

### NEWSLETTER

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## A winning team!

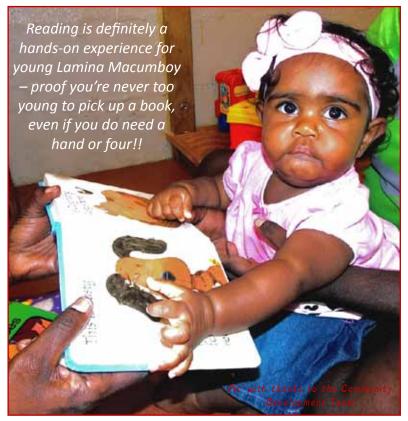
It's all about our kids getting the best start they can, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Wayne Butcher says.

All indications are the community — from Councillors through to the kids themselves — are with him all the way. He said a huge range of services were showing great teamwork and leadership to ensure Lockhart River kids were educated, healthy, busy and happy.

"Within the pages of this newsletter there is strong evidence our parents – and their children too – are succeeding in that too," Councillor Butcher said.

"Starting with our early childhood programs, partnerships and resulting activities, we move through to our senior school successes and youth programs, all of which are starting to see some positive results. "We're going to continue with supporting education, we're already starting to see some improvement at the school in attendance and parents' involvement, as well as students' behaviour. There are some positive signs there and we will continue this focus."

Helping to coordinate programs is Family Together, which brings together mums (with their bubs!) to choose activities for themselves and use services already in Lockhart such as Playgroup, Families as First Teachers (FAFT), Parents as Learners (PaL), Parental and Community Engagement Program (PaCE) with coordinator Christina Butcher, and the Library.



Margo Accoom, who started in January with Council, is working through Family Together with Playgroup and FAFT to make them more accessible to the mums, by: organising an Open Day at the Church Hall (see next Waanta for pics!); working with Playgroup to make it a better place for mums and bubs to go; making sure Playgroup has an air conditioner; and putting up a fence and sandpit for outdoor play (to be shared with Kids Club). Family Together meets each Thursday and have

had fun trips to the beach, movies, made photo books and are now making reading books for Lockhart kids.

Each week FAFT parents also make resources to take home and use with their child — things like posters, books, animals to sing counting songs with, calendars and more.

...CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...

# A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher



Education is a primary focus for the Lockhart River Shire Council as part of an overall strategy to build the town's 'people resources' to ensure a strong future for everyone, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...



In last June's newsletter I said, "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."

One of the things we've been working on is building a strategy to support Lockhart River secondary



students who are away at school, so we want to build a stronger relationship between ourselves and the secondary schools and colleges our Lockhart kids go to down south. The pictures left are of an official visit to some of our Townsville schools, actually looking at the facilities, meeting the principals, meeting the teachers, checking on the children and just having a yarn  $\hat{l}$ 

...FROM PREVIOUS PAGE... Parents and staff wanted to thank Gabriel Butcher for driving the community bus so they could get to their activities.

One of the groups they have worked with is FAFT whose main goal is to engage parents and families of children aged from birth – pre-prep and promote the fact that families are their child's first teacher.

Families all want what's best for their kids and Lockhart families are proving this by turning up each week making posters, toys and teaching aids they can use with their kids at home.

In other news, Playgroup worker Cassie Accomm

In other news, Playgroup worker Cassie Accoom is back and Moira Macumboy is there too.

Linda Miley, who spent many years in

Lockhart as a teacher, is the new coordinator from Playgroup Australia and regular visitor to our town.

Programs like these in early years learning and parenting are a high priority for the Puuya Foundation and a focus for their Education Learning Circles.

The key messages are the more parents and children and babies are involved in these activities, the more they can help their kids with the best start they can have to school as well as life itself.

An Open Day was planned for 9am-12 on Wednesday 20 March for all our early years programs to come together and let people in Lockhart know what is available for them and their children. We'll have pictures of that in the next Waanta (due in June/July) — in the meantime see inside for more pics and info!

with the kids giving them an opportunity for them to raise any issues or matters that are concerning them.

We can then take that information back to the community, talk to the parents and look at how we can better strengthen their relationships. Otherwise there's a big gap between the schools our kids are sent to and Lockhart River itself, so we've got to somehow link the parents with their kids. A parent should know the type of facility their child is in, not just the school itself, but the standard of education they are taught to as well.

