

Waanta

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
c/- Post Office, Lockhart River Q 4871
Ph: 4060 7144 Fax: 4060 7139
PO Box 1037, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 4031 0155 Fax: 4031 5720
Email: ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au
Web: <http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>



New initiatives reflect pride

Community participation in Lockhart's community life is at an all-time high with the formation of two new committees and the launch of a new engagement program for parents.

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Rodney Accoom said the new initiatives meant they were embracing a philosophy of self-determination with some gusto.

"I am very pleased with all these initiatives which is a reflection of the pride of my people," he said. "For too long we have been waiting for governments to come and do things, today we are starting to meet our challenges ourselves." Cr Accoom said the new Child Safety Committee would address many issues including dealing effectively with the issue of removing children from Lockhart.

"A lot of our people here have put up their hands to be foster carers," he said.

"And in the interim the Women Shelter will be

used as a temporary safe house.

"There is also a new Community Retail Store committee which will help to ensure the store is run to what the community wants.

"The group will play an advisory role to the store, for example, it can recommend to the Store what products need to be purchased. "It is expected this new committee will create a basis upon which a community-owned and operated Retail Store will be managed in the future."

More details about the Retail Store Committee are on page 2.

Mr Accoom also said the focus of a new Indigenous Parental and Community Engagement Program would be about engaging with schools and education providers to support better education outcomes for our kids.

"Council will auspice this program," he said.

"The need to find new partners that can support the development needs of the Community is at the forefront of the Council agenda.

"Recently, with the help of a staff member, the Community has also received some 60 bikes from a group called Quota Coolum.

"The bikes were rebuilt and repaired by students from Coolum Beach Christian College and Coolum Beach High School as a part of an initiative run by Paster Rod Holt.

"We welcome this new spirit of private public partnership.

"The bikes come in handy at a time when the Council has just completed its new BMX Track."





New local laws setting the standard - CEO

New local laws have been in place on Lockhart River since early July.

CEO Peter Opio said police had agreed to assist Council with enforcement.

"Bylaws are now redundant, they're now local laws," he said.

"Council will employ at least two local law enforcement officers to assist with compliance."

He said the laws were the result of a two-day open meeting which looked at what areas should be under the new system.

"There was a general consensus that local laws were a good thing for Lockhart," Mr Opio said.

"Some examples of local laws include animal management and dog registration.

"There been an issue about unsightly allotments where people leave their yards without actually cleaning it up.

"Elements of noise pollution, elements of making sure any debris and dead cars.

"The locals laws that we have put into place have been developed from the meeting and a model of the law given to us by the department.

"There are seven sections of the laws and they cover things from building permits to business development.

MEANWHILE Mr Opio said Councillors continued to undergo training so they were fully aware of their elected responsibilities.

"For the first time we've had an in-house lecturer for elected members to help to give them some insights into the Local Government Act, the planning scheme, the roles of councillors, and the role of the mayor," he said.

"There are some new demands placed on councils.

"They are required to prepare a corporate plan, they're required to continue to prepare to the operational plan on a yearly basis but in addition

to this they are now required to prepare a 10-year financial management plan.

"It's going to be very hard.

"We are also about to give Councillors some new portfolios and each of the councillors have been given a space where they can sit, talk amongst themselves and the community members can come and approach them.

"We hope they will be able to be more accessible from this.

"We need to make sure there is a very strong cohesion that binds and bonds us all into a team where the elected members, staff and the community are seen to be working as one.

"We need to make sure there's public awareness on the new Local Government Act or people will be approaching the council about issues which are no longer relevant to us.

"The Department must go out and engage the public on what the new Local Government Act says and does."

Retail store committee appointed

LOCKHART residents have taken a proactive stance on gaining improvements to the local retail store and moving towards community ownership.

While the newly-appointed Retail Store Working Committee will have no direct involvement in the day-to-day management, an advisory role is envisaged which will help strengthen the relationship between the store and the community. For example, it might recommend certain products be stocked/discontinued or initiatives to boost healthy eating choices for



local residents.

