



Waadanta

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Please note there may be images of deceased persons within this Newsletter.



**On the
road
to our
future**

Mayor Wayne Butcher



It's really good when you lobby for something, and then you attract the investment, and then you deliver it in-house, and then you get the results and the outcomes you want, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

I think our ideas over the years of a 'crawl, walk, run' strategy, has built the capacity and capabilities of our Council work team, community businesses and people.

I'm not a fan of the word 'legacy' but when I see a worker from one of our local businesses walk out of the shop with a bicycle for their kids or a fridge for their house, or they can buy a car or a boat for their family – that's a tangible outcome.

That's when I know the focus and what we've achieved by attracting these investments and then delivering in-house: that's the outcome, and that's an outcome that solves problems.

That's what I appreciate, and that's when I sit at home and think to myself, 'yep, it's working'.

And not only that, there's the ownership

that comes when the community builds it.

Across the board, we've built the new cultural grounds, the new airport terminal, the new cabins, the social club.

If you look at the roadworks that we've delivered, the Nyiimuchin Village subdivision, with another one to come, and all the other smaller programs – that's the satisfaction.

The investment into the infrastructures in particular, whilst we get the outcome of the infrastructure we need, the most important thing is that the community's building that infrastructure.

That creates good local business opportunities and offers more real jobs.

I tell people, don't worry about employment, if you invest in local businesses, employment will come with it.

I've learned not to stress about things you can't pick.

You got to be innovative and you got to have an alternative way of doing things.

As soon as you stop and say, people have let us down today, or the rain has come, if you see those challenges as barriers, you've given up, and you're never going to achieve anything.

You have to say, "okay, we'll just work around it".

Never waste time or energy on something you can't fix.

It is what it is.

Having said that, the weather has been one of our big barriers this year, in all our projects – I think it literally rained every month so hopefully it will be a bit better next year.

But it's been a massive year with record investment in housing and civil



In September I presented at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference, Disaster Risk Management in Brisbane.

We experienced Cyclone Trevor in 2019 and I spoke about before, during and after, and the importance of:

1. being prepared for any natural disaster (prevention);
2. managing events (during); and,
3. cleaning up (after).

I don't think people realised the devastation of cyclones and what they bring to us as a community.

It really opened people eyes up around, "oh, even though they live in the bush, they deal with these things annually".

So we got a really good response, and it was another opportunity, I think, just to showcase Lockhart community once again.

I quite enjoy doing that.

I also had opportunity to meet up with Lockhart Community Ministerial Champion Minister Mark Bailey and Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Brandon Moon.

And this year I've had the opportunity to work on the inside of local government in Queensland, from our representation on the Torres & Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance (TCICA) to being on the executive of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

That's been the chance to represent the 17 Aboriginal shires in Queensland at state level and I think it's just opened doors to a different level of focus.

Having local government status over the years has meant we've had to focus on governance but it has also strengthened us politically at every level.



construction, which we're still finalising.

For the first time in history Lockhart Shire Council has built a road from scratch to bitumen.

It's part of the main road coming in and it's been built in-house by Lockhart Council, local subcontractors and our concrete and culvert crew, with support from Black & Moore Engineering.

Challenges always comes with such large projects, but long term focus on building a better community is all part of the progress.

Cocktails of funding were critical in delivering such outcomes: the Cape York Regional Package (CYRP), Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), Transport Infrastructure Development (TIDS), etc.

I'd also like to acknowledge our own workers and Transport & Main Roads (TMR) for their support and commitment.

I think it's been one of those really hard-working years, which I've spent mostly here in Lockhart.

But I think next year's also going to ... every year seems to be growing, like a snowball effect.





Many Thanks to Hope Vale Mayor Jason Woibo, Councillor's and CEO for visiting Lockhart Community, we appreciated the opportunity to share our knowledge with Hope Vale Shire Council.

Next year our road works will continue but the big project is going to be our new subdivision, and I think everyone is looking forward to our first festival in the September holidays.

That's our goal.

We have got to have a limit to it because of the size of the community, obviously, but we're looking at inviting four other dance teams from Cape York and a Torres Strait Islander group.

Every year we hold it we'll rotate dance teams every year and I think it'll turn out to be a pretty good.

The first one will be a trial and then we'll take it from there.

One aspect of that is the mobile food truck we've invested in.

I'd like to see that set up similarly to the social club, where the Council owns it but we lease or rent it out to those who want to raise some money at events like the festival.

They pay the council the rent and all the money they make from it, they keep it for themselves.

I hope it will start to get people thinking about the kinds of business they might be able to grow.

The infrastructure and the asset they need is there, ready to go.



ABOVE: At the LGAQ Executive Meeting in Cooktown in August – great to bring Queensland's leading policy executive team to the Cape York region. MIDDLE: At the LGAQ meeting in Cairns in October this year. BELOW: our



new food truck is available to lease or rent. What kind of business could you grow with such as asset?!



The Queensland Government introduced Director-General (DG) Government Champions programs in 2004 to assist with the mentoring process in the transition from Community Councils under the Community Services Act to Aboriginal Shire Councils under the Local Government Act.

In that time Lockhart Community has had the privilege to be represented by Jim Varghese OA, Professor Paul Simhauser and Warwick Agnew (pictured below).

Government Champions were a strategy to help us work through the challenges of red tape within State Government processes, creating a direct pathway for working with Government.

Since then Ministerial Champions have also been directly appointed to our Indigenous Communities in Queensland, and for the past five years Lockhart has been fortunate



to have had the ear and expertise of the Honourable Mark Bailey MP (above).

Our Ministerial and Government Champions have been very effective in supporting, assisting and lobbying for our community.



Something I think we all take for granted is that the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes, so on that note I'd like to say I'm enormously grateful to and proud of our Council administration teams here in Lockhart and in Cairns.

David, Stanley, and their staff, have done a wonderful job of managing our finances and all the red tape involved in state and federal government funding.

The need for accountability and the rules around the acquittal of those funds

has grown over the years, especially as we've increased the investment into our shire, but we haven't actually increased the number of workers in administration.

