

# Waamta

NEWSLETTER

August 2017

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

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



*Pic thanks to Liz Pearson*

# Lockhart River: at its very best!



*Pic thanks to Josh Roach*





*A word from...*

# *Mayor Wayne Butcher*

Our biggest challenge at the moment is to try and get the community to refocus on education, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

It seems the whole community has lost its focus on education, and that's starting to show with school attendance.

It seems the third term of every year is a struggle – it starts with the Cairns Show, and then the Family Tax Benefit and annual tax returns come in.

It's interfering with the community, because it all comes at once.

You can see it by the amount of alcohol that comes to town and the amount of disturbance that goes on, which ultimately comes out in our school attendance.

So, how do we get the community to refocus on the importance of education – that seems to me to be the biggest challenge at the moment.

It's the same across the whole Cape region, we're not alone in Lockhart.

When we all meet we get to discuss the similarities and some of the challenging issues we have in our communities, and it seems to paint a similar picture across the board.

We've got to try and find a way.



*Meetings with Orange Sky Laundry are ongoing about introducing a similar service here in Lockhart River*

We've been talking about making longer holidays at this time of the year.

If we made the third term four weeks and took a couple of weeks off the seven-week break at Christmas time it could make all the difference.

The idea has been suggested to Queensland Education.

Kowanyama was leading in that space, and all the principals throughout the Cape all agreed upon it, so it's something we really need to revisit.

It's always hard to get kids back to school after seven weeks at Christmas too, so that will work both ways.

I've seen 30 years of change in education.

Over the first 10 school attendance was up over 90 per cent and the community as a whole valued education.

It's wasn't just individual households, but the whole community.

In the 1980s and then the 1990s it started to fall away; I guess alcohol was rife during that next 10-year period.

And in the 2000s, when they took away alcohol, marijuana has taken its place, and it's just the younger generation that are consuming marijuana.

As a community, as a whole, we need to revisit education – why is it acceptable for us to watch a child walk down the street during school hours, why is it acceptable that any child is walking



*Handing new house keys to Aunty Luka Getawan, one of the homeowners, through old Katter leases, now know as LHA (Lease Holding Act)*



around with their parents during school hours.

You can't discipline a child at school these days, so the behaviour pattern has changed a lot.

It's not just us, it's this new generation of the whole of Australia, and probably an international issue – a child is protected but they can use that to their advantage too.

So, you've got to find other ways of disciplining children, and that's where we're hoping the

Water Park will come into play.

I also think if parents aren't taking responsibility, the community must hold them accountable for their misbehaviours and when they're not doing the right thing.

So if parent is affecting their children through alcohol abuse or drug abuse, then they must be held accountable.

Someone has to take responsibility – if you're on low income even if only for 12 months and all of a sudden

you get \$5–6,000 in a bulk payment turn up in your account – I guess people go a bit silly on that money; they forget actually that it's not money for the adult, it's money for the children.

No one wants to talk about it, no one wants to discuss it, no one wants to do anything about it.

*Continued...*

*Caught up with JT over a cuppa great to have a general yarn, rather than football. I invited him to visit our community and to play an ambassador role in education, especially early childhood. I also yarned with the Skytrans team on operations of the Company throughout the Cape*





So, as leaders, do we sit by and watch it all happen?  
Do we watch a child not go to school?  
Do we watch a parent or a carer abuse a child's money?  
Does all this become acceptable in Lockhart River?

I guess if we do then we're part of the problem.

Somehow we have to challenge bad behaviour, and that's the hard one.

How do you tell the government that a bulk payment is causing issues in our communities?

And is government willing to listen and look at alternatives or do we try to deal with it.

We've got to talk to the government on how we can break this cycle.

To be honest, I've seen it worsen in the last three years.

And when you live in a small community like this you know everybody, the majority is your family and you watch it happen.

People see things differently – some people might think it's right, others might think it's wrong.

Once you start challenging, people don't like change.

A lot of people don't like constructive criticism.

You've got to be open to constructive criticism; you got to be open to someone telling you they're seeing something you're doing is wrong.

It's the child's money; that's the part that is missing in this whole discussion.

It is morally wrong.

People worry a lot about

what happened yesterday; everybody focus on yesterday; yesterday is gone.

The most important day is tomorrow.

There's no forward thinking in this whole case at the moment.

It's like every man and his dog for himself, let alone the child or the children.

I think people need to go a bit deeper.

I think they need to look at what is their vision for their children; that is the question that needs to be answered – where do they see their children in 10 years time?

Often the reaction of the community to these kind of questions is to express their frustration about the Council, but they don't want to be part of the solution themselves, they'd like to see someone else do it.

That's where shared responsibility is an issue.

No one wants to do it themselves; everyone wants someone else to do it.

People have to refocus.

They have to get up in the morning, look in the mirror and ask themselves: 'What am I



*Wayne and his 3-year-old son Harley*

doing to make this community better?'

Don't worry about what that fellow across the road or on the other on the other side of town is doing.

