



# Yarrabah News

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

**V3 Issue 16: AUGUST 2019**

## Parents called on to act as services placed at risk



Paramedics, police, health services, Council and even the Yarrabah Seahawks are united in their disappointment and anger that a small group of unsupervised children has managed to put a much needed local ambulance out of action for several weeks and continues to threaten the safety of local and visiting workers with their behaviour.

Paramedics Richard Murgha and Lavin Keyes Jnr said they were particularly disappointed after the work they had put in to reach their positions.

"We went through training together," Mr Murgha said.

"We're qualified paramedics.

"We want to work in our community.

"We want to serve our community.

"We want to look after our community and people within the community to the best of our ability, and when these sort of things

happen it's very disheartening."

Recently-appointed Yarrabah Police Officer-in-Charge Brett Jenkins said while he loved working in Yarrabah, he was very disappointed to have to chase up young children, who should be in their parents care.

"This comes back to community responsibility and community expectations," he said.

"Everyone has that responsibility, we don't want our nurses, doctors, teachers and other people who provide a service feeling they're not safe to go to work because of these kids.

"From our perspective, we're looking at alternatives for bringing them to the consequences of their actions.

"We're particularly looking at youth conferencing where they can sit down with the people they are affecting."

He said the potential penalties were much harsher.

"There is the Criminal Code, which defines things like wilful damage right up to manslaughter or even murder if someone is more seriously hurt," he said.

*...Continues...*





“Slingshots are against the law under the Weapons Act, they are an offence and we will seize them,” Yarrabah Police OIC Brett Jenkins said.

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services CEO Sue Andrews said it was a serious issue for her and her staff.

“People in vehicles are at risk of serious injury if a stone shatters the windscreens/ windows or passes through an open window and hits a person sitting in the car,” she said.

“Some of our staff do not want to risk injuries or damage to their cars and may choose to look for other jobs – there is a shortage of people with the right medical skills in Yarrabah or Cairns, so that could mean a service can’t operate.”

She said they were working with the police and other community groups to fix the problem.

“It’s time for us to come together as a community to stop this,” she said.

“We are asking everyone to please talk to children about pelting rocks at cars and

explain to them about how dangerous it is.

“Encourage your neighbours to do the same, so the word is spread, or even better, organise a get-together of people in your street and see if, as a group, you can all agree to keep an eye on each other’s kids.

“That means if they are seen throwing rocks at cars you can let each other know, so parents can talk to their children without causing any arguments.”

Mr Jenkins said they had to get through to the parents.

“We’re just trying to get the message down to the ground level, right at the base, because they are the parents of the kids doing the wrong things,” he said.

“They’re the ones who we want to open up their eyes and have a think about the consequences of what their kids are doing –how stupid it is and how dangerous it is – and they’ve got to stop them doing it.”



Service providers including Gurriny, PLOs and Council are meeting regularly out of concern for a small group of children’s behaviour

## National Redress Scheme open

Over the past few years, there was a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse in institutions.

This was a large and formal investigation that looked into what happened to children who were abused.

The Royal Commission said the Government should set up a National Redress Scheme. The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

The Scheme is a way to support people who experienced child sexual abuse while an institution was responsible for their safety. The National Redress Scheme can only help if the institution responsible for the abuse has joined the Scheme.

The Scheme offers three things:

- counselling and psychological care
- the institution will acknowledge that the child sexual abuse happened, and say how they will stop it in the future.
- a payment.

The Government will look at your application to decide:

- if you can receive redress,
- what types of redress you can receive,
- how much the payment will be.

The amount of payment will depend on what you tell us in your application about what happened when you experienced child sexual abuse and the effect the child sexual abuse had on your life.

You can contact us to find out more about the Scheme. Phone: 1800 737 377  
Website: [www.nationalredress.gov.au](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au)

## Family saved thousands after legal advice sought on probate

A Yarrabah family has been saved more than \$3,000 and the trouble of going through a small mountain of unnecessary paperwork thanks to The Will & All solicitors, who have been regular advertisers in the Yarrabah News for the past few years.

