



# Waamta

## NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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

# STRONG FAMILIES



# STRONG

# COMMUNITY





*A word from...*

# *Mayor Wayne Butcher*

We had a sad start for Lockhart community this year, with the loss of three of our community members, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

Really good people.

Two of those were lost in a road tragedy.

The late Ms Koko in particular was one of those kind hearted people we will never replace.

It's not just a tragedy for this community, it's a long term loss for the Puuya Foundation and the Kuunchi Kakana

Centre, and all of the children who benefited from her kind work.

Her brother-in-law, Mr Kepper, died in the same accident.

He was one of those fellas who could put a smile on any sad day.

He was always good to have

around and a great employee of the Council.

He just had the knack of making everyone laugh, he'd make a dull moment a good moment.

He's been with us for more 20 years and we're going to miss him.

Lockhart community is going to miss them both.



*Above left pic thanks to Lorissa Hobson; Above right pic (2016) thanks to The Murphy Foundation – The Puuya Foundation's tribute is on page 25; Left: Mr Kepper's funeral in Bamaga.*





Pic thanks to Greita Pascoe

At the other end of the scale, ten of our dancers – five women and five men – and five more of us went to the **Gold Coast** to perform at the **Opening Ceremony** of the **Commonwealth Games** and then at the attached cultural festival over four days at **Broadbeach** earlier this month.

What a great experience.

Especially for the young people that came along.

Our 10 dancers were involved with the smoking part of the **Opening Ceremony** and it was great for them to be in the centre stage in front of a hundred thousand people who were there that night.

The last **Commonwealth Games** held in **Queensland** was in 1982 and I don't think any of them were even born then.

The only pity was that in the rehearsals they had a webcam on the ground and it would have showed all their faces on national and international television, but on the night it was too windy for that to happen.

So all we could see was a glimpse of couple of the dancers

when they were carrying the smoke, you could just see them in the background.

But they were all there and it was a great experience for all of us.

The five of us, with the elders, were in the stadium and it was great we got to watch them live.

It was a once in a lifetime experience.

Then we performed every morning for four days at **Broadbeach** at the cultural festival.

They had all different cultural activities and one of them was about the Indigenous culture.

There was **Yugumbeh**, who were the local **Traditional Owners**, **Kulgoodah Dancers** from **Woorabinda**, the **Kuranda dance group** and us.

*Continued...*

The dancers were:  
 Steven Bally  
 Christopher Johnson  
 Gerad Butcher  
 Genis Gible  
 Paddy Hobson  
 Benny Macumboy  
 Krystal Dean  
 Haylene Macumboy  
 Susan Warradoo  
 Simone Accoom  
 Greita Pascoe  
 Lorraine Clarmont  
 Father Brian Claudie  
 Loddy Chippendale  
 Gregory Omeenyo  
 Wayne Butcher

*SEE our  
 Centrespread  
 for more pics!*







It was great.

By Sunday the crowd had doubled every day with a lot of international guests there including athletes and team members.

Our Kawadji Wimpa dancers definitely put the Lockhart River on the map, it was a great event to be a part of.

And the beauty of it was that

people could see the difference in Indigenous culture, to see so much diversity in the one place, just in this one country alone there is so much diversity.

And I think that probably what captured the audience, it was reconciliation in practise.

I was talking to a lot of people after each performance,

each day, where people were talking about how their children are learning the Indigenous culture in their region and in their schools.

It was great to hear, and great to see the children embracing Indigenous cultures and learning about the real history of Australia, about the First People.



*Lockhart River dancers enjoying a very different beach on the Gold Coast in 2018 - more pics pages 14-15-16!*

## Social media exchange between Cr Butcher and Gold Coast Elder Luther Cora (pictured above)

**Wayne Butcher:** Bro thanks very much for inviting our dancers to your country, we enjoyed dancing with your mob. It was a great experience for our dancers and elders to share our culture with your family. It's something they will cherish for the rest of their life.

