

Waamta

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

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

Christmas spirit pays a visit!



Mayor of Lockhart River Wayne Butcher exchanges gifts with Group Captain Nicholas Hogan, Officer Commanding No. 84 Wing, after a C-27J Spartan delivered supplies as part of Exercise Christmas Drop Australia 19. Photo by Corporal Colin Dadd. **MORE INSIDE!**



Christmas spirit drops in for a visit

More than a tonne of donated presents and other goods dropped in to Lockhart River earlier this month, thanks the Royal Australian Air Force and Army personnel.

ABC Cairns reporter Kristy Sexton-McGrath (with thanks for the pics!) said the drop included first aid kits, toiletries, bicycle repair kits, school supplies and sporting equipment.

Mayor Wayne Butcher told Kristy the most wanted item on the community's wish list was very simple.

"Rubber thongs – it's bloody hot up here," he said.

He said the ADF visited the community about a month earlier and spent time with the town's schoolchildren.

"So the kids being able to see the plane and get inside and have a look around, it was just great," Mr Butcher said.

Minister for Defence, the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC said the exercise demonstrated Defence's commitment to maintaining an active connection with Indigenous communities.

"From 3-7 December a RAAF C-27J Spartan aircraft flying out of Cairns and Karratha will airdrop supplies to isolated Indigenous communities in North Queensland and

Western Australia," Senator Reynolds said.

"The C-27J is able to reach locations that are particularly difficult to access, including using unpaved runways and airdropping cargo."

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said the exercise supplied communities at Lockhart River and Kowanyama in Queensland, as well as Roebourne and Yandeyerra in Western Australia.

"Defence has been working closely with Indigenous Liaison Officers to select the most appropriate locations to visit, based on community needs and accessibility," Mr Chester said.

"Exercise Christmas Drop will also provide valuable practical experience for aircrew and movements personnel, and enable them to strengthen their airdrop and collection skills.

"There's also great satisfaction that comes with delivering supplies and gifts, and helping spread some Christmas cheer."

Link to ABC yarn: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-04/defence-force-spreads-christmas-cheer-in-remote-communities/11762370>

Pics thanks to Kristy Sexton-McGrath & the ADF



Vacation care plans packed with loads of active and not-so-active activities

This year's Christmas Kids Club and Youth Vacation Care Programs are packed with physical and not-so-physical activities for the youngest members of our community.

Getting out and about most mornings will provide the opportunity for a bit of Oz Tag, basketball or water park activities which are sure to top most kids' list, as will be making Christmas decorations, music and other activities in the Community Hall most afternoons.

There will be joint activities with the older kids (Youth) on some evenings – the favourite being a movie or disco every Tuesday and Wednesday evening in the lead up to Christmas, and then resuming again in on Wednesday 8 January. Highlights between now and the end of January include a

Christmas Parade at 9.30am on Monday 23 December (starting from the Clinic), a Colour Run and BBQ at the same time on Friday 3 January at the oval and a Fishing Competition, also starting from 9.30am, on Friday 10 January.

MEANWHILE young people in the community are looking forward to this year's Youth Holiday program which will include swimming at local creeks, Oz Tag, volleyball, beach cricket and water park activities.

For the less active there will



be daily activities at the Youth Centre every morning for everyone to join in, or simply yarning around one of the weekly beach fires planned (see noticeboards for exact details).

Several shared activities with the younger ones from the Kids Club are also on the calendar including several discos, a colour run and a Christmas Parade at 9.30am on Monday 23 December.

Merry Christmas to everyone in our community, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

I hope everyone enjoys themselves during the festive season for 2019 and into 2020 – a new decade!

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council is planning a Community Cemetery clean-up and visit on Christmas Eve, followed by a BBQ lunch and children's presents at the Community Hall. We invite everyone to take part in the clean-up and especially visiting our loved ones, from about 9.30 onwards on Tuesday 24 December – please do join us, everyone is very welcome.

I hope you all stay safe during the Festive season and enjoy quality time with your family – Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

Our last day of business will be Friday 20 December. We will re-open for business on Monday 6 January 2020.

Christmas Services and Trading Hours

On the following days we will offer the following services:

- Garbage/Waste Run (**thanks Stanley!**)
- Centrelink (**thanks Sarita!**)
- Bank/Post Office (**thanks Deanka!**)

Monday 23 December
9am – 3pm

Friday 27 December
9am – Midday

Tuesday 24 December
9am – 3pm

Monday 30 December
9am – 3pm

Friday 3rd January 2020: 9am – Midday

NOTE ALSO: The Lockhart River Arts Centre re-opens on Monday 13 January 2020.

The Kuunchi Kakana (families together) Centre early years program re-opens on Tuesday 28 January 2020.

Happy Christmas Lockhart River!



ABOVE: Zendayah & Shanell Hobson enjoying their September holidays with the Kids Club at the beach. Waanta is written, photographed, edited and produced by Christine Howes and staff for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council ©2019

