

# Yarrabah News



V4 Issue 03: March 2020

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

# EVERYONE



# has a role to play!

## We must respect our Elders - Mayor

Key organisations, from Council to health services, have banded together in Yarrabah to work with the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), who are empowered under the Australian Biosecurity Act to manage the community's response to the Corona Virus.

Mayor-elect Ross Andrews said they were working closely together to protect everyone as best they could within guidelines set out for them by State and Federal Governments.

Those guidelines include rules around staying at home unless for specific reasons, washing hands regularly and maintaining a safe distance from other people in groups of not more than two in public.

Cr Andrews said while they were developing a 'whole of community' strategy, aimed at keeping people safe, everyone should be careful about what they were seeing, reading and believing, particularly on social media.

"Because of this global pandemic, the LDMG has assigned a working group – a kind of subcommittee – of people with clinical and professional expertise to develop an action plan," he said.

"So Queensland Health have joined us along with our Director of Nursing, clinical staff and our other health services to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep our people safe.

"Our primary concern is protecting the number of vulnerable people in Yarrabah, including Elders, and this has to come before anything else.

"Apart from special and extenuating circumstances (critical health needs),

it is no longer a right to go to enter and depart Yarrabah now, it's a privilege.

"It has been disappointing to see some people are trying to apply some kind of a 'rights agenda' to this, which is frustrating considering the global health crisis we are facing.

"They're not looking at the big picture – if you leave Yarrabah now, you cannot come back in without self-isolating – that's being entirely alone – for two weeks, and you need to have proof of that.

"This not just in Yarrabah, this is every Aboriginal and Torres Strait community in Queensland and the whole of Cape York."

[MORE INSIDE...](#)



Used with kind permission from the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

**The Commonwealth and Queensland Government’s commitment to slowing, and even stopping, the Coronavirus’ spread into Yarrabah is very welcomed by all people in Yarrabah.**

On 26th March this year Minister Greg Hunt enacted the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (Commonwealth)* to restrict entry to all remote Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.

Recognition of local leadership and solutions with the support of resources to keep Yarrabah well and safe during this period was an important and timely message as we mobilised community to respond to this pandemic.

Under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (Commonwealth)*, the Yarrabah Local Disaster Management Group (LMDG) was re-activated to lead and coordinate efforts and solutions locally.

Previously, the Yarrabah LMDG’s focus has been on cyclones

and natural disasters and while it hasn’t deal with pandemics before, this was identified in it’s planning process.

The Yarrabah LMDG has formal structures, process and authority under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and is chaired by the Deputy Mayor. Its membership consists of local organisations, Department representatives and invitees, as needed.

The Yarrabah LMDG’s approach has been to develop the *Yarrabah Local Disaster Management Pandemic Sub Plan* and the establishment of the COVID-19 Taskforce, who then developed the *Yarrabah Pandemic Action Plan* that provides the “roadmap” on what our approach to reducing the virus’s impact on Yarrabah.

# Supermarket shopping options well-covered

Food supplies to Yarrabah are secure – after a few teething problems – thanks to some hard work put in by members of the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) to ensure deliveries from Cairns and Gordonvale have been able to go ahead.

Local bus company Dindarr said they would pick up orders from any of the major supermarkets in Cairns and deliver them door to door at the normal ticket price of \$25, owner Peter McAllister said.

“Cold food can go into our trailer refrigerator, so you don’t need to worry about frozen food,” he said.

MEANWHILE Yarrabah Council said they wanted to thank Lui Garozzo from Total Food Network (TFN) and the community for making their first delivery as smooth as possible.

They said not everyone got what they wanted, but the group would be back every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and they were taking pre-orders.

LDMG chair Leon Yeatman said they were keen to make sure everyone had variety and choices.

“We also had TFN and Island & Cape setting up a kind of pop-up supermarket this weekend in our Community Hall,” he said.

“Everyone is welcome to come and have a look but please remember social distancing rules will be applied.”

He said Woolworths and Coles were also delivering over the hill, which could be arranged through their respective websites.



*Dale Thomas and family, pretty happy to get a groceries delivery from Dindarr bus driver Jeremy Steele BELOW: TFN deliveries underway + LDMG members, chair Leon Yeatman & Yarrabah Police OIC Snr Sgt Brett Jenkins*



**For Dindarr deliveries call Bev on 0477 035 054**

**For Total Food Network orders contact**

**orderscairns@totalfoodnetwork.com.au or text 0427 176 268**



# Don't wait to protect yourself from this illness, start now!

## To fish...or not to fish?

Queensland's Chief Health Officer has made it very clear – if you don't need to be out then stay at home.

