

# Waadanta



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**July 2024**

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

## Walking the walk...







A word from ...

# Acting Mayor Alistair Bowie



As most of the community is now aware, I have stepped up from Deputy to acting-Mayor while the Mayor takes personal leave, Alistair Bowie writes...

I'd like to thank the Council, particularly the CEO David Clarke, and the community for their support.

This is my second term as a Councillor and this is not as I had planned – I was going to take it slowly and hoped to learn much more before I took on the role, but I have been thrown into the deep end, and this is my first big challenge.

The move will have a slight effect on my own business, as a sole trader, but I'm working on stabilising that.

Our business as a Council will still run, as normal.

All our events, including the Cultural Festival, will go ahead.

All our other projects, in

roads and buildings, etcetera, will continue.

And we will still participate in our external obligations, such as advocacy for our community through forums such as the Indigenous Leaders' Forum, which was in Cairns late last month, and the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA), who will meet again in early September.

We will push through and try to get more funding for our new subdivision to go ahead, where we want to see more new houses.

For now, I've already met most of the Ministers and people through my previous experiences.

What's new for me is I'm

going to be more up front, and that's going to be a bit challenging for me.

But, as I say, business will be as normal, we've had the very successful NAIDOC Youth Ball, we've had the Council budget meetings this month, and we have some good positive things to move on, including our focus on the festival over the next month or two.

We all want to see the community be the best it can be, and that will be my job for now, to work with the community on being the best we can be.

*Alistair*



The first Local Government Association of Queensland conference for 2024 included a Civic Leaders Forum at Home Of Arts on the Gold Coast. It was a great Induction Forum for our newly elected Councillors and a refresher for incumbent elected Councillors.



Whilst on the Gold Coast we visited Bond University.

Lockhart Community have developed a relationship with the university over many years as part of our strategy to support tertiary education opportunities through developing and establishing education pathways.

Now we have students from our community studying at Bond University and laying a platform for our future generations.







# Mayors push PM for more housing

A small contingent of mayors, including Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher was able to join – and put a question to – Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the Queensland Media Club, thanks to the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) earlier this year.

The LGAQ table included Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding, Toowoomba Mayor Geoff McDonald, Gladstone Mayor Matt Burnett and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Alf Lacey.

At the time Cr Butcher, who is on personal leave this month, said their question was about reinvesting in social housing, not just renovating existing – and already overcrowded – dwellings.

“The federal government gave the Northern Territory \$4 billion over 10 years for an extra 270 houses and that was the kind of commitment we needed in Queensland,” he said.

“We were very disappointed to hear there was no Remote Community Housing Investment for Queensland in the Federal Government Budget.

“That means we can’t address overcrowding nor the demand to sustain population growth.

“Not just for our 17 Indigenous Shire Councils, but for other First Nations communities in places like Coen, Normanton, Cooktown and across the Gulf and western Queensland.

“We’re back to the kind of numbers we were at 20 years ago, when we would get two or three new houses a year.

“We’ve got a whole subdivision ready to build on now, anyone can buy a block but the price of each house at Nyimuchin averaged at \$120,000 per block – these days it’s at least \$340,000.

“Nobody in our community can afford that.”



*TOP: Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Mayor Wayne Butcher in Brisbane.*

*BELOW: Lockhart River Subdivisions: the first in 2014 (above) cost \$3.2m for 29 lots (average of \$119k per block) and the second in 2023 (below) cost \$7.2m for 25 lots (average \$340K per block).*



A word from ...

# CEO

# David Clarke



Many of us have been busy preparing for another big dry season this year, loaded with opportunities like our 100-year celebrations, Paytham Malkari Dance Festival and Social Club events, CEO David Clarke writes...

Dry season means we also crank up our construction activities, which cranks up even more business opportunities for our people. We did okay last year working together, but this year promises even more as local businesses slowly but surely take control of our local economy.

Remember, Council is here to help you bring your business dreams alive.

### Subdivision

Look at our new sub-division eh.

Will be a great place to live bumbai when we get funding to build urgently needed new housing.

We are also building a couple of new staff houses. Both these projects let Council do another intake of apprentices.

We are very keen to try

some of our young ones over 15.

If you have a family member interested, see Noleen in the office and you can have a good yarn about the upcoming opportunities.

### Paytham Malkari Festival

How good was our Paytham Malkari Festival last year?

It was great to see everyone take such pride in our culture.

This year will be even better as we celebrate 100 years since Old Site was formed with dance teams on

their way from Pormpuraaw, Bamaga, and Groote Eylandt.

There will be many more visitors than last year, with the festival happening in school holiday time from 24-28 September.

We have a steering committee driving the event this year, so every-one has the chance to help us make it better than ever.

A big thanks to the committee for your time and effort particularly Chloe for being the secretary.



*Kawadji Wimpa dancers at last year's Paytham Malkari Festival. For details about this year's event see pages 12-13. Pic by Christine Howes*







It will be a great opportunity for us to show off our culture, ngaachi, and art.

If anyone has any business ideas around running tours for visitors to the festival, now is the time to come forward so we can yarn up on how Council can help – so don't be shy.