So Council is happy that our strategy of engaging as many in the community as possible in educating our kids, our young people and our future leaders seems to be on track and starting to bring in results. In other Council business 2013 has already been a busy year. We've got some really big plans starting off with a big new

subdivision.

We're looking at an extra 30 lots to be built in three stages over the next four to seven years on the hill opposite the community footy oval.

I think that's going to be a big project for this year.

We're negotiating with the Queensland Government and other Councils about taking control of the retail stores in those six communities which are still owned by Government. The other communities are Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Palm Island, Woorabinda and Doomadgee.

This has been going on for 20 years but we finally have what we think is some progress on it now. Fingers will be crossed over the next few months that we have some business proposals we will be putting up to the Government.

We're hopeful because this Government is keen for private enterprise, so this might be a window of opportunity for us. We're still moving through the Council organisational restructure, which will continue over the next eight months or so.

We particularly want to concentrate on strengthening middle management, supervisors and directors, so we have clear direction.

That means we're shuffling employees and possibly their teams around a bit as well. Finally, we're disappointed to report one of our Councillor positions has become vacant following Cr Josiah Omeenyo's disqualification under the Local Government Act as a result of his absence without leave from two consecutive meetings. That means the Council will hold a by-election to replace

Wayne Butcher

that position. Notices will be

community soon.

going up about that around the

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council



Parents' 'Meet the Teachers' day was organised by the Lockhart River State School, PaCE & the LRASC Community Development team... Thanks to Puuya Foundation's Denise Hagan for the pics!



# Foundation Day 2013

An edited history of Lockhart River by Rev. David Thompson Long before the Lockhart River Mission started in 1924, Aboriginal people in the region had contact with outsiders including with people of the Torres Strait Islands and Papua.

Chinese people were active in the goldfields in the 1870s, and Japanese people and others were on luggers by the 1880s.

Japanese sailors in particular formed working relationships with Aboriginal family groups to workers to dive for beche-de-mer and pearl shell.

European Hugh Giblett set up a base camp at Orchid Point in Lloyd Bay for gathering sandalwood from 1909.

Old man Charlie Claudie worked for him and changed his name to Charlie Giblet.

Hugh died in 1923 after he was injured in a fight.

Around that time, the Church of England (now called Anglican Church) was looking for a place to set up a Mission.

The first superintendent Harry Rowan came and made a start next to Giblett's old camp at the Waterhole in 1924.

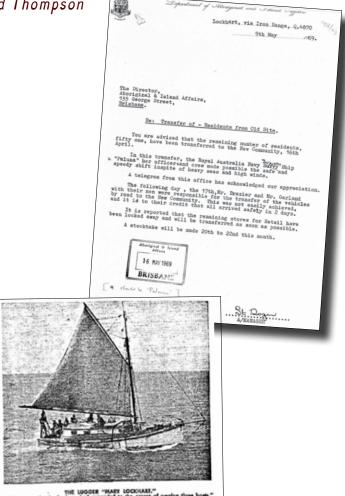
The Mission began with 29 adults and six children and with the expectation that at least 500 would come under its influence.

It was not the intention of the Mission to provide food, but to develop settled self-support.

By January 1925 there was more than 80 people and Rowan decided Bare Hill was a better place for the Mission.

After the wars, the Mission was run down. Everyone pulled together to build the old church building from bush timber in six weeks in 1953.

Bishop Matthews ran a public campaign in 1961 to get more support for the three Anglican Missions on Cape York Peninsula.





Superintendent Currie was the first to suggest moving closer to Iron Range airstrip and Portland Roads wharf.

Bishop Matthews tried to get more funding from the government but the government kept pressure on to take over the Missions.

The Church finally agreed in 1966.

Then the government released more funds and started planning to move the people to a site near Iron Range.

People started moving over from Old Site after Christmas in December 1968.

Many families camped in tents at this time, waiting for more houses to be built.









Pics with thanks to the Community Deveopment Team. Historical pics provided by Rev. David Thompson.

Life was hard at that time as people got used to the new place, the builders and government staff. There was little transport then and it was harder to get to the beach for fishing and hunting. People would often go to the beach or airport with a tractor and trailer.

The government had the assimilation policy then and discouraged cultural activities.

Alcohol also became a problem.

But people kept up their own leadership through Councillors and Elders and language was still spoken by many people.

