



Waaanta

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September 2020

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

Our roadworks



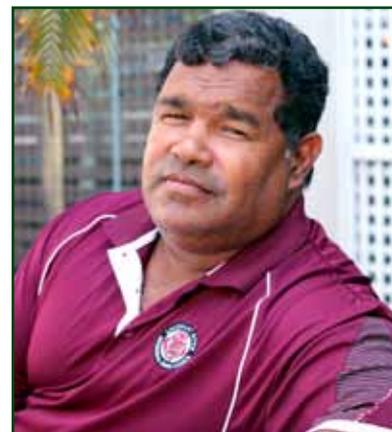
warriors!





A word from ...

Mayor Wayne Butcher



The first thing I'd like to say is a big thank you to the Lockhart River community for putting their trust in my leadership to once again be their Mayor, Cr Wayne Butcher writes ...

It was challenging over the past 12 months with a cyclone thrown at us, the election, COVID-19 and far too many losses and tragedies to deal with as well.

In January, when we had Black Image come here for the first time, as we reported in our last *Waanta*, things were looking up. But it was only days later that COVID-19 started in about mid-February.

I have to say though, our community really came

together on that; we were all definitely about keeping COVID-19 out.

As we all know, by March the whole of the Cape was closed off to outsiders.

Our rivers were still up, so there was a natural block there, but Mapoon was the first to shut their roads and put some barriers up, and it wasn't long before we followed suit.

By about mid-March, our barriers went up, and they stayed there for a month or more.

By then the Federal Government had also stepped in and included us in a Biosecurity Zone across the Cape and covering all the remote Indigenous communities in Australia.

We set up the Iron Range Cabins as our quarantine site on one side and the other side as a safe place for our elderly and most vulnerable.

Around that time I was also asked to be one of eight leaders from around the country to join a teleconference where we had



LEFT: Our precious Elders staying safe and well-looked-after at the Iron Range Cabins; RIGHT: Social distancing in our workplace notice.





LEFT: The new the Lockhart River Aboriginal Council was officially sworn in on 4 April 2020. Congratulations to Mum Dottie Hobson, as the newly appointed Deputy Mayor, Cr Alistair Bowie as a young Councillor, Cr Karen Koko and bro Cr Norman Bally (a rock in politics). We look forward to good governance and progress over the next four years!



At the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference 2020 in Gold Coast with Hopevale Mayor Greg Woibo.



After the local government elections in March, I was elected with Hope Vale Mayor Greg Woibo, into the Local Government Association of Queensland's executive policy group.

The LGAQ represents 77 shires throughout Queensland, from Gold Coast to the Torres Strait and out to Mount Isa, including 17 Indigenous shires, and we can lobby the State Government on our issues on behalf of those shires.

The number of meeting days has been limited this year because of COVID-19, but I was able to be at the annual LGAQ conference on the Gold Coast.

It's a big event, once a year, where all the LGAQ members come together.

I was also just elected to be the chair of the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA), with Kowanyama Mayor Robbie Sands as my deputy.

I'd like to thank the people for allowing me to lead for another four years inside local government.

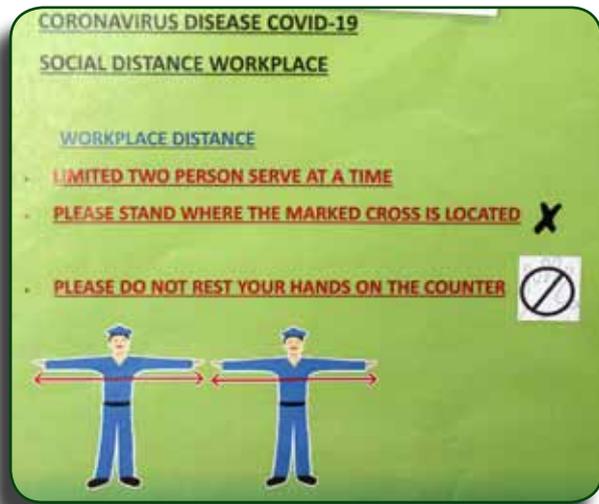
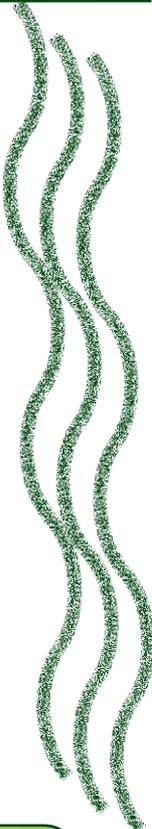
the chance to speak directly to Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt.

We covered a lot of ground in just over 45 minutes, not just health but things like the costs of quarantine and impacts to small business.

We said we wanted quarantine to be local – in our communities – instead of somewhere else.

For now, as we know, the situation is if there's an outbreak in Cairns, our barriers will go up again.

It's all about our people here, not anyone else.



LEFT: When Cape York was first made a biosecurity area in March, Cr Butcher was in Cairns. When he returned he and his household was obliged to 'self-quarantine' for two weeks before interacting with the community again.





We are still dealing with the impact of sly grogging in our community – the worst I've seen in probably 20 years.

Sly grogging is very dangerous to our community; it's destructive.

For someone to turn up with 50 or more five-litre wine casks and unload them into a community over a couple of days – it just destroys and disturbs a lot of what a normal community should be.

And the police can't keep up with how fast alcohol moves through our neighbourhoods.

The end result is our school attendance is very poor.

It's hard enough now to build momentum after the school's been shut for a term because of COVID-19; this has just added to those pressures.

So our school attendance is averaging below 50%, which is the worst it's ever been.

The other thing is half of our workforce has been affected by this, because of the extra funding from the Federal Government by way of increasing Job Seekers' money and easy access to superannuation.

All that extra cash came into the community, but in my view, it shouldn't have as we weren't affected by COVID-19.