It's where they see their own children – that's the question that needs to be asked – where do you see your children in 10 years time; have you thought about it yet?

Would you like them to be a lawyer?

Would you like them to be a doctor, or you want to see them

in Centrelink, locked into



# Record turnout for national local government meeting

A record number of Indigenous mayors attended the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in June, where public housing, health and mobile black spots were all up for debate.

LGQA workforce strategy executive Tony Goode said the unprecedented representation of Indigenous councils meant issues pertinent to Indigenous communities, particularly public housing, could be fully explored.



“The federal housing program – NPARIH [National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing], is due to expire in 2018 and communities are waiting for an announcement at a federal level for a replacement program,” Mr Goode said.

“Decisions around this program will have huge social and economic impacts.

“It is the single, most important issue affecting Indigenous councils at the moment.

“The NPARIH is vital to Indigenous communities as several councils have become preferred suppliers for the construction of those houses, so a certain percentage of the houses are being built by the communities themselves.

“This means meaningful employment and skills transfer.

“It also means kids are learning trades and gaining apprenticeships and it has positive flow on effects on education, health and the economic health of communities.

this ongoing struggle – struggling to feed their own children, struggling just to have what they want or need in life.

If your children don't go to school, you might as well go and sign them up with My Pathways right now, because that's exactly where they're going.

People don't want to talk about that, but that's the reality.

The community's behaviour is overriding everything.

Their behaviour is affecting the council work force, it's affecting

attendance at school, it's affecting early childhood attendance and even some of our secondary students have stayed behind.

Not all parents are bad parents; not all bad parents are bad people, so there needs to be some sort of protocol back in place where the parents or carers who are neglecting their children need to be tapped on the shoulder and asked the question: ‘hey mate, your kid's not in school, what's going on?’

*Wayne Butcher*

“Houses are being built by local people, the money they earn is getting spent in the community and this in turn generates further jobs.”

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said the Indigenous delegation to the ALGA general assembly pushed hard for a replacement NPARIH arrangement to factor in growing populations,

“Another round of investment after 2018 would go a long way to providing families and communities certainty and move beyond simply playing catch-up to provide affordable public housing for growing communities,” Cr Lacey said.

Delegates at the General Assembly had the opportunity to engage with key Members of Parliament including Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Minister for Indigenous Health Ken Wyatt, Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion and Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Fiona Nash.

The meeting also passed a resolution calling on Assembly members to encourage Australian councils to consider efforts they could take to lobby the Federal Government to change the date of recognition of Australia Day.



*Words with thanks to LGQA, pics with thanks to LGQA, Cr Wayne Butcher & Sue Andrews.*





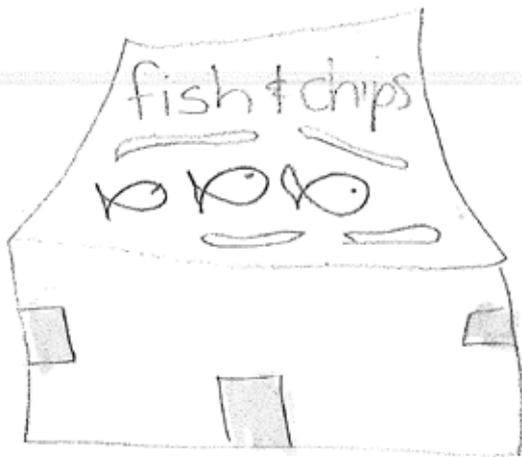
# Our School Kids' Vision for Lockhart River

How can we make Lockhart River more beautiful?



planting flowers

Preps: Lockhart River needs more gardens, needs more houses and gardens, shake-a-leg is always fun at Chili Beach, Lockhart is a lovely home and I love my home, I would like to see a park with beautiful landscape.



Years 2-3: saving the animals, picking up rubbish at Portlands, cleaning up mess, picking up rubbish, big guest house and fish and chip shop, planting flowers, look after the horses, the horses are nice, feeding the horses and planting some gardens at the shop, I could make Lockhart a better place by picking up rubbish, a fish and chip and a salon shop.



The secondary boys want to keep Lockhart River beautiful by making Old Site Permit Access only.



cleaning up mess.

# Language project 'keeping culture' strong

An exciting new project has started at Lockhart River to bring back anthropologists' recordings of stories from old people in the 1970s and later to the community.

Anthropologists have come and gone over the many years since Dr Donald Thomson first came to the area in 1929.

Most notably, two anthropologists have been coming to Lockhart since the late 1960s.

Dr David Thompson first arrived in 1969 for eight years as Anglican Chaplain and as a linguist.

He took up anthropology work in 1995.

Professor Athol Chase arrived at Lockhart in January 1971 to begin his doctoral studies at Lockhart's invitation.

Since then, they have been coming back over the years to record the local knowledge of language and culture.

Both of them want to bring back to the community their documents, tapes, photos, maps and other materials.

Debbie Cesari will put these cultural materials into a secure online database system called "Keeping Culture".