The Lockhart River community has come a long way since then, but knowing where we come from helps us to see the way forward.

In 2013 Foundation Day celebrations were held at Quintell Beach where the Council's Community Development Team – particularly YARI, Kid's Club, HAAC and PACE – worked together, making it an event to remember. Youth worker Greita Pascoe (tending the fire above) organised games for the kids and is pictured tending the fire for damper. Cr Paul Piva picked up the kids on the bus and cooked a great BBQ while Kids' Club provided face painting and balloon animals.

Their public holiday on the following

Monday was well earned.



# Corporate Services











Professional training for Lockhart River-based Council supervisors and team leaders has been ongoing. Team leadership and supervision training workshops over several months have been facilitated by Diane Price.

Workshops were held in February and are due to run again next month.



"This workshop is about communication, delegation, managing performance, handling conflict situations, all the usual sorts of leadership things, what it takes to be a good and effective leader," Ms Price said.

"The training will finish at the end of the financial year."



# Engineering Services

Black & More Partner/Principal Project Manager Greg O'Brien is the Partner responsible for the Project Management Division of Black & More. With more that 20 years' experience, he is an expert in the management of civil projects including water, sewerage, roads, drainage and storm water. He is a member of the Institution of Engineers Australia and the Australian Institute of Project Management.



#### Quintell Beach

Funding has been allocated for the construction of the Quintell Beach camp ground.

Council is liaising with the State Government regarding the delivery of these works.

The facilities will be a valuable asset to the local community.

They will increase employment and economic opportunities in Lockhart River which will attract tourists who may have otherwise bypassed the town.

#### Council Store Upgrade

The contract for the construction of the new shed at the Council store was awarded to ESW Constructions early last month.

Design has been finalised, with construction works due to start on the site this month.

Council will also be carrying out the construction of the carpark, civil works and renovations to the existing Council store building once construction of the new shed has been completed in June.

#### Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Works

Restoration works on the Lockhart River road network from the 2012 rain event have started and are being carried out throughout the Lockhart River Council area.

These works are currently being carried out by Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council in partnership with local contractors.

These partnerships are providing employment and training for members of the Lockhart River community.

Following Cyclone Oswald, in January 2013 Council is undertaking emergent works to ensure that hazards are rectified and/or identified. Rectification works from 2012 and any new rectification works from 2013 are to be completed on many of the Lockhart River roads and it is expected that these works will continue throughout 2013.

Care should be taken with all road transport this time of year to avoid any existing hazards.



The Council stores area is due for an upgrade which will include a concrete surface, a car park and renovations to the building.















Pics on these pages with thanks to Black & More

Roads to Recovery Funding for Road Upgrades

Council has secured R2R funding to upgrade the Link Road between Illa and Wachee Streets and the road between the end of Blady Grass Street and the Cemetery.

Construction is due to begin in September 2013.

#### Lockhart River Lighting Upgrade

Council has contracted Ergon Energy to install an additional 47 street lights around the town. Ergon Energy is finalising its designs and expect to commence works once any environmental or cultural heritage issues have been addressed. Works are likely to commence at the conclusion of the wet season.

#### Iron Range Airstrip Maintenance

A funding application has been prepared and submitted for the upgrade to the Iron Range Airstrip.

The application was based on upgrades and rectification works identified in an engineering report prepared earlier this year.

It is anticipated works can proceed as soon as the necessary funding has been secured.



Lockhart River State School Drainage Upgrade

The Department of Education, Training and Employment has provided funding for drainage upgrade works at the Lockhart River State School.

These works are designed to upgrade drainage in the area and prevent inundation of the school grounds.

The contract for these works was awarded to ESW Constructions in early 2013 with construction now completed.

ESW Constructions has worked in partnership with local community members and contractors to deliver the works.

Additional upgrade works, including new walkways and an upgrade to the basketball court, are likely to start over the coming months.

### 'Problem spots' and drainage focus for road crew

'New face in town' Glenn Spires is the Council's new Civil Works Manager, working mostly with the road crew as a hands-on manager.

"I'm not an engineer, but it's very similar," he said.

"I'm going to do a lot of the hands-on managing, making sure that we are putting the rightsize pipe in, building the road correctly, using the right material. "We need to make sure we do it the best way we can." He said an important focus of the gang was to work on problem spots.

