

# Waamta

## NEWSLETTER

September 2019

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

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

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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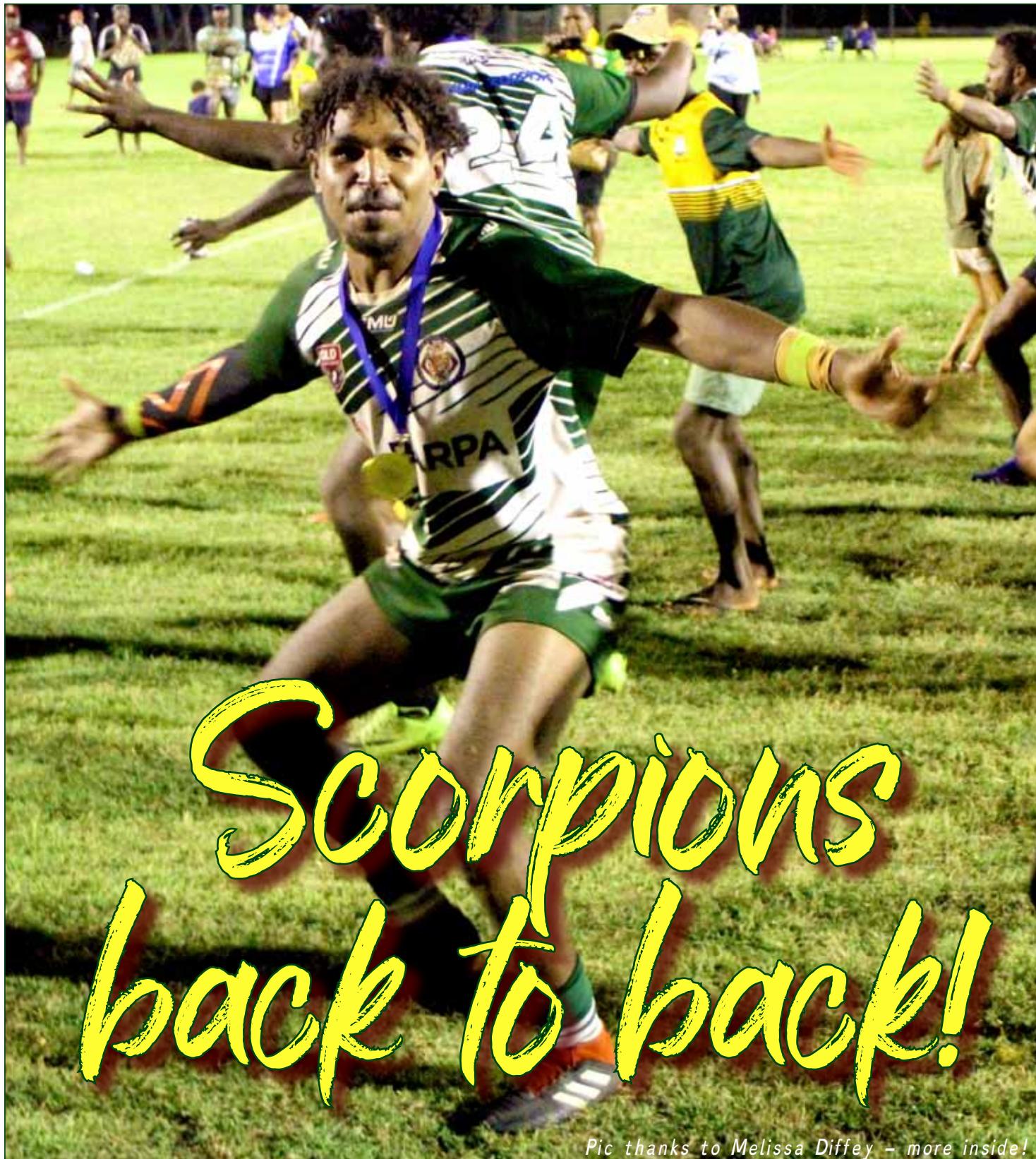
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Pic thanks to Melissa Diffey - more inside!



# Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance Inc

# Indigenous Local Government Disaster Resilience Planning Forum

## Overview

The lack of coordination across local governments, agencies and critical service providers when preparing for and responding to natural disasters in remote communities can impede disaster recovery responses. Technical issues unique to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can often complicate matters. Remote and Indigenous local governments have recognised that changing weather patterns and the likelihood of more frequent cyclones, floods and tidal inundation means the

need to address these issues through a more coordinated approach to improving disaster resilience, planning, resource management and disaster recovery in their communities is becoming urgent.

The Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) recognised a need to facilitate forum to bring local governments together with key State and Federal Government departments and agencies, and critical service providers to work towards addressing these issues.

The TCICA is a membership-based alliance of local governing authorities from the Torres Strait, Cape York and Mornington Island region of Far North Queensland. It operates as a collaborative partnership to represent the common interests of local governing bodies in the region. Members are committed to working together with the State and Federal Governments and other key stakeholders to help shape place-based responses and solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing the region.



## Summary of Key Outcomes

Strengthening the Local Disaster Management Group, District Disaster Management Group and State Disaster Coordination systems was identified as a key priority by forum participants, including the need to improve media coordination and reporting on disaster events.

Participants across the board strongly agreed that building the resilience of critical infrastructure such as airports, barge ramps, communications networks, energy networks and housing is of utmost importance.

Improving regional flood modelling and early warning systems, better sharing of resources and

knowledge across the region, building the resilience of businesses, and identifying ways to improve food security are priorities for action.