She has already worked on the project for the Umpila language people.

Now it will be extended to Wuthathi, Kuuku Ya'u and Uutaalnganu (Night Island) language people with new funding.



Athol, David and Debbie met with the groups at Lockhart River on 15-16 August to discuss the project in detail.

The language groups are very keen to see the work done, and are thinking about how the material might be privately viewed or generally available to the community.

There is keen interest in training younger people in using the computer system which gives access

to the stored material.

The Queensland Government is funding the project through the Lockhart Shire Council for two years.

The government sees this as an important development following the success of land claims.

The Council sees the project as an important contribution to keeping the local cultures alive for future generations.

*Words & Pics David Thompson*





# *A word from the CEO...*

Welcome everyone, CEO Dave Clarke writes...

I hope you all enjoyed the football and Laura, and that you've had a bit of time to relax with your families because we've got an awful lot of work coming up.

We got to put 12 new culverts in to over 5km of seal on the main road to Portland Roads and Chilli Beach, build seven new houses, do 13 major renovations as well as all of our usual maintenance.

We'll have the water park that still needs finishing off, we got to install four new barbecue areas with solar lighting – two down the beach and two down near the Water Park.

The water park will be fenced by a local fencing contractor Puulu Fencing which is Rodney Accoom's initiative.

Rodney and his gang are going to do all the fencing there.

The design of the Water Park is Deanka Omeenyo's, who is also our Office Manager. She's doing a great job project managing the job and working well with Shane Smythe and ESW, as well as our boys.

We also have new solar street lighting to install and three new playgrounds for the kids – one at Twin Peaks and one at the Water Park, so you have a wet area and a dry area there for the kids, and one at the new village where the stone there, topside road there, Tinta Street.

If we get time before it rains we're going to put a bitumen walkway all the way down the beach, so if we can't get that done this year then it will go



*Mayor Wayne Butcher and CEO David Clarke yarning with secondees (Westpac and Qantas) from Jarwun about supporting local small businesses in our Community*

in next dry season.

So we've got a lot of work on, and there's going to be some extra jobs created out of it too, so I would encourage anyone who thinks they have the ability to step up.

Just as important is a commitment to turn up everyday and to contribute to the best of their ability.

We want to lift our place up and put money in your pocket – don't forget about that.

We will also be putting a new twin-lane bridge at the airport bridge, those tenders went in the paper late last month.

That will be done probably before or the end of November at the latest.

We want to provide more opportunities for our local business community to provide road work services.

I'd like to thank Ross McKay, our painter, for all his hard work with the painting crew over the last four-five years.

Ross has been central to our Building Services team, we wish him well in his retirement and thank him sincerely for his work and particularly his friendship and camaraderie with his



partner in crime there, James Macumboy, who loves wearing white and is looking forward to stepping up and taking a stronger role in the painting division.

Big thank you to you Ross for all your developmental efforts there with James and for your service to our community. We all wish you well.

We have secured funding for the new airport terminal.

And we're about to tender for renovations on the Social Club, as soon as we get clearance for the plans.

We'll need everyone on board to put their hand up to be part

of the Board of the new Sports Club. Council can't hold the license anymore so we have to build a new corporation. You sarbie like a footie club or sports club with its own board and its own rules. We can call it what we want but the idea is to make a place where people can come together, relax, and enjoy each other's company in a safe way. We will probably be calling for people interested in doing 'Responsible Service of Alcohol' courses and security courses soon so we ready when we get the place fixed up.

In terms of the training, we've put nine people through traffic

control, eight people through the grader course not long ago and some plant operators tickets were also done recently.

The grader and traffic control will both go immediately into work on the new road in which will be, for the first time, developed to mainstream standard right up to bitumen, culverts, things like that.

So these are busy times and we always appreciative of your positive support and commitment to making Lockhart River the best it can be for everyone.

Thanks and stay safe.

*Dave Clarke*

**Due to the resignation of a Councillor a By-election will be held soon to fill this vacancy. Nomination forms are available from the Council office. Young people, please make sure you are registered to vote! Dates to be advised.**



*"We'll need everyone on board to put their hand up to be part of the Board of the new Sports Club."*

## **IMPORTANT HOUSING MESSAGES**

- Council does not say who goes in housing. This is the Department of Housing's job. You need to talk to the Housing Management Team about waiting list.
- Katter leases are sorted out by DATSIP not Council. Each family has to yarn up and decide who is going to take ownership of the house the old people signed for. Some families didn't sign up for a house.
- Council builds the new houses but then hands them to Housing. They don't own them.



# Corporate Services

## New Warehouse Point of Sale – Terminal Albert

We have installed a new EFTPOS terminal at Council Warehouse.

No more walking to Council office to make payment and walking back with payment slip to collect your purchased items from Council Warehouse.

Just walk in for a ONE STOP SHOP style of service, whereby the newly installed Terminal Albert will process key card payment for purchased items.

