

Waamta

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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New Council fresh blend of age and experience

Lockhart River can look forward to the new Council playing an active role in the community now they are settled into their positions and portfolios have been allocated, Mayor Wayne Butcher (pictured left) says.

Mr Butcher also said he was grateful to the community for “putting their faith in me”.

“I think the community clearly stated who they wanted to be their leader and I’d like to thank them for putting their faith in me,” he said.

“I think it’s important for all Council members to play a crucial role and be responsible in their role, especially in their portfolios. All Councillors have been given portfolios including myself.”

...See next page for more on each Councillor and their portfolio...



A big cemetery clean up a few months back will be repeated soon says Community Development Team director Dotty Hobson. She also said the first clean-up day, pictured on pages 6-7, drew a lot of support from community.



Relationships focus for

Mayor Wayne Butcher said the portolios he has taken on are Leadership and Governance as well as Youth, Sports and Recreation.

“My role is to lead our Council team and mentor and coach our team along the way, so I want to look at leadership very closely as well as governance.

“My speciality is in Community Development, so that’s an area I also want to work with.

“I think we want a good Council that can lead from the front and at the same time empower people along the way.

“At this stage there’s the Council, the elected arm of the community, and there’s also the government agencies.

“We’re all making decisions, but

I think we’re missing the most critical point here and that’s the community, so we’ve got to get the community involved.

“We got to get them engaged, and we want them to take responsibility as well.

“We’ve already spoken to the State Government, and they’re indication is they want to see good governance, and they want to see ownership and they want to see leadership, quality leadership, and they want to see responsibility be taken on at that ground level.

“We also want to build some work ethic within our workforce; I think that’s a crucial point, and by doing that we’ll empower our people along the way as well.

“There are bigger pictures to look at; for instance we want to

look at a building crew; we want to start building our own houses, renovating our own house; that’s the only way we’re going to create employment, by attracting newer dollars into the system.

“We want our emphasis to be a lot on community and economic development, so the new Councillors actually want to support and assist private business development and also look at the land-tenure issue and home ownership.

“Our main focus over the first 12 months will be actually building a relationship between Council and community; that’s going to be our first priority.

...Continued next page...

Deputy Mayor Cr Norman Bally



Deputy Mayor Cr Norman Bally hopes for a better future for Lockhart River community through education and employment.

“My hope is for like a Lockhart River to move forward and to get our children more educated, so they can be the future leaders who will be running our community, our future development and community growth,” he said.

“Being in the Council is the main thing that helps us get up there with the government people and voice our opinion for our community.

“My portfolios are Housing and CDEP.

“Housing is a big issue in our community.

“There are a lot of young people coming on and they’ll be pushing for home ownership.

“So people owning their own place will be the main concern I’ll be pushing for.

“With CDEP I’d like to see them getting away from working for the dole and get them out there doing real jobs instead of just working for \$200-300 a week.”

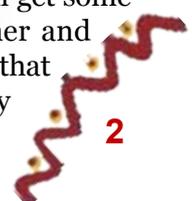


Cr Veronica Piva

Cr Veronica Piva holds two new portfolios for this term with the Council – Health and Law & Order – and says she is looking forward to new ways of working with her colleagues and the community.

“What we’re doing now is we’re working as partners - all the Councillors - training and helping each other with the portfolios,” she said. “We want the best outcome for our people in the community. We also want people from communities to get up and drive all these things that are run in the communities.

“Our job is to help our people wake up to all these things and work towards pushing for and planning ownership of these things we want in the community. So we are helping each other with our portfolios, we’ve already picked up education, which is very important to our people, so we are concentrating on one and getting better outcomes. Hopefully we’ll get some results when we put our heads together and work together as partners on the things that we want to improve in our community - partnerships and then outcomes.”



new Council says Mayor

...From Previous Page...

“The cemetery clean-up will be part of that, but also education is going to be a main focus.

“While these things are not actually under Council business they are about our roles as leaders in the community.

“But this Council is only a five-member elected arm of the community of a population of 700 so if people think we can make changes without them, they’re kidding themselves as we’re not going to, we’re going to need the support and assistance from the community as a whole - from everyone. One of the main ways to make that work is to get community involved in decision-making again and let them take on

some key responsibility.

“I want people to step up; I want people, general people in communities, to put their hands up and get involved.

“It’s the only way we’re going to walk together, move forward together in the future, is teamwork; teamwork in Council, teamwork as a community and teamwork between all the agencies in town.