**Luther Cora** It was an honour and blessing for me to have you mob come down and to share the dance ground with you mob.



## Housing

Here in the community funding for housing continues to be one of the fights we as a Council have been taking to the highest levels.

The State Government has put \$1 million on the table, now we're just waiting for a response from the Federal Government and hoping they will come forth.

I think it's going to be an ongoing challenge, and we're running out of time here.

That first ten years has really just been a catch up – we've only scratched the surface.

At the same time we've put an enormous amount of work into building the people's capacity in the community with apprentices and the like, we can't afford to stop building houses here, not for any reason.

At best that will mean the

whole program has been just another dead end for our community – it's built people's hopes up to a certain stage, and then all of a sudden come to a dead end.

So they'll talk about something else for a while, health or education – well, you're not going to fix any of that if your people don't have good homes, and that's the reality.

Everything starts with a good home, long before you can tackle health and education.

Overcrowding is still a major issue.

We've still got 52 people – families – on our waiting list for housing.

It's a critical factor in terms of progressing health and education but it's not even mentioned in the Closing the Gap.

Housing is one of the most

important elements of Closing the Gap.

There's also the economics of it all.

With all the housing activity in our community we were starting to build a local economy – housing and roads have been critical to that.

It will be a shame for all that to come to an end.

Fencing contracting, cleaning contracting – all local businesses that are 100% Indigenous owned with 100% Indigenous work force who are going to suffer for this loss of funding as well.

And the only difficulty is the State Government is Labor and the Federal Government is the Liberal/National coalition.

We just hope they can put their differences aside.

*Wayne Butcher*

I just want say something about moving forward as a community, Deputy Mayor Norman Bally writes...

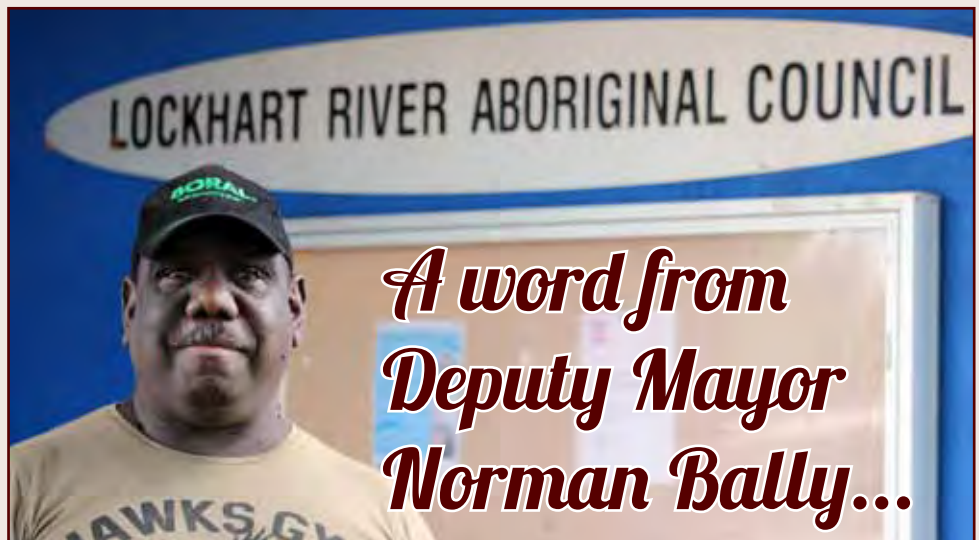
And I think there should be more of getting all the community together and supporting each other.

There's a lot of dependency on a lot of things in the community.

But we can do so much for ourselves.

Rubbish on the ground – bin just right in front of you – pick it up, it's very simple.

This type of education goes back to the parents, it's not just learning how to read and write, it's about all of our community life.



When it comes to school we need to remember the Council is not their parents, it's the parents who need to take the stand and get the kids to school. I think a lot of things

really need to happen in the community; like I said, we need to keep moving forward and we all need to work on pulling together to make that happen.







