

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

Waanta

NEWSLETTER

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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Community asked to help with naming subdivision/new streets

Council is looking for community input and suggestions for naming a new subdivision and two new streets Mayor Wayne Butcher says.

The State Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs has allocated funding for the construction of a 28-lot subdivision to be located at the intersection of Line Hill Road and Kuttini St. Cr Butcher said the subdivision came about after they were allocated 33 new houses over the next five years.

"We needed more vacant blocks," he said.

"That site was selected so there were minimal costs to connect water and electricity."

He also said construction on the site would mean significant opportunities for Lockhart River people.

"It will create employment," he said. "Council is going to be the principal contractor which means the ball is in our court."

"Building a house is only a by-product; the real product is people getting proper skills, leading on to trades, leading on

To see this map in full check Council notice boards



to real jobs which means better income. It will also lead on to opportunity for individuals if they want to look at putting together their own construction team. "We've got local people and business opportunities as well, in the long term."

Black and More Principal Project Manager Greg O'Brien said designs for the subdivision

were complete and tenders for initial construction were currently open. He said a contract was likely to be awarded to the successful tenderer in early August, with construction on site expected to commence in mid-August. Cr Butcher said the subdivision should be ready to build on by January 2014.



A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

It's been a busy few months in and around Lockhart, writes Mayor Wayne Butcher.

As you will see in this issue, we've had renovations to Kids Club, a visit from the Queensland Governor (and soon the Governor-General, but that story is for next time!), new funding for roadworks, attendees to a national child care conference and, of course, the Laura Cultural Festival! But firstly I just want to touch on Welfare Reform. The Federal Government has talked about extending the existing trial in four communities on Cape York to another two more communities, and Lockhart was one of those mentioned as being in the line of fire.

Myself and the other Councillors have been to

Canberra where I took the opportunity to tell the people we met: 'Look, we've got our own agenda and social change in our community, and we need recognition around that'.

So I've openly said that we don't want Welfare Reform in the state it is right now.

We want to look at our own agenda, a driven agenda from the community, which we have already put a considerable amount of work in to with the community's help and support. We can practically deliver ourselves in Lockhart a lot better than anyone else can from outside the community as well, whether it's the Government or any Indigenous organisation.

We've taken on initiatives already around truancy, openly discussing with parents the importance of getting a child to school.

All of this makes it even more important for the whole community to get their child to school on a regular basis.

We've had some increase, but not as good as we wanted so we need to continue working on it. We definitely do have some runs on the board, however, and I think any community which can show they are taking matters into their own hands should be left to do so. They can't be allowed to take away the autonomy from our community; we must be the decision makers.



*Myself with then-Environment Minister Tony Burke
and our CEO Peter Opio-Otim in Canberra last month.*



Her Excellency the Governor Penelope Wensley with Elders, left, and at the school, above – full story on page 9.

The best people to solve problems and issues in communities are the communities themselves, so we must be given that opportunity to do so. And that is what I've told State and the Federal MPs, that if there's going to be any agenda for Welfare Reform in our communities, it must be an agenda driven by Lockhart people.

The Puuya Foundation (*see pages 14-16*) is part of our initiative and, we believe, unique. At the moment the Foundation is focussed on the early childhood stage of things and that's because there seems

to be a big gap between when the child is born and when the child goes to school.

The first five years of their lives are spent in and around the household they are born in to. So we are looking at ways of upskilling parents because many of them are so young themselves.

We also want to look at basic life skills for parenting, as well as getting job readiness, and all of that is directly tied in to that five-year gap between birth and school.

In the primary and the secondary schools, we're taking on a partnership between

the Council and Education Queensland.

That involves building strategies and looking at achieving outcomes, basically at grass-root level.

The Council therefore is working to support our own Families Together program, along with the Kids Club, FAFT and all those other acronyms.

We are working to coordinate them into a more productive way.

As Mayor I'm aiming for the stars. If I land on the moon that's an improvement. If I don't leave earth, well, I haven't done anything.

Wayne Butcher

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council



Pics of Laura with thanks to freelance journalist/photographer Lee Mylne – more inside.





