



Yarrabah News

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Band Festival huge success

MORE PICS INSIDE!



It hardly needs to be said this year's Queensland Music Festival's Yarrabah Band Festival was a huge success with thousands of people making their way over the 'bump' to enjoy a laid back day of music, dance and culture.

"We had a lot of visitors, family and friends come from throughout far north Queensland and even from our Torres Strait communities," Mayor Ross Andrews said.

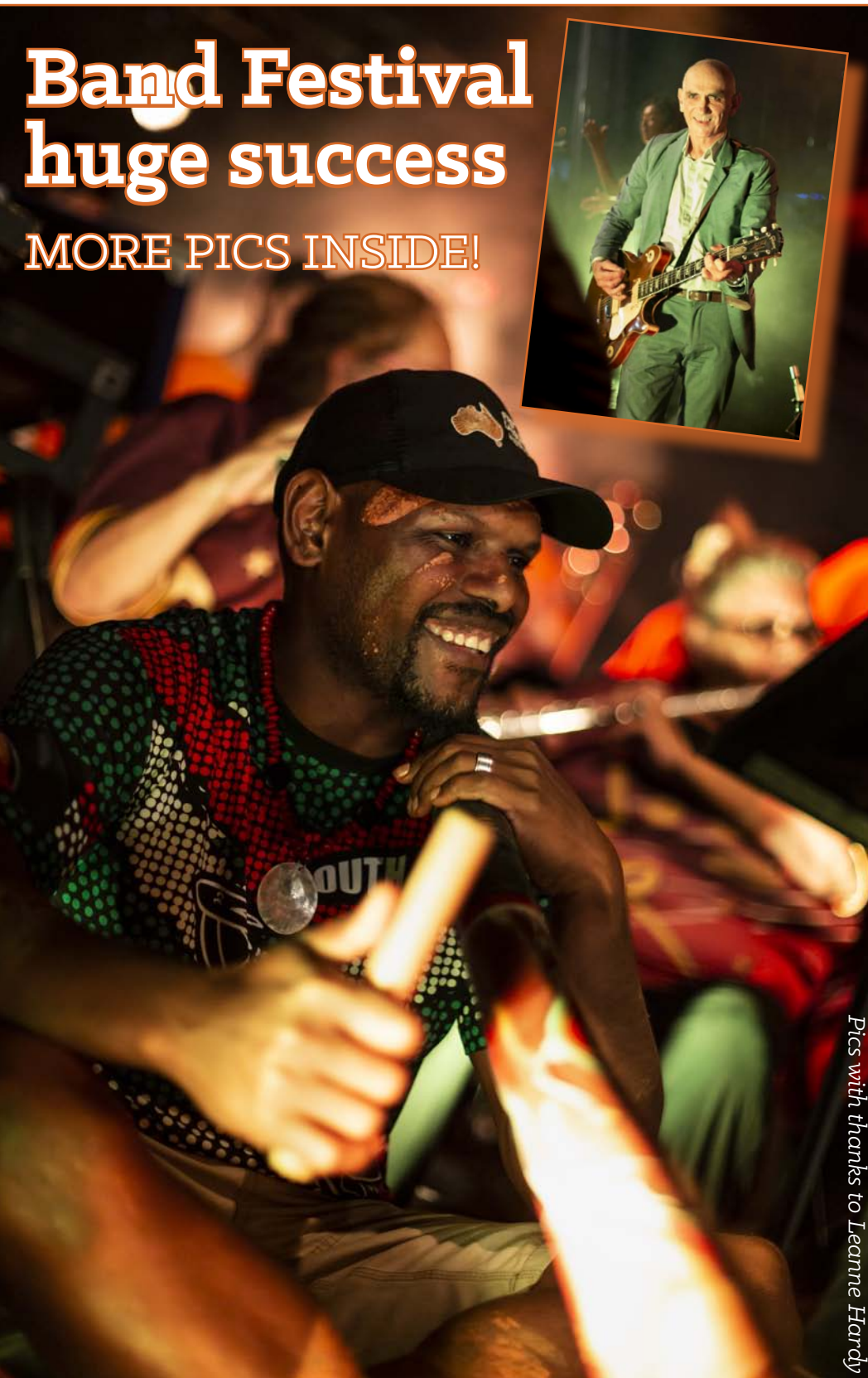
"The highlight for me was just seeing all the artists get up and perform, from our local artists through to the more prominent musicians – there was a lot of talent on show.