# *A word from the CEO...*

Isn't the year just racing by with the dry season already nearly with us, **CEO David Clarke** writes...

Dry season means we crank up our construction activities which also means we crank up the business opportunities for our people.

We did okay last year working together, but this year promises to be even bigger as local business slowly but surely takes control of our economy.

Council has called for expressions of interest for businesses to get on our "preferred supplier panel".

What this means is if you have a business or want to start one that involves doing things for Council you should get on the "preferred supplier panel". This will let Council go straight to you and ask you to do work for them.

Some of our heavy machinery sub-contractors are already on it but all kinds of businesses can do it.

Might be you want to do catering, fix cars, offer accommodation, security, cleaning, pest control, or have heavy machinery now is the time to come forward.

Council will give you a hand going through the paperwork so step up.

Remember Council is here to help you bring your business dreams alive.

**Calling all family leaders.**

Your Community wants you. We need family leaders to stand up and be part of the Justice Group.

**OUR Justice Group** for dealing with **OUR** issues.

Only **OUR** family leaders can do this.

Doesn't matter if you might have had trouble in the past, your community needs you for your leadership.

No more can we sit back and see small things getting out of control because of no justice process.

No more can we watch our people in court for small things that **WE** can sort out ourselves.

We used to do this before and we can do it again but it needs leadership from each family.

This is not just a Council issue. This is for all of us to join up and fix.

A new Justice Group Coordinator is needed and is advertised now, but whoever is



*LRASC Governance  
Training Coordinator  
Noleen Clark,  
Environmental Health  
Officer Morgan  
Hobson, CEO David  
Clarke & Business  
Development Adviser  
Elmarie Gebler*



# Works for Queensland

Delivering jobs for regional Queensland since 2016

Community Hall Road  
Kuttini Street Culvert  
Sport and Recreation Precinct (Water Park)

Community Hall Carpark  
Portland Road Upgrade



Proudly funded by the Queensland Government in association with the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

in that job needs to work with family leaders so please step up. The start of the year has been a sad one for us hasn't it...sometimes the tears never seem to end. Sharing our sorry and supporting one another when we most need it is very important

and something we do as a town very well. Knowing that the love and support is there keeps us strong and allows us to start the journey down the long healing road. We will never forget those we lose and thank them for the

time they were with us. Let's get prepared for another big dry season loaded with opportunities. I urge everyone to take advantage of them. Stay safe and look after one another.

*Dave Clarke*

**Business Development Adviser Elmarie Gebler says she has seen some promise in the community after her first visit here, sponsored by the Council.**

Ms Gebler works with people looking to go into business. "I work with new and emerging professions which includes people who are considering going into business as well as those already in business," she said. "We work together on their baseline understanding of where they're at in relation to their business and what they need as far as planning needs are concerned. "From there we work with them developing those concepts, some of which is around business planning and a lot of it around financial aspects.

"Things like understanding invoicing, cash flows, understanding budgets and concepts such as, what is the difference between an invoice and a tax invoice? "When should I register for GST? "Does my ABN enable me to do more than one job? "Can I work with my ABN when I move to Western Australia? "How do I calculate profit margins? "How do I calculate GST on my invoices? "I've seen a lot of promise. "Some of the established businesses are doing really, really

well and we've done some fun training with them. "Some of the emerging businesses have some really good simple concepts that could make a very big difference in the community." She said those involved would be a little upset with her if she divulged what they were! "There's a lot of enthusiasm in people," she said. "It's obvious in any community and in any environment that a new business can be frightening, hopefully we can remove some of that fear."



**Aerodrome Reporting Officer Gareth Hobson was promoted to Acting Manager of the facility, working with Manfred, when Manager Bob Brown was away this month.**

“My job at the moment is to get people checked in and get out on time, and keep the airport going,” Gareth said.

“There’s certain stuff I need to do such ordering fuel, especially in this wet season when you can’t get things through in by road so we have to order a bit more to get on the barge.”