Welcome to new Cr Rebecca Elu

New Cr Rebecca Elu has been sworn in and will be a “valuable addition” to the Council, Mayor Wayne Butcher says.



Right: Cr Rebecca Elu (above) being sworn in by CEO Peter Opio-Otim

“I think this is great for a young local woman in the community,” he said. “I think we need to nurture, support and build capacity around our young leaders now as they are the future, and this will be a good start for Rebecca.

“I think she’s smart and she’s one of the role-model parents in our community.

“Her portfolio will be the Sports, Recreation and Youth and she has some experience in that field as a former employee of the



Council in Sports and Rec and in the Library/IKC.

“I think she’ll be good for the Council, and we’ve got two women and three men in the Council now, so it will value-add to our team.”

Super seminar

It was a ‘super’ drive out here for first-time visitor to Lockhart Paul Pedersen from the Queensland Local Government Super Board (LG Super).

Paul has over 17 years’ experience in the superannuation industry, and came to deliver an ‘Ingredients for a Healthy Super’ seminar to the Mayor, Councillors and more than 20 Council staff, including the CEO, last month.

The benefits of starting early when planning for the future, along with

strategies to further enhance retirement nest eggs were on the agenda, as was some one-on-one time with staff about their own superannuation and insurance options within the fund.

Based in Brisbane, Paul has travelled to almost every regional council in Queensland over the past 10 years to conduct financial

education workshops.

He said crossing both the Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers in his 4WD to get here from Weipa was quite an adventure.

He also said it was a great opportunity to spend time with the LGsuper members in the Lockhart community and to “bring the fund” out to them.



Rangers secure 'Working for Country' funds

Kawadji Kanidji Rangers are armed with enough funding for the next financial year to employ a fourth ranger, kit themselves up with some new tools of trade and look into exchanges, not only locally but potentially further afield, facilitator Nickie Stewart says.

In the lead-up to their successful bid for 'Working on Country' funds for this financial year, Ms Stewart said she had immediately recognised the benefits.

"The Kawadji Kanidji Rangers are ready to assist managing the unique natural resources of the Lockhart landscape," she said.

"Further engagement with local and distant land managers can occur, ensuring collaborative land management principles are applied and skills and ideas to be continued to be exchanged.

"They will also have the opportunity to work with Cape York Weeds and Feral staff from Coen to eradicate pigs at Old Site.

"And in August and September rangers will undertake Fire Management Planning and training which will certify them to plan fires in protected areas with Queensland Parks and Wildlife staff." She said collaborative land management activities were critical.

"Collaborative land management activities encourages skill transfer, enables larger projects to be tackled, builds networks, minimises overlaps in service and allows training to be standardised amongst the various Aboriginal land and sea management groups," she said.

"On top of these local benefits, there is also the capacity for us to initiate a ranger exchange program further afield. So after some successful networking at the World Indigenous Network Conference in Darwin last May, we've been looking at a possible program between ourselves and Kakadu National Park as well."

Mayor Wayne Butcher said it was an exciting time for the rangers.

"There are some great opportunities here, not only



Above: Gerard Butcher, Abraham Hobson & Davies Convent; Right: Lionel Hobson; and Below: At Kakadu National Park in May was Abraham Hobson, Kerri Moses & Lionel Hobson.



for looking after our own country, but for building those cultural networks between communities and therefore everyone's capacity to be the best they can be," he said.





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 than 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 currently liaising with the State Government and Cape York Land Council regarding the delivery of these works.

These facilities will be a valuable asset to the local community and are designed to increase employment and economic opportunities in Lockhart River by attracting tourists who may have otherwise bypassed the town. Tenure \ Native Title issues are currently being finalised with works expected to commence in early 2014.

Lockhart River State School Drainage Upgrade

The Department of Education Training & Employment (DETE) has recently provided funding for drainage upgrade works at the Lockhart River State School.

The 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 and all construction works have been completed. Additional works may be undertaken at the Lockhart School once additional funding has been secured.

