



Waaanta

NEWSLETTER

May 2017

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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



Showing
the love
Lockhart
River!





A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

My focus as Mayor of Lockhart is all about capacity building, Cr Wayne Butcher writes...

It's about being strong. I believe it's about all of us sharing responsibility and that increases our strength throughout the whole community.

My role as Mayor, with the support of our Council, is about empowering people by

giving them more roles to stand up in and play out.

And I think we are making progress.

One of our big areas of success in our capacity building has been in our road works this year.

We got two big roadworks

on the go, one has got to be the Community Resilient Fund, which has gone out for tender and we're just about in the process of awarding the job.

The other one is an interesting one – we're going to use the Cape Indigenous Mayors' Alliance priority investment



2016 Employees of the Year!

Training Coordinator & Administration Officer Noleen Clark was our 2016 Employee of the Year while Admin Assistant Jennifer Hobson was our 2016 Youth Worker of Year. This year Jennifer is studying for her Bachelor of Nursing at the Australian Catholic University in Brisbane.



to deliver, for the first ever, on the main access track into Lockhart.

This means we're going to build the road from scratch to bitumen and, most of all, we're going to do it in-house.

Council will project-manage the job, and we'll use the council machinery and workforce on the job site.

We will also partner with several local community civil construction businesses.

So we will all work in partnership in delivering the project and that, in turn, will probably mean that 95% of the investment will remain in Lockhart River.

That is a lot of money.

We used the same model on the Old Mission Road and Pascoe Farm Road works last year.

And we got great results, so now we're going up a level.

It's all about capacity building.

The work belongs to us.

At the end of the day, and as important as it is, the road is probably the second prize – the first prize would be the support



Meeting with Lockhart Ministerial Champion Hon Mark Bailey, Minister for Main Roads. Updates on Civil Works for 2017 and other Community Projects

we able to provide for local businesses therefore building our own people's capacity.

We hope to see similar results in future with our housing.

We're finishing off the five houses now, we've got another seven to build, straight after these five.

Council is building 100% of these homes.

We are also 100% managing BAS projects in our community. This means once again we are

the principal contractors.

We have five apprentices on board.

The council now manages 100% of the whole housing programme in our community.

It's taken us four years to restructure the organisation and build the capacity of our team but I think now we are at a stage where we've pretty much got it under control. Financially, it means a lot to the shire and to the community and overall



Downlands College student Leighanna Pascoe on ANZAC Day 2017



From the Mayor (continued)...

another successful strategy to keep investment in our community.

If we want to keep it that way, if we want to see the benefits of this investment, we need to invest in ourselves.

I look forward to more of our community stepping up to the plate, helping us take on this responsibility – sharing our responsibilities – and building our puuya, our strength.

We know we can do it, if not for ourselves, for our children.

Please enjoy reading your way through this Waanta, it's been a busy but successful six months, as you will see. *Wayne Butcher*



Meeting with DG for Ergon Energy Paul Simhauser, Lockhart Council has been successful in funding a solar farm to subsidise our power supply to the Community, which will mean cheaper electricity for every household..



Above: Year 6 class for 2017 were presented with their School Captains and Leaders badges by the Mayor earlier this year; and Below: at the Closing the Gap meeting with the Minister and DATSIP were the mayors from NPA, Pormpuraaw, Lockhart River, Kowanyama & Napranum.



Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk announced award recipients for the 2017 Queensland Reconciliation Awards at a ceremony in Cairns earlier this month.

The Premier said the awards recognised community organisations, educational institutions and initiatives that are taking a positive step towards reconciliation.

“Congratulations go to this year’s winners for their significant contributions to promoting reconciliation in their communities,” Ms Palaszczuk said. “It is inspiring to see the dedication of the many Queensland businesses, organisations and educational institutions driving this important cause.”

Premier Palaszczuk said this year the Premier’s Reconciliation Award has gone to The Puuya Foundation. “The Puuya Foundation does amazing work empowering the Lockhart River Community by bringing together community members, philanthropists, corporate and government to create meaningful change in the lives of children and parents within

its local and broader communities,” she said.

“Congratulations to the Puuya Foundation for their innovative model which is already getting excellent results for the people of Lockhart River.”

2017 Queensland Reconciliation Awards Ambassador Johnathan Thurston also congratulated the award recipients.

“Congratulations to this year’s award recipients. It’s inspiring to see the innovative approaches these organisations have taken toward fostering reconciliation, and I look forward to hearing more of their positive and impactful outcomes in the future,” Mr Thurston said.

“As the awards Ambassador, I am honoured to have shared in the reconciliation journey and celebrated the many achievements of Queenslanders



who work tirelessly to build a united community for our future generations.”

The winning organisations each received \$5000 prize money.

The Queensland Reconciliation Awards is an initiative of the Queensland Government through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. The awards are proudly supported by BHP Billiton, Koori Mail and ABC Radio Brisbane and Queensland.

Further information on the award recipients can be viewed at <http://www.qld.gov.au/reconciliation>



Puuya Foundation





Meanwhile...

Earlier this month the inaugural Puuya Foundation fundraising dinner was held at the Brisbane Club.

Organised by Government Champion for Lockhart River and Department of Energy & Water Supply Director General Professor Paul Simshauser, the dinner and auction was a great success.

Also in attendance was Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety & Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels & Water Supply Mark Bailey.

Mayor Wayne Butcher said the event had been planned for several months.

"We bought all the artworks from the arts centre in Lockhart, about 28 pieces, and invited the public to the Brisbane Club," he said.

"We had a full house and there was an open



and silent auction which raised more than \$50K – just like that!

"The response was fabulous from the private sector, from the community, there were even people who flew up from Sydney to participate.

"We also had Gina Fairfax from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, who have been our major sponsor.

"All around, it was a good outcome and it may become an annual event for the Foundation."

See more news from the Puuya Foundation on page 32!



A team from Orange Sky Laundry visited Lockhart River in March to investigate how they can help with the problem of scabies in the community using their laundry services.

They met with community members to talk about how washing and drying clothes and bedding can help reduce the transmission of diseases as well as improve hygiene and general health standards.

Pictured is Orange Sky Laundry founder Nic Marchesi with the Mayor. Nick and Lucas started Orange Sky Laundry by raising funds for mobile washing machine vans to support the homeless in Brisbane.

Cr Butcher said, "these guys are people that think outside the square, they are entrepreneurs with a different way of looking at life".



Community Cabinet meeting a first for Mayors



“We had the Queensland Government Community Cabinet meeting in Cairns early in the year,” Cr Butcher says.

“All the Ministers and all the Director-Generals who are government champions met with the 17 Indigenous mayors for the first time in history in Queensland,” he added.

“Jackie Trad chaired the forum with Mayor Alf Lacey from Palm Island.

“We basically spoke about

four main priorities.

“One was the status of health in our community, there was also education and housing, and the last one was the Queensland Government’s independent inquiry into service delivery in our communities through the Productivity Commission that’s

going on at the moment.

“We’re all looking forward to actually see how much investment goes into our respective communities.