He said between himself and offsider, Iron Range Cabins manager Jasmine Accoom, things were running smoothly.

“We’re pretty steady, we try and keep cool, me and Jasmine, and we’ve got a handyman here on the side – Steve – just to fill in during plane times,” he said.

He said he was also hoping he might study again soon.



“My message for the community is I would just like everyone who pays their fare to be on time to actually catch that fare,” he said.

“I don’t feel like telling people that I’m sorry you missed the flight, I can’t let you on. “It comes to a point where I have to, but I don’t want to, I just want people to be on time

– at least an hour before departure.

“I’ve also had some people get mixed up with departure and arrival times so they need to look closely at the times on their ticket and understand they have to come at least an hour before then at this end.”

**CEO David Clarke said Gareth had done very well.**



**New playground at ‘Twin Peaks Village’ was under construction this month. An initiative of the Council, the playground is one of several planned for around the community over the coming months.**





# Corporate Services

Deanka Omeeny has a new role as the Accounts Payables Officer, Finance & Administration Manager Stanley Mugwiria writes...

Deanka's return to the Cairns Office was long overdue.

She will be here for two months to refresh her talent in numbers.

Her determination to go back to the community and share her skills with the girls is something she is looking forward to. She is very ambitious and keen to up-skill other girls to her level so she can focus on more senior duties. Keep going Deanka, the sky is the limit!

## 2018 External Audit Plan

The finance team is happy

to share with Council and community members the forthcoming audit schedule:

- The interim audit will start on 9 April 2018;
- Audit stock take at Lockhart River is scheduled for 28–29 June 2018;
- Final audit visit 24 September 2018;
- Audit report will be issued 16 October 2018;
- Annual report due on 1 November 2018.

## Budgeting period is here again

Council's senior management are readying for the 2018–19 capital and operational budgeting.

Views and ideas for budget consideration are welcome through the Council for community members and through senior management for Council staff.

## New accounting software

After accomplishing our Fibre Optic Project, Council has been funded by the Department of Local Government to purchase a new accounting software.

This will modernize our financial reporting.

The finance team is currently experiencing a healthy mix of uncertainty and excitement so please do wish them good luck with the new system when implementation is ready to be rolled out later in the year.



The 2018–19 Operational Planning season is at hand (around May–June 2018) that provides the foundation for the budgeting process.

First of all I would like to say thanks to Stanley Mugwiria and the staff who work in the Cairns office, it's been a while since I've worked here, Deanka writes...

I have been taking in the position of Accounts Payables for this month and next, and also bit of HR/Payroll working alongside Jenny (Purchasing Officer) and Maureen (HR/Payroll).

They are two great people to work and learn from.

At first it was slow, to get my head around things and familiarise myself again and

find my way through the 'snow'. The reason I say 'snow' is because I'm always feeling cold in the Cairns Office and wearing big jumpers!

Luckily I have got plenty of Milo and Hot Chocolate's to keep me warm. (Thanks Jenny).

I miss being in the Lockhart Office, where it's always a warm place to be.

I would like to see more of our Local Women and Young girls working in Finance and Accounts field.

Get to know more of what we do in the Cairns Office and for the Community.

Thanks again to all our Cairns Office Staff – Stanley, Maureen, Jenny and Anja.





# Municipal Services

## Drinking water 'safer, better and cleaner' than ever

Lockhart River's water supply is safer, better and cleaner than it has ever been with the recent installation of two chlorine dosing pumps, Environmental Health Officer Morgan Hobson says.

He also said he was keeping busy filling in as Animal Management Officer, which included attending a workshop in Cairns last month.

"The workshop was based on animal management, water operations and a bit on the service agreements around how the health and environment money is spent," he said.

"I look after the animal management, the sewer and the water, and the waste and dump workers, so I've got a lot on.

"Peter Giblet has jumped on board which has been a great help for us.

"He helps a lot, really keen worker; hope to keep him on for long term and that's another positive for us, and probably getting him trained up.

