders these days for our programs and services – like HACC, Youth, Men’s Support, Women’s Shelter, Kids Club, Justice Group, library, Radio, Family Support – so we need to keep on top of these things, which isn’t easy,” she said.

“This includes not just more reporting rules and

requirements, but also government are tightening up a lot on what we are actually achieving, the quality of our services to people (you-me), and what we are spending money on.

“The Comm Dev team is focused on working together to support the community and also each other, running activities and giving support to all age groups.



Pictured above: Willie Clark, Ethel Singleton, Anita Egginton, Lorraine Clarmont & Luka Getawan; Facing Page: Krystal Dean & Greita Pascoe with Latoya Butcher & Florence Rattler.



“We want to promote positive and healthy ideas and relationships, and we are excited that the women’s and men’s groups are active again, and leading us in our ‘healthy lifestyle’ initiatives.

“We are also looking forward to working in partnership with other groups like My Pathways, the School, PCYC, Kuunchi Kakana, Apunipima, RFDS, and the Clinic to help strengthen puuya, culture and future of all Lockhart people.”

She said Yari Coordinator Krystal Dean, IKC Coordinator Greita Pascoe and PCYC worker Reniat Sandy joined Councillor Dottie Hobson, Veronica Piva, Women’s Shelter and My Pathways staff and clients at a Women’s Group meeting, held at the Women’s Shelter, late in June.

“More than 30 women and children attended the day to talk about a range of matters important to women in Lockhart,” she said. “They

included getting fit and healthy, sharing and practicing culture and creativity, and working together to put a stop to domestic and family violence.

“The women are keen to support the monthly market days, as well as NAIDOC, St James Day and the National Children’s Day in August. They are also keen for women to join them for Tuesday afternoon gym sessions from 4pm at the Community Hall, run by Reniat, and Thursday afternoon beach walks leaving from the Women’s Shelter.

“They are also invited to join in and sew with the ladies at My Pathways on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am–1pm.”

Kid’s Club has also had a busy time over school holidays.

“Beverley Hobson joined Bettina Macumboy and Emily Pascoe to run a very busy week of school holiday activities,” Anita said. “We had arts and

crafts, DVDs, and trips out to the creek and beach for swims.

“There was also a good lot of fun on Friday at the market day at the library, with plenty of kids activities and youth involvement with stalls.

“At the time of writing the kids are joining in on NAIDOC celebrations. The Kid’s Club team will be starting their Certificate IV training in Outside School and Vacation Care soon. We have a lot of changes coming up for the Kids Club, with increased quality standards (policies, procedures etc), and much more complicated reporting.

“The government is also insisting that we start formally enrolling kids and charging for outside school care, and we will be talking to community about how we need to do this over the coming months.”



This year's NAIDOC activities have been a joint effort between Youth at Risk Initiative (YARI) Coordinator Krystal Dean, the Indigenous Knowledge Centre Coordinator Greita Pascoe and the Men's Support Coordinator, Greg Omeenyo.

Greita said the emphasis was on culture as they prepared for events such as the opening of the Kuunchi Kakana Centre, NAIDOC, the NPA/Torres Strait Festival and others.

"With the helping out of youth, the YARI program with Krystal, we're both trying to make it happen with the dances practices," she said.

"At the IKC we're trying to get our Elders involved, so we have young and old working together, making preparations for our dances for the younger generations, and we also like to get those story lines through from the elders.

"As a younger generation we have been preparing all these cultural activities as well as

the school holiday activities.

"The biggest talk is that we need to look at is NAIDOC, which is where we're going to try and get everyone in the community marching in the morning and into all day activities – a lot of culture, we hope.

"We want our families and our elders especially to be proud and we want to show we can lift the community up to a better place – no domestic violence, no alcohol and no drugs.

"We're going to try and encourage a lot of young people in activity and being active in the community and having to stay out of trouble with the law."

Krystal said connecting with elders was a focal point of their work together.

"We've been going out collecting grass and pandana leaves for making head and armbands," she said.

"Culture is our focus, connection with elders and bringing them together with youth.

"I also have a big canvas project I'm hoping to get off the ground, just to get as many youths as possible to put one hand on it with a sign in the middle to say Youth of Lockhart 2016."