I call them the engine room when I talk to other local government – if you look at an hourglass, the investment is wide at the top, as the outcome on the ground, but in between, that little skinny part in the middle, is the administration team – the engine room – and we couldn't do what we do without them, so thank you.

Finally, I'd like to wish all our families and friends a Merry Christmas, especially to everyone in Lockhart.

I hope they enjoy a great festive season.

It's a time we will always remember the loved ones we've lost over the year, as well as celebrating our families and our growth over time.

I hope everyone gets to enjoy a good break and be rested and ready for 2023 – it's going to be big!

Wayne

Waanta December 2022





A word from ... CEO David Clarke

The story of the 2022 year was one of further growth for our Council and a record civil program delivered, CEO Dave Clarke writes ...

More people than ever were involved in the roadworks between our road gang and our contractor community.

We are so proud of our mob for building, for the first time, our main road from the ground up to bitumen.

To all involved, our heartfelt thanks goes along with our respect.

Have you seen how well our Cultural Precinct is coming along down at the beach?

Our footy field and social club are finally operational, our airport cabins expansion are on track, with new internal roads, to expand our tourism offer, the airport fencing is nearly finished and preparation is moving forward for our new housing subdivision.

Council's policy of "investing in our people" continues to pay off with more apprentices signed up, traffic control,

plant tickets, administration, dogman tickets, security licences, safe food handling, and responsible service of alcohol all delivered.

Putting in two new bores has secured our township water needs well into the future.

Our hard working community development team continue to provide high quality services to our people right across the age brackets.

Thanks for your work.

Lockhart River Airport Manager Peter Wells couldn't be gladder to have all-rounder, and new Trainee Airport Reporting Officer Natalie Green on board to help with the aerodrome and some of the cabins' work.

"Natalie has been on board for more than a month now," he said.

"In other news, the fence is coming along nicely, and will hopefully be finished before Christmas.

"The runway was repainted in September, and we are getting the preliminary work done on the car park and road access to the rear of the cabins.

"We hope that will be ready to go in the new year and otherwise everything else is running pretty smoothly."

Natalie said she was of Maori descent but had called Aurukun home for the past 4-5 years.

"Love the people," she said.

"It's always a pleasure seeing all the locals here getting on and off the plane.

"Overall the job is hard work, it's hot and sweaty and I love it, I'm going to have a good set of guns and pins when I'm done."





Store Supervisor Benny Macumboy has four staff and growing, “as is our stock”, he says. “We have some good ideas here for Christmas presents,” he said. “We are open to the general public, so if you’re looking for something ‘handy’ to give someone for Christmas, we’re like a mini-Cairns Hardware here.



“From stoves to toilet seats, we can help you out. We have lawn mower and whipper snipper parts, cleaning supplies, plumbing and carpentry goods, cement – all off the barge, every week.



“Ice is also here, and free to locals.” He said they were also assisting with Christmas orders coming in on the barge. “We have heaps of Christmas packages coming in on the barge,” he said. “They usually come to Lockhart River by barge, we sort them out and pass them onto Community Development to help us get them to where they have to go.

TOP: Benny Macumboy; MIDDLE: Store workers Elijah Bosuen & Mawella Warradoo; ABOVE: Store worker Carlsen Accoom serving Samson Wasiu

“We have fun every day here.”

Although it has been a challenging year, Council remains in a sound financial position.

The year featured controlled and strategic capital investments that provided downstream employment and business opportunities for our township.

Our concreting team is doing really well, our bitumen truck will minimise our need for outside contractors and open the door in future to more small business opportunities.

It was great to see our first home-grown building contractor, AW Bowie Carpentry, grow over the year.

We look forward to seeing more of our people come forward with business ideas as Council continues to fund Jermaine, our Business Support and Development Officer.

Come tell us your ideas and we will do what we can to help make them happen.

I want to thank everyone for their work throughout the year and I want to pay a special tribute to our elected Council.

I don’t think our community realises how hard they work behind the scenes to bring investment into our town, year after year.

Great leadership and great work.

With Christmas coming we look forward to the festivities but we also give our minds to those we have lost through the year.

They are all in thoughts and we thank them for the time they spent with us.

I wish everyone a relaxed and happy Christmas break as we look forward to family time before the challenges of next year.