“I think we all know we’re not getting the value for money yet, so it will be interesting to see how much is being invested compared with the outcomes.”

The Cape rugby league Cluster is back on again!



The Lockhart Scorpions are out to defend our title this year, being the Premiers from last year Cr Butcher says.

“We started off on a positive note in Coen where we won both our games against Weipa and Napranum respectively,” he said.

“At the second round of games in Weipa we weren’t quite so lucky, coming out with a loss against Weipa and a win against the Mapoon Magpies.

“Hopefully that has set us a good foundation for the competition and we will continue to go from strength to strength.”





A word from the CEO...

I want to spend some time yarning up about opportunity, CEO David Clarke writes...

Opportunity is chance.

Chance for yourself; chance for your kids; chance for your family; chance for our town.

I join with Council in being proud of the new jobs we are making and the way we are bringing business chances for our people.

So the evidence tells us we are doing well with jobs and business growth but which way the others things that tell us our town is working well.

Is everyone's health getting better?

Are our kids going to school?
Are we solving our family problems together well? Are we taking all our chances?

We have the ability to be better but for this to happen I ask our family leaders to play a role.

We need to get our Health Action mob back up and powering.

We need to get our Justice

model working so when growls happen we can sort things out early and keep people away from court.

We need to get ALL of our kids to school.

These things take leadership. I know we've got it, we just got to use it better so get on board good people.

No fright, no shame, just join up and help and together we can lift our place high.

Join our Health Mob, our Justice Group, and our P&C tomorrow.

There are two more things I want to say.

First, congratulations to our Kungkai countrymen on the hand over of Bromley.

It shows everyone that with hard work and focus, the dreams our old people had of getting their ngaarchi back can be real.

I remember working with those old people doing the original

land claim work 25 years ago.

I wish they were all here to see this important day arrive but I know their dreams are in safe hands and continue on with the next generation.

Well done all.

Last, but not least, I want to thank my lovely wife Noella for the great work she has done getting our HACC centre up and flying. When Noella took on the HACC challenge it is fair to say the future of our funding for the centre didn't look good.

She and her dream team of Bessie, Leila, Beverley, and Fr Brian are just deadly.

They just had their big review from the government mob and didn't just pass but got 18 out of 18 in their performance review.

Noella has just resigned from the Coordinator position but she leaves her team in a great position to take HACC forward.

You and your team should be proud of the great service your give to our people.

Thank you.

We have Laura and Football to prepare for so exciting times ahead.

Stay safe and best wishes to all.

Dave Clarke



Tendering for maximum local gain

No less than seven companies attended a recent LRASC tenderers meeting aimed at ensuring maximum local business and employment outcomes.

Tenders are becoming available for road and civil works under the State Development funded Community Resilience Fund.

Participants included McKenna, Cairstruct, Bama Services, Shamrock Civil, Vision

Constructions, Goodline and Newton Spencer Contracting. Council will soon call for local Lockhart Business people to get on Council's preferred supplier panel. By doing that Council can allocate work directly to our own small business people.

So get on board and take advantage of the opportunities they are bringing to town.

*Further info available from the
Lockhart River ASC CEO*



Visitors and locals made it to a recent tendering meeting hosted by the Lockhart River Council





Foundation Day 2017

A day which brought the community well and truly together earlier this year was Foundation Day, held on 23 February.

"It was about the movement from old Lockhart to new Lockhart," organiser Dotty Hobson said.

"And this year was the 50th year since we moved.

"We had a big thing down at the Community Hall, where we were started with a healthy breakfast and then we had activity all day, for the kids and anyone who wanted to join in.

"I got a T-shirt made up it, with some caps and hats.

"We had a lot of people down there, it was a big celebration and it went right through into the night.

"We were dancing and things.

"I think the good thing was mostly for the old people.

"My mum in here, says, "ah, that's so long. I forget".

"But some of them old people still talk about it.

"I actually remember the day we came, because I was in a boat with my mum and dad.

"I think I was nine or ten when we came over.

"When we come around the point, there was big rain and my dad couldn't see, so we end up in the Quintell River.

"You look at all those new buildings from other ones we had at old site, these are like modern buildings.

"I remember we had a nice bigger house than what we had at old site.

"Some of them old people still talk about the old site, and actually going back to have a look – they can do that in the dry on the road now.

"They still connect with the old site because they always say, "Oh, old site were better than new site".

"I think because of the community, they were all in together, sort of thing, because there was a lot of dancing and come together.

"The church was always there from the start, they always talk about the church.

"Come Sunday, that church was full of people.

"I remember you couldn't get

into the church on Sunday.

"My mum actually come from Injinoo, when she moved over and she could see the difference now when they were there and now here.

"There's no Christianity like before.

"That's the way with things, as they go along, we change.

"Things like, they would talk about marriages.

"People would get married all the time.

"So these days the old people say, "this is wrong, you can't live together, you get married".

"And they talk about their fishing, they love their fishing. I find it hard for water time.

"They had to fill the 44 gallon drums with water, I remember that.

"My dad had to go to the river and fill up two drums with 44 gallons of water, then bring it to home so we can have





water. "One time my brother wasted the water and Dad nearly killed him.

"So moving from old site to new site was a big move.

"I'm thankful to our old people who stood up to the government and said they were not going anywhere.

"They originally wanted to move us up to Cape somewhere, Umagico.

"Some people moved, but most people stood up to the government – "That isn't our country. You're not moving us there".

"That was a good thing, they stood up.

"Otherwise, we'd have been end up there and no one would be here."



Pics on these pages with thanks to the CEO, Mayor, Greita Pascoe, Dotty Hobson & Reniat Sandy



New workers showing up to be pride of the Council



Council has once again offered their School Holiday Student Employment Program for Year 10–12 students this year.

The students work for four hours a day over every school holiday period for the year and the program is only available to those who are doing their high school studies off the community on an 'opt-in' basis.

Office Manager Deanka Omeenyo coordinates rotating each student through sections of the Council in areas including administration, community services, building

services, the airport and workshops.

"Deanka is doing a great job," Mayor Wayne Butcher said.

"Over the past few years the work experience program has grown from just three participants to 12 this year.

"The feedback I've seen on social media from some of the kids were awesome.

"Council's focus is on building work ethic amongst these

children during their school break.

"It's also an opportunity for them get a feel for working, not only as in a taste of what it's like to actually be in a workplace, but in the different trades and professions that the Council has on offer.

"Once finish Year 12 and they graduate, they have a basis upon which to look for the next stage in their lives, whether that's employment or a tertiary pathway."

THIS YEAR'S STUDENTS ARE:

- Simone Accoom, Downlands College, Toowoomba, Yr. 12
- Zali Hobson, Downlands College, Toowoomba, Yr. 10
- Cameron Moses, St. Andrews, Cairns Yr. 11
- Croyston Omeenyo, St. Brendan's College, Yeppoon Yr. 12
- Justine Omeenyo, John Paul College, Brisbane Yr. 10
- Tristin Pensio, Abergowrie College, Igham Yr. 12
- Martin Pascoe, Nudgee College, Brisbane Yr. 11
- Leighanna Pascoe, Downlands College, Toowoomba Yr. 11
- Cheryl-Mia Perazim, Peace Lutheran College, Cairns Yr. 12
- Jamilla Piva, Downlands College, Toowoomba Yr. 10
- Kimberly Rocky, St. Patricks College, Townsville Yr. 12
- Joanie Sandy, Mount Saint Bernard College, Herberton Yr. 10





Municipal Services

A lot of water maintenance, especially with hydrants, has been done around town of late, Essential Services Officer Supervisor Morgan Hobson says.