She said activities such as touch footy, soccer, softball and OzTag were ongoing in the afternoons.





PCYC Sports and Recreation Officer Reniat Sandy (pictured right) has been working hard with Krystal to encourage anyone who is interested to get involved in basketball and rugby in preparation for two major competitions coming up later in the year.

“There’s a Deadly Threes Basketball Competition coming up in August in Cairns,” she said. “I’m keen to get people training for that so we can have some Lockhart River people there – teams need to be an 18+ mix of two females and two males. Once I get a team they will pay for accommodation and flights to get us down.

“And there’s a Rugby League comp for girls and boys in Mareeba in September. I’m looking forward to training up and hopefully working with the Mayor to help learn more skills. That one is for 18-and-under and 15-and-under female and male.”





Court numbers in Lockhart River are still very high, Wulpumu Community Justice Group Coordinator Willie Clark says.

“Re-offending and driving-related traffic offences are at the highest levels in Queensland – Lockhart River holds the record,” he said.

“We also have a lot of people doing time for domestic and family violence, especially after people have been drinking heavily.

“This is not our culture; we need to start looking at our own laws now, Aboriginal laws.

“That’s why we have a lot of people in court, because our people are not listening to the law.

“If you listen to the law, you’ll have no police looking over you or pulling you over.

“If you obey the rules in this community, like every other community Australia wide, you’ll be right.

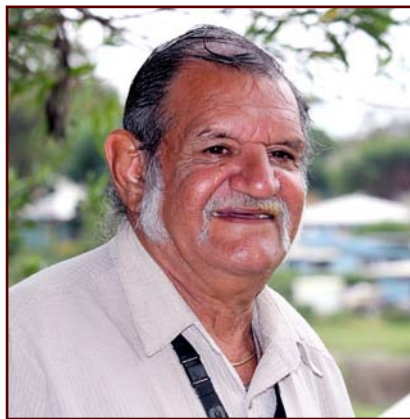
“You won’t be in court, you’ll be out of trouble.

“No need to swear or get wild

with anybody.

“We don’t live like this; we’re all family here.

“We need to start waking up to ourselves now and



let people know that we, Aboriginal people have got a lot of respect.

“Our elders have a lot of respect and we’re losing it so quick that we’re not going to be recognised anymore.

“We need to start doing the right thing for our family, for our children and for the next generation.

“It’s sad because prison was a white-man’s place, but now Aboriginal people have taken it over.

“There’s more Indigenous people in jail than white man, and that’s a shame to the Aboriginal race that is.

“Alcohol is the problem in our community.

“If you can’t drink, you can’t handle it, give it away because it loses your job, it tears your family apart, it makes your nanas and grannies sick, worried, and they get very sick because of you – behaviour.

“Your friends don’t bail you out. They don’t go to court, sit with you and support you, they don’t send you money when you’re in jail, but when you come out they’re all around you.

“Think about it – think about your family first.”



There’s been training happening over the past three months Women’s Shelter Coordinator Ethel Singleton says.

“We went do to QHIP training – that’s the Queensland Homelessness Information Platform – so I took the two workers down to do that,” she said.

She said they had also been busy with clients.

“We’ve been busy with clients who come in just to take some time out from situations at home,” she said.

“And we are trying to get our activities going, sewing activities and the basket-making activities. It’s a chance for women to yarn amongst themselves and be comfortable, so we’re keen to encourage anyone who wants to sit for a while and do some activity to come on in.”

Puuya Foundation



Kuunchi Kakana open for learning

It's been an extraordinary rise for the Puuya Foundation – from an idea to celebrating the opening of the purpose-built Kuunchi Kakana Early Years and Family Centre – after just four years of successfully engaging business, government and philanthropic organisation for funding and support.



The Centre is a key part of an overall strategy aimed at bringing families together and empowering the local community.

Puuya Foundation patron Quentin Bryce said she was excited and happy to be able to attend the opening.

Chair Dottie Hobson said the Centre was a result of the vision of the community and the efforts of a number of people.

“What we have done through the Puuya Foundation is for our little ones to have a really good start in life,” she said.