I can understand where places with big

industries such as tourism were affected directly, but it should've been much better managed for us than it was.

We lost the workers for weeks because they had all this extra money, and they didn't need to go to work.

When you look at the population of Lockhart River, there are less than 300 adults of working age, and the council employs about a third of them – we were stuck.

Then there was all the pressure around sorry business.

We don't have the mental health support we need out

here in the bush.

The end result is people, unfortunately, turn to alcohol for comfort, which is probably the worst thing you can do.

We've got some really good teachers and hospital workers who are still working.

They want to be here, but they are some of the ones paying the price for our sly grogging problems.

These are the people we want to keep; they are here for us over the long haul, and our people need to respect that.

Statement to the media from Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher 7 October 2020



"Firstly I'd like to extend my strongest support to our school teachers and staff in Lockhart River for behaviour which is beyond acceptable in any circumstances – behaviour which is to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

"Secondly I'd also like to condemn in the strongest possible way those responsible for bringing alcohol into our dry community, which is the source of this unacceptable behaviour.

"Make no mistake, I have no doubt about that at all.

"There are too many people in our community with too much time on their hands, while the rest of us are working hard to build a future for our families and our children.

"The teacher concerned had a role to play in that, as most of us do, and those who are bringing in this 'sly grog' are as much to answer for this as the perpetrator.

"We must stop this from happening; there is only a small number but as we have seen overnight, the consequences can be devastating.

"Our thoughts are with the teacher concerned and we sincerely hope for her speedy recovery."

Cr Butcher is in meetings for the rest of the day and will not be available for further comment.





LEFT: Meeting with Queensland Government Cabinet members in February; TOP: Lockhart Community Government Champion Warwick Agnew, the Director General for

the Queensland Department of Local Government, visited the Community late last month. Warwick inspected some of the State Government Working for Queensland Funded Project (beach shed). The shed was constructed by a local builder

and business owner Alistair Bowie (when our own people build things, it's a powerful ownership statement and value!); LEFT: Working in Cairns with Torres Shire Mayor Vonda Malone; ABOVE: Meeting on-screen with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister Ken Wyatt in May.



Finally, I took the opportunity in late August to represent us at the Community Cabinet meeting in Cairns.

It was a great opportunity to talk about some of the projects we have coming up, particularly our Cultural Precinct and dance grounds, which will be going ahead

into the development phase over the next few months.

Combine that with our new social club, which we hope will kick off before Christmas, and I hope we

are looking at a brighter and definitely happier and safer finish to the year and a good launch into the next.

Wayne B.
LRASC Mayor



LEFT: Working with other mayors at a socially-distanced Queensland Government Community Cabinet meeting in Cairns in August.





A word from ...

CEO David Clarke



The wet season is nearly with us again, and what a strange year it has been, CEO Dave Clarke writes ...

All the worry for COVID-19 and the problems that it has caused our boarding school kids! It has been a very hard year for them.

On the roadworks front, we are trying our best to get a record amount of work delivered before it rains.

You will see all different people being involved.

We have had to bring in some people from outside because we have used up all the locally available machines and licensed operators, but at the end of the day, we will have a good road network.

We only have Nundah crossing to Old Site to finish now – let's hope the rain stays away.

I'm very proud of the work our mob are delivering.

The inspectors came up the other day and reckon our work is right up there for quality.

A big thank you to our teams.



ABOVE: Traffic Controller Laurisa Hobson, aka Girlie, sharing a laugh; and,
BELOW: Working on the Pascoe River crossing.



BE

CYCLONE

READY!

Our pre-season cyclone clean-up will take place throughout NOVEMBER.

Please leave material you want removed on your footpath for our Council crews to pick up.





Thank you, Athol, from all our hearts...

Listen up.

I have just been to see old man Dr Athol Chase.

He is not well at all and wants to let everyone know he will not be able to come to Lockhart again.

This makes him very sad.

He wants to tell everyone that he thinks about his Lockhart family with love every day and wanted to say thank you to everyone in Lockhart for your friendship over the last 50 years he has been working and living with us.

He is a very special man who has been by our side in every struggle we have had.

When Killoran tried to do the wrong thing, he was there for us; when Farndale tried to build a big resort on Line Hill, he was there for us; when the mining companies tried to make us let them mine at Rocky Point and Wuthathi country, he was there for us; when government wanted to build a spaceport on Kuuku Ya'u country, he was there for us; and when we needed him to stand up for our Native Title with the information our old people gave him, he was there for us.

Without his work with our old people, it would have been much harder to get our land back.

He has been a warrior for us all and a proper strong friend and countryman.

He is our greatest white Elder.

We should all keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.



*MIDDLE: James, Leslie, Matthew and Athol
BELOW: Great day which saw our old people celebrated and respected. Need to get our young ones involved in keeping history and culture strong. Special thanks to our great project team, Dr Athol Chase, David Thompson, Debbie Desarie, and Johanne Omeeny. You have created a fine thing.*





BELOW: Our new playground in the grounds of the waterpark; TOP RIGHT: Thanks to everyone for their patience while our rubbish truck was being fixed; big shout out to Morgan's crew for helping out.



RIGHT: Work on the new playground at Ivy Park. BOTTOM LEFT: Council has been working hard to keep our community moving forward.



People coming and selling grog is not good. Every money you make from selling grog takes food from our kid's mouth and clothes from their back.

This has to stop.

Our kids are our future.

Easy way to stop people selling grog is to stop buying it.

I know this is hard, but stop and think before you give them all your money.

It's not a police issue; it's our issue.

Only you can stop it dead.

DOGIT Day celebrations were a success this year – a big shout out to Allan Warradoo (pictured above) for getting the beach area proper clean for our DOGIT Day celebrations – thanks mate!

It was great to see you all getting involved and enjoying the day we celebrate getting our land back under our own control.