#### Council Services

Council delivers a lot of services to our town.

Some of these services happen on ngaachi like roadworks.

Council is proud of the jobs

and businesses it has created but we are also proud of the respectful way we have worked with the Traditional Owners of our shire.

To many it is a bit confusing with Mangkuma holding the title but then there are five Native Title bodies over the same ngaachi.

It would be great if all the PBCs got together with the land trust to work out who Council should pay money to for sand and gravel; who should make decisions on cultural monitoring; and how we can manage new roads

and gravel pits.

Let's hope this can happen sometime soon.

In the meantime, Council will continue to be respectful of those who own the land in our shire

#### Opportunities

I urge everyone to take advantage of the opportunities we have around the community now and over the next few months.

Enjoy it all, stay safe and look after one another.

*Dave*



*Council staff in the Lockhart River office*



# Cabins and airport in good hands



Lockhart Aerodrome Company's (LAC's) best achievement in the past few months has been Noel Omeenyo's progress, LAC manager Bill Rogers says.

"Noel is the Airport Reporting Officer and he has gone from not having anything to do with airports to doing the course here last year," Bill said.

"We've got him trained up on first aid, he's done a dangerous goods course and he will soon do a refresher in airport training as well.

"He has also being signed off on as a Skytrans Customer Service Officer and now he's getting into inputting data into the system for all the procedures we have here at the airport.

"It's a great achievement for Noel, he's a quick learner and



hopefully his son, young Ross, will follow in his footsteps."

Ross, who has just finished school, recently took up the position of groundsman around the airport.

"He's fresh out of school so we just want to keep him on the basics like how to conduct yourself in the workplace and what you need to look out for," Bill said.

Ross started two months ago and said he liked his new job.

"I like it a lot out here," he

said. "It's peaceful, getting away and earning some money."

**MEANWHILE,** Steve and Sue Kenward have great plans for the Iron Range Cabins they are now managing together.

"Our priority will always be our guests – the people who fly in and support the community in education and health, especially," he said. He said he was happy with his team.

"We work with a maximum of three to help us with the housekeeping," he said.

"We can offer 10 to 12 hours a week, which supplements their Centrelink pays.

"If anyone is looking for a job, by all means, pop in.

"Even if they're just catching a plane out, there's always cold drinks, coffee and snacks available to see them through their journey – they're welcome."







# Ngaachi Nyi'ilama Business Hub: A Year of Growth and Success

It's already the end of the financial year in 2024, and we've had a deadly 12 months at Ngaachi Nyi'ilama Business Hub, Manager Jermaine Thomas writes...

Funded by the Queensland State Government Department of Small Business, Employment and Training (DSBET), we've delivered a strong Language, Literacy, Numeracy, and Digital (LLND) foundation skills program.

We're happy to say we got another year of funding from October 2024 to October 2025 to keep the fire burning, loud, black, proud and deadly.

My job is to support all local businesses, including the LRASC, by helping draft the Annual Report and

updating the Risk Assessment Matrix.

I also volunteer my time to Social Club as a contact person, making sure of ORIC compliance, bookkeeping, and working on the corporation's second financial audit.

Join us and be part of something great.

## Language, Literacy, Numeracy & Digital (LLND) skills

The LLND foundational skills program at Ngaachi Nyi'ilama Business Hub is here to empower our community with essential skills for work and

everyday life.

Here's what the program offers:

- **Language Skills:** Helping you talk English and write English better.
- **Literacy Skills:** Improving reading and writing for documents.
- **Numeracy Skills:** Building maths skills for budgeting and managing money.
- **Digital Skills:** Teaching basics of computers, internet and digital tools.

## Benefits

- **Employment Readiness:** Giving you the skills







# Online White Card Course Training

employers want.

- **Personal Development:**  
Good for personal growth and managing daily tasks.
- **Community Support:**  
Creating a culturally supportive learning space.
- **Partnership and Support**

In partnership with Cape York Employment and LRASC, our Indigenous Workforce and Skills Development Grant (IWSDG) program funds key roles such as our Project Coordinator, Administration Assistant and Trainer to give proper deadly training and support from Doug Williams and Ben Cossey.

### How to Join

We want anyone keen on improving job prospects to enrol in the program.



It's a great chance to better yourself and your future. Look out for our posters around town and reach out for more info.

### Additional Services

The Ngaachi Nyi'ilama Business Hub also offers workshops and support in areas including bookkeeping, invoicing, cash flow

management, insurance, loans, financial literacy, work cover, tender applications, permits, tickets, online qualifications, contracts and much more.

These services are especially good for local businesses and sub-contractors, such as those working with the LRASC in seasonal civil road construction.



Got more questions or need more details? Just ask! Come and see Kimberley and I at the Hub or email: [jermaine.thomas@lockhart.qld.gov.au](mailto:jermaine.thomas@lockhart.qld.gov.au) or [business.admin@lockhart.qld.gov.au](mailto:business.admin@lockhart.qld.gov.au)

*Jermaine*

Waanta July 2024







# PSGs protecting our community

Queensland Police Service (QPS) Protective Services Group (PSG) First Nations Recruit Course kicked off earlier this year, with 11 participants from Lockhart River, Palm Island and Yarrabah.