Establishing the committee is seen by the council as an important, first step towards realising the ultimate goal of a community owned and managed retail store for Lockhart River.

Members of the new committee include: Deanne Malumboy, Joh Omenyo (secretary), Ruby Omenyo (chair),

Patrick Wojin, Karen Koko, Agnes Creek, Veronica Piva and Dottie Hobson.

Source:

<http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>



Mapping out a town plan for Lockhart

Contract Town Planner Andrew Hobbs has been working with the Council and community to develop a planning scheme in accordance with new requirements under local government legislation.

Mr Hobbs said it was the role and responsibility of local governments across the state to implement land use regulation on how land is utilised and developed in and around the community.

“What’s called ‘zones’ are a primary tool of town



plans or planning schemes,” Mr Hobbs said.

“They determine what development and how construction can occur.

“The process first of all is to engage in the community and establish what existing development patterns are.

“That process incorporates how the town is

currently structured and how the planning scheme can build on that existing structure.

“It also serves to identify areas for further expansion of the town and what type of development could occur in that expansion area.

“After that we start to draft the rules and regulations on how development is to occur through the use of what are called ‘codes’.

“When we get the draft document together it then needs to go through a series of checks.

“The local government planning scheme can’t conflict with what the state government requires, such as constrictions under Wild Rivers, for example.

“As far as timeframes go, we’ve got a draft document put together at the moment so the process now is to refine that draft and make sure it’s a workable document.

“Then to go through the state interest processes and the statutory public consultation processes under the Act, which can take anything up to six months.

“We’ve also still got total mapping requirements and things we need to fulfil.

“Once those requirements are fulfilled we’ll have a draft document the community will be able get feedback on.”

Ambitious budget puts infrastructure first

A CAPITAL expenditure of \$3.8 million has been adopted by the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council as part of the 2010-11 annual budget.

Infrastructure improvements and more services for residents were the council’s key priorities in the \$7.26 million budget. In particular, completion of the water reticulation system and new landfill site were the ‘big ticket’ investment items.

In addition to maintaining existing assets, Councillors also voted in favour of refurbishing the community hall, establishing a Men’s Healing Service and a

much-needed community bus service to transport people around town and to other communities for events and activities.

Upskilling was another priority with funding committed in the budget for a full-time co-ordinator to drive continual improvement through a program of training and mentorship for council employees.

Council’s director of finance Stanley Mugwiria said the budget reflected the council’s desire to provide residents of Lockhart with a better quality of life through improvements to

infrastructure and more services.

“It has involved a very detailed process with the CEO, directors and councillors working together as a team to achieve a good outcome for our community,” Mr Mugwiria said. “It is an ambitious budget guided by sound budgetary controls and long-term planning principles to ensure we remain focussed not only on council’s immediate objectives, but also with an eye always on the future.

Mr Mugwiria’s full report is on page 13.

Source: <http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>





Council Housing Officer Jasmine Accoom is keen to let the community know she's there to help.



"My role is to look after maintenance, like what's broken in the house, plus I've got applications for forms if someone wants to apply for a house," Jasmine says.

"I can also help with pay deductions to help people pay their rent, including through Centrelink or CDEP.

"The other thing I can help with is maintenance calls, there's a blue phone down at the Land & Sea Centre, and there should be another phone coming soon.

"Residents can call 1300 738 616 from anywhere, especially if it's an emergency.

"At the end of last month the department organised a health and safety check on our housing stock here.

"So they were looking for anything which was not good, especially structurally.

"So if there was a wall that was no good, they would tell the tenants to move out until it was fixed.

"One thing which is the responsibility of the main tenant of the house, is to make sure they come and see me if people are moving around.

If the tenants want to move away from there and into somewhere else, they have to let me know so we can fill out a new vacancy form.

"That means the housing officers in Cairns and the Department of communities know where people are staying

"Remember, it's not up to the tenants, it's up to the household or the owner of the house.