"I want to slowly upgrade and put pipes in where there are problematic areas," he said. "There are spots where there is always water going over and it's been a problem every year, so we'll slowly get a lot of those fixed. "I also know there are people who like getting down to old Lockhart site and sometimes there's only a couple of months a year they can do that. "We might not make it much faster to get down there, but we might give them an extra couple of months out of the year that they can get there. "The other thing is to make the road in from the Peninsula Development Road safer.



the Cook Shire, so I've met with the guys from there. "Ultimately we are trying to build Lockhart's capacity and possibly put on a few more local guys and train them up.

"I want to be able to mentor as many of them as I can, get them on a few machines, get them with some skills and we can then, if there's an event a flood or a low - we can ring Cook Shire and say 'we got it'." He said drainage was another priority.

"There's a lot of extra drainage that needs to be done around town, so I'll be heavily involved in that," he said.

Mr Spires said his background

dam and road building. "I've been in North Queensland for nearly seven years and my wife is a north Queenslander. "I'm a Brissy boy and I've been managing, supervising and coordinating things for 20-something years now. "At one stage I was the coordinator for Construction and Maintenance for the Tablelands Regional Council - that's an area bigger than Tasmania and we had hundreds of staff and projects everywhere.

was in the building industry,

"I really like the idea of remote community and getting in and making a difference.

"I've been keen to travel since I could walk so I saw the ad and said, 'I'll just apply,' and got the job.

"I work two weeks in Lockhart and then do a week in Cairns, so I can have all my meetings and play with the kids because I miss my three kids terribly and they miss their Dad. And we care for Pop - my wife's father - for most of the time too. "It's the longest I've ever been away from home, so it's hard. "I really want to make a difference in the community, in 12 months time I want them to look a road which is fixed and say, 'we're able to get from here to there now and we

couldn't before'."



# Early Years in Lockhart

What you can do with little ones in Lockhart at Playgroup, FAFT, Pal & Family Together



Playgroup coordinator Cassie Accoom is back and pictured here with Moira and Lamina Macumboy









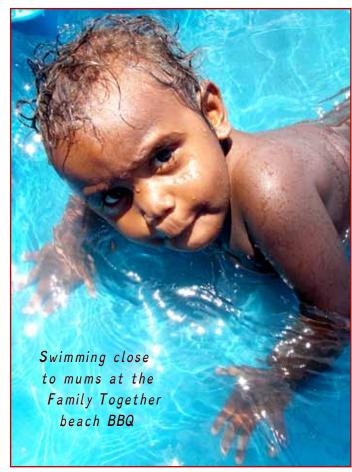
Learning thro
Play at Familias First Teach
FAFT)



Family Together worker Margo Accoom with kids at the beach BBQ









Christina Butcher as the Parental and Community Engagement (PACE) worker helps parents of young and older kids, get involved in their kids' education







«— Queensland Health Hearing Loss Family Support Service healthworker Selma Kum Sing





Family Together worker Margo Accoom

LRASC

Pics on these pages with thanks to the Community Development Team

lies hers

11



# Community Development Team



### Blackrobats help drum up a storm over holidays





Kids Club had a great holiday program with visits from Drum Up Big and Blackrobats.

Blackrobats are Phaedra Craig and Jenny Sader, an indigenous group, from Kuranda who teach circus skills to help empower our young people over a four-day workshop held during the holidays.





Ray Genn held his workshops - Wally Walwork and Morganics - at the same time. The kids had a great time learning to balance on boards, painting their faces and spraying their hair like clowns, hula hooping, balancing sticks and making juggling balls.

#### Why drumming?

- Drumming is physical and fun
- Rhythm helps with maths concepts
- Rhythm calms the mind and relieves stress
- Drumming helps your brain processes
- Drumming helps you let out intense emotions and impulses



## Plenty for youth in holiday initiatives

Over the Christmas break our youth enjoyed a number of activities including music and filmmaking, mural painting with spray paints, discos and movie nights as well as swimming during hot summer days YARI (Youth at Risk Initiative) coordinator Ray Genn writes.



Pics on these pages with thanks to the Community Development Team











The community hall is shaping up to be a great venue for youth as we continue to push out activities each night, including pool competitions, dart competitions, ZUMBA and regular discos.

They are gearing up to generate some money for more activities with the goal of purchasing canoes as well as for ongoing events including BBQs.