“We’re looking at ways to get people involved at ground level and then maybe in the future look at a think tank’s structure where leaders from all these different committees in town - once we build the relationship and build up a foundation there - is to take it to the next level.

“We want to influence change in

Lockhart for the future.

“A lot of our mob judge things – anything – by actions, so the more you get out there, I think the better the results we will have in the long term.

“We also want to look at the Youth Council and see where we can help to get young people involved in voicing their opinion so their ideas are heard.

“We want to build a Sports and Rec committee again.

“We want to get incorporated so there’s a team of people to help organise activity throughout the whole community then, so that’s another way of getting people engaged and taking more of a role in the community.”

Cr Paul Piva



Cr Paul Piva says he is looking forward to another Council term and the chance to have another go at his two portfolio interests in Education and Enterprise & Development.

“That’s something I’m looking forward to for the next four years,” he said.

“Education is one of my passions because without good education and getting our kids going as far as they can go, I think it’s pretty hard to move forward. So as soon as the portfolios came up I was keen to put my hand up for that.

“And Economic Development is another passion of mine. I have my own business in town and I’d love to see other local people actually start their own businesses as well.

“With the new Council, new leadership and new direction, I’ve actually had a chance to delve right into all this a bit more, so I’m happy to have the chance to really embrace these two portfolios and really go for it.

“We haven’t stopped, I think, since we started the full Council, so it’s been great already.”



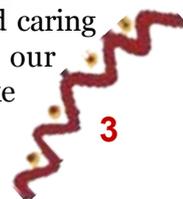
Cr Abraham ‘Blade’ Omeeny

Cr Blade Omeeny has lived in Lockhart River community all of his life.

“I’ve always been passionate about our local areas and surroundings,” he said. “It is our past, our future and we need our culture to sustain us and to keep us well. Lockhart is changing and I believe I have something to contribute by representing the community. Over the next four years I’d like the Council to improve road and access generally to the old Lockhart Mission (‘the Old Site’) and to the other homelands, and make them safe for our entire community. I’d also like to reduce waiting lists and provide better homes for our people.

“We also need to have a clean community so we can be proud of it. The past, our future, our culture, land, sea, elders, language, stories, song and dancing – we need our culture to sustain us and keep us well. It tells us who we are.

“So my vision is for a safe, friendly and caring community working together to meet our collective hopes and aspirations to make Lockhart a better place to live and work.”





Corporate Services



The Finance team has been very stable and has also undergone vigorous training in PCS and new Assetic software applications, writes Mr Mugwiria.

While one member of the team has left the Council employment for a more challenging assignment elsewhere they were immediately replaced.

December 2011 through to June 2012 is the second half of the financial year which finds the finance team very busy with preparations to close the financial year almost complete, and most end-of-year procedures underway.

We have high hopes all will be accomplished as we have planned.

Budget implementation was the main focus with operating budget favourably achieved with 84% (received 6.9m against budget of \$8.1m) of revenue received and 82% (spent \$6.4m against budget of \$7.8m) expending.

Overall the Council has achieved its planned revenue and expenses within acceptable ranges.

Assets Management Planning, Financial Forecasting and Corporate Planning have been the new areas of activity and our Department has been

preparing for this new compliance regime by undertaking implementation of Assetic software to aid in generating Capital budgets and Forward Work programs as part of 10 year planning.

Preparation for the new budget for the next financial year will be commencing as soon as Corporate and Operational Plans are ready.

Finally our progress with the audit has been very good, our interim audit is already completed, and our internal audit visits have been very successful.

Constructive feedback and recommendations towards achieving our quality assurance objectives have been adopted.

The final visit for the annual auditor will be sometime in October 2012.

I wish every member of Finance and Administration Team a successful end of financial year 2011-12 closing.

Stanley Mugwiria

Director of Finance and Administration



HR Payroll Officer Stacey Collins, Purchasing Officer Jenny Theochari & Accounts Payable Officer Jane Mugwiria



School BBQ result of first round of meetings

Lockhart Aboriginal Shire Council is making plans around engaging the community on education issues with a view to empowering future men and women who will lead and run the community.

It's also part of the Council's aim to build relationships with the community by engaging everyone concerned with issues of importance for now and into the future.



"We're planning a Community Education Forum where we want to start building new relationships between teachers and parents including the students, and then school and community and leaders," Cr Butcher said.