A number of quick wins emerged during the forum, including sharing of intel between local governments and the Bureau of Meteorology, a commitment by Ergon Energy and the Department of Housing and Public Works to work together to address technical and access issues, and an agreement between relevant Commonwealth and State agencies to review eligibility for disaster payments.



**A word from...**

# **Mayor Wayne Butcher**

For the fourth year in a row the Lockhart River Scorpions made the Cape Cluster rugby league finals, ultimately winning back to back grand finals against all the odds, Coach/Manager/Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

We lost a couple of players in a very hard fought semi-final in the morning and that was a great team effort to cross the line at 18-14.

The grand final was played that same afternoon, we were 18-6 down at half time so we had to dig deep.

I had nothing but faith in the boys because I knew we had fitness and discipline on our side. We worked hard all year for the win, in the past few weeks leading up to the finals weekend we had an average of 20+

turning up for training sessions.

So that was our fourth grand final in a row, and we've won three of them. For more pics see our centre spread in this issue.

In footy, at least, we have had a good year, but for the rest of it we've certainly taken some hits.

Cyclone Trevor in March this year was well covered in our previous *Waanta*, in this edition you'll see what we suspected would be next and that, of course, was the worry of fire.

With that we copped a double blow – who would have thought rainforest would burn the way it did? But it did.

The best thing about it was the tremendous job our community did in coming together to fight those fires.

Everyone from the HACC women to the road crew, who put their contracts at risk to come and help us out.

They were all behind us and more than happy to help.

There's more on how we dealt with those fires on pages 10-12.

**Lockhart River Scorpions** rode a strong second half comeback to win this year's northern Cape cluster rugby league final in August.

**Grand Final:** Lockhart River Scorpions 32 (Martin Pascoe 2, Gennis Giblet 2, Smithy Bally, Brandon Piva tries; Isaac Rokeby 4 goals) d Napranum Bulldogs 24 (Alfred Bond, Hassim Adidi, Cameron Jawai, Eli Tabuai, Shaq Adidi-Nixon tries; Kareem Tabuai 1 goal).

**Best back of the final** - Martin Pascoe

**Best forward of the final** - Gennis Giblet

**Highest try scorer for the season** - Dale Ahwang

**Player of the final** - Isaac Rokeby

MEANWHILE star Scorpions fullback Martin Pascoe (*pictured right with Mayor Wayne Butcher*) is looking forward to studying in Brisbane next year, and the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council is 'Backing' him, all the way.

After a false start to 2019, Mr Pascoe has re-applied to study at Southbank TAFE in Brisbane in 2020 and hopes to complete a double degree in business and fitness. "Thank you to the Council, I appreciate the laptop," he said.





Several Queensland Ministers have visited Lockhart River over the past several months including Minister for Environment & the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science & Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch (right), Minister for Transport & Roads Mark Bailey (see below).



# Cynthia Lui MP

State Member for Cook

# Connecting Cook

Spring 2019



Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey and Cynthia officially opened the Lockhart River Phytan Airport terminal in September.

They are pictured (above) with builders LRASC Building Services Director Reggie Edmond and recently graduated local carpenters Allister Bowie, Chris Johnson & Dominique Macumboy.

On the same day they were also with local elders, Councillors and other community members celebrating the opening of a new access bridge in and out of the community (above right).

In the middle picture with Cynthia and Mark is small business owner Donovan Moses, who is helping deliver repairs to Taylor's Landing Road.

Staff of Lockhart River State School's famous coffee shop (right) will be looking sharper and smarter with the help of a personal donation from Cynthia towards uniforms for their expert barista and retail service staff.

"This initiative is becoming quite the iconic stopover for locals and visitors alike, including Education Minister Grace Grace," Cynthia said.

"I'm very proud to be able to contribute to this very worthy venture."



ABOVE &  
LEFT: LRASC  
openings in  
September  
made the  
centre spread  
of State  
Member  
for Cook  
Cynthia Lui's  
newsletter  
in Spring this  
year.



Earlier this year ABC journos Eric Barker and Brendan Mounter visited Lockhart River covering everything from housing to this year's fires...and then some... Here are links to some of the yarns they took home with them:



### **Lockhart River locals skill up to build houses and reduce overcrowding in homes**

Brendan Mounter (*pic left by Brendan Mounter*)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-05/lockhart-river-builds-houses-reduces-overcrowding-in-homes/11338282>

### **Cape York community's fight to save Iron Range rainforest devastated by Cyclone Trevor**

Eric Barker & Brendan Mounter (*pic below supplied to ABC by Mike Gaia*)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-13/iron-range-national-park-cyclone-recovery-to-take-decades/11282936>

### **Cape York mayor says families are 'falling apart' from unrelenting deaths in community**

Eric Barker

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-25/families-fall-apart-cape-york-mayor-calls-for-better-health-care/11539096>

### **Rainforest more flammable than grass amid fears Iron Range will take decades to recover from fires**

Eric Barker

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-17/rainforest-more-flammable-than-grass-near-iron-range/11519494>



### **Wild dog attacks woman cooking dinner in Cape York rainforest home**

Eric Barker

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-11/wild-dog-attacks-woman-cooking-dinner-in-cape-york-home/11502512>

Finally, the other fairly continuous hit we seem to be taking is the amount of sly grog in town.

I can't wait for our club to open so we can finally try to 'normalise' our drinking from these big binge drinking sessions which are doing so

much harm to the fabric of our every day lives.

Everything is affected.

I'd like to deter that kind of drinking, it doesn't work and it's a terrible thing for our younger generations to see.

Selling alcohol in the community disrupts everything

from school to work and interferes with people's health.

People drink fast to avoid giving it away to others or to avoid the police.

It has to stop.