We have more pics to come in our next issue of *Waanta*.

Dave Clarke
LRASC CEO



Social club on the way

With a newly rejuvenated Community Justice Group (CJG) operating in the community, coordinator Ross Norman says they were in a good position to help with the development of the community's new social club.

Mr Norman said he has been assisting with a draft constitution and rule book for the new club, as well as nomination forms for office-bearers to get things up and running.

"I'd rather have the club going so we can be ready to hit the ground, but if we don't have it finished, and we don't have a membership base, we can't make decisions for the club," he said.

"That's just putting ourselves further behind, and it will be Christmas before we can start."

He said he was keen to adopt the Palm Island model of alcohol control.

"Members will be able to buy a limited amount of mid-alcohol range beer, wine and spirits while they are on the premises," he said.

"So we will be offering some variety, but the alcohol content will be less than 4%."

He said he had also worked with ORIC and liquor licensing to help get them over the line.

See page 20-21 for more from Mr Norman.

An easy sell – except for the odd screws



Council store staff Frank Cabrera & Brian Macumboy

New Council Store Manager Frank Cabrera has a background in sales but is unable to think of a way to sell some odd-sized screws he has found.

"There are different size screws, screws that would probably never be used, normally," he said.

"I don't know why we have them; there's a lot of unusual stock out there.

"Stuff that nobody buys, it just sits there, but trying to sell it is something we need to do, I guess."

Mr Cabrera, whose wife teaches at the school, said he was hoping to travel down south to meet a grandson born not long ago.

"It's been a hard year for everyone, especially at Easter time when no one was allowed to leave," he said.



An artist's impression of our new Cultural Precinct





Cook MP Cynthia Lui enjoys visits

The Queensland Government's COVID Works for Queensland (W4Q) program will fund \$1.17 million for the development of the Cultural Precinct and upgrades to the football field, recently re-elected Member for Cook Cynthia Lui announced in July this year.

Ms Lui said she admired the resilience of Cape York communities, but they had taken a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

"Cape York has been COVID-19-free, but the restrictions have meant this year's tourism season has cut much shorter than usual," she said. "As the Cape opens up, the Queensland Government continues to support local businesses and local jobs with the W4Q program. We are taking this opportunity to get much-needed projects off the ground."

She said the projects were required to be completed by June 2021.



TOP RIGHT: At the new terminal; ABOVE: On the Old Site Road

Meanwhile, Ms Lui took the opportunity to inspect completed works at the Lockhart River airport in September.

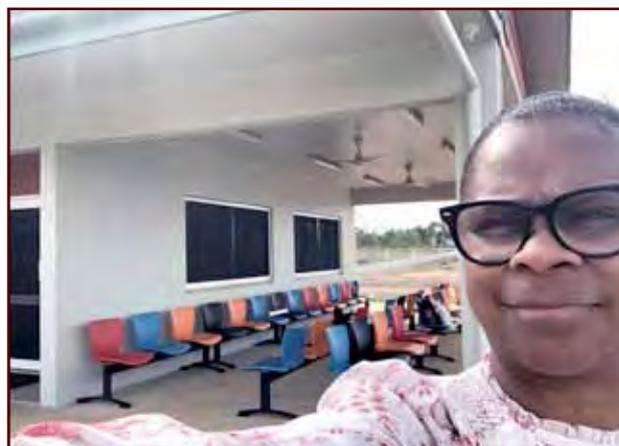
"The Skytrans staff were professional and obviously enjoyed the new, modern surroundings," she said. "The new terminal building includes passenger processing, a secure baggage/air freight enclosure, a disabled toilet, and indoor and outdoor waiting areas for hot and wet weather."

She said the government had contributed more than \$1 million to the new airport and expansion of the Iron Range Cabins accommodation.

"As well as the terminal, the Building Our Regions program greatly increased the capacity of Lockhart River's airport cabins," she said.

"Associated works include fencing, gates, water tanks, footpaths, drainage, and water and electricity supply.

"Before COVID-19 came to



Queensland, Lockhart River's tourist accommodation could barely cater for the region's increase in visitors.

"Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council is also working hard to maintain the World War II-era airport terminal. "It's great to see the local history being preserved."



Corporate Services



Corporate matters update

The Corporate Services team has been fully preoccupied with end-of-year processes like budgeting, operational planning and end-of-year audit.

The audit has progressed well, and we are all happy to see the first audit is almost complete for financial reports from the new accounting software.

Now we have the momentum to continue rolling out the other new modules.

The team has done an excellent job.

The annual operational plan and budget were delivered on time, and copies can be accessed from the council office or council website.

Business development

With the volume of construction works on the increase, the workload has had a corresponding pressure on the accounts team and congratulations to every team member for the role they have played. It takes teamwork to get it done, and this team has coped with the challenges. Team members are well talented with numbers, and they have continued to provide the base support in this massive infrastructure development for the community.

Local contracting is growing stronger, and we take pride



Cairns Office Staff celebrating PNG Independence Day (16 September): L-R Assistant Accountant Anja Culleton; Project Data Officer Elvira Marticio; Accounts Payable Officer Rosemary Hall & Human Resources Officer Maureen Semei.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Council

Operating revenue	\$28,245,128
Operating expenditure	\$28,245,128
Council's capital budget	\$8,591,500
Capital works will be funded by capital grants \$6,602,500, unspent capital grants carryover \$879,000, and Council revenue \$1,110,000	

Aerodrome Company

Operating revenue	\$1,605,920
Operating expenditure	\$1,579,300
Capital expenditure budget	\$2,122,000
Capital works will be funded by capital grants \$1,450,000, unspent carryover \$211,000, council in-kind contribution \$376,000, and Aerodrome Company own revenue \$85,000.	

in every step in the growth of the local businesses and are ready to give more help in financial matters.

