



Yarrabah News

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National meeting refreshes agenda for 'closing the gap'

About 80 prominent Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders from across the country – including Yarrabah Mayor Ross Andrews – met in Canberra earlier this month to discuss priorities for the second decade of 'Closing the Gap'.



Cr Andrews said he took the opportunity of a one-on-one discussion with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to raise the issue of housing for Yarrabah.

"I put my message across that housing was a big issue and in the future, with the cancellation of the federal funding program, things were going to be difficult in the community," he said.

"How can we 'close the gap' if we can't address our housing and other social determinants in health issues?"

"It's a pretty challenging policy environment at the moment, but hopefully the State and the Commonwealth can come to some arrangement where communities don't suffer as a consequence of their future investment considerations."

This year was the tenth anniversary of Closing the Gap, a national agenda that created targets to improve outcomes in the areas of health, education and employment.

In the lead up to the meeting Mr Turnbull acknowledged six of the current seven targets for Closing the Gap were not on track and as a result the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to refresh the Closing the Gap agenda in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The group of 80 was asked to provide advice on future policy priorities and how all governments can be held to account for driving change.

In a statement delivered to COAG they demanded governments develop community-led, strength-based strategies,

"that enable us to move beyond surviving to thriving".

"The best progress over the last ten years has been in areas where the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community has led the design and implementation of programs from the beginning," the statement said.

"We call on Governments to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to understand how to enact these principles in the implementation of initiatives to improve outcomes."

COAG agreed all governments would undertake community consultations on the refresh before agreeing to a new Closing the Gap framework, as well as national and state targets and performance indicators by 31 October 2018.

For more information see <http://closingthegaprefresh.pmc.gov.au/news/special-gathering-statement>

For a full report of the meeting see <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/news-and-media/stories/closing-gap-2018>



Queensland nominees with Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk included Cr Ross Andrews, Chris Sarra, Shane Duffy, Gillian Mailman, Nyoka Fetoa'i, Judith Ketchell and Tanisha Bakker-Honeyman

COMING UP...

- MARCH 8 International Women's Day Luncheon: Community Hall: RSVP Jaeleen Geary
- MARCH 9 Trivia Night: Community Hall 6:30-9:30pm: : RSVP Jaeleen Geary
- MARCH 17 Commonwealth Games Baton Relay: Bishop Malcolm Park 8am



Community project launched with competition

Participating in respecting and protecting our 'Paradise by the Sea' is the theme for a new Yarrabah Social Reinvestment project launched earlier this month, which also included a competition to create a new project name and logo.

The competition is designed to engage local students in this project and explore their interpretation of protecting the community where they live.

Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation (GMYPPBC) Executive Officer Helen Tait said the project was funded by DATSIP to run throughout the year.

"Timing for this project is particularly important as it aligns with big changes such as the Queensland's plastic bag ban and the introduction of the Container Refund Scheme, due to start on 1 July," Ms Tait said.

She said project partners included the

Yarrabah Community, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, Tangaroa Blue, Traditional Owners (GMYPPBC, GPBC and MYAC via Djunbunji Ltd), the Yarrabah Leaders' Forum, Yarrabah State School and the Queensland Government.

"As part of our public launch we visited the junior and senior school campuses to provide some interactive workshops and we also held a community meeting," she said.

"Our next community event is scheduled for Wednesday 7 March at 1.30pm at the Community Hall.

"Everyone is welcome to come and learn about this project and how they can be involved – we have an exciting and challenging year ahead of us.

"We are looking forward to working with the community to prepare for these changes and exploring ways we can protect the local land and sea environment together."

The name and logo competition closes at 3pm on Monday 5 March with the winning entry to be used as the official project logo and name, which will feature on water bottles, hats, t-shirts, posters and other promotional materials.

The winning entrant will win a brand new iPad Mini.

For more information and/or to provide feedback on this project, please contact Helen Tait via email: helen.tait@gmyppbc.org

Leaders Yarrabah

Thirty-three leaders attended a Yarrabah...
Ross Andrews describ...

"We would like to thank the ARLP for considering the Yarrabah community and hope this course enjoyed the leadership presentations as much as we enjoyed their visit," Cr Andrews said.

"Thanks to the Yarrabah leadership group and Gurriny members for organising such a historical occasion."