"We've got heaps of forms to help you with what you need and tenants can come in and have a chat whenever they need to."

Bank and Post Office manager Lee-Ann Hatz is looking forward to moving into a new office which will provide a lot more space for her businesses.

Fridays in particular are busy for Lee-Ann, especially if the ATM is not working, as it sometimes isn't.

The only thing missing, she says, is local staff.

"I've got one local girl who takes over for me when I go on leave which is really good and helpful, but I'd like to see a lot of Indigenous girls doing my role as well," she said.

"Overall I enjoy my work and it's going really well."



What the Councillors say...



<- Cr Veronica Piva

Cr Agnes Creek ->



It's good to have more ladies on the Council because I think we have to have women speak out for our people.

I think there are a lot of very important issues here. My portfolio is community and wellbeing of the people which involves everything.

Being here for 20 years, I keep up to date with attending meetings or anything that goes on with or affects the people of this community.

I just want to let people know I'm here for them.

I'm free for anyone to come to see me if there's anything they want to know.

I was elected earlier this year to the Council.

I thought I'd give it a go and see how it is.

It's going to take me awhile to see how Council do what they do. Because it's the first time for me, I want it to get it right, you know. The main thing for me is to learn how they work.

I think I've been too long just doing what I do here, I wanted to get out and learn other things.

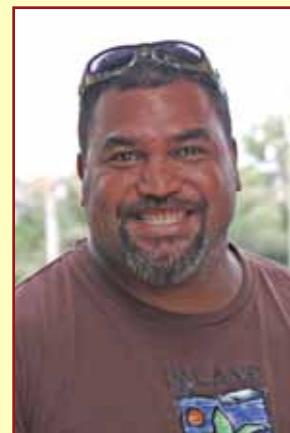
To help people around here and help the whole community, not just one.

After 17 years as a cleaner, and I'm in my 60s now, I thought it was time to get out there.



<- Cr Marshall Saunders

Cr Paul Piva ->



Everything is going really, really well in regards to finance, contracts are all coming together.

We've had those big projects happening – the water reticulation, sewerage upgrade and water meters installation. We were lucky enough to win those contracts and obviously the Council is financially rewarded because of that, and there's more to come.

We also look like winning the contracts to build seven new homes this year, so that's a good thing.

We've fought long and hard to get that.

The employment that it can create will be massive for our work crews, carpenters, etc.

So the actual income that's coming back to the council and the jobs that it can create is great for the community.

It certainly makes a difference to all of the families as well, which is a good thing.

I have the Economic Development portfolio with the Council and Business Development Manager Noeleen Clark and I are working well together.

I give her any information which comes my way about traineeships, etc and we see if we can try to get some of the local interest.

At the moment we've also got a young girl in Cairns doing a pilot program with the Navy.

She started a couple of months ago and she's really powering on down there and really enjoying herself.

Noeleen has 19 clients at the moment, that's people who want to start their own enterprises, so hopefully most of those will at least started.

Slowly we're getting there.

There's a lot of money being spent in Lockhart and things are looking up for us.



Community Development Team

Changes are afoot for the Community Development Team as more space is about to open up for them in the Council building. But with new staff on board – including a Men's Group Coordinator and assistant, a proposed Animal Management Officer, By-Law Officer, BRACS and another business mentor – space may still be tight, Director Dorothy Hobson says.

Council is currently seeking someone to fill the position of Animal Management Officer.

For more information see Dorothy or CEO Peter Opio-Otim at the Council offices.

Here are some of Dotty's team members' reports:



Above: HACCS clients and staff enjoying a game of bingo. Left to right is Amellie Claudie, Margaret Giblet, Kevin Mattie, Elizabeth Giblet, Marion Doctor, Thelma Hobson, Ina Warradoo, Phyllis Hobson & Susie Pascoe

Youth Officer Krystal Dean has been working hard with young dancers and making sure they are getting out and about in the community helping people to celebrate different events.