The Western Cape Bulletin



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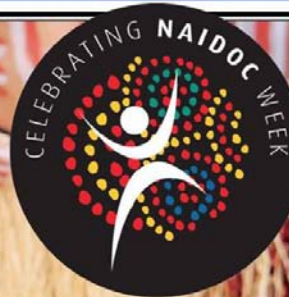
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A WARM WELCOME

Lockhart River put on a performance that will be long remembered for the opening of its early childhood centre. Dignitaries from all over Queensland visited the tiny Cape York community last Thursday for the opening of the Kuunchi Kakana Centre. Report – Page 6









Community celebrates Kuunchi Kakana opening

“Not only that, to get the mothers and fathers to understand education starts from early childhood, as babies right through to school age,” Ms Hobson said. “It’s a good centre for them, it’s good for new families especially.

“It is not a childcare centre, parents have to be involved as well and they are all welcome.”

Deputy Chair Jim Varghese said it had been a great and unique journey to this point.

“It has made a big difference to this community to bring the private sector, government and community together, and it’s good to see that happening,” he said.

“To create public value in an Indigenous community is a good thing and it’s been really good to be a part of that journey.”

Mayor Wayne Butcher, also a member of the Puuya Foundation Board of Directors, said they had achieved an exceptional milestone in such a short period of time.

“We started talking about particularly focusing on early childhood in our community about four years ago,” he said.

“So going from that idea to actually having a building established in that short period of time is something extraordinary.

“The ages 0–5 are a crucial part of any child’s development, so this centre is about getting those children ready for the rest of their lives and concreting that important foundation for the future of the Lockhart River community.

“I think that’s fundamentally crucial and I think this is a long-term investment.

“What we see in our community in 20 years’ time will be a direct result of the Kuunchi Kakana Centre, the family-together centre in Lockhart.”

Education Minister Kate Jones congratulated the Lockhart River community on the opening of the new centre.

“We know how important the early years are to educational outcomes for students,” Ms Jones said.

“It’s great to see the Lockhart River community working together to provide more opportunities for local families.”

Queensland’s Department of Education & Training Director General Jim Watterston said it was about improving life chances.

“This is an innovative project involving charity, not-for-profit, philanthropy, the private sector and government,” he said.

“DET was very happy to

support the work done by the Puuya Foundation in bringing all of us together for the very worthwhile idea of improving young people’s life chances through solid and engaging early childhood education in a building they can be proud of.”

Puuya Foundation CEO Denise Hagan they had expected it would take up to ten years to complete the building project – until the Murphy Family Foundation came on board.

“When Murphy Family Foundation founder Robin Murphy first came to us it was for funding for a small building,” she said.

“But we were able to go back to government to leverage with that grant for significantly more, so I believe this is the first time a partnership like this between government and philanthropy for indigenous early years has been done in Queensland.”

Mr Murphy said on top of the grant, the Murphy Family Foundation was also able to provide in-kind support such as helping with drawings, planning and administration.

“The \$3m family centre will be a valuable space for families to come together, for children and parents to attend early learning services and for health



Working with heart

Uncles and fathers played an important role in preparing the Puuya Foundation's Kuunchi Kakana Centre's grounds in the lead up to the opening last month.

Puuya Foundation Landscape Project Manager David Jackson said his team of up to eight men, employed by ESW, had done a beautiful job, as had John Pritchard who provided the trees, plants and some great advice for the outdoor learning area.

"What made this job different was the engagement," he said.

"The Foundation specifically wanted to employ as many local people as possible throughout the project.

"And the end result – people had tears in their eyes."

Jacob Platt said he had seen his niece and nephew coming in to the Centre over the eight weeks they had spent working there.

"We did landscaping and fencing," he said. "I've done this kind of work before, it gives me something to do."

Jason Pascoe said the work was special.

"We had lots of information and input in things like the water feature," he said. "My niece and nephew come here too."

"When they grow up they can see what we've done here, especially with the plants, which will grow up with the kids – that's special."

Peter Accoom said it was awesome to have a job where he could see his family.

"It actually makes me come to work every day," he said.

"I'm so proud of what we're doing and I'm doing it for my own two-year-old son too."