"That's going to be our focal point to begin with, and then we're going to hold the community forum around education in general."

and we started to talk about ways we can tackle some of the education issues at ground level. "Things like attendance rates at school which are currently around 80 per cent, but we're aiming for 100 per cent by next term."

Cr Butcher said it was important work in terms of leadership in the community.



"Some of the things we've done already include actually meeting with the Parents' & Citizens' committee and from there we held a barbecue with the Year 7 students, their parents and teachers. "So, the whole Council turned up on the day

"It's important for us to identify areas in need of improvement and then to act upon them in a strategic way," he said. "It's also about identifying other leaders in the community to support and assist us at the same time so in the end we develop practical in- and out-of-house partnerships. We want to lay a foundation so our future generation can build upon that. We're going to try and connect them as well, along the way. Some of the elders came up with some great ideas about the way they want to pass on their knowledge to children, to the younger generation, so we've got to look at ways of connecting them with the schools."





Big turn-out for cemetery clean-up but still more to be done

A big cemetery clean up a few months back will be repeated soon, Community Development Team director Dotty Hobson says.

She said the first clean-up, pictured on these pages, drew a lot of support from community, which was good to see.

“I walked along with the Mayor and we had to look at the names and number the rows,” she said.

“Lots of them didn’t have names, so I think the idea was to try and identify the graves so we can put names on them.

“For some of the older ones we needed people to remember where their family were buried and it was good some of them were able to help with that.

“It was a good thing to do, but there is still more to be done.”

Mayor Wayne Butcher said the idea had come from a meeting the new Council had had with Elders.

“We’re trying to build respect back to the Elders again and get recognition, so we had a barbecue at them,” he said.

“They highlighted some issues, but they also came up with some ideas and one of them was to go back to the cemetery and to clean it up a bit, but also look at finding where loved ones were.

“Wherever there were tombstones that were unmarked and didn’t have names on, we went through and started mapping them.

“The aim is for an ongoing process so every month we’re hoping we’ll get different family members every time and we can identify some of the areas where we can’t identify at the moment.

“Everyone got involved – Council workers, old people, young people – so we had a very good crowd down on the day.

“It was only for three hours, so we were keeping it short, sweet and simple, and we want to continue with that.”



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Community Development Team

With renovations going on all over town, Community Development Team Director Dotty Hobson says different people are on the move, “but we’re still here”.



“The Puuya Centre is being put to good use while the Land & Sea building is being renovated,” she said.

“HACC is also being renovated and the Community Hall too, that’s where our youth worker Ray will be.

“They are also supposed to share the office with a Sports and Rec person.

“In a couple of months time the hall should be full of furniture and we should be having activities down there.

“Our radio is going well, we have Denise Fruit working there, and a young fellow by the name of Smithy Bowly, who has just joined.

“The Kid’s Shop is open, but it’s not doing so well

at the moment, we really need to secure that place so we can run it for after school activities.

“Paddy is in charge there, but he doesn’t actually work for Council.

“Bingo is very popular on Friday nights, there’s good household prizes too.

“PACE is another program under my wing and Barbara Chippendale is the co-ordinator of that, so she’s working with the parents, the school and the children.

“At the moment there’s not so much going on, we’ve got a funding officer and she’s been a great help with applications for grants and things like that.

“I have a lot of areas though, it’s hard sometimes.”

Much support for anti-DV activities says Ethel

In some activities men outnumbered women for the first time ever during Lockhart River’s 2012 National Domestic Violence Month, Women’s Shelter coordinator Ethel Singleton says.

The community street march was the highlight, with men invited to join for the first time.

“We had a good roll-up actually,” she said.

“We left from the Women’s Shelter and went around the community, and then finished back here for lunch.

“Men joined us this year, for the first time, so it was really good.

“That included all the new Council members plus there was a lot of other Council employees turned up too.

“They could have outnumbered the women that day, and that’s the first time in Lockhart that’s happened.

“We hold marches against violence two or three times a year, just to get the message that we want a violence-free community out there.

“We also held a women’s luncheon where we had a little service with prayer to remember the victims of domestic violence in the past.”

Mrs Singleton said bingo – held every second Friday at the Church hall – was also proving to be very popular.

“That’s been ongoing and everyone’s very happy with that,” she said.

“The people in the community are very happy with all the prizes they can win and everyone is

welcome to that.

Looking forward, she said, it was already time to get things sorted for NAIDOC.