Iron Range Airstrip Maintenance

A funding application has been submitted for the upgrade to the Iron Range Airstrip. The application was based on the upgrades and rectification works identified in the engineering report prepared earlier this year. It is anticipated works will proceed as soon as the necessary funding has been secured.

Lockhart River Lighting Upgrade

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council have contracted Ergon Energy to install an additional 47 street lights at Lockhart River. Designs have been finalised and works will commence in July.





The Council road crew in conjunction with a local contractor have started on National Disaster Relief & Recovery Arrangements restoration works on the access road into Lockhart River, Civil Works Manager Glenn Spires says.

“The works include fixing the flood-damaged road and drainage over

numerous job sites, a large majority of the works will be re-sheeting, which will need approximately 60,000 tonnes of gravel,” he said. “Our Council workforce will receive valuable training in all facets of civil construction and on several machines. We will also be doing a lot of rock placing in the bad washouts and creek/river crossing.

“Work on the access road will continue for the majority of the dry season, with work on other areas including Old Site Road to commence thereafter.”

Lockhart River Council Store Upgrade

The contract for the construction of the new shed at the Council Store was awarded to ESW Constructions in early February with construction works commencing on site from March this year. The concrete slab has been completed with the framework of the shed erected. Works on the cladding, roofing and fit-out are currently underway on site. Construction of the new shed is due to be completed late July. ESW has been working with Council to maximise the training and employment opportunities offered to local community members as part of this project.



Construction of a concrete car park, drainage works and renovations to the existing store are also being carried out as part of this project with these works likely to commence in July.



Lockhart River NDRRA Works
Restoration works on the Lockhart River road network are ongoing throughout the Council area and being carried out by the Council in partnership with local contractors. These partnerships are providing employment and training for members of the Lockhart River community.

It is expected these works will continue throughout 2013.

Illa and Wachee Street Road Upgrades

Council has secured Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding to upgrade the Link Road between Illa and Wachee Street. This road will form a vital part of the Lockhart River road network and will facilitate access to the newly constructed shed at the Council Store.

The design has been completed with Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council to commence construction over the coming months.

Blady Grass \ Cemetery Road Upgrade

Council has also secured R2R funding to upgrade the road between the end of Blady Grass Street and the Cemetery. This will provide all-weather access to the cemetery area. The engineering design of this road is currently being finalised.

These works are being designed to tie with in the beatification works currently being undertaken at the Lockhart River Cemetery by the local community in conjunction with Jobfind. Construction of these works is likely to commence in September.





Corporate Services



L-R Jane Mugwiria, Maureen Semei, Accountant Stanley Mugwiria, Lucy Iduu-Piva & Denise McGregor

The LRASC Corporate Services team is on track with great performance achievements, Accountant Stanley Mugwiria writes.

At the end of the financial year 2012/13 everybody in Corporate Services was busy preparing for the audit and getting the 2013/14 budgets ready for the new financial year. Our progress has been very good and so far we have been able to get everything done according to plan. This financial year the Council will be audited by new auditors KPMG. Our first visit/interim audit was successfully carried in April, with the final audit visit scheduled for the first week of October 2013. Progress towards budget preparation is going very well and a Council meeting to discuss the draft was held last month. A final version is expected to be approved in July 2013. All employees participated in drafting the budget proposal and I am sure they are all looking forward to

see the final version.

The other thing I want to mention is in compliance with new legislation, we have nearly finished our long-term (10-year) financial forecast while the 10-year Assets Management plan is fully completed.

In other news, through our Civilworks Supervisor, the Council successfully bid for National Disaster Relief & Recovery Arrangements funding to restore the rural roads. This has come with an additional workload to the accounting team, although previously emergency road-works reimbursement claims have been done on time which was a great achievement so congratulations to our team!!! Currently, we are also delivering in-house training where staff in Lockhart River are scheduled to work in Cairns office for a month.

Recently Dora Accoom completed her roster in Cairns, followed by Deanka Omeeny who is also studying for her Cert IV in Business Admin over the next year. The swapping arrangement with staff will continue until all our employees acquire matching skills and experience. Our strategy is to ensure the entire team is uniformly competent in what one another is doing so we can improve our flexibility when we need to replace absent or leaving employees. Practical system (Civica) training is also scheduled for later this year to refresh our minds and learn new skills. I would like to really encourage our staff to look out for any training, any workshop or anything to help improve their accounting skills in their areas of responsibility.