However there are exceptions that apply on water.

Social distancing rules always apply – at the boat ramp and on your boat – you should only be on your boat alone, or with no more than one other person; or with family who ordinarily live in the same household as you.

Unless you have an essential need to be out - stay ashore.

If you do need to go out, stick to your local waters.

Be aware also that in the current environment volunteer marine rescue organisations may experience staff shortages and find it difficult to maintain normal levels of service to the boating community should you encounter difficulties on the water - make sure you have your safety gear onboard and good to go!



**CORONAVIRUS NOTICE** **MISSION AUSTRALIA**

**Dear Visitors, Participants and Suppliers**

Due to the ongoing impact of this virus, please be advised that our office is now closed until further notice.

- **Emergency relief** will be suspended until further notice. This is due to the shortages of most food items and for community and staff safety.
- **Circles of Care** clients can contact Leisa Garling on 0475803140 or Greg Fourmile on 0437731088. You can message Leisa or Greg and they will call you back.
- **Communities for Children Committee**, Greg Fourmile will contact you over the coming weeks regarding the update Activity Work Plan. Contact will be via phone or email.
- **LAC/ECEI (NDIS)** please call your LAC/ECEI Coordinator Bec: 0436624316 or Marcia: 0436 616 516. You can message your number and your call will be returned. You can also use 1800 860 555 for enquires

We will return to usual services as soon as it is safe to do so. Stay safe and follow all recommendations to halt the spreading of COVID-19.

**ndis** **MISSION AUSTRALIA** **MISSION AUSTRALIA Communities FOR CHILDREN**

## 'Harm minimisation' the aim for Gindaja Treatment Centre

Gindaja Treatment & Healing Service supports a 'harm minimisation' approach to those who are Alcohol and Drug dependent.

"If you or someone you know is feeling anxious or distressed about alcohol or substance use, you should call your GP to discuss medication options that will help with withdrawal process and symptoms," Gindaja Treatment Service Manager Kathy Desmond said.

"You can also call Gindaja to speak to one of our workers who can assist with counselling, advice and guidance during this time.

"There will be no judgement.

"Our professional health services and treatment centre staff are well aware that sudden alcohol withdrawals can be dangerous, especially for someone who has been

alcohol dependent for a very long time."

She said other things people could do included making their current supply of alcohol last as long as possible.

"Make a plan and only have a small amount each day without binge drinking," she said.

"And don't forget to make sure you don't share drinks or equipment, like bongs, joints etc, with anyone else as this is a big way the COVID-19 virus can be passed onto others - make sure your equipment is for you and no one else."

She said it was well-understood that addiction and alcohol affected people's decision-making and behaviour.

"When it comes to addiction and alcoholism, we have to

be mindful that it is actually a health problem," she said.

"We need to minimise the harm that alcohol and drugs can do to people and families in this situation.

"One of the best ways to do this is to encourage people to seek out support, call a trusted friend or family member to help do this and contact the health centre or Gindaja to get some guidance.

"If someone is concerned about a family member, they are also welcome to call Gindaja for support."

Gindaja's contact numbers are 4056 9000 or 4056 9156.

*Our Elders, smokers and chronic disease sufferers need to be isolated!*

*Our grannies might have to go without some time with their grandkids for a bit.*

*There is no treatment or vaccine - getting to ICU will get harder and harder as more people get sick!*

*Lots of hand washing, washing surfaces, don't share things and restrict all unnecessary visits!*



Yarrabah Service Centre will be closed from Monday 6 April, 2020 until further notice. This difficult decision was taken in accordance with Services Australia's national process for managing impacts of COVID 19 on our operations including the staffing of our Service Centres. Customers can access their Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support online accounts through myGov. Express Plus mobile apps and phone self-service are also available.

# TAKE THIS ADVICE SERIOUSLY!

*If we wait until there is a case in our community before we do these things, it will be too late...*

# Support for businesses - large and small

Yarrabah's Economic Development Officer Kimberley Gillan says she is as keen as always to help any local businesses – whatever their size – and especially now.

She said as things were constantly changing, there were two organisations (*left*) she recommended owners should sign on with to keep up to date.

She said there was more information on the Wugu Nyambil website

“If you look up this link: <https://www.wugunyambil.com.au/blog/> and scroll down, you will find a link to ‘Support for Businesses – large, small and just starting!’, which will give you an overview of what is currently on offer and some links to further information,” she said.

