



Yarrabah News

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

V3 Issue 10 THURSDAY 6 June 2019

Band Festival hits a high note



Pictured Left to Right: Robert Mailer (ABC); Simon Buchanan (QMF); Lucrecia Willett; Mayor Ross Andrews; Minister Leanne Enoch & Joel Edmondson (QMF)

Just days before this year's Yarrabah Band Festival, the event has won a Queensland State Government's Reconciliation Award for 2019.

The Festival was one of five statewide winners who took out awards in the categories of 'Community', 'Business', 'Education', 'Partnership' and the Premier's pick.

The Band Festival, which started in 2013, won the 'Community' category because it "attracts visitors to the small community, fosters cross-cultural collaboration, promotes engagement with Indigenous communities and provides career pathways for the region's musicians".

Palm Island's Centenary 2018 events were recognised as 'Highly Commended' in the same category.

Mayor Ross Andrews said the award meant a lot.

"On behalf of the Yarrabah Brass

Band, Council was very happy to receive the award," Cr Andrews said.

"Lucrecia Willett, Elverina Johnson, band leader Greg Fourmile and many others have worked hard with staff from Queensland Music Festival (QMF) to form this exciting partnership over the past seven years.

"The award means a lot to the Yarrabah Brass Band members as they were the ones who really started us on this journey and we commend them for their vision and effort.

"A big thank you to all of the sponsors and the strong partnerships that have made this event bigger and better each year.

"Special acknowledgement to the

State and Federal Governments as well as Tourism and Events Queensland for their investment each year – well done Yarrabah!"

Brass Band leader Greg Fourmile said it was always good when there were positive results for the community.

He said he also wanted to acknowledge the work of the previous Council and their support.

Local MP Curtis Pitt also offered his congratulations.

"Congratulations Ross and the whole of the Yarrabah community," he said on Facebook.

QMF, also on Facebook, said they were honoured to be a part of the recognition.

From page 1...

Band Festival hits a high note

“We are incredibly honoured that the Yarrabah Shire Council was recognised as the Community Award winner for the 2019 Queensland Reconciliation Awards for their work with the Yarrabah Music & Cultural Festival,” QMF said.

“Every year, this incredible event encourages thousands of visitors to witness Yarrabah’s beauty, take part in its rich cultural heritage, and experience all the wonder that this incredible community has to offer.

“We are so proud of how quickly this fantastic event has grown and invite you to experience it for yourself this June as the Yarrabah Music & Cultural Festival returns.”

Awards Ambassador Johnathan Thurston extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the finalists and winners.

“I’m so honoured to be Ambassador for these awards and have the opportunity to witness what’s being done across the state to create meaningful change and positively impact the lives of Indigenous Queenslanders,” Mr Thurston said.

“This year’s winners should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved – they are certainly well deserving of this accolade.”



MEANWHILE, as the community looks forward to next weekend’s Band Festival, Mr Fourmile said in its seventh year now, the Yarrabah Band Festival continues to grow.

“It has gotten bigger every year, showcasing local talent, culture and the Yarrabah community,” he said.

“The band has been practising in readiness for the Festival, so

hopefully things will go great for us again this year.

“This year we will do a couple of songs we have done previously but we are looking forward to a huge

finale to the night.

“If you’re in the area come and support us and enjoy the day.”

The 2019 Festival is on Saturday 15 June from 11.30am.



Arts precinct offers great big support

Yarrabah's Arts and Cultural Precinct is gearing up towards two great big events in the coming weeks, all under the banner of 'Jabu Birriny' (land and sea).

Starting with 'Friday Night at the Museum' Cultural Festival on Friday 14 June, the precinct will 'come alive' with arts, food, story-telling, traditional dance from Buru Guman (One Fire), Morning Star and Kutubi Gura-Buma Dancers and the Yullui Cultural Dance Group, and music, including a special performance by Mau Power, the Black Carubians and Night Owls (Barry Cedric).

On Saturday 15 June – the same day as the Yarrabah Band Festival – is the opening of Jabu Birriny (land + sea) exhibition which was co-curated by State Library of Queensland (SLQ) and the Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct and is now ready to be taken throughout Regional Queensland with the support of Flying Arts Alliance.

"The two events will be free, family-friendly and all-inclusive," Art Centre Manager Darrell Harris said.

"The event and concert encourage the sharing of cultural and stories, and provide a platform for education to mainstream and

Yarrabah Music & Cultural Festival coincides with the launch of Jabu Birriny (land + sea) at the Menmuny Museum Gallery. Developed by State Library of Queensland, Jabu Birriny celebrates the unique environment of Yarrabah and its ongoing importance to culture and people.

Learn more at

<http://jabubirriny.slq.qld.gov.au/>

Indigenous audiences.

"The idea was to try value-add to what is already happening in Yarrabah around the whole band festival weekend, to make it a couple of days of art and culture – it's our contribution to the festival.