“We’d like people to take a bit more notice of where they guide posts are on the fire hydrants,” he said.

“It’s important that they be visible in the emergency times so we want to let people know not to park their cars on top of them or the markers.”

MEANWHILE watching the notice board for vet visits and making sure animals have sufficient food and water should be on the top of every pet owners’ list,

Environmental Services Officer Eddie Sailor says.

“We’ve got a few mangy dogs now that’s give us more than a headache,” he said. “We give them what we can to help them but it’s the owner’s responsibility, it’s their dog. They’ve got to feed them properly and give them good water and not let them go in the bins.”

*Pictured: Right: New garbo John Hobson;
Below Left: Plant Operator Gibson Macumboy at the Dump and Below Right:
Plumber Paul Jensen & T-Rex*



Flying high over Lockhart River!



Building Services

With the dry season finally on the horizon Building Services Manager Regis Edmond says he's looking forward to getting into another full whiteboard of work for him and his team.

"Now that the wet season is over and we'll be able to do a lot of external work on the houses," he said.

"It's been pretty hard this year to complete a lot of work, but now the boys are going full-time, full-on and getting completed.

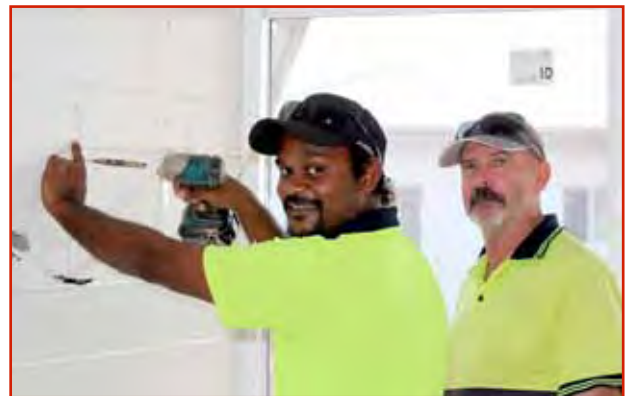
"We have eight home ownership houses up for full refurbishment, we've completed five of them as well as five new houses.

"We're pleased to have been approved for another seven houses, which will be great for our apprentices.

"At the moment we have five carpentry apprentices and two plumbing apprentices, and Council is thinking at later stage to maybe put an electrical apprentice on.

"They're going really well and Council has had some really good feedback from TAFE for their first assessment.

"They're going really, really well with their study and I give them credit for where they are now."



From the top: Regis Edmond; Painters Rosco & James Macumboy; Apprentice Carpenter Alistair Bowie & Rod Kotzer; Jessie Davies, Les Zarro, Christopher Johnson, Gary Tapper, Ronny Getawan & Regis Edmond on the job and in the office Jim Brooks & Regis Edmond helping the apprentices with their paper work.

A vision for Lockhart River community: what the elders say...

I want to see a happy and liveable community, and if we have more activities for our young ones, then they'll have something to do.

At the old Lockhart site people used to join in everything – in feasting, in dancing – and families used to go camping all the time.

I believe in getting the family, get the children, teenagers involved.

You can't get them involved when there's nothing there to get them involved.

They should take with their parents too, back to their country.

At the moment, families are struggling at home because of the income they get, and the store here is very expensive for them.

And some people, they can start their own little business.

I would rather look in the future, for all our people, they will go back to their country.

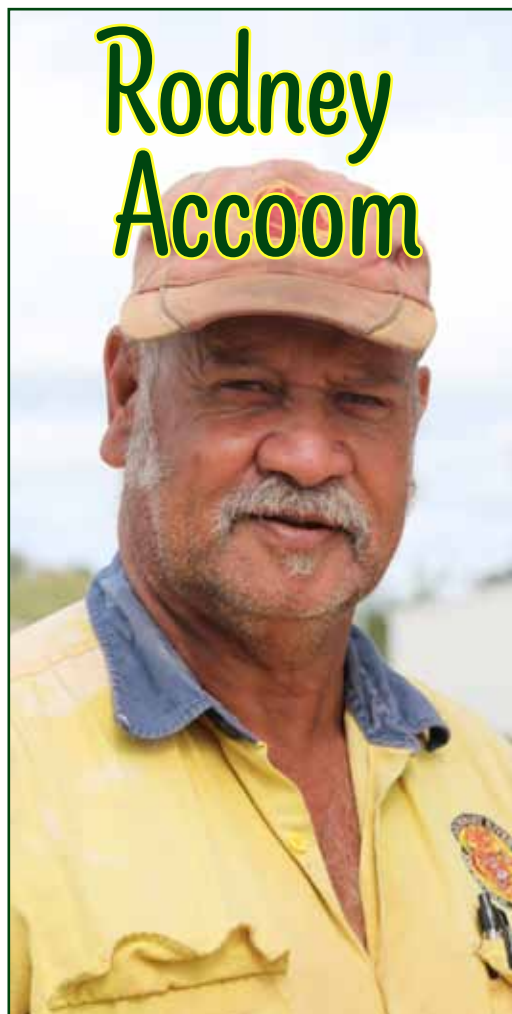
They can live here, but sometimes go out and get back to the happy times in country.

When you are out in your own traditional land, you do a lot of thing.

There's no computer, no phone, no TV to distract you, you do what the parents will teach you to do.



Lucy
Hobson



Rodney
Accoom

If there's plenty job I think the boys, girls, they'll be happy working together.

I'd like to see the pay rates go up, give us better money 'cause community got the shops are expensive, the fuel and the airfares, but I'd like to see everyone get together and make this place a happy place.



A vision for Lockhart River community



Sylvia Gible

Grace Warradoo

Sylvia Gible: Enjoy yourself with family while Elders still stay. Let our kids to enjoy things. Enjoy being educated – be stockman, work in the community, be happy with family.

Grace Warradoo: Start working to help your parents, other parents. Boys and girls come out from school should do some work.

Elizabeth 'Queenie' Gible: Go to school, telling them all sorts of things about Old Lockhart. We used to walk from the old village to the school. And we go to church. Show them how to do what we always do that with the school.

Sue Pascoe: Being happy means being friendly. Kids enjoy themselves. Be friendly with people, be happy to go fishing, hunting like that, like birds. Just be friendly with people and live together.

Norman Bally: What I'd like to see in the community is unity with all our people, supporting each other, sharing responsibility to build a better community. My motto is, and I always say to the beginning when I started the Community, better understanding, better outcome.