In May, First Nations Project Team Officer Pete Ingram helped to host a community induction event at the social club to introduce three Lockhart River graduates – Michelle Wasiu, Cara Bally & Paddy Hobson – and their roles.

He said there were still five positions available and of those three had been recruited for a course starting on Monday 29 July.

Protective security officer recruits complete a comprehensive training program that covers operation skills and tactics training; security legislation, and organisational policies and procedures.

In opening the course PSG Commander Supt Keiryn Dermody said QPS – as an organisation and as individuals – needed to be proactive and dedicated to breaking down cultural barriers.

She also said how pleased and excited she was to be able to lead and provide support and guidance to an initiative that has now proven its ability to promote and enable cultural change across the QPS and the wider public sector.

QPS First Nations Division Uncle Adrian Coolwell was also in Townsville to support participants as a course mentor.



*Lockhart River graduates Michelle Wasiu, Cara Bally & Paddy Hobson. Below: the first group to graduate.*





# Corporate Services



Congratulations to the finance team for achieving another good audit report for the 2022/23 financial completed and signed in November 2023, Corporate Services Director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

The auditors issued 'Unmodified Audit Opinion' whereby audit findings confirmed that Council and Aerodrome Company's books of accounts were kept well and in good health.

The Annual Report for the same period was completed and uploaded to Council website and hard copies are available from Council offices.

Please access a copy to read for updates on how Council

operated during that financial year.

Corporate Services team have completed the operational planning and budgeting and ready for implementation in the new 2024/25 financial year.

The new Council had the opportunity to review and approve these new annual plans and they were completed and finalized on time.



Tamara Piva in the Cairns office

They will be uploaded onto the Council website for easy accessibility.

The table below is a budget snapshot for Council and Aerodrome Company.

The interim audit for the 2024/25 financial year progressed well and report provided to the Audit Committee and will be tabled in the next Council meeting.

It was a good report and management is implementing the audit recommendations.

This year's final audit visit is scheduled for September 2024 for Council and Aerodrome Company.

All the planning and preparation is progressing very well.

## Budget summary

### Council

Operating revenue	\$35,046,503
Operating expenditure	\$34,102,260
Council's capital budget	\$6,657,657
<i>Capital works will be funded by Capital Grants of \$5,692,777 and the Council's own revenue: \$964,880.</i>	

### Aerodrome Company

Operating revenue	\$1,672,797
Operating expenditure	\$1,863,931
Capital expenditure budget	\$3,224,799
<i>Capital works will be funded by Capital Grants of \$2,996,799 and the Aerodrome Company's own revenue: \$228,000.</i>	

Stanley





# Festival organisers on the go



A core group of dedicated volunteers and workers from key community organisations have been working together to present this year's Paytham Malkari Festival in the second week of this year's September school holidays.

Led by the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council and the Puuya Foundation, organisers say the festival is looking good.

"A poster is ready to go, the program is nearly finalised and our teams, especially on the Council, are already working hard to make this year a success," Chloe said. "This year's event will be

combined with our 100-year celebrations, making it even more special.

"So the week will include a very special Church Day celebration and a field trip out to Old Site."

She said the Kawadji Wimpa dancers were already practising.

"And no doubt our invited dance groups, from Bamaga

and Pormpuraaw, are doing the same," she said.

"We are working on our t-shirts, ticketing system and camping arrangements.

"Anyone who would like to volunteer is very welcome to get in touch with either myself or the Mayor.

"For more information see the poster for details – we can't wait to see you there!"







# Paytham Malkari



*proudly presents  
our 2024 Dance &  
Cultural Festival*



*Five BIG days  
of celebration,  
culture, dancing,  
singing,  
camping and  
food next to  
the beach at  
Lockhart River.*

## 100 Years 1924-2024



**Tuesday 24 –  
Saturday 28  
SEPTEMBER**

- Tuesday 24: Community Opening
- Wednesday 25: St James Church Day
- Thursday 26: Old Lockhart Celebrations (at Old Site)
- Thursday Night: Paytham Malkari Dance & Cultural Festival Opening (6pm)
- Friday 27: Paytham Malkari Dance & Cultural Festival
- Saturday 28: Dance Teams Community March (4pm), Festival (6pm) and Closing Ceremony (9pm)



**For ticketing and camping information  
contact [paythammalkarifestival@gmail.com](mailto:paythammalkarifestival@gmail.com) or LRASC on (07) 4060 7144**







# Community Development

Community Development has been busy at work over the past 12 months, with all but one position now filled, Community Development Services director Jamie Love writes...

It could be said we have laid the foundations to start to expand our projects, which means a focus on more field activities for youth and adults, connecting with culture, and providing avenues to discuss issues around behaviour and mental health.

We have continued to strengthen our relationships with government departments and funding agencies and seek partnerships with other service providers to deliver more holistic services.

