



# Yarrabah News

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

## V3 Issue 20: DECEMBER 2019

# Get ready Yarrabah!

Yarrabah Council has taken delivery of a number of Sun Safe t-shirts for staff to wear as part of our participation in the State Government's Get Ready Queensland campaign, to run from late December through to January 2020.



Get Ready Queensland is about asking our community to think about how they can prepare for any surprises summer may have in store for us here in Yarrabah.

YASC, the Government and the Get Ready Queensland team, including Ambassador Johnathan Thurston, are urging all Queenslanders to check their 'WHAT-IF?' plan to help them respond if a disaster strikes.

Over the past decade, Queensland has been impacted by more than 80 significant natural disaster events, resulting in tragic loss of life and, and more than \$15.7 billion in damage to public infrastructure.

You can follow the Get Ready team @getreadyqueensland on Facebook and Instrgram and @getreadyqld on Twitter to see preparedness activities and tips throughout the week.

For more information on how you can be prepared go to <https://getready.qld.gov.au/>

*We had a wonderful ceremony for our 2019 Daycare Graduates, who will move on to big school next year. It has been a pleasure watching these young minds develop over the past few years and move from Nursery to Kindy.*

*We will miss them dearly but send them off on new adventures with love and good wishes.*

*From L to R: Sieanna Yeatman; Jakiel Richards; Andreas Bounghi & Jakeem Kynina- Myngha: shared with permission.*



# Struggle remembered on new plaque

The walls of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council foyer are sporting a new plaque acknowledging the work of those who took up the challenge of fighting the government for greater control over our community in the 1980s.

Member for Kennedy Bob Katter said three men in particular - Alf Neal Snr, Roy Gray and Michael Connolly - would always be remembered for their work.

"The people wanted to run their own affairs," he said. "They didn't want to be told what to do by white fellas out of Brisbane, they want to stand on their own two feet. And it was inspirational to me that after 150 years of oppression and suppression they were still able to see the bright shining light of what could be and they were determined to get there."

"When I was appointed minister it was paternalism at it's worst."

"This community had 12 decision makers, every one of them were white fellas, almost all of them from Brisbane, and every aspect of our lives was run and controlled by them."

"But these three blokes: Mick Connolly, who is now an Anglican priest here; Roy Grey, who was a great,

inspirational fighter; and Alfe Neal who has never given up - he was in his 60s then and he's still going strong. The three of them were just determined."

Mayor Ross Andrews said the plaque marked the return of the title deeds to Yarrabah in 1986, finally bringing the Yarrabah community under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community's (Administration, Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act*, or *Community Services Act*.

"It's a very significant day for our community, where we celebrate the legacy of our three leaders who took up the challenge to the Queensland government about having a greater say and having greater control of our community," he said. "We celebrate their courage and vision for our community."

"It was a long, hard struggle but handing over the title deed back in 86 meant we came under the Community

Services Act, which gave us a greater say in building up our community.

"It was a tool we could use to achieve self-management for our people, it meant a lot to us back then and today as well."

He said many of those challenges had carried forward to the present.

"Those challenges continue today, where all of the negative social indicators are still pointing in the wrong direction," he said.

"So even though those challenges remain today, we continue to try and work with government, non-government organisations, private, corporate and the other sectors out there to help us."

"We have worked really hard in terms of building up relationships, and with the efforts of Bob Katter to help us achieve our vision back in 86, we continue with this struggle."

He said it was important to keep working for what they wanted to achieve.

"We had discussions today about getting people engaged in real economy, small business as well, building up an economy where we create employment and we access other markets out there such as tourism," he said. "It's important for us to continue on that journey, to continue to work hard, and to continue working with government to try and overcome many of the challenges we're facing."



Pics thanks to Candice Doyle Sexton, Avril Yeatman, Patricia Doyle & Leah Debee

# Christmas Cup 2019

## SeaGals win on Palm Island

Yarrabah teams - especially the SeaGals! - did well in this years Christmas Cup on Palm Island earlier this month.

It was the first time the competition had been played in more than 20 years and featured three matches: local team the Butler Bay Bulls defeated the Woorabinda Warriors 26-24 for the Hector 'Dibby' Poynter Shield; Yarrabah's own SeaGals defeated the Barracudettes 48-4; and in the main match Barracudas won over Yarrabah 36-18.

In the women's match, Sezen Oraloglu

was named Best Back and Timmekka Hunting-Singleton Best Forward.

Barracudas coach Fred Bulsey snr said the main game was a good action-packed showdown.

"The big crowd of more than 800 loved the football, which we won, but credit to Yarrabah for coming down," he said.

It was a long day for players and

supporters who left Gordonvale at 2am on the day for a 320km bus road trip before catching the ferry to Palm Island with the Woorabinda Warriors, who had travelled twice that distance.

It was generally agreed it had been a hot but fun and relaxed day, and a great opportunity to catch up with families before Christmas.



## Disaster management group wraps up 2019



Yarrabah's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) has had what they hope will be their last of several meetings for 2019 last week.

LDMG Chair Cr Michael Sands said they met four to six times a year, depending on what was going on.

"We need to keep up with the weather changes and this last meeting was important because we're into cyclone season now," he said. "We're asking the community to 'be prepared' for whatever might happen this season."

Members of the LDMG include Mayor Ross Andrews (deputy chair), Cr Colin Cedric, CEO Leon Yeatman, Policy & Governance Director Avril Yeatman, SES representatives Andrew Garrett & James Gegg; Rural Fire Service rep Murray Hayton and others from Police; Gurriny; Mutkin; Gindaja; State Health; Yarrabah State School.

# COMMUNITY NOTICE

## THE WILL & ALL

Inheritance Law Queensland

We help with  
Wills and Probate

Letters of Administration on Intestacy  
& related superannuation and insurance  
claims

Please contact Jeneve Frizzo 07 4084 0570



*Congratulations to Certificate III in Early Education Childhood and Care graduates Deon Pearson and Raymond Harris.*

*Raymond and Deon did their studies at TAFE in Cairns and work at the Yarrabah Police and Citizens Youth Club providing out of school hours care.*

*They completed their certificate with the help of the Remote Area Teacher Education Program (RATEP) – a community-based teacher education program that supports community members gain qualifications in Education and Childcare.*



# Taking pride in Reserve status

A recent Army Reserve parade at the 51st Battalion barracks included five successful young people from Yarrabah, who have completed their six-week Army Reserve program.

These successful participants were Sam Stafford, Jockton Fourmile, Travis Burns, Carmille Pearson and Nyoka Thomas.

Wugu Nyambil chair and Yarrabah Mayor Ross Andrews and CEO Leon Yeatman were also there on the day.

Wugu Nyambil General Manager Robert Friskin congratulated the group. "Wugu Nyambil with the rest of the

Yarrabah community congratulates these young participants on their achievement, and it acknowledges the support given to them by their parents and other family members," he said.

"Well done by all involved to achieve this positive outcome.

"The photograph clearly shows the pride and joy shared by these

participants and their respective families."

He said the next Army recruitment intake would occur in March 2020.

"Anyone interested in joining the Army Reserve is encouraged to meet with their recruitment officers who will be around in Yarrabah throughout January next year," Mr Friskin said.



Yarrabah News is published monthly by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes.

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook!

Yarrabah News has a monthly print run of 50 hard copies (with thanks to The Plan Man) and 1,240 '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>

Our NEXT DEADLINE will be:

**Thursday  
23 JANUARY**

**FOR PUBLICATION BY  
EARLY FEBRUARY**