"We are two separate gigs in association with the Yarrabah Band Festival and what we want to see is that event grow into a strong community event for future cultural tourism for Yarrabah.

"That's where I see our part coming in, we're part of the bigger picture and we are also supporting our local artists on the Friday night, including Patrick Mau, who is donating his time to come over and do some community work."

He said Jabu Birriny was first exhibited in the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane at the end of 2017 and into 2018.

"That exhibition was down at the State Library, and will tour around regional Queensland from here," he said.

To mark the second anniversary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the history of Yarrabah's role in struggle was acknowledged by a small group of First Nations delegates from various states and territories who gathered at the Tree of Knowledge on the community's foreshore last month.

Uluru Statement comes to the

Particular tribute was paid to Alf Neal who was awarded an Order of Australia for his services to the 1967 Referendum.

Mayor Ross Andrews welcomed the visit, particularly those from the University of New South Wales Law School and the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council.

"This was a day to remember and reflect on the contributions made towards our struggle by Indigenous leaders from Yarrabah and Far North Queensland over many years," he said.

"We commend the visit by the delegates and the leadership group and feel very honoured and privileged to have the Uluru Statement from the Heart come to Yarrabah on this second occasion.

"We'd like to thank the Elders for allowing us to showcase its spiritual message."

Former Referendum Council co-chair Pat Anderson said she had been involved in the Uluru Statement of the Heart processes for more than two years.

"I am part of the group that held the regional dialogues more than two years ago now," she said.

"And out of that process came the Uluru Statement from the Heart, made two years ago today (26 May).

"We decided to mark or celebrate that by coming back here to Yarrabah, to the Tree

of Knowledge, to honour and pay respect to the amazing role that the people of Yarrabah have played in the journey for justice.

"To recognise our sovereignty and the role of Yarrabah people who have been involved with the struggle for a really long time."

"I'm really glad we came, it's such a beautiful place and I always enjoy being out here.

"I knew the story of Yarrabah and it's widely known - there is such a significant role that this little community has played in the political life and development of more contemporary Australia.

"The struggle for us has always been about that we are respected and accepted as First Nation people, and, it's been a generational struggle for justice, so Yarrabah is a perfect place to celebrate two years of the wonderful Uluru Statement from the Heart."

UNSW Pro Vice Chancellor (Indigenous) Professor Megan Davis, said herself. Mrs Anderson had been hearing a lot about the history of Yarrabah since the beginning of the process.

"Uncle Paul Neal brought us out here and took us around the whole community and talked to us about the history of Yarrabah over the years, the impact of things like the Indigenous Advancement Strategy upon the community, and the contemporary global policies that are having an impact upon people," she said.

"It was a really moving experience for us to come out here, and when we heard that Alfie won an Order of Australia



Pics by Christine Howes

ment from the Heart Yarrabah Tree of Knowledge



Pic by Jimmy Widders

medal this year, for his work on the 67 referendum, we decided we needed to come here on the second anniversary of the Uluru Statement to acknowledge that work.

“Now we have a new government, we are about to do the hard job now of getting the Uluru Statement implemented.

“So it will be great to connect with Yarrabah and provide whatever results we can – talking about the Uluru Statement,

t-shirts – anything that we can do to help the community to own it.

“We need all of our mob to own this, and to be unified, and I think that’s really the message is, in terms of being here, like hearing the stories and the political strategy behind ‘67 and the campaign – one of the most important things was the unity of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community in the reform.

“I’ll just end by saying there’s a lot

of support in Australia now for this reform - civil society and the corporate community are all endorsing the Uluru Statement and all saying that there needs to be a referendum so that our people can have a Voice.

“So that’s what we’re doing first, we’re fighting for a Voice in Parliament, so that every time the government does anything about us, they have to come and talk to us first.” [More pics next page...](#)



Uluru Statement from the Heart...

...comes to
the Yarrabah
Tree of
Knowledge



Pics by Christine Howes

Councils mark 100 years of elected women

December 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the first woman elected to any tier of Government in Australia after Susan Grace Benny was elected to Brighton Council in Adelaide, South Australia in 1919.

Local Government has led the way in women's representation, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) said in their 100th anniversary tribute to women Councillors.

They said it was pleasing local government now had the highest percentage of women councillors in Australian history, but said there was still a long way to go.

Just over one-third, or 34.94% of Australian councillors are women.

Yarrabah's own Councillor Nadine Cannon (*pictured*) said she felt Yarrabah had many local, inspiring, confident female leaders heading and administering several local agencies including Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation, Mutkin Residential Aged Care, Gindaja Treatment and Healing Centre, Yarrabah Women's Corporation, Yarrabah Seahawks Junior Rugby League and both our Prescribed Body Corporate organisations (north and south) as well as Reverend Annette at St Alban's Parish and the Yarrabah Leadership forum itself, made up of the chairs and CEOs of all our local organisations.