*Wayne Butcher*  5



## A word from

# CEO David Clarke...

The aftermath of Cyclone Trevor continues to affect our Lockhart River community in some good and some not so good ways CEO David Clarke writes...

The obvious bad way is the problems we have had with bush fire and the amount of fuel out there (see pages 10-12 for more).

Our insurance will start to kick in and will fund a lot of the repairs we need to do but not everything.

There's also a fair bit of damage to some sections of the Airport cabins and sheds but there is a plan to get them back up to scratch.

We have two more sheds going in down at the beach, and we will recover that old barbecue area, where the coloured poles are, down there.

We'll be looking at more barbecue areas and we're planning on two water bubblers in on the beach road as well – one at Chooki Farm Hill and one down on the beach front.

The bubblers will include a showcase of our local artists, the Art Centre has the license so they will be installed as part of that, which will hopefully help stop any vandalism and things like that, there will be four artists featured.

There's also going to be a seat put in near the solar lights there, so there will be a resting place with some shade. So there's lighting, shade, water and somewhere to sit at the half way mark for people like me who can't make it down there in one go. We'll be putting in more water bubblers around town and Paul Jensen will come back up here to finish them.

### Housing

In housing, we have funding from the State Government for four new houses and we are waiting waiting waiting for the Federal Government to come good with their alleged money.

Prior to the election we were told there was \$105 million, which was not in any of the budgets or forward estimates, but that's what Warren Entsch was saying, and so we wait.

In terms of what we have, we're just working on locating the best sites in terms of running all the services to them.

There may be one up near the Men's Shed, and there may be

three down from Kuttini Street.

On a much brighter note, we welcome AB constructions, our newest building subcontractor. Carpenter Alistair Bowie was our first local bloke to finish his apprenticeship this year and we've given him some maintenance and construction work on Council properties.

We have watched him with great pride as Alistair came through, first his apprenticeship, then as a qualified carpenter, and now as a small businessman providing contract carpenters services to Council.

He's started his own business and that's a really big step to take, from being an employee and not having to worry about everything to actually running your own business.

This has not been an easy road but he has stuck at it taking great pride in his craftsmanship and his work ethic.

It is his ability to deliver on time, to the right standard, and on budget that has got him where he is now.



TOP: Noleen Clark & David Clarke;  
BELOW: fighting fire with water;  
TOP RIGHT: Haylene Macumboy with  
bus driver Stanley Short;  
RIGHT: sharing the beach with  
Ministers and MPs



So it's an interesting and challenging time for him, but he's happy and he will have all the support from Council we can offer.

Not everyone makes it but hard work and dedication has its rewards.

Great work Alistair.

### New business?

Anyone with business ideas please come forward and let Council know how we can help.

In roadworks, we have five culverts to build, four of them on the western side of Canoe Creek, and the one that collapsed out near the dump.

Tenders have gone out for them.

We are working hard to get some significant funding bedded down over the next five years for culverts for the access road, which means lifting the road up out of the water and extending our overland freight season. It's cheaper to bring things in by road compared to Sea Swift. Hopefully we will have some good news on this soon.

### Scorpions!

Watching and listening to people yarning about our recent Scorpions win put everyone on a high.

Our community coming together through sport is a real treasure. Doesn't it make you realise

that the power of the team is unbeatable?

That even when you're down, the power of believing in yourselves and having faith in your combined ability can allow you to do great things.

We win by being the best team, by working together to get the result.

We see this off the field too. Have a yarn to any of our roadworks or construction teams and they will tell you.

Have a yarn to Bessie and the ladies at HACC and they will tell you too.

To all of our teams, Council is proud of you and the work you do.



## On a less happy note, it is with sadness that I raise the issue of threats of violence and abuse in the workplace.

This is starting to get out of hand so just so everyone understands: if anyone comes into a Council workplace and threatens violence to anyone **YOU WILL BE CHARGED.**

If a Council worker threatens another Council worker **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR JOB ON THE SPOT.**

It makes me sad to have to go hard head on this but all Council staff have a right to a safe and happy workplace so I do not apologise for standing strong on this issue.

We are better than that, so come in a good way with your complaints.

Council understands that people can get frustrated with things when they don't get what they want and we want to hear from you if we are not getting it right, or you think there could be a better way to do things.

To support this there is a proper way to put in a complaint.

Yes, there is a form which you can fill out or come and ask

one of our administration team to help you.

You can always talk to me directly.

No one gets everything right, and Council is no different, so let us know how we can improve our game, just don't threaten anyone.

**As we head towards the Christmas period let's keep our team working well together: look after each other and keep safe.**

*David Clarke*

Airport Manager Bob Brown and assistant Gareth Hobson said they were a bit excited to finally celebrate the opening of "their" new Lockhart River airstrip terminal.

"The opening was the official side of it," Mr Brown said. "But it's great to have the extra room inside, the convenience and the air conditioning for the hotter, wetter parts of the year and it's good to have seats out the front for the passengers.

"It's totally changed it and we've had a lot of positive comments about it from the community and visitors – everyone is saying it's been a long time coming."

Mr Hobson said his favourite bit was being able to keep the baggage trailer out of the weather.

"That was the number one problem, when we didn't have good shade or cover for the baggage trailer," he said.

He said he enjoyed the opening event.

"At the opening we had all the elders here and Ministers, so we had a bit of a celebration," he said.



Mr Brown said the airstrip had also just had its lines repainted.

"And the concrete for the chopper landing has also been replaced," he said.

He said Iron Range Cabins were also moving ahead.

"We've got approval for four new cabins," he said. "They will be built by our own local carpenters."

He said the only slow point was an insurance claim still outstanding from Cyclone Trevor.