We are honoured to welcome Jermaine Thomas, our new Business Development and Support Officer to the Corporate Services team and Lockhart River community. In joining us, he has given the team more strength to roll out support for the growth and development of local businesses.

Local business development is now a major focus area of the council with this dedicated position based in the community. This is to bring the

support near you to unlock the 'own business thinking', knowing that help is available from the council team. The support available is limitless and please find time to introduce your business thinking to Jermaine for his help. He will take you through from inception to record keeping and can also provide some tips in business close down.

Finally ... what about the Christmas break? Could be closing down on 18 December 2020 and re-open on 4 January 2021. Big plans to spend should start now! Thank you.

Stanley





Listening is how Jermaine Thomas wants to approach his new role as Business Development & Support Officer for the Council.

“Listening to what the Council wants and needs, and listening to the community’s wants and needs, then matching them with the Government’s wants and needs is what I like to do,” he said.

“That starts with the services the Council wants to provide – the store, workshop, waste management, roads, housing – and just seeing where I can help them as ‘little businesses’.

“The position extends from Noleen’s expertise in developing skills training, it’s matching the skills that are needed with the skills base we have, and hopefully growing that.

“That’s where jobs and opportunities are, for people to start their own business and do whatever they like.”

He said it wasn’t just about the nuts and bolts.

“Nature, culture and language are big things,” he said.

“There are a few projects I’d like to pitch to Council in the area of diverse language groups, nature and culture for example.

“My job is primarily to help with start-ups, or people who are in business, to help them to continue to run their business a bit better and grow their business.



Business Development & Support Officer

Jermaine Thomas was **BORN** in Johannesburg, South Africa, moved to Australia at the age of 3, and completed all his schooling in Perth, Western Australia, before moving to Sydney to look for work. His many **JOBS** included everything from customer service, sales and hospitality, before he travelled the world and returned to Sydney to work for P&O Cruises for seven years. From there he completed a **MASTER of BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION** in Cairns before landing his dream job in the Lockhart River Aboriginal township.

“They need to know it’s a long process, maybe even a 10-year process but there are already some good examples around town of successful businesses, so it’s easy to find good examples of good work.”

He said he was excited at

the opportunities in town.

“It’s a new position so yes, I’m excited,” he said.

“It’s all community-led so come and yarn with me what your vision, mission and values and I’m here to help facilitate that as best I can.”



Working together in the Lockhart River bank and post office was Office Manager Deanka Accoom & Cert III Business Trainee Darlene Accoom



Engineering Services



Much of September will be well-remembered in Lockhart River as the Spring without a garbage truck doing its rounds in the community, Workshop Supervisor AJ (Anthony) White says.

Later that month, he said, they finally appeared to be ‘on top’ of things.

“It’s been going through a major midlife overhaul,” he said. “After valves broke off inside the head, it required a full engine rebuild with a new turbo; we had to flush out all the coolers because they were all full of metal and oil, and it looks like we’ve just got it running again now.”

He said they were very happy to hand it back so they could get on with their usual maintenance and prevention work.

“We’ve been having major hydraulic overhauls on some of our heavier machinery,” he said.

“The boys have been working hard doing bottom-end repairs on the motor of the dozer out in the field job site at the pit, and then just the general catering to all the council needs.

“There’s a contractor

crew working Old Site, and there’s also the council boys working out on the main road, so we’ve got quite a bit of machinery in here at the moment.

“The NPA fellows have brought their own gear and mechanics, but being remote, you can’t always bring everything with you, so they do still pop into the workshop from time to time.”

He said staff-wise they were steady, steady and always looking for more.

“We currently have one tyre fitter, one boilermaker, one apprentice and a trades assistant in the workshop and we are looking for another trades assistant,” he said.

“So whether they’re skilled or not, or just have an enthusiasm to come to work five days a week and learn, I’d be happy to take on more workers.”

TOP: Napoleon Short, AJ White & Carlsen Accoom; MIDDLE: Works Coordinator Wayne Lavender & Mac Training Glenn Groves; BELOW: Lightning repairs by Pommy, George & Solomon





Our roadworks

Our local contracting crews of performance in 2020, Project

“We have been working very hard on the Old Mission Road since early June,” he said.

“The weather and sorry business kept the pace down for a while, but at the busy end of the season, we are now seeing most of the crew working on the job a legitimate 80-hour week, almost every week – that means they leave home about 5.30am and get home by about 6.30pm.

“At the time of writing, we are racing to get the work

done before the wet comes.

“We certainly have a challenge on this time with an early wet predicted, but the contractors have made sure everything is in place for their crews to make the most of the time we have.

“The contractors are the ones who step in to operate when the boys need a fatigue break, which means everything keeps moving, and we maximise our productivity.”

He said between the truck drivers and the contractors there was usually about 24

people at prestart meetings each morning at 6 am.

“We are really happy to see Marco (Accoom) doing a great job operating one of the graders,” he said.

“Awa Mick Williams has also joined us for the season on the dozer.

“It is a privilege to have him, as his grand reputation as an operator is well-known in construction and mining circles.

“I’d also like to thank Noleen Clark in the WASC office for her efforts.





warriors...!

have stepped up to a new level Manager Mark Spencer says ...

“We try very hard to keep the documents flowing quickly for contractors and operators – when we have this much equipment and this many workers on deck, there is no shortage of paperwork at the end of each week.”

He said at present the Old Mission Road was open all the way out to Old Site for light vehicles.

“The road has improved since then too,” Casper said.

“The goal is to make the road safer, more robust, and extend its open time and

suitability for a wider range of vehicles.

“Wider and higher and more rock at crossings.

“Year by year we are getting there.

“The team get a great deal of satisfaction out of seeing the community getting out and using the road.

“On weekends, the traffic to Old Site and out hunting is far greater than we have ever seen.