"At the moment we're trying to get familiar with all the roles we're supposed to do around the community."

He said vet visits – or lack thereof due to the weather – had caused a few problems in the community but he was close to finishing his Cert IV in Animal Management.

"Once I have that I'll be able to be a bit more hands on and that will help," he said.

"I'm almost there, so that's another positive for the community."



*Above: Municipal Services worker Peter Giblet;  
Below: Rubbish truck driver Stanley Short*







*Plumbing apprentice Patrick T-Rex Accoom (above left) was happy to cop a bucketing for Waanta at Lockhart River's new water park. He said the kids loved it. "I think it has made a difference, it's helping to keep the kids out of trouble," he said. "We've got a little playground going in here too." Plumber Paul Jensen (above right) was amused, but perhaps not quite as amused as the Lockhart State School kids below and left were to finally be playing at the new park! LRSS pics with thanks to Siobhan Jackson.*







# Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018





# Kawadji Wimpa GC 2018



*Pics on these pages and the next are with great thanks to  
Bronson Marn Giblet, Wayne Butcher, Greita Pascoe, Chicka Turner,  
Alfred Robert Summers and Jo Dreissens.*





Gold Coast Commonwealth



Kawadji







wealth Games 2018



Wimpa







# Engineering Services

The wet season has been 'situation normal' for Lockhart River's road crews, workshop, and parks and gardens team, Engineering Services manager Russell Cox says.

"Our normal wet weather activities include things like maintenance, weed spraying, cleaning up debris and potholing," he said. "In terms of roads, our initial

submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority estimated 10 per cent damage but we will re-submit that because with this latest burst we feel there's been more than

10 per cent increase in damage.

"From our observations we will be re-scoping those areas once we've got access to them, and then submit a plan of action to repair any flood damage in those areas."



*ABOVE: Road Crew: Solomon Hobson, George Brown, Rodney Accoom & Tristan Elu; BELOW LEFT: Rain damage Wenlock to Browns Creek and BELOW RIGHT: Top Crossing*





Recent wet weather has put some of the Council's earth moving contracts on hold giving workshop supervisor Allister White and his crew an opportunity to keep busy.

"It has given us time to get the larger earth moving gear, such as the graders, loaders and backhoes, back to scratch and in to a nice operating condition," he said.

"A couple of the machines required a bit of an overhaul and some more larger repairs, but we're all getting on top of it with a full workshop crew."

He said he was happy to say taking on two new apprentices.

"We're looking forward to that, that's good news for the community," he said.



*Josh Hubbard, Tony Pascoe, Napoleon Short, Alec Omeenyo & Allister White (also below left)*



*Alan Warradoo, Stanley Butcher, John Butcher, Raymond Young & James Bally (Billy Sandy)*

Parks and Gardens workers have been happy to help with keeping the grass down as best they can during this wet season. But they say they'd like some more help from the community.

"We'd like people to pick their own mess and put it in their front yards, when we go around we don't want to pick their mess up," they said.

"If they have things to be collected, we can do that."







# Building Services

We have seven new buildings that are actually under construction and we're on target to have them completed by 30 June, depending on the weather, Building Services Director Regis Edmond writes...

We have been affected by the wet season and we are still trying to get back on track for the loss of time.

We have plenty other work going on after these new constructions including some major refurbes for some of those under the National Affordable Housing Agreement or home-ownership program.

We have plenty of maintenance work as well.

So there's quite a few houses that will be completed by the end of June ready for us to move on to other work.

Some of the Council houses will have major renovations such as the council's staff homes, two of them have been completed, there is work at the men shelter to get started, and the Council contractors dongas.

We still have four apprentices and we want to get them

qualified, they are competent now and we're supporting them to finish.

Council is keen to find a roofer and an electrician to come on board with us, so we can keep training apprentices.

Ross Mackay has come back to us as well, we have lots of painting work on at the moment, another two or three houses ready to go plus the new building.