She said hula dancing for the girls and rap dancing for the boys seemed to be the go with a number of different groups springing up across the community.

She also said there had been a focus on family-oriented activities as well, especially during May.



Wellbeing programs work best in partnerships

Social & Emotional Wellbeing Programs are coordinated in Lockhart River by Suicide Prevention Officer Nancy Stephen, who says it's all about working in partnership.

"There are services out there but it's all working in partnership with us here. We've always worked closely with Queensland Health, the Mental Health Unit and Weipa Intergrated Health Services," she said.

"I've also been working closely with the Men's Group coordinator, Patrick, the visiting mental health doctor and any other allied health official who come in such as the Royal Flying Doctors."

She said her approach was very much about prevention.

"There are contributing factors or predisposing factors that may lead to things like people thinking of committing self harm or doing other things in the community.

"So the preventative role is in looking at identifying issues such as relationship breakdowns, people with nowhere to go, or our young ones who feel like they have no-one to talk to.

"Alcohol is also a major, major, major factor."

Ms Stephen has a nursing background with Qld Health.

"This is a brand new position for me, it's totally different for me to come from a clinical background to this," she said.

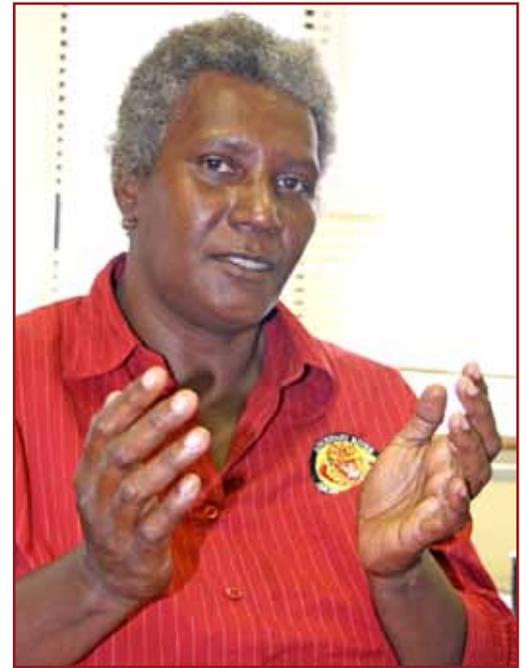
"But I really want to get things going again, to focus mainly on trying to stop this problem in its tracks, you know.

"We have got somewhere around 10 active clients in the community so I'm looking after them, as in ways of community assistance, support and assistance to carers.

"Active clients have been referred by the hospital and most of them are on some sort of medication.

"There was one instance where a fellow didn't get his job back, because of his situation, he just didn't get his job back.

"It affected everybody around him but I only had a yarn to him yesterday and he said he was going well.



"It's just that little extra help they need, that little push they need to point them in the right direction – just five minutes to help them out.

"The other ones, I just yarn with them, some of them are going through rough patches."

Ms Stephen has worked on a health and fitness week to also try to help people in the community.

"I wanted to try and get all our young mums up to the Puuya Centre to have a morning tea," she said.

"There's a lot of good stuff with health and fitness, you know, try to get them back to basics again, get up and walk you know, get their minds off things.

"It's not only stress at home, it's stress at work too."



**Left:
Women's
Shelter
staff Marian
Kranabetter,
Jennifer Sandy,
Ethel Singleton
& Lorraine
Clarmont**





Puuya Centre open to everyone

Puuya bookings are on the up and going well, says the Centre's Denise Fruit.

Programs such as music workshops, domestic violence awareness programs, teenage parent support groups and cultural sessions are helping to make the Puuya Centre the vibrant place of strength gathering and healing it was intended to be.

Denise says all people have to do is fill out a form to book the hall for whatever they want to do.

"All our culture here is really strong to make our people strong to come up here," she said.

"When they come in and sit down here they go back home feeling strong and even the people that do the workshop here they feel really strong.