Please note that Council does not accept cash payment and so pay with bank card only.

The Council will keep expanding on the current stock list and we would appreciate your feedback on what hardware stock items should be added.

We welcome John Kepa back to the Warehouse team to support Matthew and Mark.

## Audit services

The final 2016/17 audit visit is scheduled for 25 September 2017 to be concluded by 13 October.

The preparation for 2016/17 annual reporting is underway and expect to be completed by end of November 2017.

## Accounting for capital works

The new financial year is looking very ambitious with a long list of capital funding to

be accounted for and acquitted by the finance team that includes:

- CIMA, TIDS and CRF funding for Portland Road Crossings and Seal
- CIMA and Work For Queensland for Airport Bridge upgrade
- Work For Queensland funding for culverts, new water main, car parks and playground
- Construction of Water Park

Also the team is preoccupied with final acquittals for the following just successfully concluded capital works projects:

- NDRRA funding to upgrade Pascoe River Crossing
- NDRRA restoration works on several rural roads within the Shire including Portland Road and Old Mission Road.
- CRF funding for Portland Road Crossings
- R2R funding for Esplanade upgrade

## Fibre Optic Infrastructure

The construction works for Fibre Optic project upgrade our IT infrastructure is about to commence and this is expected to create some jobs in the community.

The major component of works to be carried out by the Council crew is trenching but also the subcontractors involved will employ local workforce.

Please be on look-out for new jobs adverts in these areas.



Finance Manager  
Stanley Mugwiria

LEFT: Lucy Plva;  
Stanley Mugwiria;  
David Clarke & Wayne  
Butcher in the Cairns  
office.



*Lockhart River Council Staff (as captioned by the CEO!): Our Office gang chill out where cashew tree: Maree (Bank Manager), Jenny (Nurse in waiting), Trainee CEO Dakota (Thumbs Up), Faye (Admin Boss), Greta (Centre-Link Queen), and Deanka (Office Manager).*



**Office Manager in Lockhart River, Deanka Omeenyo, says she is enjoying her role in putting together the Water Park.**

“Work this stage is putting in the pumps and the shed in, and the splash pad,” she said.

“We’re hoping it should be ready for Christmas.

“In the meantime with our staff, Jenny, who is helping out with reception and around the office generally, is going back to university soon, but her position will still be here for her.

“Fay is still our receptionist and Maree is our new bank agent.”

## **Studying hard bringing future rewards into view**

Part time receptionist and office helper Jennifer Hobson is looking forward to her second semester studying in Brisbane at the Australian Catholic University.

Jenny is keen to pick up her Bachelor of Nursing so she can hopefully get into teaching and then get herself overseas or over to the Northern Territory.

“I wanted to go straight in to uni,” she said.

“If I didn’t go I was like, ‘I’ll never go’.

“I always wanted to do nursing, I always wanted to do teaching as well and will probably do that after I finish my nursing.

“It is hard by yourself.

“I’m doing other subjects – social work and all that, all different stuff related to nursing and it’s all very interesting.



*Jennifer and her niece Dakota in the Lockhart River offices*

“I would encourage other young people to look up if they’re having hard times.

“They can get out of here, go do something too.”



# Building Services

There are plenty of works going on and even more waiting for various approvals Building Services Director Regis Edmond says...

“A lot of work is being quoted on, and I’m waiting for approval so we have a fair bit of work going on,” he said.

“This would probably be the most work Lockhart could have ever seen, or at least not for a long, long time.

“We have staff housing to be renovated and seven new homes, which will complete the subdivision.

“Council will be doing most of that work; most likely we’ll be doing the five timber houses, and I’m in discussion with the Council about what’s going to happen with the two block homes.

“So they will take our five carpentry apprentices to nearly being qualified.

“We probably have about eight home ownership renovations to be done on what’s known as the Katter Leases and they are pretty much full renovations so they can be up to a standard where people can move in.

“And I believe there will be three or four National Affordable

Housing Agreement (NAHA) refurbishes as well.

“On top of all that the Men’s Shelter is getting their sheds constructed as we speak – there’s one big activities shed, a kup murri shed and a storage shed, so that’s on the program now.

“There’s quite a few other things on the program for Council as well – the Water Park, they talking about a new Club, a Community Hall refurbishment, and an Airport Terminal.

“There will be some barbecue areas as well, two down the beach and two where the Water Park is.

“It’s a lot of work to take us up to June next year already.

“Rod Kotzur will be in charge of pretty much new construction.

“So when we have a new build in we need to meet together and plan how we’re going to do it.

“We just go through the engineering and we just look at the plan itself; so we pick up whatever little things which need fixing, and then I send that straight to the

supplier so they can work out what we need.

“So we just plan each step because when you work in a place like here, you can’t just have everything here, we have to order in advance and as we need it.

“We have to be very, very careful and well planned when we organise the logistics; we have to be super, super organised.

“It’s not an easy job.

“Just one little thing missing means you have to wait for it for a week for it to come from Cairns on a barge to here; it’s not like you can run to the shop.