“Cyclone Trevor may have trashed the bush and the road, but he has also

delivered us an opportunity to rebuild it.

“We now have a solid platform which we can quickly craft back into shape at the beginning of every season, providing employment and great early access to Old Site and country.

“The effort and commitment put in by these crews are immense, and the pride they have in their work is there for all to see.

“Admire their effort.

“Applaud their commitment.

“Drive safely.”





Building Services

Building Services is yet to catch up after a difficult year of managing staff around COVID restrictions and quarantine processes, Director Regis Edmond writes ...

We still have some work that's been carried over from last year's program that we have to complete this year.

It's been a bit of an issue to get staff to come to Lockhart during the quarantine period.

The restrictions meant anyone coming in had to quarantine for two weeks which is quite expensive in time and money.

We still had to pay them during the quarantine period as well.

So many of them were choosing to stay in Cairns, where there was plenty of ongoing work.

We're looking at the future work we have, and our capacity to complete that



ABOVE: Rod Kotzur, Regis Edmond & Ronny Getawan

work on time if the pandemic doesn't affect us again.

QBuild has put some work into the community, but it's still quite limited.

We still have some carpents that need to be completed and some renovations.

We've also been working on

other government-funded work, such as the four cabins at Iron Range, next to the airport.

They're nearly completed, and we're going to start another two in the next month or so – two larger cabins.

We've also started the airport fencing, which is quite a big program, and there's still a lot of fencing to be done in the town as well as maintenance work and refurbishments.

The old canteen is also not far off completion, there are still a few things that need to be put in place for that to actually open, but we'll see how it goes over the next few months.

We still have plenty of work to keep our own staff going for the year.



ABOVE: Painters Thomas Abraham & James Macumboy





ABOVE: Mapping out the new BBQ shed down on the beach front were carpenters Kyjuan Accoom, Smithy Bally & Alistair Bowie; BELOW LEFT: Carpenter Phil Watt working at the police station, school and on other local jobs; BELOW RIGHT: Kevin Toward working, working, working on fencing at the airport.





Community Development

My immediate focus has been on meeting people in the community, Dominic writes ...

It's been a very tough time for the people of Lockhart, and I really want to understand and listen to them about what they think the challenges are and where the opportunities might be.

I know they're doing it tough at the moment, there's been a lot of sorry business.

But having said that, I can see strengths in Lockhart River I haven't seen in anywhere else – all we need to do is peel back the layers that are the potential of the community to start coming together as one, so they can have and support the programs and initiatives they want to see.

In my work, it's not about me doing things. I see my role as connecting and empowering people in the community so they can facilitate the initiatives and programs they want to see, and that's what ensures success – when the community gets behind things.

Indigenous Knowledge Centre

With the Indigenous Knowledge Centre, for example, we're still finding our feet.

I'm happy to say the State Government and the State Library of Queensland have been very supportive, so we're just working to familiarise ourselves with what needs to happen, focusing on what the community wants, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

I'm also looking at our women's and men's groups.

We have some great facilities here, but for different reasons we haven't



Director of Community Development Services Dominic Stower was **BORN** in Rockhampton and grew up in Duaringa, near Woorabinda (Gangulu Country) and has held **JOBS** in sport and recreation, including PCYC Indigenous Programs across South West Queensland. He says he is **EXCITED** to have a three-year contract, which means he can plant seeds for longer-term projects.

had the engagement we'd like, so we're really looking to restart things and get the community actively involved.

Yarning in a safe place

Whether that's pool competitions or jam sessions for the men, or sewing and cooking for the women, it's all about just having a yarn in a safe environment where they can relax and hopefully put people in a better state with mental health and wellbeing.

In terms of the women's shelter, we're looking at reinvigorating a few things, and hopefully, a young, female worker, who has career aspirations, will take up some work there.

We know our young people are struggling a bit at the moment; Krystal Dean is running the show on her own, with Steven Bally working out on the road crew, so we're looking to have another person help us out with some sport and recreation ideas.





Morning yarns at the IKC

We have particular concerns at the moment around the attendance rates for high school, so this is very important to us because we're getting more high school aged young people coming to the centre.

Coming together

The Colour Run was a good example of the whole community coming together for a school initiative which we hope will help us work towards giving young people a reason to go to school.

There are other issues in the community which also make it difficult; it's a big ask to expect a kid to go to school if they have a neighbour partying until 5 am, for example.

They've only had a couple of hours sleep, so to put in a full solid day and keep on track is very difficult, and I empathise with the young people who are struggling.

But – to use an old saying from Jonathan Thurston: 'You've just got to keep turning up'.

Once they're in that habit, they're in a

much better position to get a job and be the community leaders of tomorrow.

Our current elders have been carrying the torch for a very long time, but now I think they think it's time for the young people to carry that torch on their behalf.

We really want some of these young school leaders to start stepping up to the plate and be young leaders here and now in this community.

And if they want to go somewhere else, that's great, as long as they remember their community will always be here waiting for them to come back.

Be happy

Finally, I'd like to say what's most important to us is that our workers are happy.

A happy worker is a productive worker, and our focus is to support our workers in a way that when they wake up each day, and they come to work, they are looking forward to it.

I believe their happiness is our success.





New Community Justice Group Coordinator Ross Norman has already impressed by going 'above and beyond' with his help for stolen wages claimants in the community, Director Community Development Services Dominic Stower says.

Mr Stower also said he had high hopes for the recently re-formed justice group which now involved representatives from most sections of the community.

"I'm very happy with what Ross has been doing so far," he said.

"He's spent many hours of his own time in the community knocking on doors and helping claimants to the BELAW stolen wages payments."

Mr Norman said he had enjoyed every minute of his work in Lockhart River so far.

"We started from scratch here because we haven't been operational technically for about 18 months," he said.

"The previous coordinator and some of the other members have passed away, so we only had three active members.