"I particularly want to thank Minister Kate Jones for her attendance and support for the event which I think is about reconciliation and how we can unite people through music, art and culture.

"I also want to thank our local member Curtis Pitt and Bob Katter, and Mayor Eddie Newman from the Northern Peninsula Area.

"We believe it was a very successful event and continues to be bigger and better every year."

Pics with thanks to Leanne Hardy





LGAQ annual meet includes Indigenous Leaders' Forum

Yarrabah Mayor Ross Andrews and Councillors joined more than 800 delegates to the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) annual conference earlier this month.

The meeting included the twice yearly Indigenous Leaders' Forum.

LGAQ Policy Executive Director (and Palm Island Mayor) Alf Lacey (right) said Indigenous Councils welcomed Chris Sarra as the new Director-General of the Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

policy and Mick Gooda as a special Indigenous advisor to the Department of Housing.

"Chris Sarra is well-known to a lot of our communities and we've pledged to work closely with him in terms of getting better results from government spending and investment," Cr Lacey said.



Local crew switched onto solar

The final instalment of solar lights along the foreshore and other areas of the community is done and they are good to go.

The lights have been put in by an all-local crew.

All up there were 46 solar street and pedestrian lights built around the community from Jilji to Wungu and around the town.

A job well done!



Girls' camp makes good memories

Dream Buyal Bandu Program, a Yarrabah State School and Mission Australia Circles of Care initiative, had their yearly Engagement Camp at Daradgee in October with 26 girls from year 5 and 6 attending four days of adventure and fun.

On camp the girls participated in team building, self-esteem boosters, educational and engagement activities which included high ropes, rock climbing, learning about the environment, boat rides, swimming, cooking, movie nights, games and chill-out sessions.

By all reports the girls and staff who attended had a fantastic four days with a lot of laughter and great memories made.

The Dream Buyal Bandu Program began in late 2013 as a short term program and now operates throughout the school year to support girls in years 5 and 6 by encouraging them to come to school, assisting with meeting their social and emotional needs, building relationships between the girls and their families, and working together with families on how we can better support their girls.



Mayor lobbies for 24/7 police presence

Cairns was host to this years Queensland Police Service and Indigenous Mayors' Summit last week, where the highest levels of the police service got to speak to key players in community law and order issues.

Mayor Ross Andrews said he took the opportunity to support calls from elders and other victims of crime in the community by lobbying for an increased 24-7 police presence in Yarrabah.

"This annual summit is about voicing our concerns from a community perspective around law and order," he said.

"And most of the issues are ongoing, such as Alcohol Management Plans, noisy parties, drugs, family violence and speeding motorists.

"But our biggest challenge in Yarrabah is having that 24-hour police presence in the community and looking at ways the police can invest those additional resources to try and minimise a lot of our challenges.

"The Police Commissioner's advice was to keep lobbying government, and we also need to try and get some investment around security and night patrols.

"The Council is hearing the community and we're working on those concerns."

Yarrabah Elders Hub, who have been broken into several times, said they wanted an apology from those involved.

One elder, who spent several days painstakingly collecting hundreds of seeds to make jewellery for fund raising, said she was heartbroken to come and find them all over the floor and unusable.

The Elders said they wanted parents to be accountable for their children, an apology and a 24-hour police presence on the community to deter would-be offenders.