A big thanks to Greita for her work in engaging youth, her

enthusiasm for learning and for demonstrating positive steps forward towards being a strong and positive worker.

Congratulations Greita you are the best — keep up the good work!

If you would like any more information call YARI coordinator Ray Genn on 0400 471 865 or email youth@lockhart.eld.gov.au





Puuya Foundation welcomed one of their major supporters, the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation (TFFF), to Lockhart River early in February.

Puuya chair Dottie Hobson said they were happy to see them. "We are very happy Tim and the CD Kinchya Ngumpulungu

— Songs from the East Coast
Lockhart River Volume 2.

Toby, Norman, Silas, Barry,
Elly, Brian and all the boys
from the bands took the
opportunity to play all night
for a community BBQ on

February 11
to say thanks
to Tim and
Gina Fairfax.
Gina Fairfax
said they
were happy
to meet
everyone.

Gina Fairfax took the time to come and visit our community and get to know us better," she said.

"We really thank them and their Executive Officer Samantha Jorgensen for all their support and friendship. "It's also been good to have our Deputy Chair Jim Varghese back in Lockhart again."

TFFF have supported the Puuya Foundation since 2011 and especially helping Lockhart River musicians have their songs professionally produced for

"We all gained so much from the learning circles and meeting everyone in their home town," she said.

"There are some great leaders in the community and we are privileged to be involved.

"It's wonderful if we can encourage and help make a difference, to change things for the better."

The Lockhart River dancers also painted

up and performed which made everyone very happy. It was evident music has brought people together and has had a powerful healing effect.

Barry Warradoo also talked about how music has changed his life at a special Learning Circle with TFFF and community leaders from the Puuya Foundation and Council at the Puuya Centre. Elders told our visitors stories about Lockhart River and everyone enjoyed visiting the Arts Centre, Women's Centre, Men's Shed and Lockhart River State School as well as Chili and Quintell Beaches. Overall the visit provided a great snapshot of the community of Lockhart River and its surrounds.









During that same week the third in a series of Education Learning Circles was held. The Learning Circles have been well supported by the Lockhart River community with on-going support from both State and Federal governments and other non-government organisations. Participants said the Learning Circles were a valuable tool which kept people working together and they wanted them to continue.

Puuya Foundation Director Cr Veronica Piva thanked everyone for coming and said they needed partners and friends to "walk with us for the long-term".

Topics discussed included school attendance, behaviour and education outcomes as well as the Early Years Learning and Parenting project.

Mayor Wayne Butcher said Puuya's support was critical. "There is an increased demand for Council services, therefore the support of the Puuya Foundation is more crucial in the early years arena," he said. "Ongoing support and commitment from all organisations participating in the Learning Circles to advancing education in Lockhart River, combined with Puuya Foundation's focus on parents being involved in early learning, is an important key to success." CEO Denise Hagan said it was good to see more parents getting involved in early years programs including Playgroup, Families Together, Families as First Teachers (FAFT), Parents and Learning (PaL) and pre-prep at the school.





For more information on the Puuya
Foundation, Lockhart River Education
Learning Circles contact Chair Dottie
Hobson or CEO Denise Hagan 0419 681 025
or denisehagan@puuyafoundation.com.au









# are



..at the Art centre...







...getting an education...



...in the pre-prep room cooking for ourselves and others...



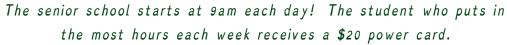
...improving technology skills...



...getting ready for boarding school...



...and building classroom pride...!



### Chili Beach Clean-Up Day something to celebrate

Lockhart River was the first of 20 Reef Guardian schools across Queensland to be presented with a 'Ripples of Change' award, made to the school down at Chili Beach in February.

The Awards support school projects that create awareness,

understanding and appreciation of the Reef and its ecosystems. Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke said they were helping to ensure conservation of the Great Barrier Reef into the future by



encouraging people to be involved in its protection. "Today marks the first presentation day of this award, with Lockhart River State School in Cape York receiving support," he said. "The school will use the funds to build on the success of their famous Chili Beach Clean-Up Day and hold a Chili Beach Celebration Day."















# Lockhart River State School principal John McSweeney says...

Welcome back to all our students and parents for what I believe will be a great year for improving attendance and reading levels.

For too long Lockhart students have not been reaching their potential.