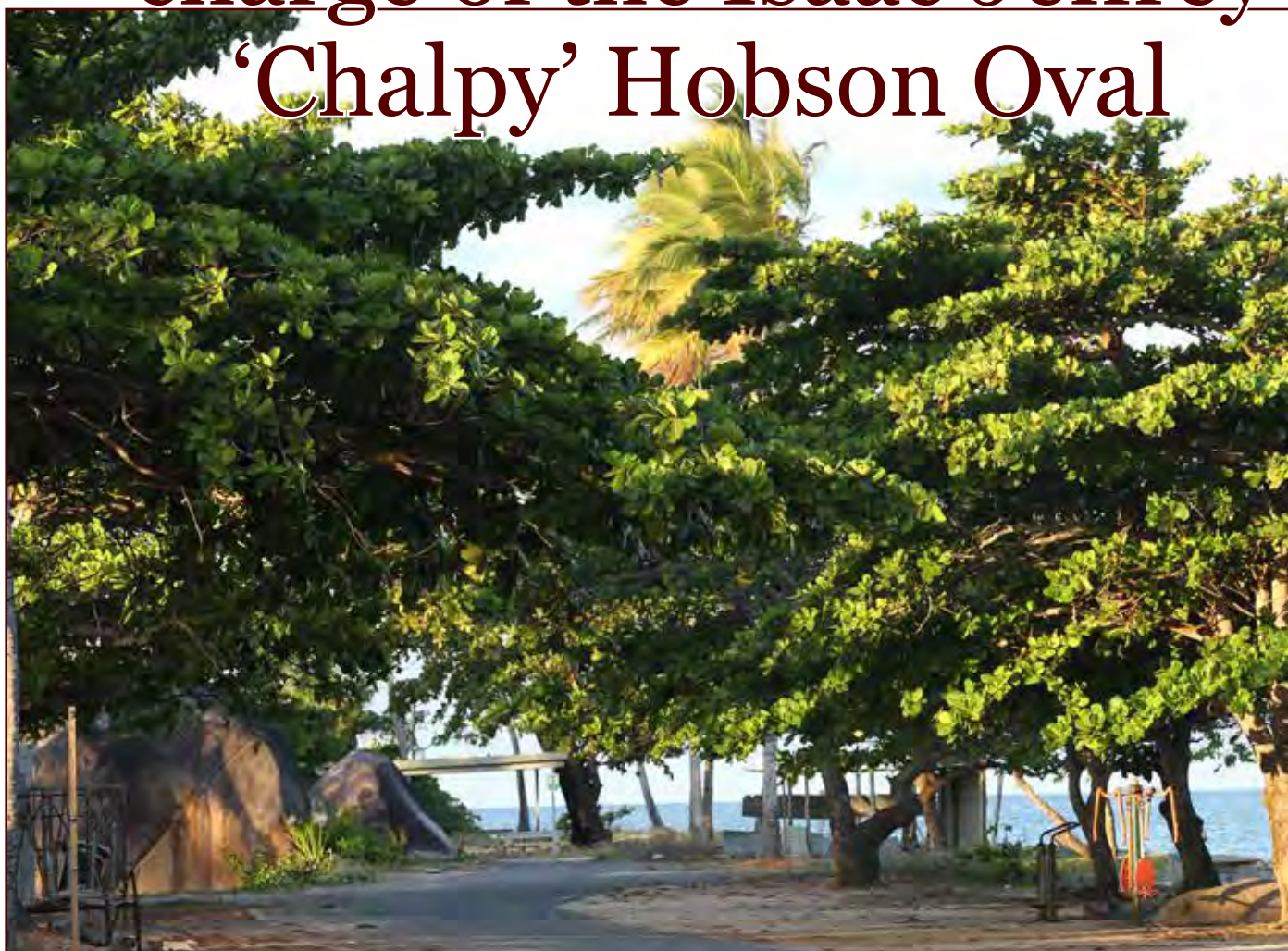
Look after one another and stay safe.

Dave





Memories from the man in charge of the Isaac Jeffrey ‘Chalpy’ Hobson Oval



ABOVE: some of the beach almonds planed by John and a team of five women in 1995.

NEXT PAGE: hot day? No worries, John will be out there anyway!

Apparently unfazed by the heat, on any given day you might find Lockhart River’s own horticulturist, John Pritchard, setting up the sprinklers (he loves that the kids get amongst them, but not so much if they move them!) and/or picking up the rubbish (no bins yet, he says) on Lockhart’s new oval.

He has a busy agenda keeping the oval watered and clean, maintaining the Social Club grounds and planting trees around the town for the Council and school – as he has been doing since about 1995.

He spends about an hour a day picking up rubbish from the oval and

making sure the grass is watered.

He also has a small nursery where he grows mostly bush food.

He said mangoes were popular at the moment for their fruit.

“Actually we need more,” he said.

“They’re successful plants,

aren’t they?

“We planted some, but we started planting in Lockhart in ‘95.

“It was a Land Care environment action program, co-funded by National Parks and Lockhart Council.

“And we continued on from through ‘96 under council funding to develop the





Lockhart community farm, which ran very successfully. “It was, for a long time, the only operating community farm for 10 years.

“Then the CDP was privatised and along came someone else, who took over from the locally-owned and driven CDP and that’s where things crashed basically.

“They were here for seven years as a failure and then someone else came along with the same result, completely unsuccessful of doing anything to do with horticulture.

“And they were here for five years, I think, and now we have another lot, who have abandoned all intentions to develop horticulture in Lockhart River.

“So we’re back on our own really.

“It should really be community-owned and driven and funded.”

He said the farm was community land, owned by Council, and it had been discussed.

“But they can’t run

everything, and that’s the problem, isn’t it?” he said.

“They can’t run everything, and it does cost a lot of money to run something like that, even though it would only take three people to do it.

“So I’m thinking we could maybe develop a place in town and maybe start that triangle between the women’s shelter, the police station, and the school which has good soil, and the water’s on tap.

“You know that triangle of land? On your way to the beach.

“It would need to be fenced, because you’d have to keep the horses out, but citrus, like limes, and bananas.

“Horses eat bananas, but the successful trees around Lockhart are the species the horses and cows don’t like the flavour of, like these figs around the oval that were planted in 1995.

“We’ve learned by trial and error what works and what doesn’t.”

He said there was a tree-

planting coming up on the second last day of school for the year.

“One tree for every year of students,” he said.

“So, especially with the students that go away and come back they can see what’s happened.

“They are mostly beach almonds and really fast growing things.

“Beach almonds are a great tree to plant because they’re the preferred food of the endangered palm cockatoo and local kids eat the almonds inside.

“They’re very quick growing and they’re native, so they tick a lot of boxes.

“We planted those along the beach front in 1995 too, myself and a team of five women, some of whom have passed but they were Alvina, Doreen and Sarah Accoom, old lady Hazel Giblet and Kim Omeenyo.

“They were great workers at the farm there in the first couple of years, we didn’t need blokes working there, we just did it.”



That's the idea!

If you have a business idea and you're keen to get started, Business Support and Development Officer Jermaine Thomas is the one to see.

"I want to help Lockhart River people support and develop their ideas," he said.

"From horse farming to bush tucker or lawn mowing to a juice bar, the potential here is endless.

"I can help with administration, things like Director identifications and Business Activity Statements."

He said the business hub, located next to the shop, was still a work in progress and designed to maximise the potential for economic success for everyone.

"I'm planning some workshops on setting up a business profile, tender or grant writing, business plans and basic computer literacy," he said.

"Being prepared is half the work done, so they say, so I'll be doing everything I can to help potential business owners in our town."

Jermaine said that included looking at the idea of business 'luncheons'.

"Networking is the key to

business development here, just as it is anywhere else," he said.

"And if we can provide strong networking support for our local businesses, that can only help us to develop our strengths."