Principal Solicitor Jeneve Frizzo (pictured) said the Public Trustee had wanted the family to get a grant of probate from the court in relation to a deceased family member’s estate but The Will & All had been able to advise an alternative.

“We saved the family about \$3,500 as well as the trouble of going through that

process,” Jeneve said.

“It was a great outcome for the family and we are proud to have helped.

“It is important to seek legal advice as soon as something happens, especially with deceased estates.

“If you wait too long, time limitations might have passed, and with them, your rights.

## Yarrabah visit left ‘huge impression’

Staff from Rork Projects - one of Australia’s leading Indigenous construction companies - visited Yarrabah Community recently as part of a two-day national gathering in Cairns.

Rork Projects is co-owned by Brian O’Rourke and Cairns-born John Paul Janke (Wuthathi and Merium) and is a national Indigenous fit-out and refurbishment company working across the education, medical, corporate and government sectors.

Sixty-four staff gathered in Cairns on 15-16 August and used the event to engage in a half day of activities within the Yarrabah community co-ordinated by Darrell Harris at the Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct.

The purpose of the visit was to provide their staff with a greater understanding of Indigenous culture, people and history, and showcase the beauty of Yarrabah.

On arrival staff they were welcomed by Mayor Ross Andrews and then treated to a range of activities including a cultural tour with Gunggandji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC’s Senior Ranger Daryl Murgha and Ranger Coordinator Brian Murgha.

Staff also enjoyed learning more about traditional arts and crafts with a 90-minute workshop with Elverina Johnson’s Paper Bark Exclusive Arts and Cultural Tours.

The day concluded with an amazing BBQ lunch organised through the Yarrabah Bakery and a special traditional dance performance featuring some of the children of the community coordinated Yarrabah



language teacher Nathan Schrieber.

Staff had the opportunity to wonder through the Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct and also the Yarrabah Menmuny Museum to learn more about the history of Yarrabah and to also see the art and artefacts on exhibition from many local artists.

For many of the Rork Projects staff it was their first time in an Aboriginal community and they all felt honoured to be so warmly welcomed and embraced by the Yarrabah community.

The visit left a huge impression on the team, thank you Yarrabah.



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“The recent vandalism of the ambulance has really dampened the spirit of the Yarrabah Seahawks Teams,” star Seahawks winger Gundyl Costello says.

“I just want the youths in Yarrabah to know that I nor any other Yarrabah Seahawks players don’t condone this sort of behaviour.

“Having only one ambulance vehicle in the community means that we won’t be able to have emergency services available around the clock at our Seahawks Home Games.

“If the ambulance is on standby at Guyala’s home games and another emergency arises in the community, the paramedic is obligated to leave and go and tend to that emergency.

“If in that time one of our players gets injured, we won’t have an emergency service to tend to them.

“This is frustrating for both our players and our spectators as it endangers the beloved Seahawks from having speedy injury recovery.

“So kids when you’re out thinking it’s all fun and games destroying and vandalising community services just know that you’re damaging the communities spirit as a WHOLE.

“We all benefit from the emergency services here in Yarrabah and would be lost without them”

LISTEN UP  
YOU KIDS...



Yarrabah Seahawks in all grades have enjoyed a hugely successful season in this year’s Cairns and District Rugby League competition. Our Seniors finished third on the ladder, Reserves on top and Under 18s narrowly missing the final four on points after a good, strong season. A-Grade will play their qualifying final this coming Sunday at Barlow Park, while the Reserves will play the semi-final on Sunday 8 September.

# FLY GUYALA FLY!



Yarrabah News is published monthly 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 monthly print run of 100 hard copies (with thanks to The Plan Man) and 1,143 ‘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](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

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

**WE’RE GOING MONTHLY!**  
**Our NEXT DEADLINE will be:**  
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