"Some people are saying when they come up here they feel like a different person after they leave here.



"It is healing, they know the Puuya Centre heals them in cultural way.

"The music workshops especially, they come here, the spirits lift up and make them strong. "Even young parents feeling depressed, they sit and they go home with a happy face.

"Anyone can come to enjoy the Puuya Centre."

Wide-ranging agenda for Land & Sea Centre

In his role as Senior Ranger at the Kawadji-Kanidji Indigenous Natural Resource Land and Sea Management Centre Greg Omeenyo deals mostly with the day-to-day operations of the seven rangers currently employed at the centre.

"Our main role is about caring for our country to get funding through and it's pretty much working," he said.

"We work a bit differently to national park rangers, we have contracts for pest management and also we work with them setting policies and protocols in regards to traditional owners.

"We've tried to make sure we have rangers from each clan group as well, so there isn't conflict there.

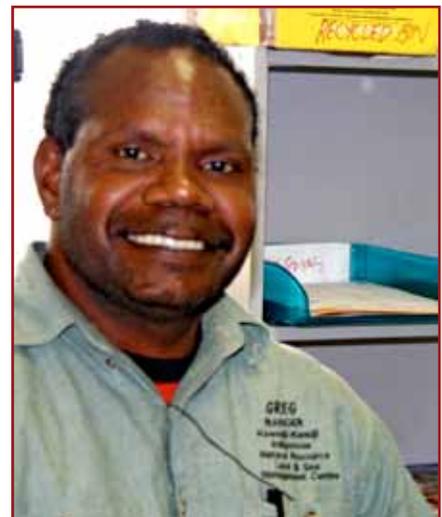
"One of the things we want to do is help people to get back on

country.

"In regards to long-term aspirations for the community, especially for young generations coming up, that's one of the things people have been asking about.

"They want to go back out on country, start up their economic development business enterprise with their own clan groups.

"We also have the capacity for more rangers, and to step up their roles as part of the next generation coming up.



"And we want to work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other agencies.

"Overall it is a big job.

"The only other thing I'd like to see is more people coming in to the Land and Sea Centre."





JP training supports community justice group initiatives

Justice Group coordinator Willie Clark says a recent spate of nasty text messages and people continuing to take risks on the roads, especially when the rivers are up, were his biggest concerns of late.

On a positive note he said it was exciting to see Lockhart's own JP Court up and running, saving time and money for everyone concerned.

"The Justice Group is asking for support from the community – elders and young people – to stop this chat talk on the phones which is causing trouble with innocent people," he said.

"It's very childish and it's getting a lot of people in trouble who have nothing to do with it.

"People have got to learn not to give other people their phone password numbers and pin numbers, it's just like giving them their bank card or pin number.

"They need to take responsibility of their own personal stuff and keep it to themselves."

Mr Clark also wanted to remind people to be careful of river crossings on their way to Coen or Archer River.

"They need to take precautions if the river is up," he said.

"If anything happens and someone got hurt or drowned the driver is responsible for them so they should think twice before they start crossing rivers when they have had floods."

He also called on the community to support the work the Justice Group was doing, particularly in terms of the newly appointed JPs around the community (*pictured above*).

"A lot of young people are involved now they've

done the JP course," he said.

"I'd like to see more of the young people become JPs, it's good experience for them.

"It's good to see some young men have done it as well, I'd like to see the rest of the younger people do it too.

"They should be looking for a good opportunity for their life and future.

"If you do the right thing and have the opportunity of doing all these courses then they become known and respected in the community.

"Come to see me if you want to do courses they take four days.

"I'd like to see the whole community support the justice group.

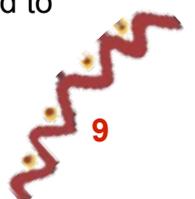
"They need to come to see me with any problems, family problems, any sort of problems they've got.

"I'll keep everything confidential, only between me and the person who speaks to me, and I'll trust everybody here and to get them to trust me.

"If there's any problems I'll help you out as much as I can.