He said they very nearly had all the tools they needed at their disposal.

"Skylink is a new satellite internet service promising to deliver better internet for remote communities," he said.

"The business hub is looking to purchase and install Skylink to provide faster and better internet experience so we can make the most of the technologies like Xero and other cloud-based software, and Zoom and online learning.

"This is a key to success for the business hub is proper internet which is a critical communication tool for every business.

He said they were otherwise



on track.

"Council have allocated a budget for the Business Hub project and we have quotes for equipment and furniture, designing a floor plan layout and thinking about a colour scheme," he said.

He said he was also keen to be involved in helping the Council prepare its 'Ten Year Community Plan' in the early part of next year.

"We will be holding some focus groups and workshops," he said.

"Themes of discussion will be around social wellbeing, economic management, governance and resource management."

If you would like more information about any of the projects mentioned, have your own business idea or need some business support, you can contact Jermaine on 0408 416 936 or email jermaine.thomas@lockhart.qld.gov.au.



Corporate Services



ABOVE: L-R: Trainee Tamara Piva; Accounts Payable Rhonda Soerge; Purchasing Rose Hall; Director Corporate Services Stanley Mugwiria; Assistant Accountant Anja Culleton; Project & Assets Accounting Joan Kithinji & Human Resources Maureen Semei.

ABOVE in Cairns and LEFT in Lockhart River: Bank & PO Maree Hobson; Training Coordinator Noleen Clark; Briella Hobson (1); Office Manager Deanka Omeeny; Centrelink Agent Olive Pascoe.

The year is over and a new one is on, Corporate Services Director Stanley Mugwiria writes ...

Congratulations to the finance team for achieving another good audit report.

The 2021/22 annual audit was completed and signed on 31 October 2022 and that was within the statutory deadline dates. The auditors issued 'Unmodified Audit Opinion' whereby audit findings confirmed that Council and Aerodrome Company's books of accounts were well kept and in good health.

Our annual report for 2021/22 was completed and uploaded to Council website and hard copies are available from Council offices.

Please spare a moment to have a read on how Council operated during the previous financial year. Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council prepared the 2022/23 Budget and presented to the Council for approval.

The approved operational

budgeted revenue was \$25,557,927 and corresponding expenditure was \$26,423,591 while the capital expenditure was estimated to be \$12,343,869 funded by new grant revenue \$10,790,289 and Council's own revenue \$1,553,580 will fund the gap.

This balanced budget was approved by Council on 29 July 2022 and available in Council website or you can book a hardcopy to be done for you at the Council offices.

We give credit to Tamara Piva and Jordan Harding who recently joined our Cairns office team.

These are young year 12 graduates who have taken up some responsibility to serve their community.

They are really enjoying the challenges of crunching numbers.

We welcome them and promise solid support to grow their

careers in finance.

Council's finance services will close for business from 19 December 2022 and open on 3 January 2023.

This closure period applies to our Cairns and Lockhart River offices. During the Christmas break, only essential services from Centrelink, Australia Post and ATM services will be available for limited operating hours 9am – 12 Noon on 19–23 and 28–30 December 2022.

However if there is any finance related emergency please contact Stanley Mugwiria on 0447 070 649.

To all Corporate Services Staff, what an incredible year! Your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Thank you very much for your dedication. Merry Christmas, see you in the New Year 2023!

Stanley





Municipal Services

I grew up in Cooktown after my parents emigrated from Papua New Guinea when I was a baby, Municipal Services Director John 'Birdie' Bird writes...

I completed my secondary schooling at Saints in Cairns and worked a few different jobs during the school holidays.

I was a civil labourer, pearl diver (dish washer) and hotel worker during school breaks.

After school finished I ended up going to university in Brisbane for six months, but I wasn't ready to study.

So I went back to Cooktown and did a traineeship in water and wastewater management, after a year and a half of hard labour, I figured I might as well go back to uni and formalise my newfound interest in water chemistry.

Since the completion of my university studies I have worked in a construction materials testing



laboratory, managed multimillion dollar coal exploration programs and also completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health.

Most recently, I worked for the health department which led me to my role here in Lockhart River.

Drinking water is interesting stuff, no one really thinks about where the water comes from, you just turn on your tap and it's there!

There is a fair bit that goes on behind the scenes.

Bores, treatment, storage, distribution, testing, external laboratory analysis are all important things that are managed behind the scenes to ensure our water is safe to drink.

Municipal Services includes looking



TOP: Birdie.

ABOVE: Environmental Health Officers Elijah Boseun; Mark Getawan & Kenneth Namok.

RIGHT: Parks & Gardens workers Billy Sandy, Roderick Doctor, Stanley Butcher & James Bally. FAR RIGHT: Alan Warradoo.



Vets urge care for our animals

Vet Duncan Smith and his family Kate and Harriet are regular visitors to Lockhart River and they're happy!



"The condition of the adult dogs in Lockhart River at the moment is fantastic," Duncan said.

"We're really happy the flea, tick and worm situation is under control.

"As a result of that, we've actually had to euthanise a number of dogs with conditions of old age, which we never had to before.

"Whilst it's sad news that we're having to euthanise, they're actually living to ripe old ages, rather than dying of heartworm, pig wounds, or other chronic, often painful conditions.

"So perhaps a key message for the community is that the flea and tick and worm control is largely aimed at increasing both animal and human health.

"It means we are not getting the transfer of what we call zoonotic diseases – the transfer of parasites to humans – which is a long term health benefit."

He said it was important to keep talking to the team, which included Brendan Hobson, even when they weren't there.

He said they were also pleased to have nearly run out of blue collars – with artwork by a local school student – on them.

"If your dog comes in for surgery, they're rewarded with having the nice collar, which is the badge of a healthy dog that's been de sexed," he said.

"And they're really cool collars, he did a great job of them."

He said the one thing they

were not happy about was the treatment of horses.

"The treatment of horses and the number of injuries of horses is unacceptable," he said.

"And it seems to be coming particularly from children and teenagers.

"Horses are being ridden too much without a break and there seems to be a problem in community with people are actually deliberately hurting horses.