Loddy Chippendale & Norman Bally

Loddy Chippendale: Big changes to this community and I just want to see more workforce in the community. I'd like to see them get a really better job, you know? I think that all that stuff going to happen this year will be interesting thing to the young people. You know, like different experience for them. We need to get together again and be one big happy family. I'd see the community get better. There's a lot of a future with the young ones. It's good for younger generation to carry on what we took over from the old people. They're all gone, now it's our turn to teach the young ones that. Experience and learn all the culture as well, like take them out bush. That's the main thing is, at the moment now, I like to concentrate on canoe-making, and that will be a big step for us. We can pull all the young ones in and teach them all the skills.



Rita Accoon

Vero

Community: what the elders say...

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Elizabeth 'Queenie'
Giblett & Sue Pascoe

Rita Accoom: People should do more together. Go fishing, camping. If you can get bus one day take all the person with the young ones, take them out, show them how to cook bush food. It's up to them now what they want to do to make the community better. I'd like to see the community happy and like one family, no fighting one another because we are all in one community – no other people from other community here, only us. We know our language, ourselves and try teach the kids what's the right language, learn the language, show them bush tucker and the sea, teach them our language so they know. I want this community to be happy, look after one another, not this fighting and everything like that.



Veronica Piva

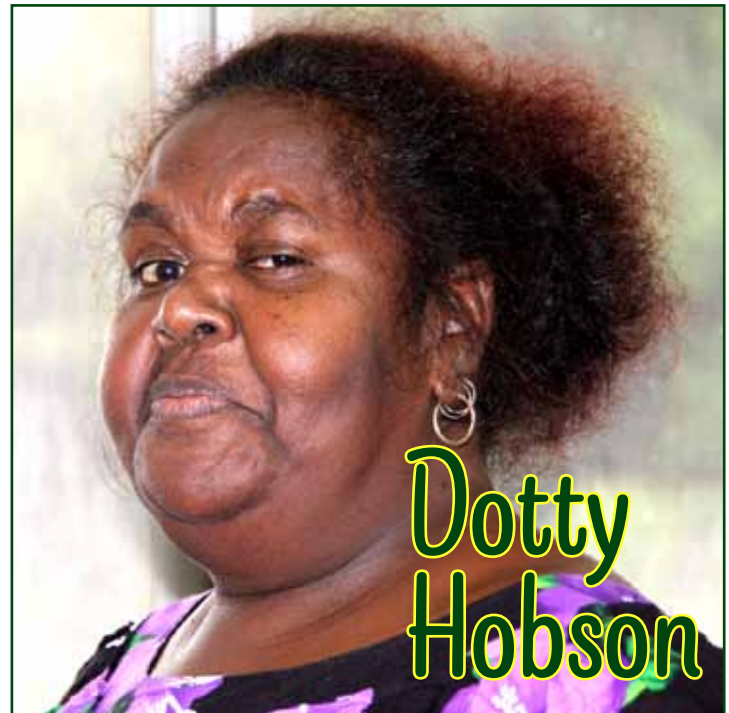
Veronica Piva The one important thing is to be together, working together as people of the community. No matter what the differences are we have to come together and make sure that everything is right, and we all agree to what is right for our people, for our children and for our community. It's living in peace and harmony. I think the young people have to decide which is best for them looking at the future and taking into account the tradition way of their people. There are so many good things that we can do from the old people, and the old people are nearly all gone. So what they have to do now is get up, open their ears to the elders and learn a lot of things that are good for their community, for the young people that are growing up before our old people pass away. Culture should be a continuous thing.



Dotty Hobson: I think we need a better community, we need people to come together and work together, because some people just keep to their little corner. Some people with good ideas, but they don't come up and share. But we also need some where we could work together. If you want to come to culture and football, everybody comes together, after that everybody goes to back into their little shell, keep to themselves. We want to see kids doing culture. Working together is the main thing, for the people that lives here. I've got no problem with anybody.

I can talk or make fun with anyone, except for the culture side of things and the respect for old people.

The young people think they know better, a



Dotty Hobson

lot of them, than old people.

Don't go sideways, keep on the straight path.

I think the main problem at the moment is jobs, they're not learning jobs.

Fr Brian Claudie: I'd like to see Lockhart a better place. The young ones have to have respect in the

community, and respect all the elders, especially past and present.

I think the Council's CEO

and the Mayor have been working very hard to solve problems in the community.

I would like to see something change, like some sport activity, you know, football.

Football season is starting now, so that'll be a way of respecting the community.

Also, I'd like everyone to be aware of what we are doing in our community, especially our children, they need to be given information about the old ways,

get back to the old ways, connected.

It comes out from the heart. Listen to the oldies.

There's this responsibility in the community – looking back for our children, teaching the right way, to have respect for each other, and especially for all the visitors.

We all need to have respect, that's the only way we can make Lockhart a better place.

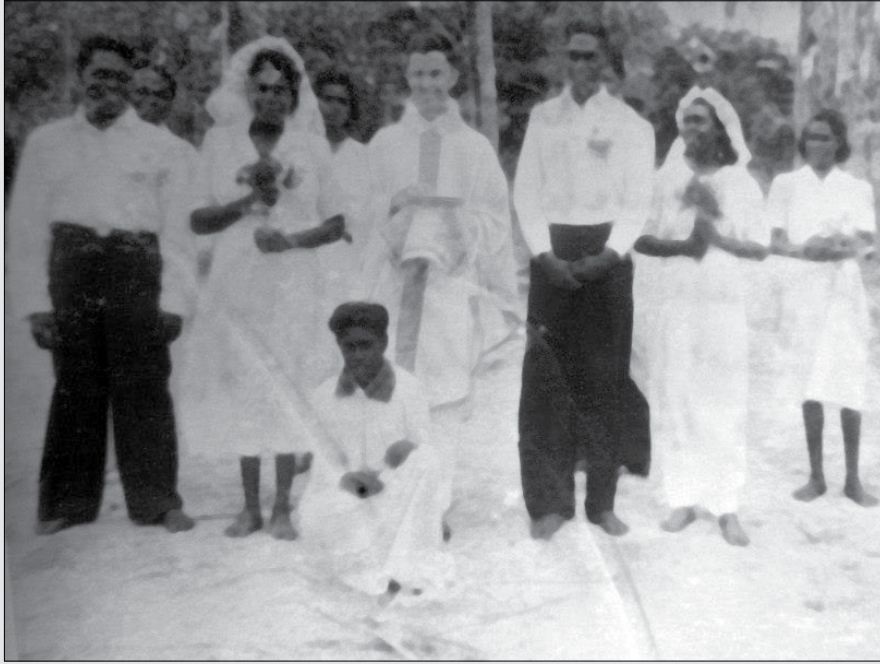
Telling them the old stories about what we have done in our time at old Lockhart, I know it's pretty hard now, because it's a new life, new world for the young people.

We need to get together and be as family in Lockhart.



Fr Brian Claudie

Yarns & pics from Old Site...



Lorraine Clarmont: First of all we want our community to be safe and happy and everybody welcome as one people 'cause we all come from this place, we one-language people, and we like to see everybody happy, enjoy their lives and talk to someone.