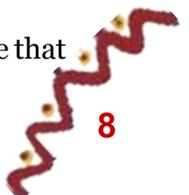
“So I’ve started all the NAIDOC arrangements and everything for July,” she said.

“I’m also planning on doing activities here at the shop, such as bead-making and things like that.

“We’re looking at all this for next year; I think we’re going to try and start a bit early and start doing things as we go along.

“The shop has been running really well.

“We’re here for anyone that needs our assistance.”





Pics courtesy Stefan Armbruster, SBS



Who is that fella on the pushbike?

Lockhart River Council's new Youth Worker, Ray Gen, worked with kids in Cairns for seven years all up, before coming further north.

He used to ride his bike around down there too. "I've always had a passion for working in remote areas," he said.

"I worked in the Northern Territory for a bit too, because I've always had that interest and passion to come out into remote communities.

"So, I've got a keen interest in helping youth gain some perspective and in encouraging and supporting them in any way that I can.

"Living in Lockhart is a great opportunity.

"I'm not going to be here forever, one of my biggest goals in this position is to empower the youth and young adults to be able to take on my role.

"I'm available to the community where I'm needed.

"I've been working with the Men's Group as well, and I'd like to help to develop a youth committee.

"And then, from that, we will develop sporting, leisure and recreational activities which might include softball, AFL, soccer, tennis, cricket and maybe an active running club, in community.

"On the leisure side of things there is fishing and hunting, camping, open field trips out into different

areas and hopefully some multi-media work for art festivals – anything which engages the wider community with our youth is also good.

"So I guess I'm not a desk type of guy, I prefer to be out on foot but the community already knows me as the guy on the pushbike at the moment."





Wulpumu Community Justice Group



Too many people are losing not only their vehicles and facing huge fines, but losing their lives by drinking and driving, Wulpumu Community Justice Group Co-ordinator Willie Clark (pictured above) says.

“The roads are open but people need to stop driving while drinking,” he said.

“It’s been causing accidents and there’s also been deaths now.

“If they get caught they lose their license and they probably also lose their job and still have to pay more in fines.

“Personally I’d rather them save up for awhile and buy cars rather than paying fines.”

He said the nine active members of the CJG were keen to meet with the new Council.

“I want to bring up a lot of issues regarding our community, how we can support our community,

how we can solve some problems in the community and work together as a big team,” he said.

“I want to communicate with the new Council on a daily basis now, and so we can work together, sorting and talking about issues and getting more activities and programs done in the community.

“We all need to work really close with staff and teachers so we can make sure the children go to school everyday.

“Parents should also go to the school even once a month to hear a report from the teachers to find out how the children are going at school and how to help them.”

Stores renovations should secure delivery outcomes

Renovations around the Council Store have approval to go ahead and should start by the end of the year says manager Matthew Redman.

He said Council would then be in a better position to bid for freight agencies for Sea Swift and Tuxworth, meaning the community in general would no longer have to take a punt on deliveries being left on the wharf or in the street until they are picked up.

“Hopefully it’s going to start before the end of the year, but I’m not sure,” he said.

“Apart from the Council needing the space, we’ve also



got to come to some sort of conclusion for the people of Lockhart, so they got somewhere to pick their freight up from and it’s not just getting left out for someone to take it.

“These companies don’t make phone calls or anything, you see – you’d think they’d do a delivery service for it, but none of them do it.”

He said concreting the yard was part of the plan.

“The whole area right up to the road and out the back, right around the fence line will be concreted,” he said.

“That will mean we got more room here to order more for the wet season, which will be cheaper overall.



C&O + Acting-Director of Engineering Services

Efficiency measures top of the agenda

The newly elected Lockhart River Shire Council took office on 1st May 2012 and quickly settled into attending to Council business.

After meeting with all Council supervisors, new efficiency measures were immediately introduced. They included:

- Locking up of all council vehicles after work.
- Getting rid of the RDO system.
- Requiring council employees to sign off and sign on during lunch times.
- Freezing employment

To strengthen the relationship between the elected arm and the community, the council embraced the portfolio systems; each councillor has been allocated specific areas to be responsible for.

This approach, will encourage and strengthen the interface between the community members, agencies and the council and will greatly assist in the overall strategy of working as one.

Community invited to have input into Corporate Plan

Work on the Lockhart River Council's five-year Corporate Plan has started. The Plan is a statutory requirement under s120 of the New Local Government Act 2009.

All community members are invited to have input into this important planning tool for the future of our community.