This year with parents cooperation and vigilance to have children at school every day, we will improve their chances of success.

I would invite all parents to come along to our Parents and Citizens meetings on the first Thursday of every month from 4pm. The meetings last for one hour and give you an opportunity to have input into the running of the school. I was so pleased to see so many more parents coming into the school and meeting teachers this year.

I would like to thank the

Mayor and Dottie for organising our 'Meet the Teachers' BBQ.

The Council is supporting our attendance strategy by making three bus runs in the mornings, and breakfast is served every day from 8am.

I would like to welcome Ms Barb and Ms Sandy to our school from Brisbane.

Ms Barb is looking after our children with extra learning support and Ms Sandy is coordinating our secondary department.

Finally, there have been some changes to the front of school over the break and we hope we will no longer be flooded when it rains heavily.

Sir Gavin says... It is great to be back for another year and I must say, we are happy to see so many children back at school every day and in uniform!

As you may be aware, attendance is a strong focus of Lockhart State School, as it is essential element in student learning. It's for this reason I am very proud of the Year 3/4/5 'Space Monkeys', for having the best attendance in 2012.

Now it is 2013, who will have the highest attendance this year?
Remember good attendance makes you STRONGER AND SMARTER...
GO FOR IT!





John Jnr (above) was recently awarded Student of the Week because he respects himself by staying in class all day and being on time for school.

Keep up

Keep up the great work, John!



# Caring for Country

To assist with land and sea management issues Nickie Stewart from Kuranda has joined the Kawadji Kanidji Ranger Team as the new Facilitator.

On Clean Up Australia Day, Saturday March 16, nearly 65kg of rubbish was collected from the playground and surrounding areas; church, library, shops and CDEP office, Nikkie reports.

"It was a fantastic effort from many Junior Landcare members," she said.

"Over the coming months the Rangers will tackle town weeds and re-vegetation.

"If you would like your yard sprayed for weeds and replaced with some nice plants, please don't hesitate to drop by their office or stop them in the street to have a yarn."





### Men's group on target with darts comp



Ngampulungku Kuyumu Wimpa Yutha Mens' Centre is hitting

a bullseye with their new darts comp every Thursday night. Coordinator Patrick Butcher said the men have a great time.







Lockhart River Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) is keeping the community is moving forward in many ways, manager Darren Cross told Waanta in December last year.

At the time he said they had 73 people on the books, although for some attendance remained an issue.

Supervisor Linda Accoom has been with CDEP, through all its transformations, for just over five years now.

"Our ongoing projects at the moment are Lockhart Fashion, the Farm, and Tidy Town," she said.

Above: Clifford Giblet, Raymond Young, Silas Giblet, Nicholas Bally, Kenneth Namok; From the Top Right: Barbara Bally holding Contessa

Hobson; Clifford Giblet, Richard Pollard, Silas Giblet, Christopher Giblet, Nicholas Bally; IT Cert II trainer Peter McCabe with students Neville Temple & Barry Warradoo; Inset: Linda Accoom & Darren Cross; Below right: Sue Bally; and Below: Phyllis Hobson









Retail Store Staff: Top right: Bakery manager Cecily Rokeby, Larissa Kynuna & Priscilla Pascoe; Middle right: Franziska Omeenyo & Latoya Bond; Below right: Leo Sandy, Lachlan Hobson & Marco Accoom; and, Below: Rebecca Elu & Hazel Peter





### A Letter from Hewie Claudie at St Brendan's College in Yeppoon

I am having a good time in St Brendan's. I like St Brendan's because St Brendan's is cool.

I like St Brendan's rugby because rugby is good for me and my other sport is AFL.

My favourite friends are Bozie and Phillip and my teachers are Ms Sheales and Mrs Cookson.

Ms Sheales and Mrs Cookson are cool.
Ms Sheales and Mrs Cookson and I like the school, the school is good.

The font used in this newsletter is called 'Dyslexie' and is a special typeface designed for people who have difficulty reading, especially people with dyslexia so they can read more easily. For more information see http://www.studiostudio.nl This Waanta was written, photographed, edited and produced by Christine Howes, except where otherwise stated and with particular thanks to Cate from the Community Development Team, for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council © 2013. Feedback or contributions are welcome, please email the editor via chowes@westnet.com.au or see Council reception. The next issue of Waanta is due to be published in June 2013.