“And it’s not unique to Lockhart – Bamaga, on the Cape, on the islands – they are all affected the same way.

“So we have a good team this year and I’m proud of them; these boys have done really well this year.

“They can sit there and see what they’ve built; it’s so great; it’s fantastic to see.”



Painter Ross McKay says he’s loved the four-years he’s been in Lockhart, but for him – at 77-years-old – it’s time to move on.

“I think I’m due to retire now,” he said.

“I’ve enjoyed it; I’ve really enjoyed it up here.

“But I’m headed for South Australia, to a little place called Port Moorowie, in the peninsula next to Yorketown.

“My daughter bought a house there, so I’m going to go and stay there – and probably do some paint work for her too.

“I’ve made a lot of friends and I’ll miss them, but it’s time to move on.”

# Council store open for business

There have been few changes – including EFTPOS – but nothing major, Council Store Manager Matt Redman says.

“Mark Sandy still works here, but was off for a time to have his heart operation,” he said. “We’re all wishing him all the best for that.

“Other than that we’ve been pretty busy.

“We have EFTPOS now, so that’s easier for everyone.

“We’ve been doing all the freight for Seaswift for the community for the past month or more.

“We’re only charging them truck hire and man hire but it’s a 10-hour job so we’re going to try and get someone else to do it.

“It’s a hard job, it’s everything for the shop and everyone else.

“The other I had to do 30 pieces of office furniture to the police station; I would have done that by myself, but I was

lucky they gave me a hand.

“So we’re negotiating about that with them, for sure.”

He said installation of a new fridge had made a difference to what they could keep in stock now.

“There are several things which haven’t got any shelf life in this humidity in here in the shed,” he said.

“So I’ve just got all new products now, and there’s certain stuff we’ve got to put in there.

“Hardener, for example, which we know from experience explodes in the temps at the back of the shed there.

“We’ve gone down there and found what we had had exploded and gone everywhere.

“I’ve spent a lot of time cleaning.”

# ICE

## \$2 FOR A

## 3.5 KG BAG

AVAILABLE FROM COUNCIL WAREHOUSE STORE  
DURING WORK HOURS ONLY



And finally, he said, they had several ‘helicopter’ or large fans in stock.

“We had them all down at the Foundation Day and everyone was asking the CEO if they could buy them,” he said.

“So they’re here now, come and talk to us if you’re keen.”



*Working on the Men’s Group sheds was Regis Edmond, Alister Bowie, Jess Davies, Rod Kotzur, & Ronny Getawan with Chris Johnson in the middle there ...a job well done!*



# Engineering Services

I started in mid-June last year and since then we've achieved quite a lot, Engineering Services Director Russell Cox says.

"We've completed the QRA flood damage restoration works which included Pascoe Farms Road, Chuulangun Road, Kingdom Come Road, Old Site Road and all of the town roads that required repair," he said.

"And we had two other jobs on Old Site Road – one was a crossing repair and the other one was the installation of a couple of walls, which we completed on time, so that was good.

"And, of course last year, at the end of last year the local boys constructed and completed the Esplanade Road sealing down there, so that was another big achievement.

"We've worked quite a bit

on the new builds with the earthworks on the sub-division there.

"Rodney Accoom went out on his own and was fencing on three of the new build houses, which was good experience.

"We've had a bit of grader training last month, and we've had other machinery training in the last two/three months – roller, skid steer, backhoe – we haven't had any trucking yet.

"Presently, we're just basically chomping at the bit waiting for the CIMA / Portland Road project to kick off, which will be hopefully be next week.

"There will be three projects going on at once out there, so we've sat down with all

parties, who include local contractors, to come up with an MOU.

"The way we believe that it will run successfully is if the whole three projects run as one, so that we've got basically economies of scale and some flow.

"We believe this will be a formula for success, and I'm pretty keen to see it take off like that.

"The advantage for us, of course, is we haven't got a huge stock of plant and we haven't got a huge stock of blokes.

"So to be able to work in conjunction with another contractor is, I think, going to be beneficial to all of us."



Workshop supervisor and leading hand Lance White says he's proud to have seen several apprentices go through over his 20+ years in Lockhart River.

Now a contractor, Lance says Christopher Dean and Paul Piva were two of his protégées, along with current diesel fitter Anthony Pascoe, who finished his apprenticeship three years ago.

Anthony said it took him a long time – nearly six years – to get his qualification.

“Hard, yeah, I didn't see algebra until I went to TAFE,” the father of four said with a laugh.

“I don't know what I like

about it, it's work, it gets you up every day, it's something to look forward to.

“On top of that your kids are proud of you when you work hard.”

He said Lance taught him well.

“I am proud of him,” Lance said.

“We do diesel fitting, air conditioning, major repairs, tractor repairs, grader repairs, field service, dozer repairs, all light vehicles, and servicing on many makes.”