*FACING PAGE: L-R Rod Kotzer LR Carpenter, Regis Edmond Director Building Services, Electrician from PJ Electrical Kevin Christiansen, Apprentice Dominic Macumboy, Apprentice Les Zaro, Paddy Hobson Trade Assistant; ABOVE LEFT: Regis Edmond, Ross Mackay & James Macumboy; ABOVE RIGHT: Dominique Macumboy & Paddy Short; and LEFT: Matt Redman.*





## Why does our housing program matter?

“We have been able to build the capacity of our people along the way, we have so many apprentices at different stages of their apprenticeships...if the housing investment stops we can only build their capacity to a certain level,” Mayor Wayne Butcher told the Local Government Association of Queensland’s Indigenous Leaders Forum. “We’re keeping our fingers crossed, it’s not the 30th of June as yet, the Federal Government might announce some investment in Indigenous housing.”

You can see Wayne talking about Lockhart River’s housing program on You Tube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVi6dYAAjaA>



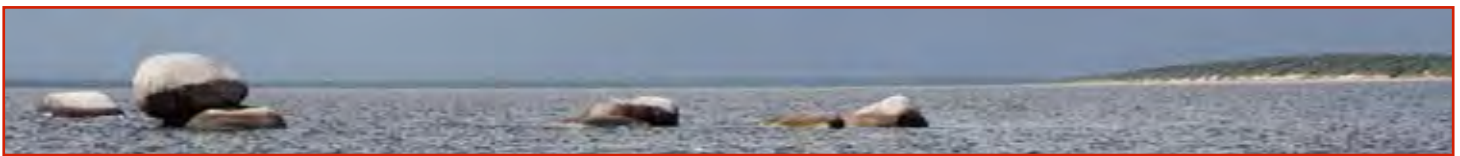




# Community Development



*LEFT: TAFE/HACC  
trainer Cheryl  
Legg & Community  
Development  
Director Margie  
Barnes at the  
Lockhart River  
Airport*



The HACC team is working well together and getting up to 20 meals a day out to their clients, as well as looking after a full house of accommodation at times.

Team member Leila Clarmont said they had 17 clients at the moment.

“We also do cleaning and transfer our client to the shops,” she said.

“There’s three of us – myself and Beverley and Bessie Hobson – we’re doing really good here on our own.”

Bessie said they were also still enjoying their studies.

“Our last study was about health and for our next we’ll be doing a part on communications, studying health communications,” she said.

“The three of us here are coping well and doing our job all together.

“We doing our things as normal.”



*Above: Leila Clarmont,  
Bessie and Beverley  
Hobson at the HACC.  
Left: former HACC  
Coordinator Noella  
Clarke with Lockhart  
River Clinic Director  
of Nursing Josh  
Stafford*





Lockhart River's young people have been enjoying their new space at the old Kid's Club building next to the school and close to the shop Youth Coordinators Krystal Dean and Stephen Bally say.

Krystal said their numbers were up! "It's closer for them to access," she said.

"They come and play pool or board games, and we've just got new air conditioning, so I think that's bringing them in too."

She said there was another surprise benefit from being close to the school.

"The secondary students, some of them don't have lunch so they go home but they

haven't been going back for the afternoons," she said.

"We started providing lunch for them here, they come and we tell them to make it themselves.

"And we can hear the bell from here, so as soon as it goes, we send them back.

"The secondary school teacher came and said we were a big help to them."

She said the Commonwealth Games was also exciting.

"The whole community knows about it and they keep asking us when we're going down," she said.

"We're all excited about that, and in the second week of the school holidays we'll be back to run programs here.

"We really want to get out and about and encourage them to come and look at this new space they have here.

"We're trying to set up a Youth Committee so we can get older youth involved as well.

"We just want them to be more involved so if we let them know what's here for them, there's always going to be something going on."

*Top: Dennis Ropeyarn, Isaac Accoom & Jacquita Brown;*

*Left: Tarlea Dean vs Jacquita Brown with Krystal Dean and Sergius Pascoe in the back there*







## Men's Group coordinator Greg Omeenyo was away in Cairns last month at a workshop looking at men's healing.

"It was about how can we give support in the community," he said.