"There was quite a bit of water damage in the old terminal as well as in some of the cabins and the office building," he said.

**FEAR**

**OUR  
GREATEST  
FEARS  
REALISED**



**It was always suspected fire would be an issue in the wake of Cyclone Trevor's destruction – with so much fuel in the forests, it was a disaster waiting to be managed.**



**What was not suspected was the town – Lockhart River community itself – might end up in the path of potential disaster... for the second time in 2019.**

There were two major fires of concern in about mid-September, CEO David Clarke said.

"And fire remains an ongoing concern while it's dry," he said.

"All up we've lost about 1,600

hectares of rainforest.

"We were always frightened exactly that would happen.

"At the end of July Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) were going to burn but it wasn't dry enough to burn in the rainforest, they

only got 60–70% of the buffer zone they were hoping to create.

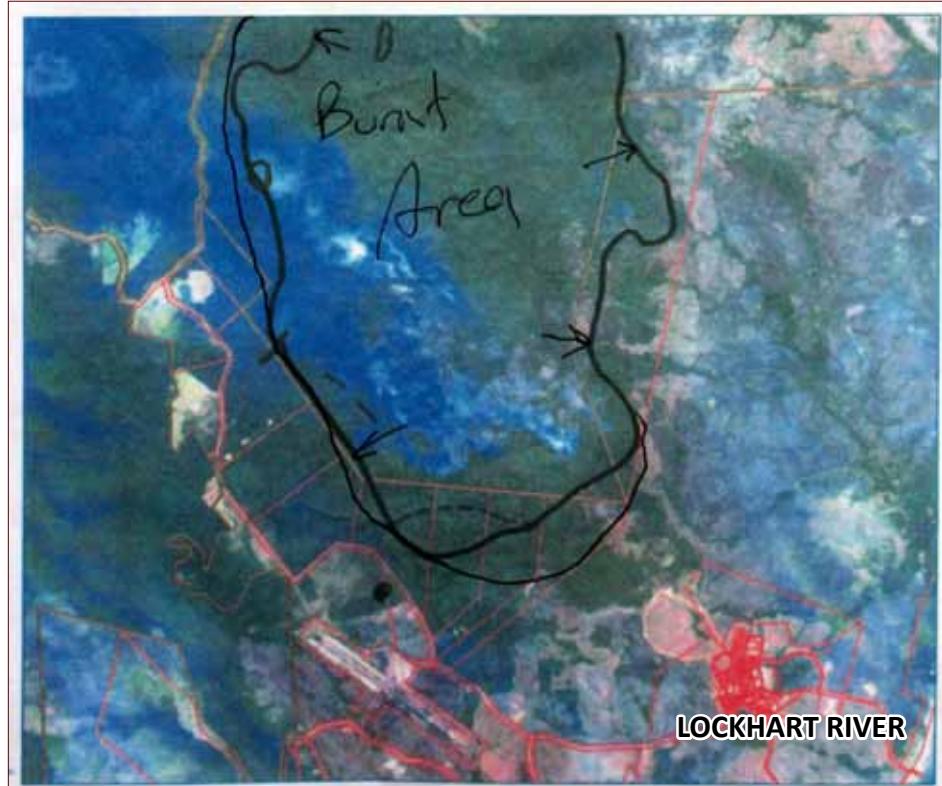
"So they came back later in August to hit the other 30% and that was the problem because everything had dried out tremendously in that three-four week period.

"And that's what gave it the go to get into the rainforest – it was a planned burn, gone wrong.

"Then we had fires along the beach front that threatened the town.

"The south east wind meant they were headed straight for us and our boys worked until 2am back-burning and keeping the town safe.

"Everything has been back-burned all around, so now the town is



# OUR HEROES!



*Pics on these pages with thanks to Kirri Lynch; Bob Brown & Casper Spencer*

ok, but there was a little crisis point there where a fire was racing up from the beach and threatening the Donga Complex. “These were the fires that were causing us problems, they were raging so we had to back-burn and we were lucky we just caught it in time – by the time the fire front hit the area, we’d back-burned about 50 metres and that was enough.

“There were still embers flying across but they were small

enough that we could put them out on the other side of the road, if they had got across the road we would have been in trouble.” He said he particularly wanted to mention the two road crews, the HACC, the airport crew and everyone who jumped on board to help out.

“In terms of the rainforest, it was nearly a fortnight of effort which included working with the helicopter, which was there to save the heavy scrub,” he said.

“And there was probably another two-day really condensed effort, including well into the night, to save the town perimeter.

“The main thing to me was our response – it’s not about the events themselves, but our response and how we reacted – how we combined and worked together to get it done, which was very much to our credit.”



# The community worked together...



**Airport Manager Bob Brown:** Our primary contribution was refuelling the helicopters and providing a location for our Council workers and their water truck to refill the 800 litre water bucket. They did a great job with that, and really kept it going.



**Road Gang Supervisor Solly Hobson:** Our boys worked with the water trucks filling up the chopper. We also did some grading around the town and firebreaks up around the dongas until the early hours of the morning.

**HACC worker Bessie:** Bella and I were out there making and delivering lunch and smoko for them while they were putting the fires out. It was good to be able to help them.





# Municipal Services

Duncan, Helen and Kate (right) from the Vet clinic will be visiting the community in the third week of October to run surgeries, make some household visits and speak to the health centre and school about treatment programs and any areas of concern. Duncan will be in the animal treatment shed doing surgeries while Helen and Kate will be assisting animal management and visiting households.