“And please keep an eye on our website or facebook page for further updates, we are here to help.

“You are not alone in this, Deb Thomas and I are here to support Yarrabah businesses.

“Together we can find solutions right for your business and get ready for the recovery period when there will be a sudden growth in demand.”



**Note their Business hotline:**

**1300 654 687**

This number will put you directly through to an actual person who can provide information on support tailored to your business.

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/support/novel-coronavirus>



**Become a member for free**

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) is currently WAIVING the fee on their Business Essentials memberships across Qld and are sharing daily updates.

<https://www.cciq.com.au/membership>



## Wugu Nyambil Essential services

**Monday – Friday 8:30/5:00 pm**

- **Zero walk-ins** – It is requested that all participants of Wugu Nyambil contact the office via phone in the first instance on 4056 0500, e-mail on [admin@wugunyambil.com.au](mailto:admin@wugunyambil.com.au) or access our website for updates at [www.wugunyambil.com.au](http://www.wugunyambil.com.au).
- **Work for the dole/Communities activities/ Employability Skills Training** has been suspended until further notice.
- **Walk In's (Office use)** – for exceptional circumstances only
- **Book appointment through Reception** – Use of Computer room. Access to job search computers will be limited to enact the 4m2 rule

**All other services remain by PHONE ONLY!!**

*Thank you for your co-operation*

Address: 1 Noble Dve, Yarrabah Qld, 4871  
E-mail: [admin@wugunyambil.com.au](mailto:admin@wugunyambil.com.au)

Telephone: 07 4056 0500  
Website: [www.wugunyambil.com.au](http://www.wugunyambil.com.au)



**Joanne Houghton**  
Senior Support Coordinator

**0447 699 421**



**Lisa Little**  
Support Coordinator

**CALL NOW**



**Sandra Houghton**  
Community Liaison Officer

National Disability Insurance Scheme  
**Support Coordination**

**0447 699 421**

**WE WILL WORK  
ALONGSIDE YOU TO  
GET THE MOST OUT  
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[www.creativeconsult.online](http://www.creativeconsult.online)  
[joanne@creativeconsult.online](mailto:joanne@creativeconsult.online)



**Maree Connolly**  
Community Liaison Officer



**PROFESSIONALS DELIVERING NDIS SUPPORT  
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OPERATED! LOCAL KNOWLEDGE OF YARRABAH  
PEOPLE & CULTURE! WORKERS IN COMMUNITY FOR  
EASY ACCESS TO SUPPORT!**

We can link you in with:

- \* Occupational Therapists
- \* Physiotherapists
- \* Personal Care Assistance
- \* Community based & Mainstream Supports
- \* House Cleaning & Yard Maintenance
- \* Speech Therapists
- \* Support Workers
- \* Shopping Support



# Devastating blow for two of footy's rising young stars

Keishon Hunter-Flanders and Thauki Satrick were a bit excited to be picked to play for the Northern Pride's Under-18s side in 2020.

Hopes were quickly dashed though, after just one game was played – a loss against the Seagulls at Tugun on the Gold Coast – before the rest of the season was cancelled.

The boys have played for Seahawks Juniors, Under-18s and Seniors as well as for the Cairns Crusader Under-17s side at the Queensland Murri Carnival and Peninsula Open School Boys.

Keishon also played in the Koorie Knockout for Cabbage Tree Island Under-17s and won the Cairns & District Rugby League Moore Family Award for Under 18s Best and Fairest Player last year, as well as Young Hawk of the Year and Best & Fairest for Seahawks Under-18s.

We're sorry for your losses boys, and look forward to hearing all about your games next year!



## Direction from Chief Health Officer in accordance with emergency powers arising from the declared public health emergency *Public Health Act 2005 (Qld) Section 362B*

On 29 January 2020, under the *Public Health Act 2005*, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services made an order declaring a public health emergency in relation to coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The public health emergency area specified in the order is for 'all of Queensland'.

Its duration has been extended by regulation to 19 May 2020 and may be further extended.

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/home-confinement-movement-gathering-direction>



Yarrabah News is published fortnightly by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Yarrabah community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor.

We have 1,298 likes on Facebook! Follow us today!  
Yarrabah News is online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

For more information contact Christine Howes on  
0419 656 277 or [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

OUR NEXT DEADLINE will be  
**Thursday  
28 MAY**  
FOR PUBLICATION IN  
EARLY  
**JUNE**