*Facing page: Parks and Gardens crew John Butcher & Raymond Young; Left: Alan Warradoo; Above: Road crew Rodney Accoom, Jerome Accoom, George Brown & Tristan Elu with Russell Cox and Top: Anthony Pascoe & Lance White*



# Laura 2017

*Pics thanks to Liz Pearson*





# Laura 2017

*Group pic thanks to Greita Pascoe; Pics below thanks to Greg Jackson.*





# Community Development

The Community Development team is really focused on trying to support everyone coming together peacefully, to help people be healthy, and to support our old people, young people, parents and families, Director Anita Eggington writes...

We want to support the good things people are doing and saying – the dancing, culture, sport, parents and kids services, women’s empowerment efforts – and help stop the negative stuff.

We have just released the ‘Pups n Bubs’ DVD which has songs written and performed by community members to promote good health and kindness for our dogs.

You can see the DVD up at the Library/IKC if you are interested.

For the moment we have closed the Kids Club building until we can get money to get

it re-developed into a great, safe place.

While we wait, we will operate out of the Community Hall on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and the Library/IKC on Tuesday and Thursday.

The Library/IKC will get a big refurbishment in the next couple of months, with new flooring, painted walls and nice new furniture.

We might need to close a few days in order to get the work done, but we will let people know when this happens.

Another good thing happening at the Library/IKC right now is

we are offering free computer training for anyone aged over 40 every week – you can speak to Greita for more info.

We are still looking for a couple of radio trainees, so we can keep our radio up and running with interesting music, stories and local news.

Again, anyone interested can talk to Greita or to the Council CEO.

In terms of the Justice Group, we are looking for new members, and also for people who want to become JPs, as we are keen to get the local JP Court up and running again.

## HACC

A full quota of room guests and cooking for more than 20 clients has kept Bessie, Leila, Beverley and Fr Brian on their toes over the past few months.

“We’re doing things on our own,” Bessie said.

“We’ve been offered someone else to come in to take over from our former coordinator, Noella, but we felt it was time to stand up on our own.

“We have to push a lot but Noella is still going to work with training us on the computer.”

Staff are also working towards their Certificate III in Individual Support, a nationally recognised qualification being

taught to them by FNQ TAFE’s Cheryl Reid.

“Every month I come up and spend a few days with the ladies,” she said.

“We try to find units that are related to their main work tasks and they see to take it on board, no problem.



“On specific topics like chronic disease, foot care and food safety, we really spend some intense times doing a few units so they get their skills up.

“We’re looking at giving them quality education.”





## Men's Support Service

Big news – the canoe project has started, the Kup Murri shed is built, and the concrete has been poured for the big (activity) shed.

This is good news because the men are keen to get things happening in these outdoor areas.

A few of the Men's Group are working with the kids at the school and at Kuunchi Kakana to keep culture alive – you can catch them there singing some traditional songs, and maybe even doing a bit of shake-a-leg!

They were busy supporting the Kawadji Wimpa dance efforts for Laura, and are now getting ready to take a small group over to Weipa.

The Men's Group is keen to promote a big community effort in keeping things peaceful in our families and on the streets – their message is that you:me need to build each other up and keep our puuya strong.



## Indigenous Knowledge Centre

Coordinating and costuming more than 120 dancers – 60 senior and more than 60 junior – has been the 'big job' for many of the Community Development staff, including IKC coordinator Greita Pascoe.



"Most of the community went and supported the dancers, over what was a really good weekend," Greita said.

"I was really proud of the juniors, we did so many practices and they came second.

"We've got an upcoming event in Weipa for their NAIDOC.

"Other than that, here in the community we've been running Kids Club activities at the IKC.

"I've been working with Krystal and Steven on activities for Kid's Club every Tuesday and Thursday.

"We've also been working with women in the community with regular 'Girl Power' sessions every Wednesday.

"We want to try to see if we can have some positive

future strategies for women in the community.

"We try to have once a week on the verandah, with a light lunch, and inviting women in the community to come and have their say about what they would like to see and what they think it should be happening in the community for women.

"For instance, stopping the baby factory and punching bag, dealing with financial issues and our children's wellbeing."

She also said they were currently advertising for radio trainees.



## Youth program

Our youth program team – Krystal and Steven – have been busy with the Kawadji Wimpa dance efforts, leading the way to keep young people involved in culture.

They've also been busy with football and football training, and doing daily activities at the hall and on the oval, for girls and boys – things like sport, health/fitness, discos, movie nights, chill out etc.

They are working with the Kids Club team (Emily and Margie) to run activities at the hall for the younger kids three afternoons a week.

Krystal and Steven are there to give individuals support when they need it – like help to get through bad times, and to help people feel connected, and to keep going to school or get a job.

They have been trying to do more positive things with the youth – like going camping with kids who are going to school every day in the week as a way of supporting good attendance, and running 'Girl Power' get togethers on the library verandahs on Wednesdays – spreading healthy, peaceful and positive messages and stories to stop the hating and fighting.