*LEFT: something to do with the new water; BELOW: Plumbing Apprentice Peter Giblet; LEFT: is he Lockhart's hardest worker? Parks & Gardens worker Alan Warradoo*





# Engineering Services



*ABOVE: In the workshop Napoleon Short, Alec Omeenyo, Alistair White, Brandon Piva & Harold Sandy are always up for a pic!*

“This season the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) Contracting team got off to a flying start,” Mark ‘Casper’ Spencer says.

“We worked Wattle Hill / Kingdom Come Rd first and then made the journey out to Chuulangun, which is always a nice change of scenery for the boys who stay out there, but really tiring for those that travel out from town.

“Now we are really into our rhythm with two crews working on Pascoe Farm Rd, which saw a lot of water damage

from the wet season and post-cyclone rain – plenty of re-sheeting and washed out crossings.”

He said the crews were regularly working 77-hour weeks and some were spending another 14 hours on top of that driving to and from each job.

“Huge weeks for anyone anywhere to be working,” he said.

“This is the fourth year the local contractors have been engaged delivering QRA works and we have spent a lot of time fine tuning to make sure we are as productive as possible during the season.

“The quality of the work just gets better every year, signalling a great effort all round.”



# Our LRASC road gang & their students...



Five young boys, fresh from school and on their own time over their holidays, have played a real part in repairing Line Hill Drive, Road Gang Supervisor Solly Hobson (*below right*) says.

“They’re doing a bit of everything,” he said.

“They start off doing potholes and probably work their way up to driving machinery and getting their skills up. They seem to be having a good time.”

He said they were still too busy in town to have a good look at the Old Mission Road since Cyclone Trevor earlier this year.

“We’ve been about half way down, but not doing any grading work, just opening the



*TOP: The full crew on Line Hill Road;*

*ABOVE: Barney Claudie, Herbert Moses, Freddy Accoom, Solly Hobson, Kyle Hobson and in front is Nguumpipi Rocky; RIGHT: Solly Hobson*



road and pushing trees, trees and more trees.”

He and Rodney Accoom have also achieved

their semi-trailer licenses, which he said would make a lot of difference.



# Building Services

LRASC's newest carpentry apprentices – Dominique Macumboy, Chris Johnson & Les Zaro – have been signed off on and are on board with the fourth – Alistair Bowie – making a strong team, Building Services Manager Regis Edmond writes...

I'm proud of them.

And we do have some work at the moment, we have four cabins to build at the airport and there is an application in for another two.

So those three new carpenters will be able to work on them as qualified tradesmen, which is exciting.

There's also quite a lot of renovation going on around town, and the usual maintenance work is keeping us quite busy at

the moment.

That work is always there to fall back on, and we look after all the Council's property as well, buildings and residences.

And finally we are still finding and identifying maintenance issues after Cyclone Trevor, and trying to get them sorted as we go along too.

Overall we are in busy times, which is a good lead-up into the coming wet season.



*TOP: Regis Edmond; MIDDLE: painters Ross Mackay & James Macumboy; BOTTOM: Store Worker Paul Getawan with Assistant Manager Benny Macumboy; BELOW LEFT: Phil Watt, Kegan Bally & Dominique Macumboy; ABOVE: Alistair Bowie*



# Corporate Services

Let us all celebrate good audit results, Finance Director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

Finally, the 2018/19 annual audit for Council and Aerodrome Company concluded within the legislative time frame of 31 October 2019.

Once again congratulations to the finance team for achieving another clean bill of health in the accounts records keeping of the Council finances. We have obtained unmodified audit opinion from the Auditor General and we are very proud of these results.

Our finance results and position all depicted a very strong foundation compared to Councils of our size in Queensland.

Please visit our website to view and read the report and contact the CEO with any query or clarification regarding this report.

## New Year/New System

The new financial year commenced well with new operational plan, budget and new accounting software.

We have decommissioned Practical Plus and rolled out SynergySoft effective 1 July 2019.

Implementation and training of all other modules is in progress with estimated full implementation by February 2020.

As usual with a new system, we have experienced some challenges in switching off our minds from PCS to the new accounting software but the finance team has positively been handling this transition as a team.

Our success is an outcome of the team effort put in by all members of the finance crew and with support from Council and senior management.

## Annual Report

We are now in the process of preparing the 2018/19 Annual Report that gives a summary account of Council services and year in review. This is expected to be available by 30 November 2019 and also it will be posted in the Council website for all to access and read.

Thank you everyone.



*TOP: Finance Director  
Stanley Mugwiria;  
LEFT: Centrelink Agent  
Greta Accoom, Office  
Manager Deanka  
Omeenyo, Receptionist  
Faye Hobson, Admin/  
cleaner Chantel Hobson  
& Post Office Agent  
Marie Hobson*

# SCORPIONS!



Semi Final vs  
Gulf Storms

Pics by  
Melissa  
Diffey



## Grand Final vs Napranum





# Community Development

Other than welcoming new staff member Barbara Bally to the Indigenous Knowledge Centre, changes are afoot with a new section of the building to be set aside for a digitised collection of community history and culture Community Development Director Margie Barnes writes...

We've actually closed in a section of the verandah to have those computers stored there and we're planning a community day to celebrate when we're ready to open.

Athol Chase and Father Dave Thompson have already indicated they are keen to come along after they've worked closely with Joanne Omeenyo on the project.

The community will have access to the collection and it's a good step forward to have this culture and keeping place – it will offer privacy as well as access to their own family histories and historical material.

Over the last school holidays it was a great disappointment to us that the water park was out of action for some of it – a computer issue – which affected our holiday programs for younger kids as well as youth.

We have made good use out of the facility and we have been happy to see the seating and shelter go in there, and solar lighting as well.

Council are working towards installing barbecues and water

fountain in the future.