It's all mixed up, we got more that you never been mixed up before, just yarn with somebody, make joke and be happy. That's the main thing here is respect, respect wherever you find respect 'cause respect is the main keyboard of this place and communication and look after your elders. If not for your elders, there's nothing here, not even in our culture. We try to get along with our culture; we've got Laura Festival coming. Everyone should join up and do something



for Laura, help us to do what everybody can do, just bits that people, just like we did for Easter; we had a good Easter.

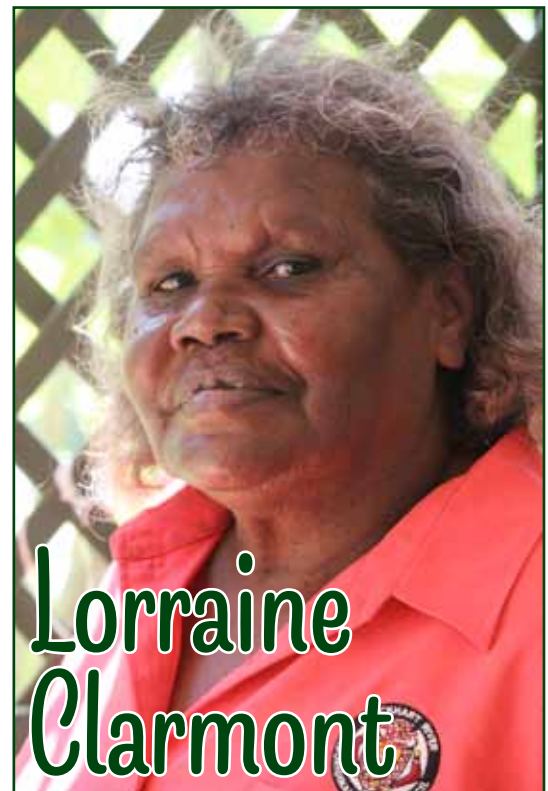
Respect each other and be happy, smile, keep smiling.

Luka Getawan: I like everyone to be happy but I always like laughing loud; laughing is good for you, and singing.

I always singing and I always say hi to everyone.

The people I don't know they always say hi, look up to one another. I reckon the good thing is you always come together especially on the beach when we go fishing.

Everyone there walks on the beach, fishing, gets line, right up with the small ones they hold line too, fishing for salmon. I reckon that's good.





Community Development

Several of our Community Development teams are going through quality review, which involves a lot of preparation work for their audits, Interim Community Services Director Anita Eggington says...

“The HACC team has already gone through theirs successfully, and our Youth Support and Men’s Support programs are next,” she said.

“We have also been running a lot of training and focusing on strengthening people’s own awareness, communication and conflict resolution and peace-making skills.”

Some of the highlights over the past couple of months include:

- The school holiday program and Saturday Easter event went well with a lot of strong individual and team efforts. YETI came for the first week of the

holidays, as did PCYC and ran activities for kids and youth – including hip hop dance training.

- The Comm Dev team ran an International Women’s Day celebration in March which was very well received.

Ongoing ‘women’s empowerment’ activities are being planned.

- We have two Family Support initiatives currently being organised:
- Lifeline/ Uniting Care QLD will come and deliver financial wellbeing/ literacy services in a way that allows a few local people

to be trained to continue on this type of service in the long run.

- Peace building’ training run by the Dispute Resolution Centre (Cairns) will be offered in June/ July.
- We have organised some ‘Hunting Dog First Aid Training’ with the vet for the next time she visits – this is a direct response to community feedback.
- The school has agreed to run the ‘Be a friend to your dog’ package from the Animal Management in Rural & Remote Indigenous



Members of the Comm Dev team and community working on banners for 2017 DV Awareness march in May

Communities (AMRRIC)

group. AMRRIC has also sent additional resources to our animal management team for their knowledge and use.

- The Comm Dev team organised a march against violence which involved a number of community members. People from the men's and women's groups organised the march, including making a banner together.
- We have two Family Support initiatives about to roll out:
- Peace keeping skills training run by the Dispute Resolution Centre (Cairns) was on last month for three days. We focused this first round of training on the Community Development team, Councillors, and key family leaders / community influences. Johanne Omeenyo from the Art Centre and

Susan Bally from My Pathways are joining most of the Comm Dev Coordinators in the training.

- Three people from Lifeline are coming to deliver financial counselling and gambling help services on 7th and 8th June.
- We were successful in getting a small grant of \$5000 to celebrate National Reconciliation Week – there was a family fishing day on a Saturday (thanks to Dottie for organising and running it), and an Eddie Mabo Movie Night next Thursday at the Community Hall.
- We are following up with the school to ask them to talk about the important celebrations of the 1967 Referendum and Eddie Mabo decision in school next week with the kids.

- We have advertised for a couple of part – time radio 'trainees'. We are organising for Black Star to come up and give them an induction and training in June.
- We will do some improvements to the radio/ IKC building and layout by the end of the financial year.
- We were successful in our application for three years (continued) funding for the Community Justice Group. There will be training in Weipa for 4 CJG members in June.
- We have been offered another year's extension to our Primary Health Care grant, which we use to run a lot of different initiatives.
- We are working with the Kawadji Wimpa committee to start organising for the Laura dance festival.





Converting fines into community service is one of the many ways the **Community Justice Group** is here to help people, new coordinator **Mike Harte** says...

"Even with **SPER** fines, we can set up a payment plan or if it's out of reach we can do community service to alleviate it," he said. "People have already found that by doing community service they're adding to their community but they're also getting the **SPER** fines off their back.

"We've had a couple of instances where people have been able to get their driver's licences back – which **SPER** can limit – by the fact of setting up a payment plan to pay off their fines through this office.

"So it's working reasonably well for the community.

"We've helped out at the early learning centre, cleaned up and cut grass and cleaned

up around the area. "We've got some programmes to do down at the beach and we've been helping out the older members of our community with their gardens and lawns."

He said he wanted the community to know his door was always open.

"This office is always open to anybody," he said.

"Anybody and everybody in the community.

"It doesn't belong to me, it belongs to the community.

"We'll do whatever we can to make life sweeter and more sustainable in the community."

He said he was looking forward to the day the group had full membership and participation.

He said if anyone was



interested in becoming a member of the group they need not be concerned about their past.

"People don't have to be afraid or think that their background and their misdemeanours in the past are a problem to them being part of the justice group," he said.

"Their experience is also well-respected and it becomes part of the community."

Youth Activities coordinated by Krystal & Steven

- **TUESDAYS** are culture days, including dance practices on Tuesday nights from 6–8pm at the Men's Centre
- **WEDNESDAYS** and **THURSDAYS** there is sport on at the oval
- **FRIDAYS** are feel good days for the girls, with healthy cooking and yarning at the Community Hall from lunch time on
- Every fourth Friday night is a Disco

Krystal and Steven also offer to support young people if they are having a hard time with something, or if they are wanting to get a job or do training.



Hosting men's health check ups and getting on with building some sheds and canoes is the current focus of Men's Group coordinator Greg Omeenyo over the past month or so "Pretty much just normal stuff," he said.