"If we're going to live together and work as a full team in this community we need to start respecting each other too and start respecting our elders now.

"We don't want to lose our culture and our stories."





Engineering Services

Anil Gupta Director of Engineering Services

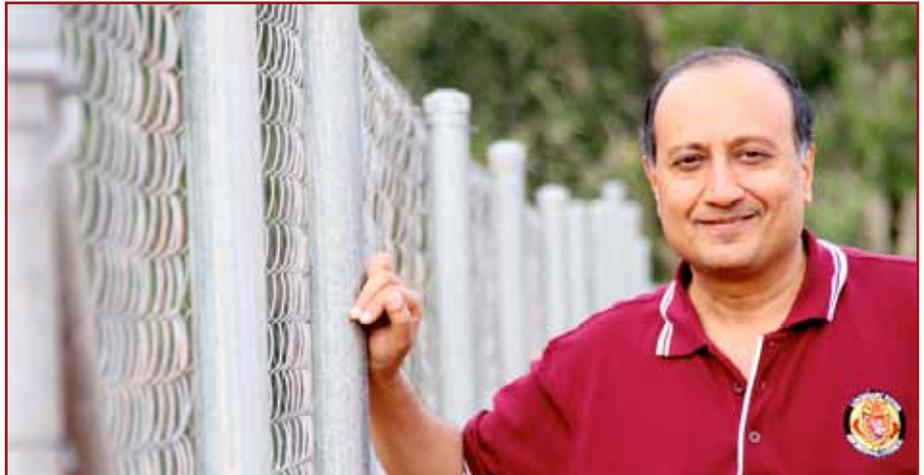
The community hall roof has been taken off.

Unfortunately because of the wet season we couldn't get access for the trucks to come in and finish the job, which will take three weeks.

Hopefully by the time we go to print we should have done that and be able to get the roof back on. Then we will do the inside, which is expected to take about two to three weeks, and the committee hall should be ready for use sometime very soon. Our own carpenters and plumbers are going to do the inside work. We are expecting to have two offices there and the rest of it will be used for various functions.

There's also the Men's Centre which will be completed soon.

The BMX track is now finished, we had some issues during the wet but it's all done now. We're looking at an option to put a shed there for the bikes and also a small grandstand with a bit of shade, so parents can sit on it and watch.



Day-to-day maintenance is keeping the workshop busy these days, with no major rebuilds on the horizon, says supervisor Lance White.

Auto-electrician Cameron Delai spent time in Lockhart showing the apprentices the fundamentals of diagnostics. He's pictured here left with tyre-fitter Solomon Accoom, Lance White and apprentice Richard Omeenyo.

This year Council has put into place a Store (right) which means goods can be purchased in bulk and warehoused on the community for future use. It means taking advantage of bulk buys and specials as they happen for everything from stationary to refrigerators, tools, pipes and spare machinery parts - whatever the Council needs!



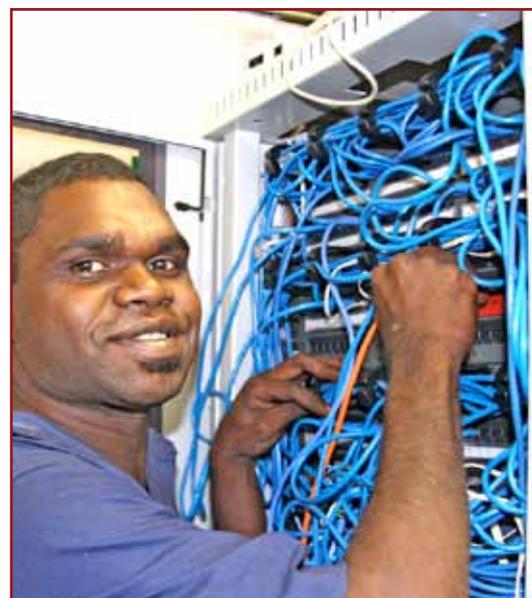


Working on the BMX track (left and above) were Garry Warradoo, Clifford Wasu, Solomon Hobson & Neol Paii.