A community marketing strategy is now taking form, with 12 key themes running over 12 months to ensure a continued focus on social and community issues around family, relationships, education, youth and drug prevention.

However, right now Community Development will, like many other areas of the



*The Lockhart River radio station is active once again, and has four new broadcasters.*

*"It's doing well," broadcaster Patrick Butcher said.*

*"It's about getting the message out there on local matters – community matters and our people matter.*

*"Our vision statement is now walking towards a new horizon.*

*"To all the happy locals out in the community, happy listening."*

*In the picture is Jamie Love with broadcasters Barry Warradoo (seated), Simon and Patrick Butcher.*

*You can tune in to 107.7FM.*

shire council and community, turn its attention to preparing for the Dance Festival in September, which will showcase the beautiful location and rich culture that is Lockhart River.

Our Men's Group, under the guidance of Greg Omeenyo, has initiated a number of

projects, most recently that of the Cemetery clean-up, and the men's shed has once again become an important meeting place for men and other service providers .

Notably a very successful men's walking group has been operating for several months now.







*A Kid's Club visit to the Water Park is always popular!*

This great initiative has been led by Patrick Butcher and is a testament to his commitment to men's health and well-being.

Elaine Williams has settled into the role of Youth Centre coordinator and has been proactive in looking for new opportunities to engage youth in the community.

The Kids Club, with Daphney and Irene Clarmont and Emily Pascoe, continues to provide activities for those under 10 years of age, in the afternoons from the library, as well as supporting more general initiatives such as the recent skateboarding workshop held in town.

The radio station has gone from strength to strength with four radio announcers operating in the community – big thanks again to Patrick and his son, Simon Butcher as well as Arthur Warradoo and Greg Pascoe for their dedication to providing what will become an important service to the community.



Lorraine Warradoo continues to provide library services to the community and, always reliable, she has fit into the role comfortably.

Justice Coordinator Doug Williams has been working diligently with our new male justice worker, Father Matthias, and the Community Justice Group and I expect they will start rolling out some significant programs later this year.

Ethel Singleton and the staff at the Women's Shelter have done a great job in continuing

to ensure there is a place for women to go, and this important work is an essential part of the Shire's fight against DV and unacceptable behaviour toward women and families.

The Shire's aged care services also continue to ensure our Elders and their families are supported.

Overall Community Development is doing well and the future looks bright.

*Jamie*







## Women's Shelter + HACC



*HACC Manager Natalie Green with workers Elanor Short and Bessie Hobson.*

After not being able to operate fully during renovations, the Women's Shelter is hoping to be back in full operation soon.

"The renovation has been finished, but we're just waiting for them to come and fix a few little things," Women's Shelter Coordinator Ethel Singleton said.

"We had a full makeover, including a paint, and we're just putting everything back together."

Ethel said she was keen to secure a vehicle for the Women's Shelter.

"I asked our government champion when she came in if she could help get her vehicle for the Women's Shelter, so it's in her hands now," she said.

"We want to start doing activities here during the day, two or three days a week.

"Even if it's just a women's get-together, having lunch or something like that, and just having a yarn about the community and what the women want to try.

"All our women are welcome here."





# Kids & Youth Workshops: Skateboarding + Circa Cairns



**Community Event**



**CIRCA CAIRNS**  
is performing at Lockhart River  
COMMUNITY HALL  
on  
**THURSDAY 13 JUN 2024**  
starts  
**5:30 PM**

*Proudly supported by*   
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council








## Wulpumu Community Justice Group

While the Justice Group is working well, they'd very much like to see more community involvement Wulpumu Community Justice Group coordinator Doug Williams says.

"The Justice Group supported a lot of people through the justice process in the last 12 months and had a few mediations," he said.

"We've visited people in the watch-house and supported them at court and all those sorts of things.

"And we've also done some work supporting the Men's, Women's and Youth Groups here in Lockhart River."

He said they were still actively recruiting for members.

"They don't have to do everything, but they might come to court occasionally, come to a meeting occasionally, have input into the sub-missions for the court," he said.

"It's not a huge commitment, but it's an important one for some people."

Doug said it was very important they had members from different families.

"Last quarter we had a request from a person for help," he



said. "But we couldn't help him because the person he had assaulted was a family member of a Justice Group member.

"If we have had more members who weren't related, they could have said something on his behalf.

"That's why we need a spread, particularly of Elders."

He said he particularly enjoyed working with the Elders.

"Most of the old ladies are brilliant," he said.

"We've had a couple of mediations, and they've come along to those and been a great help."

He said working closely with Youth Justice was also a key focus, so they could help keep youth out of trouble and out of the court system.

"We've been doing football with the kids, and the school was doing netball and that, so we've had a few activities to keep them going," he said.

"We've had fishing comps,

discos and movie nights during the school holidays, lots of things to try and keep the kids out of mischief.

"We don't have very many youth on orders here, but we have a few of them.

"We work very closely with Youth Justice to try and keep them out of more trouble and get them back on the right track."

He said they were keen to find a Women's Community or Domestic Violence Coordinator to work with Male Assistant Support Worker, Father Matthias Tovotasi.