Recently Krystal, Steven and Nana Veronica Piva completed their 'Deadly Thinking' training which was about supporting people who are struggling with their mental wellbeing and also with thoughts of suicide. We are getting ready for a great school holiday again in September – so look out for the timetable, which we'll put up at Council and at the library!



Perhaps the one place in Lockhart River that enjoys not having too many clients is the Women's Shelter, which has been quiet lately, coordinator Ethel Singleton says.

"I think message is getting across slowly, and we here to help anyone who needs assistance," she said.

"Anyone who wants to come in here and have a chat is welcome.

"And we've still got our full-time staff, Lorraine Clarmont and Luka Getawan.

"They're doing two weeks on, two weeks off at the moment.

"Over the past few months we've tried to get some activities up, we've worked hard on all the dancing costumes and tops for the girls who went to Laura.

"If anyone wants to come in and do some sewing activities, we'd like to get back into that, as well as our basket-making."

She said she was looking forward to long overdue renovations to the building which was opened in 1999 by then-Ministers Judy Spence and Robert Schwarten.

"We used to have a full house back when it was built, I couldn't believe how many clients we'd have in a month," she said.

"One time we had 69 clients for one night.

"We started straight away with a 'Know Your Rights' workshop for the women, telling them what their rights were and what domestic violence was and all that sort of thing.

"And it's paid off in the long run because if you look at things from when I first started here in November 1999 to now, there's been big changes.

"Women have stood up for themselves, women are not sitting back now and taking

the abuse that they used to do in those days when there was no education in relation to domestic violence.

"Knowing things like there are about five or six types, of domestic violence.

"It's not just physical, there's things like it affects you mentally, there's elder abuse, and I think that the women have realised these things, and they are standing up to be counted.

"They will leave the household and come in and take time out for themselves.

"I find now the physical side has gone down, which is why we are always saying, 'come in and chat, come and do our activities with us, let off some steam'.

"One of the good things now is working in conjunction with the Men's Group.

"They do a lot of similar work with the men there and talk with the men, which is good.

"That has taken a big load off the Women's Shelter and our staff.

"There's programs all the time up there, which is good.

"There are a lot of men here who have changed their lives around, which is a blessing,

and you can see that in the work that's going on."



# ABORIGINAL CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER VOLUME I, NO 3: AUGUST 1999

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## Lockhart River's 'long-awaited' women's shelter opens

The State Government says it has made an important addition to its anti-violence strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with the opening of a long-awaited women's shelter at Lockhart River.

Ministers for Public Works and Housing Robert Schwarten and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Judy Spence officially opened the shelter

during a visit to the community on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula.

They said the opening demonstrated an all-of-Government commitment to helping communities counter-act family violence.

Ms Spence said Lockhart River community's push for a new shelter was part of an important movement amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout the State.

"And it is most encouraging that men are a part of this movement," she said.

She said the Lockhart River Aboriginal Women's Corporation would manage the shelter, with its administration being handled by the Lockhart River Aboriginal Corporation.

The service will be funded by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

*Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council Newsletter: August 1999*

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# Municipal Services



Oh! So talkative, this mob!!!

Above: Chris Bally, Peter Giblet & John Hobson;

Top Right: Eddy Sailor taking a meter reading, and below that with Morgan Hobson as they do their rounds;

Below: Ray Namok & Gary Oldfield at the concrete batching plant.



# Reaping the benefits of a good crew

The crews we have on at the moment are really good, Regional Manager, My Pathways, Les Robinson says.

“We’ll be using the produce from the farm to support our café operation,” he said.

“The rest of the stuff we can bring into the community, and give it out as people want it.

“We’ll bring it in, probably every Thursday, we’ll have a table out the front and they

can just come and pick it up as they like it.

“The women are starting to plan the new cafe again now, to take over preparation for smoko for our workers.

“That’s being their major job in the morning. It will be good.

“The guys – the green team

– are proud of what they’ve done; the Mayor’s happy with what they’ve done and they’ve all started seeing we’re achieving something, there’s definitely a sense of achievement at the farm.

“The crew we’ve got turning up are really good.”





# Puuya



# Foundation



The Puuya Foundation’s purpose is to develop every day leaders to empower the Lockhart River Community.

The Foundation has an unwavering commitment to leadership development to strengthen community capacity.

“We believe everyone is a leader, and has to lead in life – at home, at work or in the community,” CEO and founder Denise Hagan said. “What we are doing is providing a supportive environment for our future women leaders to succeed in.”

A Women’s Leadership Program (WLP) was now in place Puuya Foundation Director Veronica Piva said. “We have started a Women’s Leadership Program (WLP) to develop each individual’s leadership skills and confidence, as well as building a network of strong women to learn and work

together,” she said.

“Women will find their voices and support one another to act to change things for the better – to support their families, organisations and the community.”

The program is being led by Denise and Bernadette Rutyna of Human Ingredient.