"We need to empower men, although it goes back to the men of the community themselves in terms of their willingness as individuals to heal first before they can heal others.

"We've got the support mechanisms to help them, but one of the main things we talked about at the workshop was the inter-agency communications, which we felt were not working and that was recognised across the board.

"I think that's where it's lacking in the communities, so people are starting to be going back into the small isolated corners and everyone's a bit frustrated about how the system is not helping out."

He said it was up to them to be proactive.

"People think when it's wet it's the best time to do things in the community, and I think it's a factor, but also it's about that comforting 'being at home' thing too, where you should be focusing more on your household and what your responsibilities are as a man there.

"So we're working in with the

council with the Community Development Team, trying to hit that on the head."

He said the main and ongoing struggle was in terms of looking at what the government wanted so they could keep the funding.

"I think that when you look at the funding, it's about meeting the government needs, it's not realistic from a community perspective," he said.

"I think if you're going to talk about funding, you've got to look at the stuff that is realistic for each community, because they have their own structure within their own environment."

He said they had still managed to do some good work locally.

"The boys from here are working in with the secondary boys on the canoe projects and getting them painting space for the preparation for the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane," he said.

"So we're sort of giving that culture back, in terms of looking at their identity.

"It's more an educational thing for both sides, I think teacher and student, working in with the men's group.

"From the teachers side, they



*Men's Group Coordinator  
Greg Omeenyo*

look at it from a mainstream point, how culture can really help out in terms of their identity.

"In terms of, if they grow up in the community and they know their identity or culture; they have clean uniforms, they've got food on the table, they go to school happy.

"So it's building their self esteem, but also the parents self esteem at home, and the teachers in terms of well-being at the school - it's a flow-on effect.

"There's no room for failure here because, at the end of the day, your kids are watching you."







Several women took the opportunity to take some time out on their own at the Women's Shelter over the Christmas and New Year break, coordinator Ethel Singleton says.

"It's been a busy period for us, just that women just coming in to have time on their own and just getting themselves back on the right track again," she said.

"Unfortunately we had to cancel our International Women's Day Women's Program because of some fatalities in the community, so we intend to hold our Women's Week this month."

Worker Luka Getawan said they were looking forward to the event.

"The first day is going to be a Pamper Day, and the second day will be a luncheon for the women," she said.

"Any women are welcome to talk about what they're doing and where they're going in their jobs and whatever, just



*Lorraine Clarmont, Ethel Singleton & Luka Getawan*

giving their story – it's sort of a story telling thing."

Colleague Lorraine Clarmont agreed.

"That's what we're here for – sharing," she said.

"We're looking forward to that special day – International Women's Day."

Ethel said after that there was Domestic Violence Awareness month in May.

"We've got a few things planned for that, probably a march and a supper, to remember the women and children who have died from domestic violence," she said.



*Renovations are a work in progress for the Indigenous Knowledge Centre building, but Coordinator Greita Pascoe (above right) and POSITION? Joanne Omeenyo are looking forward to their soon-to-be new work environment.*





The Early Years Program at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre continues to open its doors to the young children of Lockhart River.

The program is operating Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 11.30 am, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Kuunchi Kakana Workers – Moira Macumboy and Barbara Bally would like to see all the young children and families and carers come to the centre to participate in the activities. In the last few weeks we started a cooking program with our little ones which they really enjoyed.

The Parents and Learning Program which targets the pre-prep children will commence later in the year.

The Montessori Assistants Certificate (0 to 3 years) program will be available in May. If you are interested in participating please contact Denise Hagan on 0419 681 025.