"I've increased that to nine, and we've got young people, elderly people and not so elderly people.

"COVID hasn't helped, but we're currently meeting once a month, generally the week before court."

He said he could see many opportunities – with rejuvenated men's and women's groups, for example – to start planning some prevention work, rather than seeing people ending up in the justice system.

"We're planning on doing a number of bush camps and so on, and recently the



Community Justice Group Coordinator Ross Norman was **BORN** and **GREW UP** in Bowen, south of Townsville. He **WORKED** for Department of Justice for 20 years, private practice solicitor in Townsville for five years, then in Cairns for ten years, then briefly in Aurukun as Community Justice Group coordinator before five years as Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council CEO (Aboriginal Shire Council Chief Executive Officer) and eight years as Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council CEO.

Wujal Wujal Justice Group was going to visit," he said.

"I've also been working with child safety, probation and parole where we'll be taking on some of the community service work and parole reporting.

"And we've been talking to a number of stakeholders, the police and other departments within the council itself to draw as many connections as possible.

"We want to keep people here, but at the same time we need to get the message out: if you get into trouble, you've got to pay the community back.

"It's no good going to jail, it helps no one; we can generate community service work, but for the moment, as I say, we are starting from scratch."

He said there was a big bundle of things – which meant opportunities – for the CJG to work with.

"Ultimately it's about trying to stop things happening in the first place, which is what all these groups are all about," he said.



JUSTICE GROUP : NEW COORDINATOR ROSS NORMAN

- Help You if You are a Victim of Crime.
- Help if you are going to Court.
- Can tell your life story to the Court.
- Assist You get the Help You want....
 - eg- your lawyer
 - DV shelter
 - ATODS
 - Counselling
 - SPER fines
 - Probation Officers



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HAPPENING IN A SPACE NEAR YOU!





The Queensland Government has taken several initiatives where opportunities for employment attached to the HACC should become available very soon, Director Community Development Services Dominic Stower says.

“There are opportunities with NDIS (National Disabilities Insurance Scheme) and QCSS (Queensland Community Support Scheme) coming up,” he said. “We need people who have some experience working in the health system, so they can identify people in the community who might qualify for support, who aren’t accessing it.”

MEANWHILE, HACC worker Bessie Hobson (pictured left above with Beverley Hobson) said that while accommodation work had stepped up over the past month with the re-opening of the Cape, the number of meals they were doing every day had dropped to less than 20.

“It’s been very quiet,” she

said. “There are some people in Cairns on dialysis.

“With COVID, we have to do things a little differently now, especially with our accommodation back up and running.

“We had a long and beautiful break, but now it’s good to see everybody back on board and staying here again.”

LEFT: After School Care with regular visitors, the Girls from Oz. They were Ella Farrington, Eliza DeCastro & Jazmine DeCastro, Dominic is also in the picture.



BE CAREFUL!

Ngana Malngkanichi Pama Cultural Heritage archive contains pictures and voices of Indigenous people who have passed away.

This archive has been gathered from a wide range of sources and sometimes contains language and views that may be offensive to Aboriginal people. While Ngana Malngkanichi Pama Aboriginal Corporation does not support such language and views, it is considered important historically to present this information without alteration. Where appropriate, access to such items is subject to restrictions.



The Ngana Malngkanichi Pama Cultural Heritage Archive was opened earlier this year and is being well cared for by Umpila clan group representative, Johanne Omeenyo.

Ms Omeenyo said it was important to her to bring back a lot of their materials that were held by others and to make the material accessible to those who wanted to use it.

“It’s a good place for all our families to access photos of their old people if they want to have a look, and it’s restricted to anyone outside of the community,” she said.

“It’s based around a ‘cloud’; it’s not on the internet where anyone can access it, it’s restricted and private.

“It’s only for the community to use and access information.

“I think it’s a great opportunity to have this because we can start looking

at doing cultural programs with the school as well as with the whole community – elders, youths and kids.”

She said they had enjoyed great support from anthropologist and long-time Lockhart River friend, Athol Chase.

“He’s an anthropologist who worked with our old people back in the 1970s and 80s, recording a lot of material,” she said.

“He suggested the Ngana Malngkanichi Pama Cultural Heritage Archive would be good as a whole-of-community based program because he had information from each clan he wanted to put in so all the family clans could access it.

“He and David Thompson have done a lot of work for us.”

Director Community Development Services Dominic Stower said it was an exciting opportunity.

“This is such a great opportunity for us to support the community when they come to find out stories about their mob, as well as the story of Lockhart River,” he said. “It’s also a chance for them to find out more about who they are and the history of the town, which can help establish a stronger sense of self-identity.”

He said they hoped to host a photo exhibition sometime in the future to inspire everyone to become a part of the archive’s success.





Dear Elders and community,

With a mixture of sadness and joy, I have decided to step down as CEO of the Puuya Foundation in December. Time flies - I have been living in Lockhart River on and off for 18 years now and truly value your friendship and kindness. You have taught me so much. Working together with you to strengthen puuya has changed my life.

From my very first visit, I fell in love with your courage, culture and spirit. I was inspired by you and also shocked by the disadvantage experienced by the community. I wanted to help you develop and achieve your vision for yourselves, your clans, families and community. This is why I set up the Puuya Foundation in 2008 so that there was a leadership space for your dreams and priorities, with the right support to achieve them. I brought many new partners and donors to the community, and I thank you for your trust in me, welcoming them to Lockhart River.

I thank you for the privilege of leading the establishment and a decade of enormous growth in the Puuya Foundation. Working together, we have overcome many obstacles and achieved so much, including the establishment of the Kuunchi Kakana (families together) Centre. This was a 10-year dream, achieved in four years. The only centre of this type in Queensland that has been driven by the community, and enabled by an innovative partnership between philanthropists, local, state and federal governments.