“It is all under a banner of leadership because the work of leaders and the development of leadership requires that we build our self-awareness, our communication skills, our ability to grow our relationships with other people to create good teams in organisations or develop effective community engagement,” Ms Rutyna said.

The first workshops were held in

August at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre, followed by coaching and mentoring once a month for all our participants over the next year to assist their ongoing application of learning.

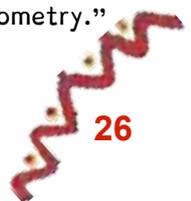
More workshops will be held in 2017-18.

WLP participant, IKC coordinator Greita Pascoe said the program ‘helped a lot’.

“I’m the youngest in that class, but still learning new stuff; like I learnt new word – ‘sociometry’ yesterday, which is a connection between two different organisations or people that will work together to get a program happening,” she said.

“So it’s basically communication between, for instance Kuunchi

Kakana and the Council, which is where I sit, we talk, we get a program and we link up; it’s like an arm linking around something important we want to create, and that’s Sociometry.”





Some participants will have an opportunity to present at the Women of the World Festival (WOW) in Brisbane next year. Puuya Foundation recently invited WOW Director Cathy Hunt, and WOW intern Jillian Robinson, from QUT, to talk about WOW as part of the leadership program.

“WOW celebrates the achievements of women and girls and looks at the barriers they face in achieving their goals,” Ms Hunt said. “We look forward to the women of Lockhart River sharing their stories at WOW.”

WLP participants indicated they were keen to participate saying, “I didn’t know about other women in the world and their stories, until I saw the WOW video from London. Everyone has similar worries and things they want to do. I want to go to WOW!”

**IN OTHER NEWS** Puuya Foundation Directors Denise Hagan, Veronica Piva and Mayor Wayne Butcher were honoured to attend a dinner in support of the Cape York Region, thanks to an invitation from the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey and Mrs Kaye de Jersey.

We really appreciate their support for Cape York and the Puuya Foundation.

The Governor and his wife visited Lockhart River and the Kuunchi Kakana Centre in June this year to meet with parents and children.

This was a fabulous opportunity for them to see our early years program in action and the work of the Puuya Foundation.

Community members and the Board of the Puuya Foundation have visited Government House on previous occasions when our Patron, Dame Quentin Bryce was Governor of Queensland.





# Record breaking Chilli Beach clean up



Tangaroa Blue Foundation has broke its own record for the largest amount of marine debris removed during a single beach clean-up event on Chilli Beach.

Over five days, 40 people cleared a massive 7 tonnes of marine debris from 6.7km of coastline north of Lockhart River.

Tangaroa Blue Foundation CEO Heidi Taylor said it was a testament to what could be achieved by a dedicated team in a united effort.

“Not only did the volunteer team remove marine debris from the beach, but they recorded data on everything that was collected which is vital to

provide evidence that informs policy making and strategies which tackle marine debris at the source,” she said.

Some of the most common items in the 831.5 bags filled included:

- 1009 cigarette lighters
- 2279 toothbrushes/combs/ razors
- 3204 bleach bottles
- 3325 plastic drink bottles
- 5547 thongs

Over 60% of debris removed was plastic fragments.

Over 90% of the debris did not originate from Australia, but from our Asia Pacific neighbours. The success of

these beach clean-up events was due to its community engagement at a grassroots level.

Not only were there volunteers from Tangaroa Blue, but also from Clean Coast Collective, Conservation Volunteers Australia, as well as Kuuku Ya’u Traditional Owners, Rangers and school children from the Lockhart River State School.

Volunteers had travelled from as far as Perth, Victoria and Byron Bay as well as a cohort from Cairns to Port Douglas. There was a cross section of ages from 6 to 70+ participating which shows that this is an inter generational concern.

For more information on how you can be an ocean warrior contact Tangaroa Blue on [www.tangaroablue.org](http://www.tangaroablue.org)



# Lockhart River Art Gang Punya Kuntha - Strong Heart

## CIAF + Darwin 2017



*Below: bump-in day and this is our full team from Lockhart River Arts Centre now setting up at The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. From left, Artist Silas Hobson, Accountant Rachel Burgess, Artist Rosella Namok, Manager Enoch Perazim and Artist Margery Accoom.*



*We were pleased to have our Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk visit our curated exhibition at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Official opening, Art Centre Manager Enoch Perazim says. Pictured from right is the Premier, Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation Business Manager and Artist Thelma Hobson.*

*As we prepared to pack up on the last afternoon at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, I got a special call that His Excellency, The Governor of Queensland Paul de Jersey had requested to meet me at Lockhart River Art Centre's curated exhibition in Terminal 3.*

*His Excellency was briefed on our progress during CIAF and said he was pleased for us. From our exhibition he proceeded to the closing ceremony. Not very often one gets a special call so this was the best way to conclude what was an awesome Art Fair for Lockhart River Arts Centre.*

*Pictured is His Excellency and I with background paintings by artist Fiona Omeeny, Silas Hobson and Patrick Butcher.*





# Cape Cluster footy in Lockhart August 2017





