



Yarrabah News

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

V3 Issue 15 THURSDAY 1 August 2019

Safety takes top priority for YASC

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council workers have passed and committed to a SafetyCircle program with flying colours, resulting in a renewed workplace culture of appreciation – and safety.

An event held last week celebrated the SafetyCircle declarations they have signed which were about taking responsibility for the consequences of choice, and physical and psychological health and safety for the entire workplace.

A new committee will oversee the Council's renewed culture of safety in the workplace by members who include Preston Andrews, Sam Bann, Colin Fourmile, Felisha Bulmer, Leona Worrel, Avril Yeatman and Safety Officer Les Bassani (*pictured right*).

Mr Bassani said they were happy to declare their ongoing commitment to 'working inside the circle'.

"Going home safe and well every day is very important," he said.

"We all have families...I want to see my grandchildren grow up to a good age."

He said their SafetyCircle training had started over a year ago and had featured several different events.

"In the past few months we have set up this new Safety Committee of workers who have put up their hand for YASC to address issues as they arise and conduct inspections from within the Council team," he said.

"I find workers are more proactive about safety, identifying hazards within the community and notifying myself, as the Workplace Health and Safety Officer, to come and have a look and to rectify.

"Also sharing ideas about the best way forward, the culture is changing to a positive and Council workers are being more responsible with daily Tool Boxes, pre-starts, JSA and Risk Assessments and SafetyCircle events.

"I take this opportunity to thank SafetyCircle and Marty for his persistence and energy during his time here with Council."

Safety Circle Managing Director Marty Bradfield said the levels of participation in Yarrabah had been fantastic.

"I'm thankful you're declaring this Safety Circle commitment because you have been greatly involved in this project and your level of



participation has been fantastic," he said.

"So make sure you all go home safe and well, keep up the good work and keep up the focus, which means keep on talking about it and keep on interrupting each other about it and stay safe."

YASC CEO Leon Yeatman (*pictured left with Mayor Ross Andrews*) said he was taking on his new role seriously, as should everyone on staff.

"The Council, as an organisation, ought to provide the right tools, the right equipment, so you can do your job," he said. "Conversely, you have a duty to make sure you get the job done properly.

"So not only do you come to work, you actually know that you're going to get home from work safely."

MORE PICS INSIDE!





**YASC staff
committing to
safety at work**

Welcome aboard! Yarrabah's newest local bus service is well underway!

Dindarr Buses started taking passengers from Yarrabah to Cairns last month and Dindarr operations manager Shaun Murgha (pictured) couldn't be happier.



"It's been a long time coming but we finally got the service on the road," he said.

"We're running three return services a day to Cairns Monday to Wednesday, and an extra late service on Thursday and Friday nights."

Shaun said Yarrabah residents could catch the bus from any of five stops in Yarrabah – Djenji, Mourigan, Reeves Creek, Bishop Malcolm Park or opposite Council chambers – by following the timetable.

"They can also call to book a home pickup if they need it," he said.

"The bus goes to Cairns Central or you can also organise a stop at any other destination you need, such as Earlville, Mt Sheridan or wherever."

He said the service cost \$25 per single trip (\$50 return) and \$5 for kids.

"We also offer a weekly pass for \$60 where passengers can ride the bus as often as they want," he said.

He said the response had been good so far.

"People love that they can get into Cairns in an hour, spend three hours there and get a ride back to their door," he said.

He said the company had plans to expand services as the word spreads and the bus attracts more passengers.

"We'd like to offer Saturday services, which we trialled for a while, but there weren't quite enough passengers yet," he said.

"We're also offering charter services for several Yarrabah clubs and groups too."

Shaun said they hoped to open an office in Yarrabah soon and he was also looking forward to the Dindarr ferry, expected to come to Yarrabah in the next couple of years.

Wugu Nyambil Economic Development Officer Kimberley Gillan said the new service was a "game changer" for Yarrabah.

"This is great news for the many people in Yarrabah without access to a vehicle and a real game changer for Yarrabah," she said.