"I'm here to assist Doug whenever he wants me to go and join the court hearing," Father Matthias said.

Whether it was dealing with the police, family problems or liaising with the community Father Matthias said he was ready to help.


"I try to just calm down their situation and be with them," he said.





# Cemetery Clean-Ups in June & July



  
 Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council  
**Nominations to become members of the Community Justice Group**

*Require:*  
 Two (2) or three (3) from each of the main Indigenous Social Groupings:-

- Ankum
- Kaanju
- Kanthanampu
- Kuu Ya'a
- Ngaympal
- Umpila
- Uupan
- Uutaalinganu
- Wathathi and
- Yaawan

*If you are interested, please see*  
 Contact: Justice Coordinator  
 Douglas (Doug) Williams  
 Mobile: 0409 360 271



*The Men's Group and the Justice Group hold regular community BBQs at the store – drop in for a yarn and a feed next time you see them there, you might be interested in getting involved!*







# Community Competitions: Fishing & Pig Hunting



**SALMON FISHING COMPETITION WINNERS**

- LORRISSA HOBSON (ADULT) – BIGGEST SALMON CAUGHT ON THE BEACH (1.75KG)**
- STEVE BALLY (ADULT) – BIGGEST SALMON CAUGHT ON A BOAT (1.4KG)**
- SUZANNE HOBSON (YOUTH) – BIGGEST SALMON CAUGHT ON THE BEACH (1.9KG)**
- AARON "LUX" (ADULT) – BIGGEST OTHER SPECIES (STINGRAY 5.9KG)**
- TREYZAN (YOUTH) – BIGGEST OTHER SPECIES (SHARK 2.1KG)**

**SALMON FISHING COMPETITION**  
 Saturday 30 March – Sunday 31 March 2024

- OFFICIALS ONLY WILL BE EXCALIBUR THE BEACH FROM 11:00AM – 3:00PM EACH DAY
- COOL DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 11:00AM – 3:00PM
- LUNCH FROM 11:00AM – 2:00PM EACH DAY

**CATEGORIES**

- ADULT - BIGGEST SALMON
- ADULT - MOST SALMON
- JUNIOR - BIGGEST SALMON
- JUNIOR - MOST SALMON
- Any - BIGGEST FISH ANY SPECIES

**RULES**

- NO NETS
- CAN BE BY BEACH OR BOAT
- DRUGGINGS ARE NOT ALLOWED AND ANY PRESENTED WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE "BIGGEST FISH ANY SPECIES" CATEGORY

**WINNERS OF EACH SALMON FISH CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE:**

- 100 AND RICE COOKING
- DANTRIE 5.5 LITRE WATER JUG
- HEAVY DUTY TARP 8 X 18 FOOT
- AND A 1000 MILLION FISH SHED 4 AND FISH PAL

**WINNER OF BIGGEST FISH ANY SPECIES WILL RECEIVE A \$200.00 STORE VOUCHER.**

**ALL COMPETITORS TAKING PART ARE TO BRING OWN BAIT AND TACKLE.**

CONTACT JAME LOVE ON 0407512069 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS







**FISHING COMPETITION**  
**LOCKHART RIVER JUNE - JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY FISHING COMPETITION**  
**Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June 2024**  
 Biggest Fish (Beach/River) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
 Biggest Fish (Boat) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
 Biggest Fish (youth) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
 Prizes may include, a tackle box, Shimono cap, water resistant torch, rechargeable lantern, 15 litre cooler, \$25 Gift card, zone mozzie repellent, and Gaff hook (boats).  
 Officials tent will be located at the beach from 10.30am - 5.00pm for weigh in's of fish. Cool drinks available.  
 BBQ will run each day from 11.30am - 2.00pm.  
 Competition ends at 5.00pm Sunday 23 June 2024  
 If you have any queries, please call Jamie on 0407512899







**LOCKHART RIVER - PIG HUNTING COMPETITION**  
**4-6 APRIL 2024**  
**WINNER**

**JOHN HOBSON AND FAMILY TOOK OUT BOTH CATEGORIES OF THE INAUGURAL PIG COMPETITION OVER THE 4-6 APRIL 2024.**

- **BIGGEST PIG – BOAR 80.35KG**
- **BIGGEST TUSKS – 5.9 CM**

**LOCKHART RIVER - PIC HUNTING COMPETITION**  
**4-7 JULY 2024**

**STEVE BALLY AND TEAM TOOK OUT BOTH CATEGORIES OF THE 2ND LOCAL PIG COMPETITION**

- **BIGGEST PIG – BOAR 78.5kg**
- **BIGGEST TUSKS – 6cm**





# Men's Group



*At the Men's Shed cooking up for the Women's Lunch (see page 30) were Men's Group members Justin Lucas, Mathias Tovotasi, Coordinator Greg Omeenyo and Patrick Butcher.*

Now the Men's Group is back up and running, a few projects are planned, including getting out and about 'on country', recently-returned Men's Group Coordinator Greg Omeenyo says.