"I think we've got two sheds going to be put up, one for the kup-murri area, and one other shed going to be put out here for outdoor stuff.

"And we've got some canoe projects coming up as well.

"We've got one of our canoes down at the Melbourne museum, so that's something to bring back in terms of looking at the tradition, but I think the whole idea behind that is to capture that culture as well."

He said they still struggled

for support from outside agencies.

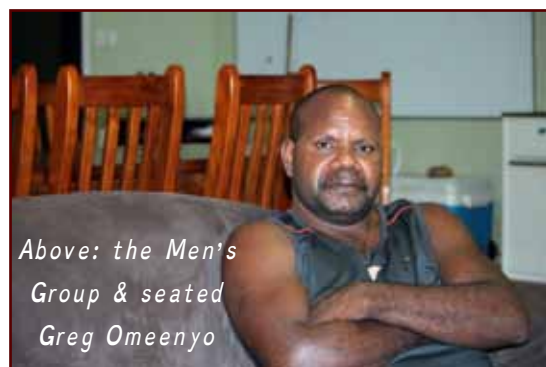
"We've been saying a long time to these agencies, 'don't flash your colourings, we want to see actions'," he said. "Come up here and give us the programs, especially during the wet season.

"We also have general discussion around the question of how can we improve which is about us trying to identify the problems, but also looking at the factors within it as well.

"We've been looking at developing a men's group pledge too.

"It's about putting the onus back on the men and having them take on leadership in themselves."

He said he was enjoying his role as coordinator and particularly grateful for the support of



Deputy Mayor Norman Bally.

"Since I've been here, it's been a good role for me, working in the with men's group, and there's been a lot of boys that have been coming up with ideas," he said.

"And we've got a few resources now that can be utilised, we've got new dartboards, we've got chessboards.

"So we'd like to set up small projects too, like we have a darts competition and chess competitions.

"Hopefully down the track we'll get more resources."



Lockhart River State School held an anti bullying march for "Bullying No Way" in March this year. The day was well attended and finished with pledges and culture.



All kids aged from 5-12 are welcome to come and spend their afternoons at Kid's Club, joint coordinator Bettina Macumboy says.

"They do reading, videos and a little bit of games outside," she said.

"We don't mind if bigger kids come then, they just come and watch, maybe enjoy themselves."



Lockhart River HACC has had great success with their quality review in mid-March, Interim Community Services Director Anita Eggington says.

“At the same time they continued to deliver important services to the community as well as to visiting service providers staying at the guest accommodation in the HACC building and Puuya Centre,” she said.

“The team is also working with the DATSIP community coordinator to make sure people have received the right compensation for Stolen Wages.”

Staff Bessie and Beverley Hobson, Leila Clarmont and Noella Clarke agreed it had been hard work.

“We passed the Quality Review,” Leila said.

Bessie said they checked everything.

“We had all these people coming up, and we had a very high standard in our Quality Review,” Bessie said.

“They’re checking everything like fridges and freezers, temperatures, health and safety, food handling and service delivery, like cold food goes in cold food and hot food goes in eskies – we ordered four large eskies for our meals.”

They said as part of the review they also interviewed 11 clients.

“That was part of the review, and it was without us,” Bessie said. “We didn’t hear about what was said, we only know that it must have been good because it was the most important part of the review that we passed.”

Former Coordinator Noella Clarke said staff had done themselves and the community proud.



Fr Brian Claudie, Beverley Hobson, Leila Clarmont, Bessie Hobson & Noella Clarke

“They checked everything from the service record on the bus to our files and books and registers,” she said.

“Compliance to the Government standards can be a very hard thing to maintain in a small place like Lockhart River, we have to have everything in place as a big centre with a big staff would have to do.

“But we met all 18 standards which apply not just in Queensland, but across the whole of Australia.

“We passed with flying colours and now won’t be audited again until 2020.

“The other reason I’m so proud of the staff here is they need to have ongoing education.

“So there needs to be food handling, food supervision, there needs to be Certificate III in Aged Care, First Aid, all the things that are ongoing, and these ladies are reaching those benchmarks as they go along.

“You can’t just come and get a job at HACC.

“You have to either have these qualifications or be prepared to get these qualifications.”

Mrs Clarke said she was sorry to be leaving the HACC Centre and Lockhart River for three months to maintain her nursing qualifications.

“The staff have been really good, they’ve been looking at ways to move forward, and everyone is really happy I’m doing what I said I wanted to do,” she said.

The second phase of the ‘Healthy Dogs; Healthy People’ campaign, ‘Pups & Bubs’ initiative was rolled out in early May, Anita said.

Our community educators, Roman and Morgan, worked with the IKC, School, Women’s Group, and Ku’unchi Kakana to make sure that they have some lasting

‘dog champions’ in the community following on from the completion of their work. They also worked with Morgan and Eddie in the Environmental Health team.

Schatz Blackrose said.

“Our overall purpose was to promote kindness and compassion towards our animals, because we understand how important animals are to the community here, and to assist people in managing their animals in humane ways, as the Council promotes through the work of the Animal Management team.”

“We were employed by Council to come up last year to work on this project to educate people about healthy ways of being with their animals,” Morgan



Roman Schatz; Mawella Warradoo; Shaunetta Claudie; Elizabeth Gible; Morgan Schatz Blackrose



If there's one thing almost everyone in Lockhart River is 'in to' it's fishing.

And one of the most popular activities this year was the first fishing competition back in April, which even included a BCF prize for a shark. It's enough to make fishing line and tackle a little scarce around the community, so as soon as the next batch of lines and rods comes into town, there will be another one, Dotty Hobson said.



"Fishing competition was good, I'm trying to do one every month," she said. "I've been fair, I think. I give best prize to everyone, even people who catch shark. "It's a difficult thing because we're in salmon season now, but there's no lines. "I think the last time I did get low on fishing rods, so they're

asking for that too." She said it was a day which brought everyone together. "We did a big breakfast thing down at the Community Hall," she said. "Then we went down to the beach – all the kids were there with Krystal, Susan and Greita, the beach was just full of kids.

"We sit down there for a while then want to come back again to the Hall for our supper. "We sort of feed them right through the day, and it's a way of bringing people together. "So we're doing another fishing competition at the end of May, I'll make sure to some photos this time."

Everything from computer training to fishing competitions are across the books of Indigenous Knowledge Centre Coordinator Greita Pascoe.

She also said she had worked hard with Krystal and Steven on Foundation Day. "Our computer trainer is going around each of the Council's departments, which is something I've wanted for a long time," she said. "The HACC staff and the Women's Shelter staff are having regular lessons in word processing and internet. "We've also been running a program with the Kid's Club and after school care, as well as the Kuunchi Kakana Centre. "And every Friday we do cultural afternoons at the school. "One of the other things we helped with was the 'No more Bullying' day."



Greita Accoom (right) with trainee Abigal Charcoal



Engineering Services

The road gang is just about gearing up for the dry season after a long wet, Director of Engineering Services Russell Cox says...

"The road gang has been just taking the opportunity to do general maintenance type works," he said.