Trial-run offers local refund opportunity

The nearest container depot – where you can convert drink containers to cash – to Yarrabah is currently in Gordonvale but next Wednesday (21 November) Council and Cash 4 Containers will trial a 'pop-up' drop-off site at Bishop Malcolm park.

The trial will run from 9am-12pm and, if it's a success, will return to the community fortnightly.

Gungandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation Executive Officer Helen Tait said the scheme was an opportunity for the community.

"Let's see how many cans we can collect and help us to protect our paradise by the sea," she said.

"If you can get your 'cans' to the Park on Wednesday you will get cash for your eligible containers – a saving all around for everyone."

She said businesses, community

organisations and local residents were all encouraged to take advantage of the new environmentally and financially rewarding incentive which refunds \$1 for every 10 cans, \$10 for every 100 cans or \$100 for every 1000 cans.

"We have found in Yarrabah beverage container litter is generally associated with drink consumption in open air settings such as our parks, beaches, roadside along the range and local streets," Ms Tait said.

"These items are the second most littered item in the state, despite the fact they can be easily recycled.

"The Queensland Container

Refund Scheme gives everyone an incentive to collect and return containers for recycling, in exchange for a 10 cent refund payment, which will help to reduce the amount of containers littered across the state and increase our recycling behaviours."

She said the Gordonvale refund point was at Cash 4 Containers, 1 Kearn Street, Gordonvale near MacDonald's and Tuff Tyres on Monday to Friday from 8am-4pm and Saturday from 8am-2pm.

"Cash 4 Containers has already been receiving significantly sized deposits from residents in the surrounding areas," she said.









Tribal Warrior graduates celebrate!

Tribal Warrior CEO Shane Phillips was excited to visit Yarrabah once again for what he said was the best part of the training program they have run up in the far north – graduation day.

Families and friends joined visitors from Cardwell, Mission Beach and Palm Island for a graduation ceremony followed by a kup murri lunch.

“We’ve come up here for the graduation after a successful trip,” Mr Phillips said.

“I think there were 23 in total working on their way to becoming Masters in Shipping.

“The team has pulled together and turned this into a very successful exercise for this community and the others as well.

“We’ve got things done.”

He said Seaswift and locals Tropical Reef Shipyard had already shown in interest in employing the graduates.

Seaswift’s Queensland Operations General Manager Peter Domenighini said they were proud to support the course.

“We’ve already employed Jeremiah and we’re looking for others,” he said.

Tropical Reef Shipyard Manager Merv Mudge said they were also on the lookout for potential employees.

“We’ve enjoyed the opportunity to be able to engage some of the young people in their practical experience, doing some work experience in the yard,” he said.

“We enjoyed it, they enjoyed it, and we would certainly like to take the opportunity to look at, maybe in a few months’ time as they get their experience up, coming back and revisiting, maybe looking at something a bit more long term.”



Mayor Ross Andrews congratulated the graduates and apologised for not being able to attend.

“Thanks to Shane Phillips and the Tribal Warrior organisation for choosing Yarrabah to undertake the training along the east coast and also to showcase the work they do in harnessing capacity building and training and development,” he said.



Link-Up Queensland board visits Yarrie

The Link-Up Queensland Board recently met in Cairns and took the opportunity to visit Yarrabah, the latest Link-Up magazine (*Volume 34 – September-October, 2018*) reports.

The visitors are pictured top right at the lookout with their CEO Pat Thompson. They are Ken Murphy, Catherine Watson, Sam Watson, Minnie Mace and Faye Carr.

They said they were really pleased with the visit and how welcoming each of the services were.

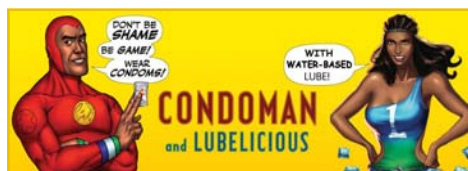
They thanked Mayor Ross Andrews and Councillor Patterson for taking time to meet with them.