Governor's visit a success!



The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Penelope Wensley, and her husband Stuart McCosker met IKC coordinator Kaylene Koko and Family Together worker Tanya Koko during activities at the Library/Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) in May.

The State Library's Renee Colless and James Collins were also there teaching Lockhart locals how to use the IKC's internet resources including Skype, internet banking and shopping.

Her Excellency Ms Wensley said she and her husband had a wonderful community experience in Lockhart.

"I spent a day and night at Lockhart River, and I particularly loved the community barbecue we had," she said.

"The whole community turned out and I saw some phenomenal dancing. I've seen the Lockhart mob before; I saw them at Laura two years ago, I've seen them at Cairns at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, but they were practising for Laura.

"It's a big anniversary year, and there was some new dances I hadn't seen before, and, again, great sense of community.

"I particularly liked visiting the Arts Centre. I have promoted Australian and Queensland

Indigenous art all over the world, and I always wanted to visit the Lockhart River Arts Centre, so that was a dream come true for me. And then visiting the library was marvellous, it was a wonderful community experience and I look forward to coming back again."

Mayor Wayne Butcher said it was a great visit.

"Now we have the Governor General, Quentin Bryce, planning on coming up later in the year too," he said.

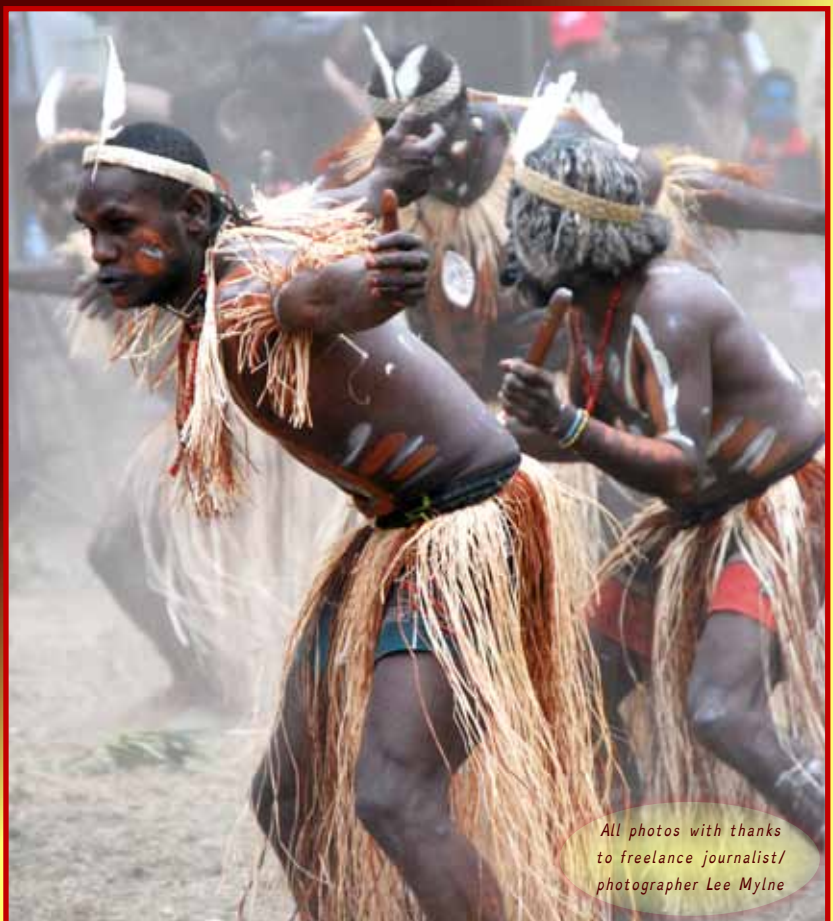


Pictured Above: Renee Colless (Project Officer with IKC/State Library Qld), Tanya Koko (Family Together worker), James Collins (ICT with IKC/State Library Qld), Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland Ms Penelope Wensley, Kaylene Koko (Library/IKC coordinator), Shauna Hobson, Cate Adams, the Governor's husband Stuart McCosker and Mayor Wayne Butcher. Also present was Dotty Hobson (not pictured) at the Library.