"We are working with people in the community, especially the Men's Shed, to get some more bridles made up, and we've got some longer term plans to create some yards and move towards better horse care generally.

"But it's a challenge."

See next page for more...

after Parks & Gardens, Rubbish Collection, Water and Waste Water.

I'm still learning people's names, as the team



is made up of 15 or so people, but I am hoping they share my goal of tidying up community and facilitating positive environmental health outcomes for all of us.

As we know, life in the Cape has its challenges.

We don't have the luxury of reliable communication or ability to run down the road to source bits and pieces we may need to repair or maintain our equipment.

It can be really tough, but at the end of the day all LRASC employees work for the community and we have the obligation of giving community value for what we are paid.

Birdie





Do you love the horses around Lockhart River?

Here are some general horse care considerations:

1. Horses need a regular supply of food and water

An average-size horse will eat about 10 kilograms of food a day.

That's the same weight as a car tyre, a mountain bike or a medium size dog.

They should drink at least 40 litres of water a day.

Because their stomachs are relatively small, and their digestive systems surprisingly delicate, horses need to nibble or graze throughout the day, rather than have one or two meals a day.

2. Horses need hoof maintenance

Routine hoof trimming or shoeing stops a horse from going lame.

3. Horses need vets

At least once a year, horses need to be vaccinated against tetanus and other diseases, and have a dental check-up.

4. Be aware of parasites

Horses are constantly exposed to intestinal worms from the ground they graze on, so they must be on anti-parasites provided by the vet. Carrying a heavy burden of worms can cause serious illness or death in horses.

5. Horses need to be handled

In order to care for your horse it is important that he can be caught and handled with a rope halter.

Speak to the more experienced horsemen in the community if you want to start catching and handling a horse.

A halter broken horse is much easier to help if he becomes injured or sick.

6. Horses need to be ridden with care

Riding a horse is a big responsibility.

The horse's mouth is the rider's communication with the horse and should be fitted with a proper bit and bridle, never just rope or twine.

Never ride your horse for periods of longer than an hour without a break, or at least some access to water.

Tar and concrete is very tough on horse's feet – like walking on sandpaper for them – go slowly if you are riding on hard surfaces.

Horses are individuals but they have common characteristics – jerking, hurting or sudden movements can unsettle any horse, making them difficult or dangerous to ride.

Never hit a horse – proper and respectful communication with a horse is with your voice, your reins (hands) and your feet – respect works both ways with these intelligent and loving animals.



LEFT: Families fishing at the beach; ABOVE: enjoying our new beach shelters were these visitors from Batavia Downs, Isaac Hollingsworth; Freda Booth and Karen Robertson



Building Services



QBuild has given the Council a fair amount of work to be completed this financial year and our building services crews are in full force to get them done by their due dates, Building Services Director Regis Edmond writes.

As always we are looking for more staff.

With some help from external contractors we've been able to keep moving forward.

Our carport and driveways program is almost completed.

We have some home ownership renovation houses mostly completed, as are some upgrades to social housing.

Our Council painting crew has been busy with a QBuild painting program and the

fence at the airport is also moving forward.

We have been working on four toilet blocks and five shelters at the festival and campground, and we are still hoping to get them completed before the rain starts.

On that, we have a few re-roofs and some cleaning up to do for the cyclone season.

So there is plenty of work for everyone.

There has also been plenty of maintenance work around town.

I would just like to remind everyone to keep reporting their maintenance as it happens – don't wait – so we can get the repairs done on time.

Get to the blue phone and report it, and we'll attend to it as soon as we get the work orders from the Department of Housing.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

See you in the new year.

Regis



LEFT: plumber Dillon Hobson; RIGHT: Contractors Dwayne Walsh & Luke Bowler; BELOW LEFT: Rod and Shane at the new toilet blocks and BELOW: Contractors Justin Cabrall & Jacob Witheridge.





Engineering Services

Solly Hobson and his crew worked hard to get a two and a half kilometre section of the road into Lockhart built, prepped and ready to seal late last month.

It's a source of pride to all that it was built from scratch.

"There was a lot of rain," Solly said.

"We had to finish the job by the end of the year, so we've been going flat out since just after April, after those big rains we had."

Council team supervisor John Hansen, said they had also helped Cook Shire out.

"We helped them out when they couldn't get their trucks in, so we fixed up some of their dips so we could get



our trucks through," he said.

"If we hadn't done that we'd have been put even further behind after the rain.

"Even just the other week we had 120mm, or something like that, which knocked us around a bit, we lost a day there because one of the creeks was up to 2.5m until well into the afternoon."

He said they still had a fair bit to do before the next wet season set in proper.

"We've got a far bit of work to get to," he said.

"We've already picked up the soft areas and there was about 12 or 13 patches we've also fixed.

"If we didn't do it, you'd nearly get thrown out of the car because they're rough.

"We had to get that because made it such a safety issue for all concerned, mainly because it was getting dangerous and no one could get in and out, but it's come up real good."

He said they were also working on an airport section,





and he wanted to fix the roads where people were likely to want to camp.

“We’re getting into that now,” he said.

“I’m making sure that they’re finished and I’ll try and get that sealed too.

“So we’re pretty fully on, but once you get going, everyone’s starting to go along and it’s going pretty well.”

Solly said they had just welcomed Tristan Elu, who has been working out at

Cloncurry and in Weipa, back into the crew.

Tristan said he had gained valuable experience out there.

“I’ve been working out at Cloncurry for the past couple of months, on the GPS grader,” he said.

“We finished a town street and a subdivision, then I went up to Weipa to do a bit of road work out to Old Mapoon.”

He said he was happy with his career choices.

“I get to travel a bit while

I’m still young, so try and make the most of that,” he said. “Hopefully when I get old I’ll be back here, working back at home and there’s plenty of income.”

Tristan also said he was keen to do some more training with Grader Operator Brian ‘Rhino’ Ryan while he was back.

Rhino said he was asked to come in to train “a few of the boys” to operate their machines, with a bit of road building experience thrown in.

Continues...