The park is a fantastic shared resource for everyone, especially families, in our community and we're happy to help with whatever resources we can to continue to develop the space there.

I would also like to welcome Bella Hobson to our HACC team and advise that Wayne Bally will be commencing in the role of Coordinator Men's Services in the near future.

The Com Dev teams looks forward to working with all our new staff.

Recently I spent a number of weeks travelling through Italy and Spain and loved the experience.



Margie and husband Wayne on a sunset cruise in Dubai on their way to Europe



Library Assistant Barbara Bally has been enjoying her new role at the Indigenous Knowledge Centre, and looking forward to learning more about what she can do with training from the State Library of Queensland.

SLQ Indigenous Services Program Officer Lauren Erickson said she was looking forward to visiting Barbara next month and welcoming her into the IKC network.

“I’ll be going to Lockhart River to work with Barbara to provide basic library management skills training including managing collections, community engagement and using library management software,” she said.

“I will be in Lockhart River again in November to work with Barbara while we implement Lockhart River IKC’s Fresh Start Program.

“This includes taking delivery of 500 new book and DVD titles for the IKC, and transitioning to State Library’s Rural Libraries Queensland (RLQ)



database in order to provide a greater level of service delivery for the community.

“It’s a great time to become a member of the IKC and take advantage of the new resources.”

Barbara said she was keen to encourage the community to come in and use the facilities they had to offer.

“At the moment I’m just keeping things in order and learning how to scan the books,” she said.

“I’m also helping people on the computers, if they want to come

in and use the internet.”

She said the IKC was open from 10am to 3pm daily.



ABOVE: Beverley, Bella & Bessie Hobson;  
LEFT: Fr Brian Claudie

Everything is turning out well at the HACC, worker Bessie Hobson says.

“We’ve had some activities here, with our oldest coming down for a barbecue and lucky door prize,” she said.

“We’ve just put in some new blinds and they look nice.

“And we’ve got Bella Hobson on board now too.”

Bella started with the crew in August this year and said she was keen to do some study to catch up with her new colleagues.



The Women's Shelter held a very successful Pamper Day this year with more than 45 people dropping by for a bit of personal caring and sharing.



"After a lot of planning and a couple of delays, everyone seemed to have a fun day," Margie said.

Workers Lorraine Clarmont & Luka Getawan said it was a good day.

"We did all the hair dying

and we put on the food," Luka said.

She said they had also started thinking about some sewing and weaving for next year's Laura Festival.

"Anyone can come and I

can teach them to sew or weave," Lorraine said.

They said staff there were always on hand for a yarn. "Someone's always here," Lorraine said.

"Don't wait until you need to come here."

# Vacation Care - September 2019



Lockhart River's After School Care team enjoyed several days of beach and water park activities as they took up Vacation Care in the September holidays this year.

Coordinator Emily Pascoe said they had as many as 20 children in their care over the two weeks.

"We're doing activities at the Community Hall with our morning program from 9-12, we have a lunch break and then from 1-4.30 or so we plan to take the kids down to the beach or to the Splash Park," she said.

"We just chill out and play some games.

"We might also take them over to the basketball court."

Worker Margaret Hobson said the kids enjoyed their inside activities as well.

"They paint, they like to make play dough and they like doing things in the kitchen as well," she said.

"We'd like to say to parents to bring their kids down, we'll look after them and keep them busy.

"We like to read to them, give them morning and afternoon

tea, lunch."

They said parents or carers could arrange for their children to be picked up and dropped off.

"We'll have them home by 5," they said.



ABOVE: Margaret Hobson, Angela Warradoo & Emily Pascoe







The September holidays, as with the July holidays before them, have been huge for young people in the community Youth Worker Krystal Dean says.



"In the mornings from 9-12 we just put on activities here at the Youth Centre, so anyone who wants to come down and just chill out and relax, we're here for them," she said.

"We start the programs after lunch, so Mondays and Tuesdays we started sports down at the beach, then we went to Garraway on Wednesdays and Fridays, and on Thursdays we just stay here.

"We've had Apunipima come in and do an anti-smoking session and we have a pool comp or movies at night.

"So it's been busy, and during the term we have been doing

activities as usual."

She said a highlight for young people in September was a story-telling night around a fire down at the beach.

"We all told some yarns," she said. "So one of us started up, and then another started to tell their stories, and another story - it was really good.

"After that we started telling scary stories and the chairs started to come in a bit around the fire.

"The youth, they had a blast out there.

"And it was great because we had plenty of help, Steven went down in the afternoon and cut up some firewood, we used

the bus to take the chairs and they helped to set up.

"They wanted to stay a bit longer and we will definitely do this again."

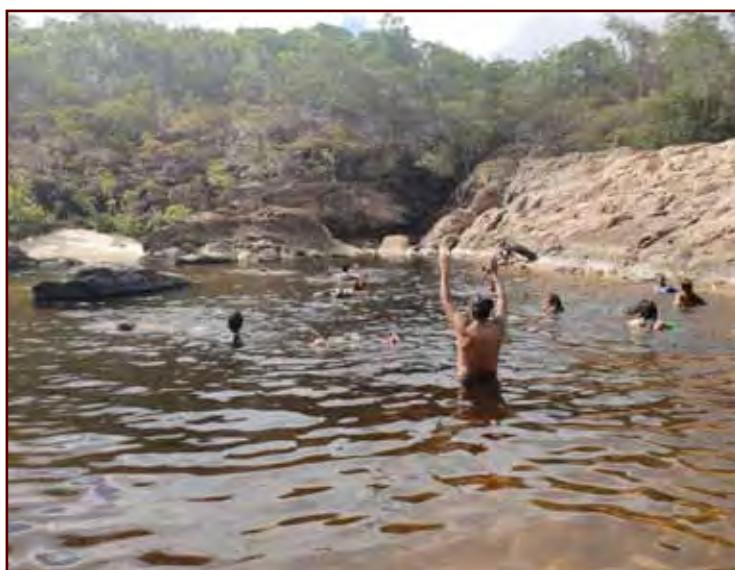
She said the feedback they were getting had been very positive.