"I encourage everyone to support this service."

Residents wanting to find out more about Dindarr Buses can call Shaun on 0477 035 054.

Playgroup families design their own shirts

Local workers and playgroup families have joined forces to design their very own polo shirt, specifically for Yarrabah families who attend the Communities for Children (CfC) play groups.



The groups are held at Djenghi each Monday from 10am to 12 noon and another session is held in the town area of Yarrabah at the Knowledge Centre every Thursday 10am to 12 noon. Both groups operate during the school term.

The shirt design started with ideas from the local workers and families which then became a drawing, with the end result a polo shirt that was solely community designed.

Playgroup Queensland then took the design to a graphic designer, The Branding Business, to bring the communities sketch to life. The polo shirts arrived for the playgroup families last month and everyone was very happy with the result – they look fantastic.

The Yarrabah play groups are facilitated by Playgroup Queensland and funded by CfC.

Thank you to all who contributed to the design of the polo shirts, the CfC Yarrabah Committee for their vision and assistance in establishing the play groups, and Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services for their support with the playgroup trailer.



Former CEO welcomed back into role

A former labourer, who used to clean at the council and worked as assistant manager at the old Yarrabah tavern during his university holidays, has returned to the YASC as CEO for a second stint after an eight-year break.

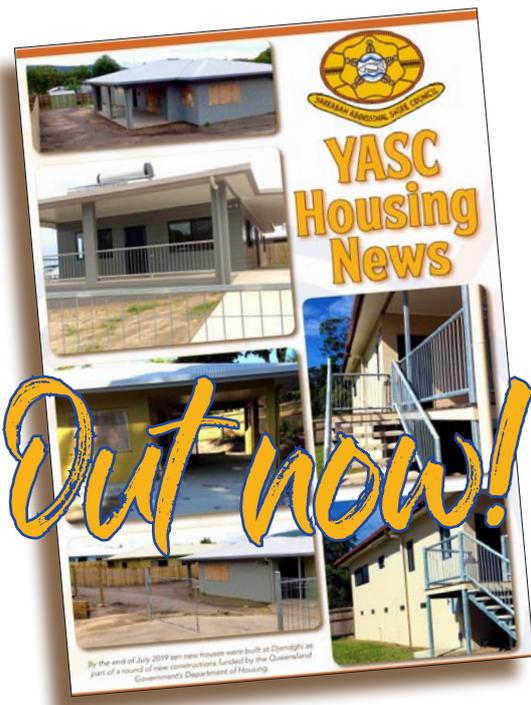
Leon Yeatman has come back to his traditional Gunggandji homelands as an award winning Manager (Australian Institute of Management - Rural Remote Manager Qld 2010) with more than 20 years of experience working in the Indigenous Management Sector in Health and Local Government.

While he was away he spent six years as CEO in Mapoon, became a Member of the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council, was employed for a year as Stakeholder Engagement Officer at Community Enterprises Queensland and recently spent four months acting-Regional Manager in Water Services for the Department of Resources, Minerals & Energy. In Yarrabah, he previously assisted as SES volunteer, Seahawks coach and board member and a Community Volunteer. Late last year he was re-employed by YASC as a



Strategic Planner. Mayor Ross Andrews congratulated Mr Yeatman on his new appointment.

“It’s great that we have a local CEO here and he brings a lot of expertise in management and governance to us,” he said. “In local government we say we are all one big family, so welcome back to the Council, and congratulations.”



This year’s second Service Provider’s Day saw more than ten agencies set themselves up at Bishop Malcolm Park for a good few hours of sharing, providing info and networking between the community and themselves. YASC departments, including the Knowledge Centre (thanks for the pic!) also participated on what was a successful day.

See the YASC Housing Team today for your copy!



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.

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Yarrabah News has a fortnightly print run of 100 hard copies (with thanks to The Plan Man) and 1,112 '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
22 AUGUST
FOR PUBLICATION ON
Thursday
29 August