Left: The Governor presented Kaylene Koko with a book about Parliament for the Library.



LAURA 2013



All photos with thanks
to freelance journalist/
photographer Lee Mylne



Community Development Team



Kids Club

Building Supervisor Colin Ford along with Frank and Ray have done a great job fixing up the Kids Club building. Kids Club continued out of the Church Hall while the work was being done, with thanks to Fr Brian Claudie and Cr Veronica Piva for their generosity.

The bathroom, office and main area look great and we have shelving all around for toys, games, art and craft.

Pic above shows new shelving around a much brighter room.

On the outside there are also big new drains, which will be much better during the wet.

More than 50 kids now come regularly.

And with more computers installed and the internet up and running at the Library/Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) kids have access to educational games.

The library gives them a chance to be proud of their culture when they watch video's of the Lockhart Dancers

in action (*below left*) and enjoy video's made by Lockhart kids using the local language such as the Ear Health rap video No More Kukulu, Yupla Sabi!.





Family Together

Mums and bubs meet regularly with Tayna Koko. Wednesdays FAFT: bus pickup 11, drop off 1.30 Thursdays Craft at Kids Club: pick up 10.30 – drop off 1.30 We are planning online shopping at the Library on Tuesdays.



PaCE

In Parental and Community Engagement Program (PaCE) news Christina Butcher and Cate Adams are working on finding a way for parents to talk to their kids at boarding school. Cr Rebecca Elu and Tanya Koko have Skyped their kids but the quality is poor and other options have been investigated.

Top Left: Tanya Koko and family Skyping her son Tristan who is in his first year at Abergowrie College.

Top Right: Cassie from Playgroup and Christina from PaCE help out at the Family Together activities organised by Tanya.



Above: Helping to put together a train set at Kid's Club were CDEP workers Kenneth Namok, Silas Giblett & Eddie Sailor.



Above: Margie Hobson & Emily Pascoe, (above) Christina Butcher & Tanya Koko have commenced online training in Food Handling at the Library, with thanks to Training Officer Noleen Clark for organising the courses.



Lockhart River community was well represented at the recent international Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care (SNAICC) Conference, attended by more than 1200 people from all over Australia and the world in Cairns earlier this month.

Thanks to the generous support of the Council, the Benevolent Society and Playgroup Queensland, six of our women were able to attend – Chair Dottie Hobson, Councillor Veronica Piva, Playgroup staff Cassie Creek and Moira Macumboy and Puuya Foundation staff Denise Hagan and Pat Thorpe.

The conference theme was ‘For our Children: Living and Learning Together’. World-renowned speakers including The Caring Society of Canada Executive Director and University of Alberta Associate Professor Cindy Blackstock, Australian National Children’s Commissioner Megan Mitchell and many others shared their stories, experiences and knowledge about what is working and what can be done better for a better future for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families around Australia. Professor Blackstock said: “children are powerful

advocates for their own rights – and governments in Canada and Australia have failed their most vulnerable children”.

She told delegates that the key to progress was greater engagement and participation by children themselves in programs and services that affected them.

“We work for children – so we need to work with children to ensure we are doing right by them and their families,” she said.

“Similar to Aboriginal children in Australia, First Nations children in Canada are overrepresented in child welfare care due to neglect driven by poverty, poor housing and substance misuse.

“Governments are simply not doing all they can.

“These are all solvable problems but equitable, flexible and culturally-based funding is required to empower community solutions.”

Chair Dottie Hobson said she agreed the government needed to listen.

“The government needs to listen to us and support us to lead our own early years learning and parenting in Lockhart River,” Ms Hobson said. “That’s one of our main priorities for the Puuya Foundation.”

Ms Blackstock described the NT intervention as the worst human rights/ discrimination case currently in the world. National Children’s Commissioner Megan Mitchell had some sobering information on the disparity in under-5 mortality rates.