"That includes sealing potholes, spraying weeds, cleaning the odd drain and a little bit of grader work. We've just laid out the pad for the new water park, so the plumbers will move in next before a concrete slab goes over the top.

"Generally, we're just gearing up for the dry season,

construction activities.

"I'm in the process of pricing a project funded by the Cape Indigenous Mayors' Alliance (CIMA), out on Portland Roads.

"Our section of that contract involves the culvert side of it will be sub-contracted out to our local suppliers.

"We'll be doing all of the diversion tracks, earthworks, rock protection, drainage works and road base work.

"We've also had funding from

Work for Queensland to start on the community hall car park, as well as a causeway to put in on Kuttini Street, up near the sewer ponds and a kilometre section of water main to put out along Line Hill Road.

"We're preparing the landscaping of the council dongas and that area needs to be fenced as do several of the new homes in the community.

"Rodney Accoom has got the contract to do the fencing for those."



The all-important first step towards a successful water park is getting the ground work right. Alfred Johnson; Rodney Accoom; George Brown; Tristan Elu; Solomon Hobson & Russell Cox were pictured here on a break while they were doing the first grade on the park area.

Palm tree fountains and a large bucket are likely to be just two favourite play stations at Lockhart River's new waterpark installation.

The Park is a Council initiative being delivered by ESW, Municipal Services and Building Services.

Office Manager Deanka Omeenyo, who is also assistant project manager, said choosing

the equipment, design and colour scheme had been an interesting side step from her usual work.

"It's a big job," she said.

"I've also been helping ESW's Shane Smythe with working out

the budget and costings.

"This was my first project management job and I'm keen to do more on other projects I'd like to see in the community."





Parks & Gardens Supervisor Stanley Butcher says the team has been busy.

“Parks has had lots of mowing around here, and we try to expect people to clean their own yard so we can do a good mow,” he said.

“We want them to pick rubbish up in their yard and put them outside, so we can go in.

“Now the football is going we are also mowing the football oval at the moment too.”

Herbert Pitt has a new job with the Lockhart River Health Services as groundsman.



Parks & Gardens team with Herbert Pitt: Stanley Butcher, Johnny Butcher, Herbert Pitt, Raymond Young, Benny Sandy and Allan Warradoo



Above: Gary Oldfield & Gerard Butcher; Michael Short; and Adric Morris; Josh Hubbard & Alan Warradoo; Below: training in heavy machinery earlier this year.





Finance & Administration Services

Budget update

After the Council's mid-year budget review, there were no major budget variations noted and this confirmed that the budgetary control system is working perfectly for us.

We have already commenced the 2017/18 budget process for both Capital and Operating activities.

The 2017/18 Operational Planning is also underway to go with this budget and all Departments are being requested to submit their wish lists for inclusion into the calculations for consideration.

Fibre optic

The Council received \$0.5m funding through Building Our Regions program funded by the Department of State Development to construct Fibre Optic Infrastructure that would provide local IT connection to all Council buildings/work sites.

The works will be available for tender soon so that construction can begin as soon as possible.

The Corporate Services team is very happy now that seasonal IT connection problems will be resolved once and for all when this is completed.

New Bank Officer & Banking Services

The bank agency has been closed for the period January – April 2017 due to lack of employees with bank clearance.

We have been lucky to have Maree Hobson cleared to operate the Bank Agency and as such we have resumed services.

All the services are back to normal and would like to request your support to our new bank person.

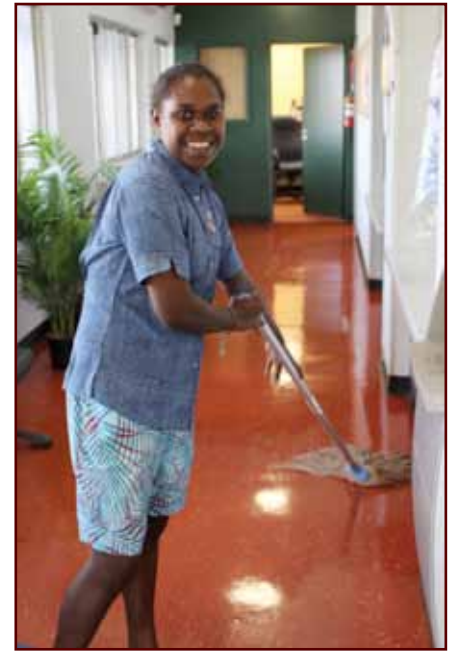
Let us all welcome and congratulate Maree Hobson for helping the Council break that stalemate with the Commonwealth Bank.

Corporate Services work experience

Corporate Services has been supporting the young work experience program by making available 2–3 casual positions during the holidays.

We will continue to make more vacancies available at both Cairns and Lockhart River Offices so that more young students from year 10, 11 and 12 can acquire and test working skills.

Please do not sit back home during school holidays, but just come and we will find something enjoyable for you do.



End of year

We have just concluded interim audit and looking towards the final audit visit in September 2017. As usual the Cairns Office team has been able to hold well whereas preparing to close 2016/17 financial year and consequently open new 2017/18 financial by end of June 2017.

Stanley Mugwiria



Pictured Top: New cleaner Chantelle Hobson; Above: Faye Hobson, Maree Hobson, Deanka Omeenyo & Noleen Clark



My Pathway moving forward

We have a few things happening at the moment In-web Support and Recruitment Officer at My Pathway Lockhart River Janarra Piva says...

Within the next few of weeks we'll have a Cert 3 in Agriculture on offer, and we've just finished a Cert 3 in Surface Extraction.

We had 11 people complete that course, so we hope to get them into maybe full-time employment with council or even on just the main roads or in the mining sector.

The qualification was to plan

an operation and they get their roller ticket, excavator, skid steer and a backhoe.

We had a lot of help from the council with them letting us use the machinery, so we'd like to thank the council for that.

It went really well and the boys seemed to really enjoy it.

We hope to see a few more girls through this agriculture course which will include

as many tickets, such as machinery, as we can get our hands on.

The aim of the course is to get them into employment as well as setting up a farm, so we have a farm out there, so they can learn how to produce fresh fruit and vegetables for the community.

In April the Indigenous Driver Licensing Unit came up and





*LEFT: Lena Bally,
Maria Kaigey,
Danielle Temple,
Les Robinson,
Ronelle Brumby
& Janarra Piva*

we helped nearly 30 of our job seekers gain their learners or provisional licenses.

We're also hoping to get a cafe up and running, so we'll be offering a barista course as well as food handing.

The aim for that café is to start it off as a business we own with the idea of training people up so they can eventually take it over.

We have a similar arrangement with the cleaning contract,

which is going pretty well.

At the moment we have cleaners working at the school every afternoon from 3 to 5 and we hope someone will end up taking over that business.

In other news we have our cement slabs happening!

So the boys have finished one cement slab, polished it all up and for this first lot will be table tops and the next lot will be for cemetery.

We hope to get those put

down at the cemetery for family members who are wanting them on their relatives' graves soon.

We hope to hold another Elders' Lunch, which we held last year in conjunction with the HACCS.