“It was great to have a discussion about the excellent work the Council is progressing with for their community,” they said.

Thelma Richards and staff at Gindaja Treatment and Indigenous Healing Corporation also gave the Board a tour of the centre, as did Gurriny Yealamucka CEO Sue Andrews and Melanie Walsh at the clinic.

The board said it was pleasing to know they were all aware of the Link-Up (Qld) program and the good collaboration between those services and our local Link-Up (Qld) office in Cairns.

They said it was a beautiful day spent in paradise.



Yarrabah Community is invited...



GURRINY YEALAMUCKA
HEALTH SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

...to the **2018 Sexual Health Forum...**

...to be held at the Yarrabah Community Hall on 27 November from 9am to 4.30pm.

All Welcome.

'It's ufla choice, have a voice.'



ABOVE: Indigenous Knowledge Centre workers from the Torres Strait to Cherbourg were workshopping with State Library of Queensland staff in the far north last week, and included on their itinerary was a day at the Yarrabah IKC. Pictured RIGHT is Lucrezia Willett during her cultural orientation for the visitors.



Gindaja's great work recognised nationally

Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) AOD Coordinator Eddie Fewings' nomination of Gindaja Treatment and Healing Centre for a national recognition award was successful with the gong being presented at the fifth National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol conference in Adelaide last week.

The Recognition Award was sponsored by Quitline SA and acknowledged a service or program that had made a significant contribution to reducing the harmful effects of drug and alcohol use over at least five years, and won the recipient a plaque and a cash prize.

In making the presentation Gindaja was described by South Australia's Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council CEO Scott Wilson as a 19-bed contemporary, sophisticated and successful residential rehabilitation AOD treatment and healing service, that had delivered specialist AOD treatment services for over 35 years.

"In recent years it has consolidated a responsive service model that meets contemporary and complex challenges of healing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through healing and overcoming the burden of addiction," he said.

"Their model of care is embedded in a social and emotional



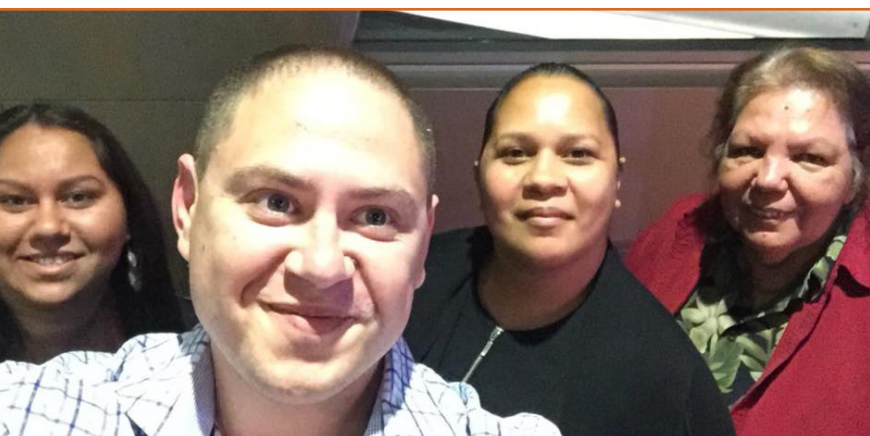
wellbeing framework with connection to country, family and community as central to this approach.

"The service works closely with James Cook University to test, adapt and reconcile their model of care with the needs and expectations of community, clients and sector-accepted, evidenced-informed treatment modalities.

"It is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled with Directors drawn from the Yarrabah community.

"Most staff are qualified Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people also from the local community."

Well done Gindaja!



Celebrating with Leneice, Tamara & Gail Fourmile was Roo Frazer from Institute for Urban Indigenous Health in Brisbane.

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Yarrabah News is published fortnightly by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Yarrabah community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editors.

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook!

Yarrabah News is online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

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