"We got good feedback from the youth which we love to hear and we just want to keep it going," she said.

"One of them said, 'oh, this is so fun, the best moment I have had in a long time', and this is what we want to hear.

"We want to keep doing things they love doing."





Artists Silas Hobson, Rosella Namok and Patrick Butcher Jnr, along with newly appointed Lockhart River Arts Corporation CEO Enoch Perazim, will be in Melbourne next month for an exclusive artwork auction hosted by the Global Gardens of Peace.

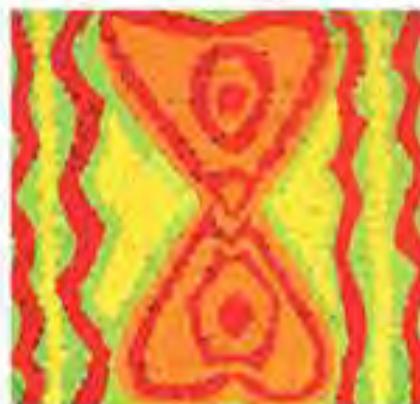
Mr Perazim said after the auction the group was set to exhibit at the De-Bortoli Family Wine Estate Cellar at Rutherglen in Victoria.

"Our artists will officiate at the opening," he said.

"The team will stay at the estate accommodation and then they will visit several galleries and cafes in Corowa and Albury where more than 15 artworks by Lockhart River are on sale through the Aboriginal Exhibitions Gallery.

You can follow the Arts Corporation on Facebook or on their webpage at: [www.lockhartriverart.com.au](http://www.lockhartriverart.com.au)

**Lockheart River Arts Indigenous Corporation**



## **Puuya Kuntha Strong Heart**

LRAIC artworks are currently available for direct purchase at the following Australian Galleries: Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery Hobart Tasmania, Aboriginal Exhibitions Gallery Wangaratta Victoria, KickArts Contemporary Gallery Cairns, Suzanne O'Connell Gallery Brisbane, Art Atrium Gallery Sydney, Sandra Bardas Art Gallery at Worawa Aboriginal College Victoria, Kate Owen Gallery Sydney.

In the United States of America: Booker Lowe Gallery Houston Texas.

In Europe: Arts d'Australie – Stéphane Jacob (Paris). Collection in Switzerland: Fondation Burkhardt-Felder et Culture - Musée d'art aborigène australien "La grange"



*ABOVE: Irene Namok & Beryl Motton with Evelyn Omeenyo and her porcupine painting; RIGHT: Patrick Butcher in his role as interim manager while CEO Enoch Perazim was out of the community in early September.*





## Family Wellbeing Services

Kuunchi Kakana Centre Family Wellbeing Worker Rebecca Elu, is enjoying her new role supporting families.



"I'm keen to try and help kids around the community, to make sure they're safe and that they stay here in Lockhart," she said.

"So I'm here to support families with whatever they need to make sure they and their kids are supported.

"It's about making them stronger in themselves and happy.

"So we are linking them up with any organisations that can help them,

especially our Mums and Dads."

The role was funded through the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and designed to help build strong families and a strong community.

Part of this was working together to safely care for and protect children who are vulnerable anywhere in the community.



## Westpac Foundation

The Puuya Foundation are grateful to the Westpac Foundation and our Westpac Volunteer Caroline Ramsden for their ongoing support.

We have been successful in getting a grant to help us deliver educational initiatives to help grow the knowledge and

skills of our parents so that they can become better role models in the community.

Thanks Westpac Foundation.



## Men's Empowerment Program

Our Men's Empowerment Program continues to make a difference at the KK Centre.



Over the September holidays our men were busy repairing our dance circle in readiness for the return of children from the holidays. These men are great role models for the community and the children.



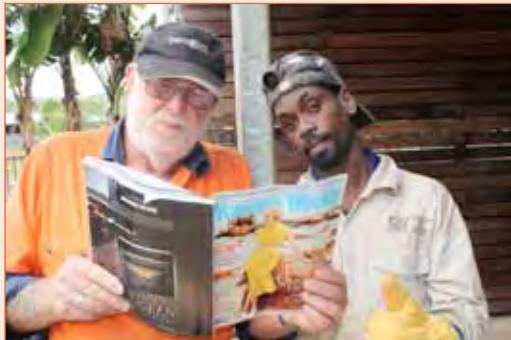
# Puuya Foundation Patron, Dame Quentin Bryce & the Australian Women's Weekly

The Australian Women's Weekly article was published in September 2019 thanks to the wonderful support of our Patron Dame Quentin Bryce AC DVO and the Editor of Australian Women's Weekly, Juliet Rieden.

It was a wonderful article about the community and the Puuya Foundation. We were grateful for the donations we have received as a result of

publication which included a pair of Havianna thongs for everyone. The children were particularly thrilled about a new pair of thongs and we had some budding

fashionistas showing them off. Thanks to The Australian Women's Weekly Style Director Mattie Cronan and Haviannas for this initiative.



*Everybody was enjoying a good read including Blue Cashion & Zachary Claudio; John Ensor; Matt O'Reilly and Josh Williams & Cherry Royee!*





## Lockhart River's Orange Sky laundry is now situated on the side of the Cape York Employment building.

Worker Flora Giblet said she was enjoying her new role.