*Kuunchi Kakana Workers – Moira Macumboy (left) and Barbara Bally (above left)*



*Ardyn Masterman (pictured here with Lorraine Clarmont) came to help us in February/March.*





Tanya Koko our Kuunchi Kakana Manager tragically passed away in February. We miss her very much but we are more determined than ever to see her vision of a bright new future for Lockhart River become a reality. The Puuya Foundation Board and staff would like to honour Tanya with the following tribute:

Tanya was an amazing woman.  
Tanya was a **proud** woman.  
She was **proud** of this community.  
She was **proud** of its culture.  
She was **proud** of its history.  
And as each child, parent and carer came through the Centre, and she saw them learning and growing together, she was **proud** of them and of the potential future she was helping to build.

Tanya was a woman with very strong **beliefs**.

She **believed** in this community.

She **believed** that there was a bright future ahead for Lockhart River.

She didn't think it might be a possibility, she **believed** with absolute certainty that a bright future was going to happen, at least, if she had anything to say about it.

Tanya was a woman with strong **values**.

She **valued** the traditions of her culture.

She **valued** the wisdom and knowledge of the elders.

She **valued** people who wanted to help her learn new things, and who equally wanted to learn new things from her.

And she **valued** the thoughts, ideas and feelings of children, young women, parents, carers and her fellow team members.

Tanya was a woman with strong **ideas**.

Based on her love and pride in her culture and this community, Tanya had very strong **ideas** about how things should be done, and how they should not be done.

We saw this first hand as we were working to build the Kuunchi Kakana Centre and set up its programs.

At times it might have been easier to do things one way or another, but in Tanya's mind, it wasn't about what was easy – it was always about what was best for the young ones, the parents and the community.

Her **ideas** always focused on taking good ideas and then using them, the Lockhart River way.

Tanya was a woman with **determination**.

She was **determined** to make a difference in the community.

She was **determined** to help create the bright future she believed in.

She was **determined** that every child coming into the Centre could become a great everyday leader.

And while she was a kind, caring and supportive person, heaven help anyone who tried to get in her way, or slow her down as she worked to make a difference.

Tanya was, in short, a wonderful, inspiring and successful woman.







# Lockhart River Art Gang Puuya Kuntha - Strong Heart

It's been a busy start to the year for Lockhart River's Art Centre with several new developments and a number of objectives already ticked off, manager Enoch Perazim says.

Long-time board member and established artist Patrick Butcher said he was looking forward to the rest of 2018.

"It's going to be very busy and I'm looking forward to greater outcomes and new challenges," he said.

Mr Perazim said 2017 had set all the benchmarks.

"We've had a good 2017," he said.

"And now in 2018 we've got a full schedule program.

"Having said that the better

we get, the greater the challenges, so the higher the quality of result we want to achieve, the greater the challenges and obstacles that we need to overcome."

He said there was a full list of all their upcoming exhibitions for the year on their website at [www.lockhartriverart.com.au](http://www.lockhartriverart.com.au)

"There are challenges that we all are facing," he said.

"Those are not isolated to the Arts Centre, but the

determination our artists and our team has provides the resilience to not let those challenges stop them from moving forward."

Mr Butcher said he was grateful to the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council for their support.

"The Council helps us with our exposure to the world and letting all our friends and family know the great things we are achieving," he said.



*Lockhart River's senior students enjoy regular visits to the Art Centre to develop their skills.*



# Girls from Oz enjoy their ninth visit to Lockhart River

The Girls from Oz have just completed their ninth visit to Lockhart River over the past few years, Program Director Kylie Lee-Archer says.

“We come every term for a week and we sing and dance with pretty much anyone who wants to sing and dance with us,” she said.

“But our focus is with the mums and their babies at Kuunchi Kakana Centre.

“And we work with all of the children at Lockhart State School, and particularly the girls, who are our special interest.”

She said the team she brought with her this time was dance teacher Shelly Moore and singer-songwriter Sam Andrew (pictured).



*Artist Silas Hobson painting the drums which were taken by Kawadji Wimpa to the Gold Coast for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.*





# 2018 Lockhart River State School Badge Day



# 2018 Lockhart River Senior Students Fishing