“Although they are improving, they are still 1.7 times higher than the same non-Indigenous age group,” Ms Mitchell said.

“The levels of self-harm and suicide is rising significantly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.”

Whilst in Cairns Ms Mitchell also launched ‘The Big Banter’, an Australia-wide listening tour.

“When I started my five-year term in March, I made it



clear that I wanted to hear from children about what's important to them and how I can make their lives better before I set an agenda," Ms Mitchell said. "From today, I'm inviting kids and child advocates to tell me how I can make a difference by writing to kids@humanrightsgov.au" She said there were some great examples of success including the bilingual Homeland Centre and School at Gawa, Northern Territory, where there was 100% attendance. Kathy Guthadjaka (Gotha) spoke about her focus on preserving Warramiri language

and history through education. She said her aim has always been towards benefitting the children through a good education that fit them and built from their own culture and environment. "For example, the whole curriculum this year is built around their community's seven seasons," she said. "Students teach the teachers their traditional language and teachers teach the children English – two-way learning." She said there were, however, many more examples where success was harder to find

and the battle for equality continued. Children and culture were well represented at the conference with performances of rich culture by Yarrabah and Parramatta State School dancers, Boopa Werem Kindergarten (*pictured next page*) and from Biddigil Performing Arts. Each performance provided the opportunity to experience some of the local culture and remind delegates of why they were at the conference. Puuya Foundation CEO Denise Hagan said the conference was inspiring.

Continued Next Page →



Left: Puuya team members at the SNAICC conference Dottie Hobson, Denise Hagan, Pat Thorpe & Cr Veronica Piva (also top pic); Above: Matt Gardiner & Joanne Toohey from The Benevolent Society.



→ From Previous Page

"It was inspiring to hear positive stories of Indigenous child care and family support work from around the world and in Australia," Ms Hagan said. "It was also very depressing

to hear that we now have more children in care – away from their families – than from the stolen generation. "The conference provided excellent information and networks that the Puuya Foundation will use to

support of the Early Years Learning and Parenting project for Lockhart River.

"We sincerely thank The Benevolent Society for sponsoring the Puuya Foundation to attend."



Left: – Playgroup Qld's Lesley Olson, Cassandra Creek with Lamina Macumboy, and Linda Miley; Below:: Boopa Werem Kindergarten performed on the second day of the SNAICC conference. All pics by Christine Howes and courtesy of SNAICC.



For more information on the Puuya Foundation contact Chair Dottie Hobson at comdev@lockhart.qld.gov.au or CEO Denise Hagan denisehagan@puuyafoundation.com.au Information on the SNAICC conference can be found at www.snaicc.org.au or take some time to talk to any of the attendees mentioned above.

Congratulations Lockhart River, the Health Care Centre says you have the highest rate of flu vaccination in Cape York!

The flu vaccine program started in March this year and, to date, almost three quarters of all adults in the community have had their annual vaccine.

Reports from Brisbane and Cairns say that this year's flu virus is extremely dangerous and many people have been hospitalised.

So far in Lockhart River no adults or children have the virus.

Symptoms of the flu include very high fever, sore muscles and bones, weakness and a cough.

If you haven't yet had your vaccine and would like it, come into the clinic and the nurses will be more than happy to give you the needle.

Good work everyone!

Staff at the clinic and Dr Liza from RFDS would like to invite all adults in for their annual health check.

We want people to come to the clinic around their birthday as this is a good time to treat yourself and make sure you are healthy for the year ahead.

A yearly health check is important to make sure you are as healthy and happy as you can be.

We will test your blood pressure, sugars and many other things to make sure that you are strong in body and mind. You can use this opportunity to talk to the nurse or doctor about your health and how you



want to look after yourself. We would be happy to see you on a Tuesday or Wednesday and if you don't want to wait you can come in and make an appointment for the week ahead. Hope to see you soon!

The clinic and the community has said goodbye to Heather and Tony (below) from the Lockhart River Primary Health Care Centre.