"My job is here in washing," she said. "I love it."

"I really like enjoying myself working for Orange Sky."

"People are happy with the clean clothing – nice and clean back to their home."

"I'm here Monday through

Friday everyday, 10 o'clock till 2 o'clock in the afternoon."

Orange Sky Program Manager Judith Meiklejohn said they were very happy to have Flora on board.

"It's really valuable and important to Orange Sky and remote communities to employ a local person to run a

service," Judith said.

"Orange Sky is keen to work with Flora to support her community by providing access to a space for them to do their washing as well as sit down and have a good yarn."

*Flora is pictured above with Yagan Ropeyarn (1) & Michelle Wasiu.*



*Cape York Employment is in the building! Pictured left is Coordinator Andy Buchanan and Compliance Officers Kyle Williams & Aldene Reuben.*



# A story from Ronald McDonald House in Townsville...

Luckily for Alexia, aged 5, her family were swift to act when they noticed something was not quite right.

On advice from Clinical Nurse Mike Smith, in her hometown of Lockhart River, Alexia was taken immediately to Cairns Base Hospital and received the diagnosis of Meningococcal Septicaemia as well as a very rare skin condition that was rapidly affecting her lower limbs and her life.

With time of the essence, Alexia was urgently airlifted to Townsville Hospital on 20 January where doctors started urgent treatment - over 1,000kms from her home.

When a child is diagnosed with a serious illness, it can have a devastating effect on families.

As well as the uncertainty and fear, there's the added stress for families who don't live close to the medical care their child needs.

In a few short moments Alexia and her family's life was turned upside down and they found themselves in a town far away from their home in Lockhart River.

Little did they know, Ronald McDonald House would become their home away from home for the next eight months.

"We are a big family, so we just don't know what we would have done without being supported here at Ronald McDonald House," Alexia's mum Lorriissa said.



*Soldiers from 1 RAR 1st Battalion cooking up a yummy BBQ lunch at Ronald McDonald House Townsville with Alexia, little sister Taiouana and big brother Lachlan*

"We needed to be as close to Alexia as we could to help with her treatment.

"She has undergone more surgeries than we can keep track of, so to have the support of the staff, volunteers and facilities here for our family has been a blessing."

Alexia was in hospital for seven months, while her family were accommodated and cared for right across the road.

Recently discharged as an outpatient, Alexia is now able to stay with her family at Ronald McDonald House while attending regular appointments for occupational therapy and wound management.

Eight months since her diagnosis, Alexia's cheeky smile says it all...with her family close by she is recovering and is bravely regaining her mobility by taking the first steps out of her wheelchair to make the most of our playground with her family. Alexia's family are one of the longest staying families ever at our Ronald McDonald House as they have been with us for more than 250 nights so far.

<https://www.facebook.com/rmhcnorthaustralia/>





# Want to live a long healthy life?

Become a partner in your own health care by dropping into the clinic today – don't make us come and get you!

And please don't wait until you can't make it on your own.

We have plenty services to offer, so come on in and find out what we can do to help you live a long and healthy life.

**Our Clinic hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm.  
Emergencies only after hours and on weekends.**

## Here is just some of what we do with Apunipima Cape York Health Council.

Apunipima's Nutrition and Tackling Indigenous Smoking teams have been running health promotion activities at the front of the store.

Darlene is our Tackling Indigenous Smoking officer and visits Lockhart River every two weeks to provide help to stop smoking and to learn more about the harmful effects of smoking. At the store the older kids and adults played a game using smokey eye goggles that show what it might be like to lose eyesight due to smoking.

Our nutrition team spoke to

people about filling half their plate with vegetables and used food models to show the different food groups and the role they play in making healthy meals.

The kids loved making sandwiches using lettuce, capsicum and pineapple food models, and of course, meat! The team also ran an activity with the youth group about high iron foods, iron helpers and iron blockers – a few girls talked about having anaemia and how it made them feel slack.

The take home message was

to have high iron foods at every meal (bush meats are best!), include an iron helper (vitamin C) and to have your cup of tea an hour before or after your meal.

Apunipima has a room at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre and will be running activities with families on Thursday mornings.

Parents and carers are welcome to come and learn about nutrition, smoking, healthy ears, the Baby One Program, physical activity and other great topics, or just drop in for a yarn and let us know what health topics you want to learn more about.





Apunipima also offers women's health days at the clinic with Denise and Dr Maddy.

Our FIFO staff are:

- Dr Maddy [Apunipima doctor] visits every fortnight
- Molly [Dietitian] visits once a month
- Kirsty [Podiatrist] visits once a month
- Cath [Diabetes Educator] visits once a month
- Darlene [Tackling Indigenous Smoking officer] visits every 2 weeks
- Emma, Kani, Damian, Amanda and Katelyn [Nutrition team] visit once a month
- Kris, Fran and Sarah [Audiology/Audiometry] visit once a quarter
- Ryan, Lucy, Angharad, Laura [Be Well Learn Well Team] visit once a month
- Dwayne and Julie [Addiction and Recovery Educators]
- Paediatric clinic – around once a quarter

Our Lockhart River staff are:

- Sharlene [maternal and child health worker]
- Denise [Midwife/Child Health Nurse]

*ABOVE: Snr Social Worker Devendar Polopelli; Health Worker Greg Pascoe, Clinical Nurse Noella Clarke, RFDS Teresa Gibson; Mental Health Worker John Ensor; Apunipima's Darlene Roberts; Senior Health Worker Karen Koko; Operational Support Officer Alana Koko & Midwife/Child Health Nurse Denise Brown.*



Our future is in

their hands!