"We had two big meetings up here a couple of months ago with the community," he said.

"And some of the stuff that came out of there were problems in the community and how can we tackle that in terms of setting up programs.

"We've got a lot to work with now in terms of getting projects put forward by the Men's Group to start some

on-country projects."

He said they were also working with men who had Court orders.

"We are trying to utilise some of the assets we have to help those men in getting back out on country and we're looking a system where they can start paying off their fines or whatever the Court determined," he said.

"That means working alongside the justice group so we can utilise the men's building and set up some programs, whether it's community services, ending offending, drug and alcohol programs or dealing with family violence issues.

"But it's not all about that, one of the things we're also working on is the men being

able to show they want to move on in life, that they can be good examples in our community, not just perpetrators.

"So I think we have more emphasis on rehabilitation and our successes there.

"Outstations, for example, where they start look outside of the community and getting out of their comfort zones and by them getting out on country and working within other members within their peer groups."

He said the group had also just kicked off the annual cemetery clean-up.

"From the Men's Group point of view doing that project was very successful," he said.







# Building Services



## More renovations work has come our way from QBuild, Building Services Manager Regis Edmond writes...

The works are mainly renovations and internal and external painting to some residences.

I am currently quoting on them and you will be soon

be notified by QBuild which houses will be on the paint program.

As part of the Building Services Works Program for this financial year, the council will build some staff housing on Blady Grass Street.

There will be two four-bedroom houses and a set of duplexes, which will create some work for the community.

As you may have seen

the Civil Works are nearly completed.

If all goes well and as planned, we hope to have a roof on and under cover before the wet season starts, which all depends on the availability of materials, as we currently have a shortage.

Building Services needs the support of all our young ones who are willing to learn a trade and work for the Lockhart Community.



*Left: PJ Electrical Electrician Kevin Christiansen with local apprentice Ricardo O'Brien.*

*Above: Unloading the barge for the Council Store.*







If any young ones want to do their training before we get going into the subdivision, then they should come and put an application or expression of interest in with the council.

We'll be looking for apprentices, trade assistants

and tradesmen in all trades. We are hoping these houses will be completed by mid-next year.

Finally, as we always do, we ask you to keep reporting any maintenance work, now that the blue phone is working down at the shop building.

Pick up the phone and it will connect you directly to the Housing Department.

Please report any problems and the council can then look after your maintenance issues.

*Regis*



*Carpenters, labourers, electricians and the store staff (page 22) along with contractors (above) painters (left and right), locals (bottom left and plumbers work with Building Services to improve our community.*







# Municipal Services

There's always lots of work to be done, keeping our Environmental Health and Animal Management teams busy  
Municipal Services Director Harley Nathan writes...

The Parks and Gardens team have been keeping the campgrounds and theatre, festival grounds and parks looking great.

We're going to fix our ride-ons after having to wait for compressor parts.

So we've got some maintenance to do there, including the tyres and fittings.

The Environmental Health team have been testing the sewage and fire hydrant flushing daily, from Monday to Friday.

Harley, Gary Warradoo and Elijah Junior are on the Environmental Health team while four

others are in Parks and Gardens including Alan, Stanley and Elijah Senior.

The team is also in charge of Animal Management and goes to check on dogs and other animals.

We need the community to let us know when they see an injured or dead animal.

And there is work available if anyone is interested, we're always looking for people on the side so they've got the training, it takes a bit of pressure off everyone else.

Come and see us if you're interested.



*Municipal Services Team: Elijah Bosuen, Municipal Services Director Harley Nathan & Stanley Butcher.*







### CANE TOAD BOUNTY!

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS  
FROM 29 MARCH - 12 APRIL 24

Toad busting is an easy – fun and effective way to control cane toad populations. Simply head out after dusk with a torch, bucket or sack and gloves and catch adult cane toads.

The Shire has placed a bounty of **\$1.50 per cane toad caught** between 29 March – 12 April 2024. And 50 cents for baby cane toads. Please note that CEQ store vouchers will be used as the preferred payment method.

**RULES:** Hand them in either dead or alive. If dead, toad must not be presented squashed or in pieces. Proper way to euthanise is by placing toad in a plastic bag and placed in freezer. We only want cane toads.

Torches, buckets, and gloves can be supplied to those interested. For adults wishing to support any groups of youth – the council has 4 cane toad traps (the Toadinator!) for loan.

Cane toads caught can be handed in for payment at the following location and times:

Location	Time	Date
Beach	11am – 5pm	29 March – 31 March
Shire Office	1.00pm – 2.00pm	1 April – 5 April
Shire Office	1.00pm – 2.00pm	8 April – 12 April

PLEASE CONTACT [JAMIE LOVE](mailto:jamie.love@warradook.com.au) ON 0487312290 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

# VET VISIT 13-15 AUGUST

Send a message with your name and details about the animal → size, sex, what you need done.  
Vaccinations \$50.  
Message Harley on  
0438 534 929 or 0482 092 725

*Above and left: Council mainstays – our hardworking garbage collecting team.  
Left: earlier this year a bounty was offered on cane toads.  
Below: Council's hardest worker Alan Warradoo.*







# Thursday Island Drinking Water Symposium

Queensland's annual Indigenous Local Government Drinking Water Symposium was held over three days on Thursday Island in May-June, and attended by LRASC Municipal Services director Harley Nathan.