Tony has worked as the 'jack-of-all trades' for the clinic for

two years and all the nurses at the clinic joke life is going to be much more difficult after Tony goes.

Heather has worked as the DoN in Lockhart River and also the district DoN for two years. They have brought a wealth of knowledge and warmth to the community and will be missed. Heather has taken up a new job as the DoN on Mornington Island and we wish them all the best on their new adventure.

Please also note we have new clinic opening hours, from 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday – Friday.

Jaine Morris
Clinical Nurse
Lockhart River PHCC





Art Centre takes dancers to Melbourne

Lockhart music and dance was a hit in Melbourne in March, with a group of young dancers and elders doing three official performances and several dance workshops at the Victorian College of Arts (VCA).

The trip was organised and funded by the Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation (the Art Centre).

Cultural Retention Officer Tammie Davidson worked with elders Lawrence Omeenyo and Father Brian Claudie and drummer Silas Hobson to bring together a group of young dancers to learn new dance skills and show off Lockhart dance in Melbourne.

The dancers were Greita Pascoe, Elaine Moses, Haylene Macumboy, Krystal Dean, Elly Macumboy, Steven

Bally, Gerard Butcher, Phillip Pelgrave/Brown and Simon Butcher.

The group was invited to dance to kick off Wilin Week, a festival of Indigenous Performing Arts held by the College.

The sunset performance was held in the Wilin Garden around a huge fire drum. A crowd cheered on as the Lockhart mob performed some of Lockhart's favourite dances, including Three Camp, Tumawari, Kang-kang and the Emu Dance.

Elly Macumboy was a hit as Awu stealing away a youngster (Gerard Butcher), and the crowd was happy to see him dumped on the ground and speared when the men rescued Gerard.

Two other official performances were held, one for an international group looking for Australian talent, and the other for students who were very impressed and keen to learn more about Lockhart dance.

An extra unplanned short performance happened in a



Pictures: Above: Lockhart mob after the opening dance for Wilin Week: Back L-R: Gerard Butcher, Simon Butcher, Elly Macumboy, Simon Pelgrave/Brown, Steven Bally; Middle: Father Brian Claudie, Elaine Moses, Krystal Dean, Greita Pascoe, Haylene Macumboy, Silas Hobson; Front: Lawrence Omeenyo, Tammie Davidson. Next page: Greita Pascoe presenting VCA Wilin Centre's head Deborah Cheetham with a spear and barramundi carved by Silas Hobson. Deborah commented she had always wanted to walk down the main street of Melbourne carrying a spear! Photos with thanks to Tammie Davidson.



Lockhart community got well behind a walk against Domestic Violence held on 27th May and organised by Ethel Singleton from the Women's Shelter with Secondary School staff and students who made the banners. Thanks also to the police for their escort. The group walked from the Women's Shelter around town and back. People joined in on the way to shouts of, 'What do we want? No violence! When do we want it? Now!'



Melbourne restaurant during the farewell dinner, when Lawrence Omeenyo decided to sing a song to thank Deborah Cheetham, head of the Wilin Centre at VCA, for having the group. The restaurant fell quiet as he began to sing. The dancers joined in, Deborah cried, and when the song finished the restaurant crowd clapped and cheered. What a great way to show off Lockhart culture! Tammie said the trip went smoothly, with everyone behaving well and getting on and she said she reckoned Lockhart should be just as proud of the

group as she was. "They did a great job representing Lockhart," she said. "The only worry was when some dancers went missing as they rushed from a field trip to get ready to see a show on the other side of town. "It turned out they got stuck in the hotel lift – for nearly an hour!



"They were a little late for the show, but all ended well, though they're a bit careful in lifts now!" As a result of the trip, the VCA has agreed to work with the Art Centre, dance instructor Jacob Boehme and the Lockhart group on a three-year project. At the end of three years, the dancers will have training and skills to have a professional performance ready to tour if they wish – a great opportunity for Lockhart youth! Thanks to Skytrans and Arts Queensland for supporting the project.



LAURA 2013

More pics pages 10-11

Photos with thanks to Lee Mylne

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, edited and produced by Christine Howes, with 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 September 2013.