



# Yarrabah News

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

V3 Issue 8 THURSDAY 9 May 2019

## Welcome back march draws high praise from Governor

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## Queensland Governor enjoys first visit to Yarrabah

Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey and his wife Mrs Kaye de Jersey praised Yarrabah State School for their 'welcome-back' march initiative on their first official visit to Yarrabah last Friday.

The visit included opportunities to meet with a variety of community members at the schools, Council and a community morning tea hosted by the Arts & Cultural Precinct.

Mayor Ross Andrews passed on his apologies for not being able to attend due to a pre-planned family commitment, which also included Gungandji King Jabaan.

His Excellency congratulated the school on its initiatives such as the welcome-back march.

"You are fortunate in having families, school staff and a local community so invested in your success," he told staff, students and community present. "Your school motto is Aim High Like a Seahawk, and I encourage you to do just that."

"The seahawk is very special because it is one of the few species that occurs nearly worldwide. It thrives in all habitats."

"Aim high while you are at school, and, like the seahawk, you will find success wherever you choose to go and whatever you choose to do."

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His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey also met with elected members of the Yarrabah Shire Council and discussed a number of projects underway in the community including the jetty project and local festivals.

"I wish you well with the seventh Yarrabah Band Festival in June," His Excellency said.

"I understand you are expecting an even larger crowd than the 5,000 who attended last year. What a wonderful location for a day-long cultural celebration bringing together leading musicians and community performers."

Deputy Mayor Michael Sands said the visit was a success.

"We had several points of connection due to him being a retired judge from the Cairns region," he said.

"I remember him out here in Yarrabah in the early 1990s and having discussions with him.

"He's got direct contact with Ministers all the time and he's appointed by the Queen, he's not elected there, so now we've touched base with him, we can use him to get access to Ministers on things like housing or health.

"He even gave us as a Council an invitation for when we're down in Brisbane."

Cr Sands said it was good to meet his wife as well.

"She was very down to earth," he said.

He also said it was clear the Governor and his wife were very proud of their children and grandchildren, who have Cherbourg and Woorabinda connections.

Cr Nadine Cannon said it was an honour and a privilege to meet His Excellency and Mrs de Jersey.

"On behalf of Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and the community, it was an honour to have them visit our beautiful Paradise by the Sea," she said.

"It was great to see the acknowledgement, respect and appreciation they had for our cultural identity."

She said the Governor's entourage enjoyed a 'sneak preview' of the upcoming exhibition 'Djabu Gilga Yigan (Land Sea Sky)' and the following morning tea which was attended by Elders, YASC staff, police and other local agencies.

"I also want to acknowledge our local people who were proud and humble, and appreciated the visit," she said.





# Community gets behind back to school march



The Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) team had their regular post-holidays ‘Welcome Back’ march last week, as part of their Back to School campaign.

The aims of the RSAS Team are to support families and the community with engaging positively in their child’s education, with a strong focus on attendance.

“By having this march we hope to send a strong message to all members of Yarrabah community about the importance of education and attending school every

day,” RSAS Team Leader Errin Mundraby said.

“We want our Community to know that they have the support of local services walking with them on their journey, and that there is every possible opportunity for our children to be the great leaders of tomorrow and into the future.”



# We need

Kids need sleep to learn!  
Tiredness affects everybody!

High  
volume  
sound can  
affect  
kids  
hearing!

Keep your music to yourselves b





# Our Sleep!

Tenants hosting  
disruptive parties could  
be prosecuted for  
a number of  
offences!

*It is a risk to our  
Paramedics and their  
patients if they have  
not had adequate  
sleep!*

Your music affects everyone  
around you in more ways than  
you can imagine. Council doesn't  
want to make more rules but we  
will if it doesn't stop. Think about  
it and think about the people  
around you!

**because we don't want to hear it.**





# 'Youpla' focus for Jamal's visit

Former NRL player Jamal Idris and his brother Isaac Simon have taken up ownership of a funeral plan business, now called 'Youpla', which was exposed last year as being non-indigenous owned despite being called the 'Aboriginal Community Benefits Fund'.