The month of June has been set aside specifically to ensure that the consultation and engagement processes go ahead. Remember it is you who will shape the future of Lockhart Community – so come and have your say about building our future.

Capital Works Projects for Lockhart River Community.

In March 2012, Council received a letter of offer from the Former Minister of Local Government for three projects under the Local Government Grants and subsidies program (LGGSP) 2011-2012.

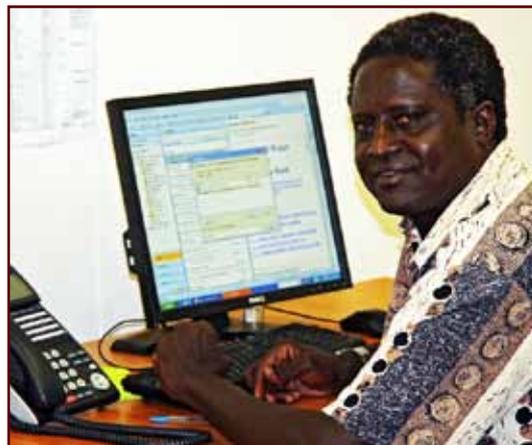
The three projects were:

- Community street lights \$150,000.00
- Refurbishment of Council Store \$1,000.00
- Quintal Beach camping sites \$520,000.00

Work on the community street lights - being undertaken by Ergon Energy - is well in progress.

Once completed, the street lights will provide the community with a safer and more secure environment.

Work on the refurbishment of Council store and the Quintal Beach camping site will be undertaken after the tenders have been advertised, assessed and awarded.



Fire training

Council staff recently attended a practical fire safety training course in Lockhart River.

Grant Falge from the Trinity Fire Services conducted the training which covered the following areas:

- how fire spreads;
- different types of fire extinguishers; and,
- the process of attacking fire once it has started.

Trainees had hands-on experience using a fire extinguisher, an activity which was taken on with much gusto and determination by all those participating.

Council Engagement with Government Departments & Agencies

Since coming into office the new Council has met with a number of Government departments and agencies.

These discussions have covered a wide range of areas including: the new subdivision; the upgrade and renovation of Council houses; the realignment of roads in Lockhart River; education issues; child safety issues; and, training and employment for community members.

Council hopes to regularise and standardise meetings with Government agencies as a way of sharing information that can contribute towards solving problems in the community.



Notice Board



Indigenous Driver Licensing Program

The State Government's Indigenous Driver Licensing Program, in consultation with Indigenous communities and local Councils, delivers licensing services to remote communities in Queensland.

Everything you need to know about getting your licence is now available at www.roadtrip.qld.gov.au, where you will find 11 videos to guide you through a land of licenses, tests, logbooks, crazy koalas, vampires and kamikaze toads. Or you can phone 1800 130 886.

STOP GETTING FINED, DO THE RIGHT THING!

*Information & Communication
Technology (ICT) &
Data Support Officer
Joseph Muchoki
has taken most of
photographs in this
Issue of Waanta. He
is based in Lockhart
River and can be*



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ict@lockhart.qld.gov.au*

*Check out the Council's website at
<http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>
Waanta was written, edited, produced and
otherwise photographed by Christine Howes for
the LRASC except where otherwise stated.*

...DID YOU KNOW...?



Lockhart River Airport and Iron Range Cabins now have a WIFI Internet Hotspot. Visitors can get internet connections just like any other airport in Australia. Guests at the Iron Range Cabins can purchase a 24 Hour or a 7 Days Internet Ticket at a reasonable cost.

2012 Council Meeting Dates

Month	Agenda Closing Date	Meeting Date
July	Wednesday 11 th	Wednesday 18 th
August	Wednesday 8 th	Wednesday 15 th
September	Wednesday 12 th	Wednesday 19 th
October	Wednesday 10 th	Wednesday 17 th
November	Wednesday 14 th	Wednesday 21 st
December	Wednesday 12 th	Wednesday 19 th

For more information please contact the CEO at ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au or 07 4060 7144.

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

Office Staff Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 8am-5pm

Fri: 8am-12.15pm

**Engineering,
Community**

**Development and all
Contract Staff Hours:**

Mon - Thurs 7.30am-5pm

Fri: 8am-12pm



Please note the RDO has been cancelled for ALL staff. ALL staff need to clock out at lunch and clock back in when they return. If staff leave their work place for personal reasons they should ensure they clock out and back in again when they return.