“They’re going real good, picking up a lot of skills,” Rhino said.

“They’re willing to learn and they’re really happy with themselves at the end of the day, they see what they’ve done and they’re very proud of themselves, as they should be.”

Rhino is originally from Townsville and usually works out of Lakeland for the Department of Main Roads.

“They asked me to come in and

I’m happy to do it,” he said.

“I drive every machine, and I’ve been doing this for 20–25 years.

“I enjoy it and I’ve got the patience to teach people, so that makes it even better.”





ABOVE: Our road contractors on Old Site Road.

From the Council Workshop: LEFT: Diesel fitter Anthony Pascoe with Franklin O'Brien (6);

BELOW LEFT: Richard Piva & Jeffrey Hoswell in the workshop

BELOW: Mechanic Alec Omeeny





Community Development

Com Dev have had another busy year with delivering programs to the community, and we are looking forward to continuing to work and engage with community members in 2023, acting Manager Margie Barnes writes...



Currently we have no Justice Coordinator on staff as Ross Norman recently retired.

We thank Ross for his contribution whilst in his position and wish him all the best in his retirement.

The Council has advertised and interviewed some candidates for the role and hopefully a new coordinator will be in place early 2023 to take up the position.

In the meantime work has continued with the Community Justice Group (CJG) in lodging the funding submission for July 2023 to June 2026 and preparing for the rollout of the new program.

We encourage any persons who are interested in becoming a member of the CJG to speak with Ethel Singleton or Karen Koko.

Our Youth program continues to operate and has been working with individual young members of the community following Sorry Business.

If you need help or want to have a talk speak to Krystal as sometimes this can be a big help and if additional support is required other services can be made available.

The program also offers a place for youth to attend as their space and do activities.

They have a range of activities available like pool, darts, board games, jewellery making etc and also session planned for particular activities.

A holiday program will be offered and this will be advertised within the community.

The Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) or commonly called the Kids Club will also be offering a holiday program.

Miss Grieta and Miss Angela will be working with the children for this activity and the program will be advertised within the community.



ABOVE: Margie Barnes at a recent event at the Women's Shelter. LEFT: Matthew Marshall, Principal Contract Officer, Investment & Partnerships, Dept of CYJMA; Lisa Scott, Contract Officer, Office for Women and Violence Prevention, Dept of JAG; and Rex Cannon, Coordinator, Men's Healing Service, LRASC.



The Women's Shelter is planning arts, crafts and sewing activities in the lead up to some local markets they and the Kuunchi Kakana Centre are keen to host before Christmas.

The Women's Shelter has also been hosting regular fortnightly events for women on the community – for more on that plus pics, see page 22–23.

Workers Barbara Bally and Luka Getawan (*pictured below right*) said they were looking forward to it.

“We just want to say ‘Merry Christmas’ to all the women in every community, happy new year and keep safe,” Barbara said.

“We are open during Christmas, I'll be on call for Christmas Day and Luka for New Year's Eve.

“Anyone who needs help should go to the police station or hospital, our numbers are there during the holidays.”



Some of the activities will be run in conjunction with the Youth.

The Social Club and the newly updated sports oval provides a great venue in the community and going forward we see many opportunities for various activities through Com Dev to be conducted there.

Following consultation with various groups in the community a Sport and Rec program has been developed and Com Dev is very keen to roll out the activities.

A position is available for a keen energetic person to join this team so if you are interested please submit your resume to the office.

Recently we have hosted officers from our program funding bodies in Lockhart River.

We welcome their visits to see what is happening on the ground and have the opportunity to speak face to face.

As our reporting processes become more onerous, and rely heavily on online

reporting, our connectivity issues and 3G is posing a huge problem with long delays or complete failure.

The various departments have been working with us to be able to complete the reports but it is an ongoing problem.

In closing on behalf of all of the Com Dev team I would like to wish each and every one a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe and enjoy.

Margie





A need for women to come together in our community has prompted a series of events and evenings, including a recent Bingo night at the Women's Shelter, organised corroboratively between several people and organisations.

Cr Karen Koko said her roles, as Councillor and Senior Health Worker, had both come into place, as had the Women's Shelter along with the Puuya Foundation's Kuunchi Kakana, Apunipima and health services staff.

"I just saw the need that the women needed to get together considering how much sorry business we've had in community and just felt like, well, we need to start healing," she said.

"And we haven't had anything for a long time in regards to the woman's activities.

"There was just a need for the ladies to connect, so that's kind of what started the first gathering.

"And last night was our seventh gathering – we meet fortnightly.

"Our very first gathering had 38 ladies, young and old, so, that was pretty impressive.

"And there was a range of topics that they wanted to speak about."

She said top of their list was suicide and self-harm.

"So we've done a bit of work around that, and it was really positive," she said.

"I want it to be a regular thing where ladies know that, yes, somebody will be at the shelter every fortnight Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30, even if it's just a sit down and have a



feed in a yarn without any activities, that's great."

She said they asked everyone who came to bring a plate of food to share, and ideas.

"We hope to have a little market table at the community centre to sell some of the arts and crafts we've been working on," she said.

"We're also asking for any old clothes, toys, pot plants.

"We'll be making some jewellery as well.

"It's really about getting together, having a yarn and discussing any issues people are worried about."







The HACC bus is ready to be retired as soon as its replacement – a brand new Kia Carnival – arrives, Coordinator Noella Clarke says.

“It’s still a people mover and we won’t mind doing several trips for things like our Christmas party, which will be on 22 December,” she said. “We’re going to make it a big one this year because we haven’t had one since before COVID.”

She said they were also keen to celebrate Bessie Hobson’s ten years long service leave. “Bessie came to her long service on 21 November, which is a huge achievement,” she said. “We congratulate her for that. We also have Eleanor as a new recruit and she’s working out well.”

She said they had also taken on the *NDIS along with *CHSP and *QCSS.

“CHSP is what used to be the HACC program for the elderly,” she said.

“QCSS is for young disabled, usually on a short term basis.

“And we are the face of NDIS for the community, we can do the access request forms.”

She said everyone got the same service.