Mr Idris said his brother and Mum took over the ownership in December last year and they were keen to get that message out to communities.

"That's why we're here in Yarrabah," he said.

Mr Idris and his staff visited Yarrabah last week.

"We've come here to give the community a bit of information about Youpla now," he said.

"We've met up with the Yarrabah Leaders' Forum and Cleveland, and we've met with the Council.

"Youpla wasn't owned by Aboriginal people but now it is.

"Everyone's been welcoming,

and it's been awesome.

"I didn't get a chance to go to the school, I was going to give them a little Q & A about some football stories, but I didn't get a chance because I was with the men's group having a yarn about a bit of mental health, which was really good."

He said it was his first visit to Yarrabah.

"It's it's beautiful," he said.

"We're out here by the water, it's so different to where I'm from, which is Foster, on the New South Wales coast.

"Cold water people! We feel at home by the ocean."



*Lyndel Connolly & Anna Connolly from Yarrarie Cino with Jamal Idris*

## Townsville JCU to host Winter School

This year's James Cook University Winter School program will run in Townsville from 30 June to 5 July, Head of Indigenous Student Services at JCU's Indigenous Education & Research Centre Virginia McHugh says;

"The program offers high school students an opportunity to hear lectures, attend tutorials and participate in sporting and team building activities."

"The program aims to give students an understanding of what University is like, provide insight into the area of study that interests them, and to build capacity and aspiration," Mrs McHugh said.

"The Indigenous Education and Research Centre covers all costs, including travel, so there is no financial burden on families."

High school students in Yarrabah, Gordonvale or boarding elsewhere, are welcome to apply.

More information can be found at our website:

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/ierc/thinking-about-uni> or 4781 4676 or [ierc@jcu.edu.au](mailto:ierc@jcu.edu.au)



Jaeleen Geary is a Youth Development Coach running the Youth Employment Program (Transition to Work) in Yarrabah for Vocational Partnerships Group (VPG) here in Yarrabah.

She has had some success.

She said several young people have completed their Cert III Rural Operations Course as well as an-other small group who have gained employment with Queensland Health (Business Admin traineeships) and Voyages Resorts in the Northern Territory. Those based at Queensland Health will be doing a



Certificate III in Business as well as receiving on-the-job mentoring and professional development from their supervisors.

They will be based at health facilities around the region.

She said Rondell Bounghi - top right - worked very hard to gain employment in her own community.



## Proud to be with Wugu Nyambil



I am Kimberley Gillan, Wugu Nyambil's new Economic Development Officer.

My job is all about creating more jobs!

My first impressions is Yarrabah is a beautiful place with tremendous potential.

Already I can see the need for more enterprises to serve the local community and opportunities for Yarrabah to tap into the growing Cairns economy.

My role is all about supporting local businesses to expand and take on more employees.

I am also here to help new businesses get started.

If you are interested in owning your own business I will have more information in the coming weeks on the support we can offer.

I come to you with a background in rural economics along with strategic and business planning.

Most of my previous work was in northern Victoria.

I have also been involved in projects in northern New South Wales, Logan, south of Brisbane, and the Atherton Tablelands.

I love working in rural communities because there is often tremendous untapped potential and unmet demand.

When this is combined with a willingness to work together, I know we have all the ingredients needed to make things happen.







Make Life Matter

## JCU Winter School for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Applications close 5pm Wednesday 15 May 2019



This program offers Year 10, 11 and 12 students the opportunity over five days to live on campus and take part in academic lectures and team-building activities.

To find out more visit:  
[jcu.edu.au/lerc/thinking-about-uni](http://jcu.edu.au/lerc/thinking-about-uni)



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Yarrabah News is published fortnightly by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Yarrabah community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor.

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook!

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For rates and/or more information contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

Yarrabah News is online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

OUR next deadline is  
**Thursday**  
**16 MAY**  
**FOR PUBLICATION ON**  
**Thursday**  
**23 May**