Left: On the job digging trenches and laying pipes for the new water reticulation was plumber Michael Kennell & labourer Morgan Hobson

Trainee electrician John Chippendale has already put three years into studying for his trade but is about to start again into a full-blown apprenticeship. But the keen ‘sparky’, currently working for Council, has taken it all in his stride. “Most of the work I’ve done has been school-based,” he said. “I’m nearly there, I’ll be finished in a couple of years.”





Corporate Services

Accountant Stanley Mugwiria says the Finance Department is “achieving what it wants to achieve” which is good news for Council and the community.

“Let me start by saying so far the office has been very good,” he says.

“We are achieving what we wanted to achieve.

“Many of the Council meetings are held here now, which means the different agencies we work with can just ‘drop in’ and there’s a lot of extra communication, things are being sorted out much quicker.

“So that has actually helped us get projects in the community done on time.

“We’re also working on our IT (information technology), we’re currently looking at installing a very big server in the Cairns office which will be connected to Lockhart River.

“That means any breakdown or problem can easily be fixed

from the Cairns office.

“This will stop these frequent communication breakdown that can happen in the community.

“We hope that will be happening by the end of the financial year, it’s one of the most ambitious project we have on at the moment.

“On the end of the financial year, we are working towards that at the moment.

“The audit is carried out from here much more efficiently these days, instead of paying so much to have auditors come up to the community.

“We’ve also been able to access training in budgeting for all our Councillors as well as the relevant staff members.

“We have involved all the departmental managers in that



as well so we have sat down together and each of us has worked on this budget before it goes to the Council.

“So those responsibilities have now been passed to each of the managers who are responsible for the presentation of their own budget and the implementation of that budget.

“With that we are also going to have quarterly reviews so Council spending will be very efficient and accountable.

“Some of the staff here have taken on Certificates III and IV in business and administration, so they are taking on new opportunities while they are here and that means they will have some experience to take back to the community.”



Corporate Services staff in Lockhart River (above left) are Receptionist Chantal Cannon & Admin Officer Deanka Omeenyo.

Above in Cairns are Cheney Wolfe, who has since left the Council, with Jenny Theochari, Jane Mugwiria and Stacey Collins.

Lockhart River goes global

The Lockhart River Shire Council has a webpage at <http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au> The website is a window to Lockhart River for the rest of Australia (and the world) to see through. It provides an insight to the people and country which makes Lockhart such a special place. It also makes clear our visitation protocol for those who want to come onto traditional country and the steps they need to take to gain appropriate cultural permission. Importantly, the website is also a place where local people can find out more about the services and facilities available in our community, as well as accessing important documents such as the Council's Annual Report, Operational and Corporate Plans. The launch of the website reflects the council's commitment to openness and transparency in the way it operates and puts Lockhart River at the cutting edge of information sharing.



ABOUT COUNCIL

Working together for our children's future

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council is focussed on building a happy, united and prosperous community of which everyone can be proud.

By working together with community and others from outside it, the council can improve the living and working conditions and build a better life for our people.

OUR HISTORY

It is fair to say the community of Lockhart River has had a tough but proud history.

Lockhart River was established in 1924 when people from five traditional territories in the area were coerced into a new Anglican mission (now known as the "Old Site").

They spoke a number of different languages and were not used to living together.

Aboriginal people were not allowed to speak their language or to practise their cultural traditions and they were moved inland away from their sea country.

WHAT'S IN LOCKHART

Rich cultural heritage, stunning coastal scenery and mountain ranges, amazing bird watching, wildlife and proximity to many natural wonders, including Iron Range National Park, make Lockhart River one of the hidden gems of Cape York Peninsula. This section of our website will equip you with all the information you need on how to get to Lockhart River and what to expect when you get there.





Art workshops creating recovery



Creative Recovery Art Workshops have been running on Lockhart River since August 2008 and are open to anyone who wants to “try something new”.