We have shown that our Puuya Approach can work as it is community led. We work with the right partners; we learn from each other; we are embedded in the community, and we value culture.

The foundation's establishment stage has now come to an end. The next stage of our development will see us consolidate this work, grow our funding base and generate ways to share our successful model in other communities. As we look to embark on this next stage, I know in my heart and mind that it is the right time for me to step down as CEO. For the foundation, it presents a great opportunity to appoint a new CEO, one with the skills and experience necessary to build on our successes and direct the exciting next stage of Puuya Foundation's work.

I will contribute to the new stage of development by remaining on the board and assisting the board in recruiting and mentoring a new CEO.

I look forward to seeing the Puuya Foundation grow and succeed in its vital work of developing everyday leaders. I sincerely thank Chair, Dottie Hobson, the board, our community partners and our wonderful staff for their incredible efforts over the years. I will miss you all.

My heart will always be with you in Lockhart River.

Denise Hagan

Founder and CEO, Puuya Foundation



Champions back new funding initiative for Puuya Foundation

An exciting new budget initiative will enable a philanthropic organisation to access and leverage funds to support their capacity-building work in Lockhart River over the next four years.

Puuya Foundation Chair Dottie Hobson said their highest priority was to support Lockhart community goals by embracing an early childhood focus and build capacity around parents and community.

Ms Hobson said the State Government's approval of funding for the pilot 'Indigenous Futures: Social Investment Partnership Fund' in Lockhart River had initially been delayed by coronavirus restrictions, which delayed the State and Federal budgets.

"We'd like to thank our Ministerial Champion, Transport & Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey and Lockhart River Community Champion, Director General for the Department of Local Government Warwick Agnew along with our Patron and former Governor-General Dame Quentin Bryce, for their continued and ongoing support for the Puuya Foundation," she said.

"They have been strong advocates for this initiative which means the State Government will match committed contributions to

the Puuya Foundation.

"That money might come from the private sector, Commonwealth or local government over the next four years, and will enable the Foundation to deliver agreed social services to the Lockhart River community."

Lockhart River's innovative early childhood centre 'Kuunchi Kakana', was established four years ago and in May last year was at risk of immediate closure unless additional funding was secured.

At the time Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Wayne Butcher sent an appeal to all levels of government looking for support.

He said the centre ensured the community's early childhood cohort (0-to 5-year-olds) had a secure pathway for seamless transition from early childhood to pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary education.

"The establishment of the Kuunchi Kakana Centre is a great example of the private sector creating public value that would normally be fully

funded by government," he said.

"The centre is an outstanding example of innovation in creating a facility which nurtures community empowerment and inclusiveness, demonstrating to our community families that education is the currency of the future.

"Here we have an organisation and a centre which is enabling and supporting life changing outcomes for our community by breaking intergenerational inequality – one child, one family, one community at a time."

He said having access to a sustainable education from early childhood onwards was key to creating resilient, knowledge-based and self-sufficient remote communities.

Ms Hobson said support from the State Government was a huge boost for them.

"This support from the State Government is a powerful and very tangible way to close the gap for the educationally disadvantaged in this remote North Queensland regional community," she said.





Health Services journey through some testing times



ABOVE: Director of Nursing Josh Stafford & Karen Koko

Lockhart River Primary Health Services has been through quite a journey over these past few months, Director of Nursing Josh Stafford says.

But, he said, with on-site coronavirus testing giving a result in 45 minutes, things were feeling much more comfortable.

“At the very beginning, everything was very in-your-face,” he said.

“We had a biosecurity zone up; we were very careful, and everyone had coronavirus at the forefront of their mind.

“But since the wall’s gone down and there’s been free movement around the state, everyone’s getting a little bit complacent.

“The message we want to get out is that the threat of coronavirus

coming to Lockhart or the Cape is not over.

“It’s a lot less since Queensland has shut their borders, but there’s still the potential.

“The way that we’re going to catch it early and stop it potentially is by testing people.

“Before there was a bit of shame for people to come in and get tested because we’d do the swab and then we’d send people home with a mask on their face, and they’d have to wait at home for two days for the result to come back.

“But what we want to let

everyone know now is that we can do the test here at the clinic.

“We’ve been given a brand new machine, which you’ll see in the photo, and that means that we can do the test and get a positive or negative result back in 45 minutes.

“So the message is simple – if you’re flu-sick, if you have a runny nose, a cough or a sore throat, or you’re running a temperature – come to the clinic!”

He said testing was the key to keeping the virus under control.

“If coronavirus comes into the community and one



RFDS initiative helps with patient turnaround

Patients may have noticed the clinic now has two attending doctors every week, instead of just one. That's thanks to a Royal Flying Doctor's initiative, Director of Nursing Josh Stafford says they were only too keen to take on.

“Basically, what it means is Elicia and the doctors who have come before her are in their second year after graduating uni and completed their internship,” he said. “They’re coming out on a 10-week placement, which means we have less time waiting for the doctors, and the two of them can share the load, and the calibre of doctors we’ve had come out has been phenomenal.”

Dr Elicia Tyerman said it had been a great clinical challenge.

“I’ve had a lot of experience working in areas with limited resources, so it wasn’t exactly new for me, but it is interesting,” she said.

“Being in an area where just to get a transfer or to be reviewed for any kind of examination we have to fly people out, is definitely new.

“I really enjoy the challenge

of having to rely on clinical acumen to decide who needs what investigations because that dictates management.

“It’s about who we can manage from the clinic, particularly with the nurses here, who do an excellent job.

“I think that changes the amount of care that we can provide, and it changes the health outcomes if we can’t get on to things as quickly as we can.”

BELOW: RFDS Nurse Lisa Wisely, Dr Elisha, Nurse Donna Goulter and Dr Micke Hill



person has it, we’ve got to find out who their close contacts are, who they’ve been close to, who they’ve been sharing cups and plates with,” he said.