Mr Jackson said it had been a collaborative work from start to finish. It took a lot of effort and hard work to get it to happen," he said. "Going out on country to get the rocks out of Browns Creek, we had to get Traditional Owners' permission. Workers Peter and Daniel Accoom are TOs here, then we had Jason Platt, Johnny Brown, Richard Claudie, Mark Getawan and Herbert Pascoe.

"And all those boys had wanted to work here at the centre, where they actually showed their skills off very well. They worked really hard and at the end result, when we had the dancers at the opening in particular, they were all proud of it and they're all really happy."

He said the fountain, dance circle and traditional hut was all designed and built with everyone having their say. Some of the guys were crying over what we've done; it brought a tear to their eye to think their kids were going to be here or their grandkids were going to be here, and they could see the benefits of what the Puuya Foundation is trying to do," he said.

"It was a really powerful thing to see a traditional hut being built here by Vincent Temple and Darren Macumboy from the school, with the help of our workers.

"And just seeing the kids in there on opening day just proved the point



that it was well worth while.

"The dance circle was the same, a lot of work went into that dance circle, and to see them dance on it was very emotional and exciting as well. The water feature – we had to make up our own water feature, we made a little creek and got a boat in there as well.

"All the drainage had to be done and everybody was happy about doing it; they didn't mind putting the effort in to do it, to have a finished project for the kids, and that's what it was all about for all of us."

and clinical support workers to operate from," he said.

"There will also be a small bus for transport and four local staff employed to run the early learning program."

Chartered Accountants Altius Advisors have also provided professional in-kind services to the Puuya Foundation.

Partner Peter Catterson said

those services included company secretarial, accounting and financial reporting advice and auditing in relation to grant acquittals and annual statutory reporting.

"We have a strong commitment to the Lockhart River community," he said.

"We're delighted to be associated with the valuable

work being done by the Puuya Foundation to improve the infrastructure and services available to members of the community.

"We congratulate the community and the Foundation on the opening of the Kuunchi Kakana Centre."





Engineering Services

Five new houses and ongoing renovation and refurbishing work is keeping Building Services Manager Regis Edmond and his team busy...as usual!

"Our program for last year was completed with all the renovations and the maintenance work," he said.

"We're just about to start building five new houses within the next three to four weeks.

"We're going to build three two-bedders and two three-bedder block homes.

"A lot of the boys will need training into block and concrete work, just to show them a different way to build, and it is part of their study as well.

"At the moment I have six carpenters, most of them are doing their traineeships because we want to take them on as to do their apprentice, like Chris Johnson and Ronny Getawan who we want to take

on with RPO – Recognised Prior Learning – so we can get them qualified.

"We'll probably get a block layer to come in and help with work with the locals, show them how to lay blocks.

"Then they leave the boys and a carpenter will come in and do all the carpentry work in the houses.

"We do have a tree cutting program coming up. There's a lot of trees that need to be cut around the community, mostly in people's yards. And we're doing a lot of roofing and re-roofing with contractors.

"Again, I'm going out with some of my boys with them at some stage because that's part of their program as well, part of their training.

"It's not because they're going to work in that trade but they need to know how, why, and what happens.

"We also have a lot of houses getting new vinyl flooring and our painter's coming along very well, he's got quite a bit of work on.

"We do have a very good crew at the moment, especially our young carpenters.

"They like what they're doing and they're passionate.

"They love their community; they like to see what's going on in their community building-wise and they're proud of where they built something.

"I always tell them: 'You're building this city', and they are proud of that."



*Council
carpenters
Brandon Piva,
Ronald Getawan,
Regis Edmond,
Chris Goodhew,
Dominique
Macumboy &
Jason Pascoe
Not in Pic Gary
Tapper & Chris
Johnson*

Five trucks a day are taking gravel out of the Archer River quarry for the airstrip, due for rehabilitation this month, and the beachfront project, Works Department Manager Sprocket says.

“At the moment we’ve completed the second run at the airport,” he said.

“Also down the beachfront, but we’ve been having a little bit of a hiccup down there because the tip truck is broken down in the workshop here.

“Most of the work at the moment is around town, doing fire works for fire season.