Event organiser Brad Mulligan said more than 60 people attended, including 14 of 16 Indigenous local government water operators, government engineering staff and the water regulator. "This symposium is an initiative of the [Queensland Health] Safe and Healthy Drinking Water program and it's been in operation since about 2017," Brad said. "I'm pleased to say the

*Representatives from water operators from Indigenous communities across Queensland gathered on Thursday Island for the 2024 Queensland Indigenous Council Drinking Water Symposium earlier this year.*



*Above: Presentations were held at Port Kennedy Association Hall and attendees were given a tour of the Waiben and Ngurupai water treatment plants.*

event was a resounding success."

He said the event provided a platform for operators and managers to network and share their experiences, not only with each other but with senior government and industry representatives.

"To celebrate the successes and raise awareness of the challenges of safe water delivery in remote communities," he said.

"Water operators who

attended were supplied with technical booklets and received face to face training on the operation and optimisation of water distribution networks."

He said the group took excursions to the Ngurupai and Waiben water treatment plants and facilities.

He said the event was an opportunity for leaders and water operators from remote Indigenous communities to learn and grow.





# Engineering Services



Council had a big construction year last year with the installation of Culvert 117, completion of the water and sewerage on Piiramo Street Subdivision and QRA road rectification works to Portland Road, Chuulungan, Pascoe Farms and Wattle Hill Roads, the Town Streets and Old Site Road.

A full construction program for 2024 has been extended to address damage from Cyclone Jasper in late 2023.

Funding was secured for additional works at Culvert 117 and the installation of Culvert 117AB (between Pascoe Farms Road and the Pascoe River).

The construction season this year will be short, as the wet persisted longer than expected.

The Council's works crew started work on the rectification of the Town Streets and the unsealed works component of the Town Streets is substantially complete.

Works on the sealed sections will start soon.

Council will also undertake the restoration works to Portland Road South.

The delivery of raw materials is underway,



with roadbase being stockpiled along the road edge so please take care when driving through this area.

These works are to be completed in the 2024 and 2025 construction years.

Work has also started on the rectification of Wattle Hill Road, Pascoe Farms Road and Chuulungan Road and will commence shortly, by another subcontract crew, on Old Site Road where there is a substantial amount of work to be done, once access is available.







*Working on Blady Grass Road and around the community as part of the Council Road Gang were Rodney, Solly, Tristan, Dennis, Chris, Harrison & Darren. Pics thanks to Darren.*







The busy workshop team include supervisor and diesel fitter Anthony Macri, qualified diesel fitters Tony Pascoe and Christopher Dean; and tyre fitter Napoleon Short. Dion Accoom and Richard Piva, who just finished his first year apprenticeship, Paul Getawan, who just started and Alec Accoom, who hopes to finish the end of this year fourth year are not in the picture, nor is admin officer Kayleen Pratt.

### Traffic Control Training







# Men walk the walk on their own mental health

Losing a family member and close childhood friend inspired Patrick Butcher to start the Lockhart River Men's Walking Group to promote mental health awareness in our community. "It touched me so deeply that I thought, 'well, I can't be sitting down, no one do nothing about it,'" he said. "I just came up with the idea.

"I went to see the Men's Group Coordinator at the time and I started this walk." He said the response had been really good. "It's been going very



strong," he said.

"I want to encourage all men to join us.

"I'm very happy that we got the Royal Flying Doctor,

the Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) and Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council on board as our primary sponsors.



Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

## MENS WALKING GROUP

PAMA NGAMPULANA  
WATANGKANANA MALNGKANKU

Walking as one against Mental Health - Promoting Awareness and the voice of those who are silent.

You me, maate's eh.....  
PUUYA KUNTHA PAMA KUNTHA

Clinic Beach

When: Tuesdays  
Time: 5.00pm

Contact: Patrick Butcher if you have any queries.





“I aim to try and get more men, that’s the most important part, because it’s so difficult for men to be open up on these matters and to discuss things. So probably the best way I could describe it is it’s a softer approach with the walk. “While we’re on a walk, we talk about our problems and ideas and then we work together. If you got great ideas, great dreams, certain aspirations, approach us. “We’ve got the funding, we’ve got the facility up there.

“We got a team of very well-dedicated men, including myself and others, who could work for what we want and we can take ownership of not just our problems, but our solutions. “It’s a community thing. “It’s not my work, it’s our work. “And mental health, it’s not only your business, it’s everyone’s business. “And the motto of this work is ‘you’ll be a mate, eh?’ “You don’t let a mate be down, you just go stretch your hand out and give him

a helping hand – it’s all about camaraderie, mateship. “We have a t-shirt, which you have to earn to wear – it has our sponsors and motto in language on it.” He said he was happy to see they had also inspired interest in a Women’s Walking Group. The Men’s Walking Group meets every Tuesday at 5.30 for their beach walk. “Hail, rain or sunshine, I’ll keep walking every week, every Tuesday,” Patrick said.