“Whether they’re QCSS, CHSP, or NDIS, they get the same services because we are not in a position to offer

anything else,” she said.

She said they expected a busy finish to the year.

“It’s getting very, very busy, we are still running the guest house, and of course, the data entry and the funding streams and all that takes time because they’re getting more complicated,” she said.

“I’ve been happy to have Hannah on board to help with all sorts of things, especially the NDIS reporting, which is onerous. Overall I think everyone’s pretty happy.”

**NDIS: National Disability Insurance Scheme; CHSP: Commonwealth Home Support Program – My Aged Care; QCSS: Queensland Community Support Scheme.*



LEFT: Eleanor Short; RIGHT: Bella Hobson; BELOW RIGHT: Bessie Hobson; BELOW: NDIS Remote Community Connector & Admin assistant Hannah Povey, Eirah Lindsay (16 months) and Coordinator Noella Clarke.





Seven Indigenous Knowledge Centres opened for the first time across Queensland in 2002, starting with Lockhart River, and followed by Wujal Wujal, Mabuig, New Mapoon, Erub, Aurukun and Pormpuraaw.

Each IKC is owned and operated by their local Council.

They are libraries, storytelling places and cultural knowledge hubs for community, providing a place to gather and engage in programs, local history, traditional knowledge, culture and languages.

The State Library of Queensland has celebrated the anniversary of IKC's with a '20 years strong' showcase of the diverse roles IKCs have played in their communities – no two are the same.

LRASC IKC coordinator Esme Butcher was in Brisbane earlier this year for part of the celebrations, which included a visit to the State Archives at Cannon Hill.

"It was alright down there," she said. "It's good to have that support, if we need things up here, they can send us."

She said the Library was open every day to support the community with access to the library and the computers.

Two new computers have been recently installed and hopefully another one will be installed early in the new year.



Above: Kaylene Koko & Mavontae Moses; and Right: Mawella Warradoo, Irene Clarmont & Chloe Accoom

from Waanta December 2012



Yarning, talking and getting fit is the idea behind regular Men's Group walks from the Men's Shed to the beach and back again every Tuesday evening.

Men's Group coordinator Rex Cannon said it worked on a number of levels.

"We're yarning, talking, getting fit and we tend to go towards eating healthy," he said.

"And yeah, it's just a good to yarn with a good bunch of blokes."

He said they were also looking at inviting Joseph Oui from the Royal Flying Doctor Service over again soon.

"He's one of the Counsellors there, he yarns to us about different stuff now and then," Rex said.

"And Apunipima jumps on board with that as well."

He said they were working on several other things.

"We've got a gym room here, but we want to strengthen up the floor a bit before we put some weight in there," he said.

"But our men can still come here if they want a session, anytime.

"This month we're also doing Movember, and we'll have a bbq for that at the end of the month where we'll have some gift packs for those who participated."

He said otherwise there was always something going on.

"I would just like the men to come up, get involved in the other activities," he said.

"We do have wood carving equipment, we've got leather gear here that we wanted to

use.

"Art and craft painting.

"We've got equipment and machinery and tools to make furniture which is mainly from recycled pallets.

"We want more men to get involved with the volunteering and more community work every now and then, when we do our little volunteer working bees to fix up things around town.

"It's good to be doing something and seeing results – this is our home and we all should be looking after it."

BELOW: Men's Group members with actor Aaron Fa'aoso – Wayne Butcher, Greg Omeeny, Rex Cannon & Norman Bally



HOLIDAY PROGRAM — KIDS CLUB



Come and join Grieta and Angela in the fun



Morning Tea and Afternoon Tea will be provided

MONDAY 12/12/22	TUESDAY 13/12/22	WEDNESDAY 14/12/22	THURSDAY 15/12/22	FRIDAY 16/12/22
9.30am-11.30am Arts and Crafts at Hall	9.30am-11.30am Building & Play Activities at Hall	9.30am-11.30am Play Dough and Art Activities at Hall	9.30am-11.30am Storytelling & Art Activities at Hall	9.30am-11.30am Christmas Art and Crafts at Hall
1.30pm-4.30pm Water Park activities	1.30pm-4.30pm Beach Activities and Games	1.30pm-4.30pm Sporting Activities at Oval	1.30pm-4.30pm Water Park activities	
MONDAY 19/12/22	TUESDAY 20/12/22	WEDNESDAY 21/12/22	THURSDAY 22/12/22	FRIDAY 23/12/22
9.30am-11.30am Building & Play Activities at Hall	9.30am-11.30am Arts & Craft Activities At Hall	9.30am-11.30am Easter Crafts at Community Hall	9.30am-11.30am Storytelling and Music session at Hall	9.30am-11.30am Family Day Bring a member of your family with you for morning tea
1.30pm-4.30pm Sporting Activities at Oval	1.30pm-4.30pm Water Park activities	1.30pm-4.30pm Beach Activities and Games	1.30pm-4.30pm Sporting Activities at Oval	
MONDAY 26/12/22	TUESDAY 27/12/22	WEDNESDAY 28/12/22	THURSDAY 29/12/22	FRIDAY 30/12/22
Public Holiday	Public Holiday	9.30am-11.30am Arts and Crafts at Hall	9.30am-11.30am Play Dough and Art Activities at Hall	9.30am-11.30am Beach Activities
		1.30pm-4.30pm Water Park activities	1.30pm-4.30pm Sporting Activities at Oval	