Co-Coordinator Emma Hodges said the group was currently working towards an exhibition in Cairns later this year.

“We are also working on screen printing 400 calico bags to be given out at a mental health conference called Creating Futures in September this year,” she said. “The group has worked on five designs to use and we’re printing now. We welcome anyone who wants to come along and help us, it’s a big job!”

The workshops operate every Friday from 9.30am to 1pm in the red shed opposite the Art Centre.

“In the coming months the space around the shed will be landscaped so we can have an

outdoor area as well,” Emma said.

“Creative Recovery was developed by Patrick Butcher and the Health Department to give Lockhart community members a peaceful space where they can relax and try art – painting, sculpture, drawing – whatever they’re interested in.

“No experience is necessary and we have a great range of music we listen to whilst chatting and working on our projects.

“Lunch is made for each group by Hannah at the airport as well.”

She said regular members include Kevin Matty, Elizabeth Kirk, Margaret Giblet, Winnie Claudie, Grace Warradoo and Eric Giblet.

Contact Patrick Butcher or Emma Hodges for more information.



Above: L-R Patrick Butcher, Elizabeth Kirk and Kevin Matty showing off groupwork using oil pastels

Left: Dulcie Pascoe, Kevin Matty, Grace Warradoo, Emma Hodges and Patrick Butcher with a recent work in progress. This work was themed around “Waiting for the Sun”. After such a long wet season everyone was eagerly awaiting the sunshine.

Puchiwu Fishing Ltd

“Lockhart River people’s fishing company”

Puchiwu Fishing Ltd was established in November 2004 and incorporated in March 2005. It was setup to create real employment and business opportunities for Lockhart River People in the commercial fishing industry. Since then Puchiwu has trained and skilled local people in commercial divers, coxswain, master fisher, first aid, etc.

“We now have skilled Crayfish divers, reef line, mud crabs and

netting commercial fishers,” says Wayne Butcher (*pictured below left*). “Puchiwu fishers have been actively involved in the commercial Cray fishing and mud crab industry.

“Puchiwu operates under an indigenous commercial fishing harvest permit issued by Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI), formerly known as Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.”

Puchiwu Fishing Ltd provides a wide range of locally caught seafood products on seasonal or weather dependent basis including:

- Cray fish; live and frozen tail
- Prawns; Endeavour, king and Tigers
- Reef Fish; Red emperor, nannygai, grass snapper, etc
- Estuary Fish; Barramundi, Mangrove Jacks, Sea Mullet, etc
- Mud Crabs; Live and frozen cook

Puchiwu products can be bought directly from Puchiwu complex, during business hours.

Puchiwu Fishing Ltd; 123 Piiramo St Lockhart River
Phone 07 40 607134 or Fax; 07 40 607137



Annual Report rated 3rd best in Queensland



Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council stole the spotlight at the recent Public Sector Annual Report Awards, winning 3rd place in Queensland.

Chief executive officer Peter Opio-Otim accepted the prestigious award on behalf of council at a recent ceremony hosted by The Institute of Internal Auditors (Australia).

Mr Opio-Otim spoke of his pride at sharing the winner's podium with two, super councils - Brisbane and Gold Coast City Councils.

"It is quite a remarkable achievement for a small, remote, isolated community in Cape York up against the biggest councils in Queensland," the CEO said.

"This is the first time Lockhart River has been recognised in terms of the quality of its annual report. Judged against councils who spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on external consultants, we have made our presence known.

"As a council and a community, Lockhart River is becoming increasingly visible at a regional, state and even international level, with the benefit of the internet," he said.

Mr Opio-Otim thanked councillors and staff for their support in the development of the 2009 annual report.

"The benchmark has indeed been set very high as we set about the task of completing the 2010 annual report and budget process," he said.

"We look forward to the challenge of continuing to meet the high standards the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council sets for itself."

A full copy of the 2009 annual report is available on the website at <http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>

Source: <http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>