## Men’s Walking Group T-shirt Launch







# Women inspiring other women to inspire

After seeing the Men's Walking Group enjoying their walks and supporting mental health, young Dorothy Johnson came up with the idea of a Women's Picnic to give Lockhart River's women and girls a similar opportunity.

"We have to have something happening for the ladies in the community to keep them occupied and stay out of trouble," she said.

"Something like this is helpful, and it makes them feel light inside to talk to someone.

"I'm very happy about how it's turned out."

Supporter and Royal Flying Doctor Service Social and Emotional Wellbeing Counsellor

Barb Lloyd said about 30 women were at the picnic.

"We talked a lot about what made us feel good, and what helps us to stay strong," she said.

"There were lots of smiles around the 'room'. It was nice because we also got some of the older ladies and we've got the really little ones.

"And so, everyone is yarning and learning together which is a beautiful thing."

The women hoped activities such as Zumba and women's walks would grow out of the event.











# Puuya Foundation keeps on growing

The Puuya Foundation has grown remarkably over the last few years, constantly expanding the services that the Kuunchi Kakana (KK) Centre delivers in Lockhart River.

The Early Years Parenting Program (EYPP) continues to provide a safe space for families and their children aged under three and a half years.

We also continue to advocate for the families and children in the community, which has resulted in our successful expansion into a licenced Child Care Centre. The team has worked tirelessly to create a safe space for this new centre, including plans for a new building and getting staff

trained in Early Childhood Education qualifications.

A top priority for the foundation is expanding to work more with young people, men and women.

2023 saw the development and introduction of the Strengthening Our Next Generation (SONG) Program which aimed to support increasing children's engagement and attendance at school.

You may have seen the



team out and about working to support families, running targeted after school activities to increase engagement and our Rewards and Recognition program to acknowledge the hard work students and families put into increasing their school engagement and attendance.

As with all programs at the KK Centre, this revolves around enhancing connections to community culture and country.

Along with this focus on youth were the inaugural events for the 'NAIDOC Youth Ball' and the 'Walking in Wellness Youth Camp'.

The Walking in Wellness Youth Camp will run in the September school holidays and aims to build a safe space for Lockhart River youth and their families to engage, learn, and deepen their understanding of their social and emotional well-being needs, through strengthening connections







to community, culture, and country.

The NAIDOC Youth Ball occurred on Saturday 6th July and recognised the effort and hard work our Earning and Learning youth put in this year.

There was outstanding support from our sponsors and supporters including Lockhart River Council, Formally Ever After Remote op shop and Rio Tinto Weipa. The evening included a red carpet entrance, awards and speeches, shake-a-leg dancing, a disco and Lockhart's very first fireworks display.

We hope this will become an annual event for the youth in our community.

Another recent achievement was the annual Lockhart

\$200,000 was raised for the Foundation.

Special recognition goes to Powerlink Queensland for hosting the event and the Lockhart River artists for their remarkable artwork.

As a Not-For-Profit organisation, the Puuya Foundation is continually seeking donations to improve the services delivered through the KK Centre and build everyday leaders.

Donations can be made

<https://puuya-foundation.giveeasy.org/puuya-foundation-donation-page>

The Puuya Foundation is here to support the whole of Lockhart River, we encourage any men, women and children who feel they need support to come and see us at the KK Centre.

We offer Family Support Services where our staff can direct you to whatever support service you may need.



MORE NAIDOC PICS NEXT PAGE!







# 2024 Puuya Foundation Youth NAIDOC Ball







# KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD



Pics by Christine Howes, thanks to Puuya Foundation



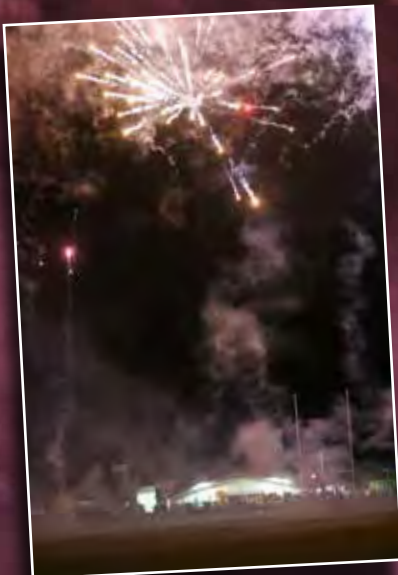




*This small, but enthusiastic group has been meeting every Tuesday night at about 6pm in the Church to sing sing sing! Anyone and everyone is welcome to join them, anytime!*



*LEFT: Doug is always happy to see his granddaughter Sharkisha when she pays a visit to his office. RIGHT: There's always a welcoming smile at the Iron Range Cabins for visitors and locals alike!*



*It was a full house at the LR Sports & Social Club when the community enjoyed their first ever fireworks display thanks to the Puuya Foundation's NAIDOC Youth Ball. Everyone had a ball!*