2019 YARRABAH BAND FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS - Ticketed events require pre-booking

PANDANUS WEAVING: NANA HOPE PATTERSON & AUNTY JUNE NOBLE

Please join two of our Gunggandji Elders Mrs. Hope Patterson and Aunty June Nobel in a three-hour workshop where participants will learn how to prepare and weave beautiful baskets using locally harvested pandanus leaves. You will learn about the local craft of basketry and what it was used for in local cultures, from fishing to adornment. TICKETED - BOOK NOW

SPEAR MAKING: MENMUNY MURGHA

Menmuny Murgha is Gunggandji man, cultural dancer and artefact maker who will be facilitating a special three-hour Spear Making workshop. Learn how to craft your own traditional spear made from local Yarrabah timber. Spears have been made by the Gunggandji tribe for thousands of years for different purposes. Learn about the Gunggandji culture whilst making and decorating your own spear to take home. TICKETED - BOOK NOW

SHIELD MAKING: SHATNER PATTERSON

Over three hours you will work with local wood to create your own spear with designs that are unique to the region. Join senior artist Shatner Patterson to learn the art of making shields and how they were used as part of the Gunggandji cultural practices. TICKETED - BOOK NOW

SHELL NECKLACE MAKING: LYNELLE MURGHA

Lynelle is Gunggandji woman and local Yarrabah resident. Please drop in to this free and free shell necklace making workshop utilising shells and materials found on the Yarrabah beach. This experience allows participants to take home a small piece of Yarrabah's rich culture by the sea. FREE

GRASS WEAVING: ELDER PHILLIP CANUTO

Phillip Canuto is a local Yarrabah Elder who has learned the ancient art of grass weaving from his Grandmother since he was a young boy. Phillip is one of the only grass weavers left in Yarrabah. His weaving skills and techniques are used to construct beautiful baskets and Dilly bags. FREE

DAMPER MAKING: AUNTY MILLIE MAYWEE

Aunty Millie Maywee is a long time and active member of the Yarrabah Elders Group. She is also a great cook!!! Please drop into sit down with Aunty Millie to learn the art of making ashes damper on the fire. Then enjoy a hot cuppa and your damper in the great company of the Yarrabah elders. FREE

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPACE: MERINDI SCHRIEBER, LINTON SCHRIEBER AND JOHANNA MAZA

Karrkay Binalmal (Children's learning in Kuku Yalanji) is a culturally safe space for carers and babies aged 0-12 months to be exposed to a variety of different immersive First Nations early childhood practices. These include story-telling, tummy time, songs, sensory woven playtime and ochre handprints! FREE

UPCYCLED TYRE FURNITURE: LIAM MAZA

Liam is an emerging artist with cultural connections to Murray Island and Yidinji nations. Liam works with existing materials in regional and remote communities as a process of empowering locals to produce accessible, functional furniture pieces. Liam will be working with a group of Yarrabah locals to produce the tyre furniture for the festival site. PRE-FESTIVAL

Yarrabah Hub open for business

Free training and support for local and new businesses is on offer now at Wugu Nyambil's new venture, The Yarrabah Hub.

Economic Development Officer Kimberley Gillan said they had picked up the keys for Unit 5, 1 Noble Drive late last month.

"Like The Space in Cairns, it will be a centre for business excellence," she said.

"A place where local businesses can access free training and support and a place where new business ideas can be tested and explored.

"We are trialling a 'Drop by Mondays' program where local businesses and people with a business idea, can drop by without

an appointment between 8-10am or 1-4pm on any Monday other than a public holiday.

"Whether you have dreams about becoming your own boss, or you want to take your business to the next level, this is the place to get you started."

She said the Hub was already open for business but would be officially launched at Wugu Nyambil's first birthday celebrations on Wednesday 19 June.

Melora Mundraby has made the Peninsula Girls Rugby League side and is currently raising funds so she can play in Brisbane. For more information see Virginia Ambrym.

GOOD LUCK MELORA!

Debts go to recovery agency

As per a decision made earlier this year, all outstanding debts owed to the Council are in the process of being registered with debt recovery agency the Collection House to ensure services are not at risk, Acting CEO Avril Yeatman says.

She said they had been left with no choice.

"We are owed more than \$3 million in outstanding rent, day care fees, service charges and block holder fees," she said.

"The recovery action is regrettable but if we are to maintain services for everyone to use, we have no choice.

"Matters are now out of our hands so if you do have a debt with Council you will be contacted."

She said anyone at risk of falling behind should make an appointment to work out a payment plan as soon as possible to avoid recovery action in future.

Wugu Nyambil says congratulations to Andrew Wilson who has gained employment with Gunggandji Rangers. Well done!

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!

Yarrabah News has a fortnightly print run of 200 hard copies (with thanks to The Plan Man) and 1069 'likes' on Facebook. We accept paid advertising.

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

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

OUR next deadline is
Thursday
13 JUNE
FOR PUBLICATION ON
Thursday
20 June