“We’re keen to encourage local people to get into business here, and we have a team out on the Pascoe Farm road, so the money stays here instead of going out of town.

“Plus we’ve been trying to get some of the young fellows to work in the workshop here, they need to understand that we need them here for at least five days a week.

“If one bloke out of the whole crew stops that means nobody else can work.

“If the water cart’s not out there working, no one else can work, if the roller stops or the grader stops, no one else can work. That’s just the thing we have to look at, there’s heaps of young fellows around town here who should and could be in our workforce.”



Top: Freddy Pascoe; Left: Tristan Elu; and Above: Solly Hobson & Sprocket





A small team of local workers have put their heads together and secured a contract to work on the Pascoe Farm Road.

Multi-tyre roller driver Ryan Accoom said they would have roughly six months of work for their efforts.

“Creating my own business just to achieve something in Lockhart is why I’m here,” he said.

“We want a bigger team, we want to get the young people to come and work with us.”

Works Manager, Sprocket, said they had leased their equipment from Tutt Bryant Hire (TBH).

“We’ve got two blokes, Norman Bally and Ryan Accoom, who have leased their own machines,” he said.

Cr Paul Piva said it was an all-Indigenous team working on the road.

“If we can get the support of Council, hopefully we’ll get some more work next year,” he said.

Area Manager for TBH, Pat Cairns, said grader driver Herbert Pitt was ‘amazing’.

“Our gear is in good hands with the team up there they really know what they are doing,” he said.





Pictured above on the Pascoe Farm Road are at Top: Herbert Pitt & Ryan Accoom; Right: Norman Bally; Paul Piva and Sprocket + team pics – Norman Bally, Ryan Accoom; Paul Piva & Herbert Pltt.



Tope: Parks & Gardens workers John Butcher, Alan Warradoo, supervisor Stanley Butcher, Billy Sandy & Raymond Young; Middle: Tyrefitter Napoleon Short, My Pathway worker Adric Morris & truck driver Chris Bally; Left: Gary 'Gazza' Oldfield & Ray 'Thunguu' Namok working on the Old Site Road culverts.





In a new initiative by Council, water testing by Environmental Health Officer Morgan Hobson is now underway.

“That means if we get any problems such as a report from the hospital that something might be wrong with the water, we can test it here instead of waiting to send a sample down to Cairns,” he said.

“It means safer water for Lockhart and no waiting for results.”

Animal Control Officers Eddie Sailor and Cecil Macumboy have been busy buttering their bread with dog food to entice local dogs to take some medicine for mange.

Cecil said one tin of dog food would do two loaves of bread – that’s more than 30 doses for dogs around the community to start looking and feeling better.

“This is an easy program, we don’t need certificates or anything, just some nous,” he said.

Eddie said the dog food helped them get the job done.

“They need a bit of dog food on the bread, which has been soaked in the



medicine, to entice the dogs, because they’re not stupid,” Eddie says.

“We have three weight classes, we pick an area; we

pick an area on the map and work our way around.

“This is all free of charge, we love our job, but we also love the community too.”



Small business entrepreneur Rodney Accoom has picked up a contract from the Council to construct a fence around the community’s holding ponds. Mr Accoom won the contract earlier this year.



My Pathway working on local opportunity

My Pathway has two local Employment Consultants – Janarra Piva and Letitia Warradoo (*pictured below*) – working on the front lines and proud to be helping people, Regional Manager Les Robinson says.

Leticia said they were happy to help people find jobs.

“If they find work we can follow up if they need anything – identification or work clothing, whatever it is,” she said.

“We recently sent some workers over to Napranum to do a cleaning operations course.

“We’re hoping out of that we’ll get four people in that new mine coming over in Aurukun.

“We check up on them, make sure they’re doing okay, see how they are.

“There’s also the White Card (Building and Construction

White Card) and Traffic Control, stop-and-slow course – which six people have now.

“We have had boys who have been hired to do landscaping at the new Early Learning Centre.

“And we have new courses in LLM – Learning Literacy and Numeracy – at the Learning centre, welding and landscaping.

“It’s good to be helping your community, especially your family and friends getting a job and helping them with a lot of things that they really need.