“And they’re the people we have to keep away from other people, our old and sick people.

“Most people who get the

coronavirus, they’re going to be absolutely fine.

“It’s going to be like a cold, but it’s the old and sick people who could die from it, and that’s not what we want to see.

“We also want to assure the community that we’ve got so many plans and policies that Karen and myself have

worked really hard on.

“So we know what to do if it comes into the community and we can assure people we’ll handle it very well.”

Quick Note: Josh also thought the community might like to know Dr Maddie has had a baby boy and Dr Jacki has had a baby girl.



Lockhart River best seller at CIAF

Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation (LRAIC) achieved the highest value in sales compared to all the other art centres at this year's first 'online' Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF), CEO Enoch Perazim says.

"CIAF continues to be a substantial revenue contributor annually," Mr Perazim said. "COVID cut that down, but team CIAF quickly readjusted to deliver well despite the challenges.

"During the online art fair period, Lockhart River sold \$30,000 worth of art over a five-week period.

"Artworks sold at full price, no discount, for buyers from New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria.

"The winners are our artists."

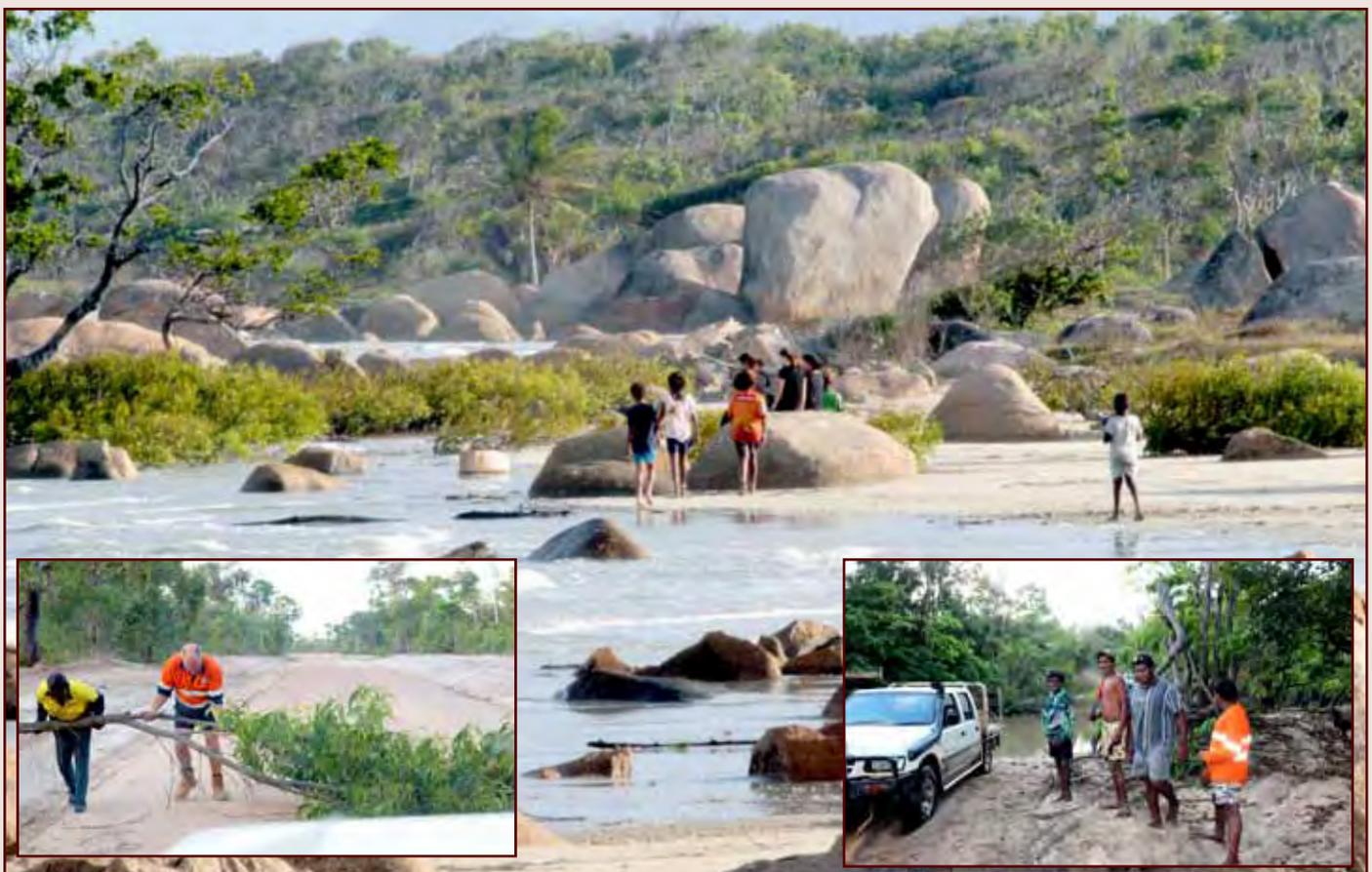
He said the online success had sparked an accelerated process for developing the LRAIC's own high-resolution website, which will be separate to their existing website.

"Essentially, we are working on completing six weeks' worth of web development work within 10 days with the objective to go live and trading in November this year," he said.

"As soon as our online shop goes live, I will return to the community as the online shop will operate 24/7 all year round.

"Additionally, the Arts Centre will employ artist Josiah Omeeny on a casual basis from 20 October 2020 to 4 December 2020.

"Josiah will fly into the community for the duration of his temporary employment and work with myself and the rest of the team to plan our 2021 program."



INSET LEFT: Geoffrey Warradoo & Casper moving trees moving a tree on Old Site Road

INSET RIGHT: Needing some help on the newly rebuilt Old Site Road

ON THE BEACH: Kids and the Girls from Oz