Gurriny Yealamucka Health



YARRABAH SOCIAL REINVESTMENT PROJECT

HELP US CREATE OUR NAME & LOGO COMPETITION

1ST PRIZE WINS AN IPAD MINI

Leaders are impressed with Yarrabah leadership

Participants from the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP) Leaders' Forum earlier this month making it what Mayor [Name] described as an historical occasion.



Services CEO Suzanne Andrews completed the ARLP course in May, 2017, while Elverina Johnson, who missed last year due to illness, was encouraged to re-apply and has been accepted into this year's July intake.

Ms Johnson said for her the Yarrabah forum had been a reminder that "we never stop learning as people in leadership".

"The forum was a great opportunity to share our leadership journey's as the Yarrabah Leadership team and as individual leaders," she said.

The ARLP group included four Indigenous participants, sponsored by Prime Minister & Cabinet, who were



Johani Mamid (Broome, WA), Donna Murray (Canberra), Lillian Shibasaki (Thursday Island) and Dale Chapman (Sunshine Coast).

Ms Chapman said her time on the course had been a journey.

"Our visit to Yarrabah was something we will all remember and are grateful for the opportunity to share a collective skills and passion for leadership with the community," she said.

Dubbo-based Timothy Ferraro said the Yarrabah Leaders' Forum was a highlight for him.

"The Yarrabah leaders we met were a shining example of the potential of self determination," he said.

"They were authentic, open and up front about the issues and the plan which has been developed to address them.

"I was really impressed with their

leadership and vision and hope that government gets behind them to help make it happen."

Dr Cameron Bell, from Spring Gully in Victoria, said he observed a positive and open group of leaders in Yarrabah, who were putting their community first.

"The Yarrabah Leaders' Forum has dug deep to better understand the foundations and core values of their community, and then set about addressing the issues they face," he said.

"Key to this has been leveraging diversity within the community and taking advantage of the range of available strengths.

"I took away some powerful leadership lessons and am indebted to the Yarrabah community for sharing their inspiring experiences."



PICTURED LEFT: Yarrabah's own Bishop Arthur Malcolm was a special guest at the launch of Palm Island's Centenary year last week. The spectacular event included the opening of a new foreshore development for the Island, a smoking ceremony, dancers and fireworks.

For more information see the Palm Island Voice on Facebook or at chowes.com.au

Pic thanks to Grail Films.



Jetty work gets underway...

The Yarrabah Jetty project has taken some small steps towards becoming a reality with work starting on the carpark area and some design and planning around associated land facilities.

GBRMPA approval is outstanding on the water work, but the start has been made with the support of Gunggandji PBC, who have supported the community in its efforts to develop future social and economic prosperity with the progression of this particular project, Mayor Ross Andrews said.

"Completion depends on GBRMPA but we are hoping to finish the project by the end of 2018, if all goes well," he said.

- Nominations are open for the Yarrabah International Women's Day
- **WOMAN OF THE YEAR** award.
- If you would like to nominate any women in the Community who have made a difference or contributed to Yarrabah through their courageous efforts and/or contribution please nominate now. Forms are available from Jaeleen Geary at the RTC office.
- Don't forget, our IWD luncheon is an event all the women of Yarrabah are welcome to attend on Thursday 8 March from 11:30am to 2:30pm.
- Our guest speaker will be author of 'Travel to the Bushland', Brenda Pearson.



PLEASE REMEMBER

- They are just kids
- This is a game
- We are all volunteers
- Referees are human
- This is not the NRL

Call goes out for junior Seahawks' players and coaches

Cairns and District Junior Rugby League has confirmed the junior Seahawks will host one pre-season home game as well as three club fixtures for 2018, club president Gillian Bann says.

"On the 17th of March - the same day the Queen's Baton for the Commonwealth Games will be in town - we will be hosting Mareeba and the seniors will be hosting Mossman," she said. "We need player registrations and coaches as soon as possible.

"We should also start discussing our plans for this 'Super Saturday Pre-Season' day."

If you'd like to help you can email Gillian at banngillian@gmail.com



Yarrabah News is published fortnightly by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Jaeleen Geary & 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>

For more information contact Jaeleen on 4056 9120 or JGeary@yarrabah.qld.gov.au or Christine on 0419 656 277 or yarrabahnews@chowes.com.au

OUR NEXT DEADLINE IS
Thursday 1 MARCH
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