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER - JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19 Do a Christmas Craft Do a Christmas puzzle	20 Christmas music dance party Make Christmas ornaments Pass the parcel	21 Make homemade fudge Secret Santa Xmas Movie Night	22 Bake Christmas cookies Decorate Christmas cookies Xmas Disco	23 Youth Christmas party Light a Christmas candle	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27 Public Holiday	28 Arts & Craft Pool Comp. NYE Movie Night	29 Hair Styling & Beauty NYE Disco	30 Youth New Year's Eve Party	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 New Year's Public Holiday	3 Out on Country Day Oz-tag match	4 Pool Comp. Cooking Movie Night	5 Hair Styling & Beauty Disco	6 Team Building Activities	7
8	9 Arts & Crafts Day Afternoon walks to the beach	10 Out on Country Day Oz - tag match	11 Pool Comp. Cooking Movie Night	12 Hair Styling & Beauty Disco	13 Team Building Activities	14
15	16 Arts & Craft Day Afternoon walks to the beach	17 Out on Country Day Oz-tag match	18 Pool Comp. Cooking Movie Night	19 Hair Styling & Beauty Disco	20 Team building Activities	21
22	23 Arts & Craft Day Afternoon walks to the beach	24 Out on Country Day Oz-tag match	25 Pool Comp. Cooking Movie Night	26 Public Holiday	27 Team Building Activities	28
29 have fun	30 Arts & Craft Day Afternoon walks to the beach	31 Out on Country Day Oz-tag match		Good Luck		



HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023
SAFE





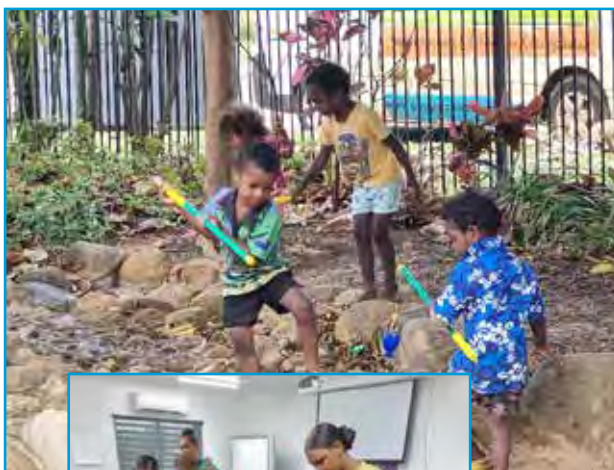
Puuya foundation

2022 has been a very rewarding fun filled year for staff, families and especially for the children at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre (KKC).

We have strengthened partnerships across the community and have also created new relationships with our families and various internal and external community stakeholders. The KKC continues to provide the very important Early Years Learning Parenting Program (EYLPP) which is integral to supporting and guiding parent's engagement in their child's early learning years in Lockhart River.

This year we have incorporated a Blended Approach to the Montessori Approach in the EYLPP, which has been quite successful and has received positive reactions from the parents, caregivers and their children.





KKC also continues to support and engage with families, children, youth and community with family support initiatives such as bingo nights, women's activities, beach excursions, Dads on Duty days, early years transition and graduation program, our youth and arts and crafts groups.

We strive to uphold the Puuya approach in everything we do and look forward to 2023 and all the exciting opportunities that the new year may bring.





Getting us past the pandemic panic

Be cool, be calm. We started 2022 with a COVID outbreak. A pandemic panic. Never panic, Lockhart River Health Services Director of Nursing Josh Stafford is here to talk us through it...

Karen and I saw how the community responded to that time of great distress and worry.

We watched the community come together and support each other and really help each other through that really dreadful time.

The community came together to support those who were in isolation and those who were sick.

Everyone came together as a community.

And I just want to acknowledge that as we finish off the year and, hopefully, start next year in a totally different – but the same – way to where we started it.

Not in a state of panic, but in a state of togetherness.

So I want 2022 to be just like that, but without the pandemic.

We support each other.

We come together.

We have community, but without COVID.

Having said that, COVID numbers are once again on the increase down south, and we will hopefully learn to live with it, just as we have the flu.

If you are going south for the Christmas/New Year break be safe.

We want to go from strength to strength:

learn what we can from COVID, put it behind us and move forward.

One of the things myself and our



staff have enjoyed the most this year was the opening of the new Social Club.

At the clinic we've been really pleasantly surprised about how positive the

social club has been and what a positive environment it is.

All the nurses and people coming through love going down there and talking to community members and feeling like part of the community – they're really loving it.

And they're loving being able to sit down and have some food and drinks and just be normal with community.

People are already saying it's the best pub they've been to in Australia, so we're really chuffed for the community about that, and we hope we'll all get to enjoy it for many years to come.

Having said that, I'm going on leave in December for a month, to see George Strait in Las Vegas – as one does – and then to the Galapagos Islands to do some scuba diving.

I'll be back in January and in the mean time Cathy McNamara, who used to be the Coen nurse, will be here to do my job with Karen. Happy Christmas and a safe New Year everyone.





Social club a 'game changer' for Lockhart - already dubbed Australia's best pub!

People have enjoyed Lockhart River's new Social Club from day one manager Richard Stafford says.

"Everyone's behaved themselves, they're all doing the right thing," he said.

"Families have been coming down here, enjoying their meals.

"So the club's going great, we've just installed some new disco lights, so I can't wait to get those things up and running, and seeing everyone hitting the dance floor and having a good night.

"We're also hoping to host some kids' nights down here on a Monday or a Tuesday when we're not licenced, so we can have a disco night down here for the kids too."

Club President Rex Cannon said the club had been opened for 3-4 months already, and they were still learning as they went.

"Holding a liquor license is complicated," he said.

"As a board we're still getting a feel for it and the work involved, but most of the feedback we've had has been very positive.

"There's so much potential for the club to run really well and give back to the community in a big way, there's heaps we can do."

Mayor Wayne Butcher said the new club was already

proving to be an asset to the community.

"It took a while to build momentum, but now it's starting to build and other communities are looking at the club's structure," he said.

"They're doing a really good job, and they've gone above and beyond in terms of putting it together.

"Last week's Friday, I went down there and bought meals because didn't want to cook on that night, and all the school teachers were there, which was really good to see."



*Merry Christmas to
all, and a safe and
happy New Year,
from the Lockhart
River Aboriginal Shire
Council*



Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council will close for business on Friday 16 December and resume on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Council's Australia Post, EFTPOS, Bank and Centrelink services will open from 9am to midday each day for the week starting Monday 19 December to Friday 23 December; from Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 December; and back to normal hours on Tuesday 3 January.

All essential services will be available by contacting the CEO on 0488 759 431 or Building Services on 0427 579 494.