“I like doing a good job.

“We’ve placed 103 people into jobs over the past 12 months.”

Janarra said it was all about as much support as they could offer over days which start with getting everyone ready for their activities.

“So, we get them prepared for activities in the morning, and then in the afternoons we help them in their appointments,” she said.

“Appointments may include seeing if they need resumes done, what they’ve been up to, what employment they’d like to do or any courses.

“We also check to see how they’re going at their workplace, making sure they’re being treated okay, making sure they’re getting along with





everybody, not having issues, and that they have everything they need.”

She said they had several activities on offer for women in particular.

“We have what was Women’s Engagement, it’s now in a language name which means Women Making Things – Wayi mukamu thika maupimana – and that activity is called Women Getting Involved.

“We’re also trying to start

market stalls once a week.

“Every fortnight we want to make an Elders Lunch and we want to do catering for meetings happening around town as well as just selling different healthy foods such as different yoghurts. We’re also trying to start a buying group so we can buy groceries from down in Cairns and sell them up here.

“We’re doing arts and crafts and sewing some curtains and some quilt coverings and stuff

like that, making soaps or trying to get candles like extract the oils from different plants and then making our own soaps, making the soap base.”

She said helping people was the best part of her work.

“I like helping people trying to find jobs, going that extra bit to help them out because they do appreciate it,” she said.

“We’re trying to make more opportunity for the locals in Lockhart.”



Lockhart River Art Gang Punya Kuntha - Strong Heart

We are making positive progress at Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation, Manager Enoch Perazim says.

“We’ve seen more traffic flow of visitor numbers coming in since late May,” he said.

“To date we’ve had four tour group visits as well as other smaller groups that have come in as well.

“These numbers will increase towards the back end of the year.

“The visitor numbers have contributed positively to the sales of our artwork, which is very encouraging.

“As long as we see people through the doors we’re very happy as this is the first step towards a direct or indirect sales opportunity.”

He said the seventh annual Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) was looming large on their calendar.

“We submitted artworks on the 27th of May and we are

quite happy that a number of artists’ works were selected, so they will be featured in the curated exhibition and we have our own a market stall as well,” he said.

“CIAF is on the weekend of 15 the, 16th and 17th of July, but we’ve been progressively sending artworks down in preparation for CIAF, so these are very exciting times for us.

“I’ll be taking Evelyn Omeeny and Irene Namok to the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and it will be their day to showcase their artistic talents and skills.

“We plan to rotate artist attendance every year from here-on with the objective overtime to expose our artists to see and get a feel of how their diversified artworks is presented and

seen from the eyes of main stream buyers of all types.

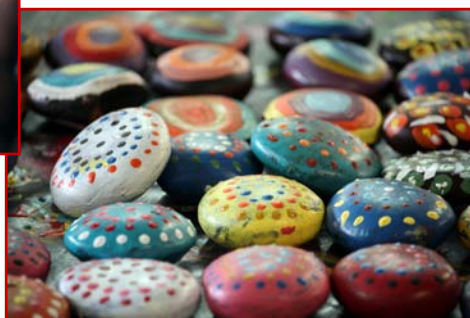
“We’re happy we’ll have the opportunity to present Lockhart art in this year’s CIAF, it’s been a focus for us annually in our ongoing development and progress continues on a month-to-month basis.”

He said they were on-track at the end of financial year 2015/2016.

“We are on track to finish off with an improved financial position on last year’s results,” he said.

“We will be launching our new website which will go live in the coming weeks and this will strengthen our social media platform objectives.

“We look forward to sharing more with you in our journey ahead.”





Above Left: Queenie Gible & Enoch Perazim; Terry Platt & Silas Hobson; Dottie Hobson with her work 'Bush Medicine'; Left: Cultural Officer Johanne Omeenyo; Above Right: Evelyn Omeenyo; Lincoln & Thelma Hobson and Marjorie Accoom

*Potentially Lockhart's biggest
Maroons fans, this is Fabian, Denise,
Bessy, Cecil Jnr & Cecil Macumboy
Snr...they really like their footy!*



**Kuunchi
Kakana
opening
June 2016**