That was a big success, as was the completion of a fence between the school and the store, thanks to supervisor Chris Woods, who will also be in charge of building a little foot bridge as the next part of that project.





Puuya Foundation



The Kuunchi Kakana Program has been delivered in the community from the new Kuunchi Kakana Centre for just on one year now, and what a busy year it has been.

We must give special thanks to our stakeholders and sponsors without whom the dream of the Kuunchi Kakana (families together) Centre would not have become a reality.

The Department of Education and Training was one of our major sponsors.

The Office of Early Childhood Education and Care has also worked tirelessly alongside us, providing expert technical advice and great support as we travelled on our journey to

build the centre and deliver our early years Montessori program.

They continued to walk with us as we delivered our services, learning and listened to our issues and challenges, and helped us find solutions.

There was several other stakeholders and sponsors who gave their time, resources and advice along the way, including Skytrans and Seaswift and many other individuals.

We are very grateful for all of the ongoing support provided us.

Our Annual Report is a great

reflection of the year that was and we look forward to continuing our relationships with all of our stakeholders and supporters into the future.

Over the past year we have more than 85% of children in the 0 to 4.5 year age bracket enrolled in our early years Montessori Program.

This is a great achievement. The Centre is running well, and the program is being delivered four days a week (Monday to Thursday) from 9-11.30am.





A parent / carer **MUST** attend the program with a child, and we are seeing some great learning taking place, and we are getting some great feedback on our program including:

- I can see the difference in my children – they share with other children
- Kuunchi Kakana was a good routine in readiness for school
- Montessori is a healthy program
- 2–3 year olds are role modelling the activities for others
- Children love the storytelling in Creole
- Life skills are being taught

What has also been great over the last 12 months and is very pleasing, is that Dads are coming to the centre and participating in the activities – which provides different opportunities for interaction.

We would like to give special thanks to a couple of people in community. Marshall Symmonds has been helping the Foundation get some of our resources and materials into the community as well as donating children's toys.

This has been a big help to us, as freighting items to Lockhart River is complicated and expensive. Special thanks to Lorrena White, Queensland Police.

Lorrena was instrumental in working with a group of volunteers who put together some lovely gifts for the children who have been attending our Kuunchi Kakana program.

Lorrena many thanks for your help with this, the children really appreciated getting their gifts. Lastly a special thanks to Steve Bryant from the Store who donated lots of books which we have shared with families.



Community Gardening at Kuunchi Kakana Centre

Healthy eating and learning has a strong focus in our Kuunchi Kakana early years program.

Children are provided with fruit donated by Stephen Bryant, Lockhart River Retail Store and healthy snacks during the morning.

They have learnt to prepare some of the food themselves such as peeling eggs and juicing oranges.

We are continuing our partnership with the school and Torres Webb, Department of Education and Training, Regional Office to develop our outdoor learning environment.

This month we worked alongside the high school students, preparing and planting fruit trees and pineapples.

We had some of the community services volunteers assist by laying bark, mowing and preparing the garden areas

which was greatly appreciated.

Starting eating habits in the early years will ensure that these kids continue healthy eating once they move through to the school.

In support of the initiative our staff and some mums participated in the LEAPS Program (Learning, Eating, Active Play, Sleep) from Apunipima last year, providing them with skills and knowledge about healthy food, healthy eating habits, good nutrition and active play.

There are more plans to create our herb and vegetable gardens at the centre in the next few months to support healthy eating initiatives and provide an outdoor nutrition learning environment.

The kids will have the opportunity to grow and eat their own grown vegetables.

Thanks to Principal Patrick Innes-Hill, and Emmanuel

College, Gold Coast who has supported this initiative.

Girls from Oz

Girls from Oz continue to support the Puuya Foundation and the community

Girls from Oz have worked across the community this month, with singing and dancing activities at the school and Kuunchi Kakana Centre to build leadership and confidence in your girls.

New Team Member

The Kuunchi Kakana Team has a new member, Lindsay McMahon, who is our new driver / gardener.

You will see Lindsay driving around the community in our bus collecting the children and parents for our early years program.

If you want to join our activities, keep an eye out for Lindsay and he will pick you up. We look forward to seeing you!



For more information contact Tanya Koko, Manager,
Kuunchi Kakana Centre on 0438 255 474.

Lockhart River Art Gang Punya Kuntha - Strong Heart

The Art Centre is experiencing rapid increase with new opportunities for our artists and their portfolio of works.

We are pleased to share with you our confirmed activities from June 2017 to June 2018:

- Group exhibition at Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery in Hobart in June 2017
- Group participation at Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in July 2017
- Group participation at Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair in August 2017
- Group exhibition at Booker Lower Gallery in Texas USA from October 2017 to January 2018
- Group exhibition at Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery in Hobart in January 2018
- Group exhibition at Art Atrium Gallery in Sydney in June 2018

In April and May this year we had two Arts Development workshop programs funded by Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts program and IRADF program.

One was a Building Capacity workshops with Justin Bishop from Kick Arts Contemporary Gallery Cairns and Euan Hills from Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery, and the other was a couple of etching workshops conducted by Dian Darmansjah from Firebox Print Studios in Noosa.

We are also advancing work on other international exhibitions with more details on those to be released towards the end of this year.

Finally next month we are planning to introduce late night shopping trial every Thursday night for the next two months.



Like us on Facebook or log onto
<http://www.lockhartriverart.com.au>

Enoch Perazim

Business Manager

Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation



At the Art Centre: ABOVE: Silas
Hobson & friends LEFT: Johanne
Omeeny, Elizabeth Queenie Gibley,
Sue Pascoe & Irene Namok

A message from Deanka to the community

I've come a very long way and had struggles, ups and downs to get where I am today, and, yep I've managed to stand on my own two feet at the end of day...

Do not let someone or something pull you down, be strong for what you believe in, and show that YOU CAN DO IT and that you are worth it.

Sadly I didn't graduate from High School.

My schooling ended when I was 17 years of age.

My Mother said 'if you don't want to go back to High School, well girl, you better look for a job.'

And that is what I did.

My first job was working for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council as a receptionist back in 2008 until now I've reach Management Position as Office Manager.

There's always people in your life who's very understanding, supportive and give you courage and strength but sometimes you hit the wall of weakness. You have to beat the weakness and get tough.

SO GET OUT THERE... GRAB THE OPPORTUNITY.

You Get Up, You Fail, You Get Up again, Have Courage, Be Confident, Be Strong, AND STAND.

Thanks to my families (especially my Mum & Dad) past and present Councillors, past and current Staff and the People of the Community.



Gareth (or Garrett!)

Hobson has held down several jobs over his years, but none of them full-time and none of them quite as exciting as his new position as 'Aerodrome Reporting Officer'.

Gareth started his new job earlier this year and says he's very happy.

"Bob is teaching me everything about the airport side of it and I'm enjoying learning everything," he said.

"There's a lot to know.

Dream job comes into land for Gareth



"I have to go out and inspect the airstrip, make sure there's no wildlife.

"I hope to manage the place one day, I'm looking forward to that, one day I'll get there."