

# Waaanta

## NEWSLETTER

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

c/- Post Office, Lockhart River Q 4871

Ph: 4060 7144 Fax: 4060 7139

PO Box 1037, Cairns Q 4870

Ph: 4031 0155 Fax: 4031 5720

Email: [ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au](mailto:ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au)

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

DECEMBER 2013



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

## 2013 has been a great year Lockhart River!

**Mayor Wayne Butcher:** Merry Christmas to the Lockhart community, the Lockhart staff and my fellow Councillors.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas break and a happy new year. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to an exciting new year in 2014.

**Deputy Mayor Cr Norman Bally:** "Merry Christmas, a Happy

New Year and a safe one

to all the Council staff and community, and I hope to see everybody back next year. This year's been some improvement in the community and the workplace.

Hopefully next year we'll take it to the next level and we'll be looking forward to some people moving into the new houses."

**Cr Veronica Piva:** "Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas. I'm looking

forward to a brighter 2014, it should be a good year for people - the community and the elected members of the Council - if we all work together."

**Cr Rebecca Elu:** "I'd just like to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all in the community, and have a safe and well holiday. Don't get into trouble and keep safe, I think it's going to be very hard for the kids to entertain themselves because we don't have many youth workers with us at this time. Stay strong, don't get into trouble, don't get bored, be yourself and take care of each other."

**Cr Paul Piva:** "I'd like to wish everybody a happy, merry and prosperous Christmas, hopefully everybody enjoys themselves and we'll see you all next year bright and ready to go. To all the kids who won the push bikes for attending school, congratulations to all of you.

"Hopefully next year you can improve on it and we can get more and more kids and families to the school."





*A word from...*

# Mayor Wayne Butcher

I think we've had a great year in Council this year and we've achieved a lot of things. We have many exciting projects still on the go and a lot of opportunity for employment coming up, so we're looking forward to 2014.

It's really good to see some action on the ground with the subdivision (*see page 8*). By March next year we should have a newly completed subdivision sealed and delivered, which will pave the way for the roll-out of the new houses.

The Council will build two houses, we will tender out another four houses and then, probably towards the end of the year when the subdivision is completed, we will look at building another eight houses as well.

Currently, we have around about 26 houses to deliver over the next three years.

So there will be a fair bit of house building going on in 2014.

We're employing professional builders, but we'll be looking for trade assistants in 2014.

The other big news is we just reformed the old ROCCY (Regional Organisation of Councils of Cape York) structure, and it's now called 'CYTROC' which is Cape York Torres Regional Organisation of Councils. I've been elected Chairman of that organisation.

So, my role there is to bring together the organisation and rebuild it.

Our main focus is on infrastructure and transport, ie roads, aerodromes, ports, bridges and causeways.

We are also still delivering the Roads to Recovery project, which is the sealing of the cemetery road and the sealing of a dirt track at the back of the carpenter's shed.

We're also doing the QRA work, which is basically the main road into Lockhart River. And the Old Side Road, which we didn't get the chance to work on last year.

So, there's lots of work.

We have a lot of building coming up. Not only building new houses, but renovating houses and the general maintenance that is needed as well.

There are 10 trainees that have been taken on at the subdivision and they're doing their Civil Construction Course. We're hoping to take a few of those when they complete their course. We hope some will join the road gang and some will go into the building industry.

There is going to be a lot of opportunities here in 2014.

I'd like to see some of our young people put their hands up. We have plenty of work and not

enough workers at the moment.

The Council is also excited about our Youth Employment Incentive Program where we employ some of the senior students who are on school holidays for half a day, from 8am to 12pm, for paid work experience in different trades and professions.

We did it last September school holidays and we had work experience students in with the mechanic, the electrician, the plumber, in the stores and in the administration office.

It gives them the opportunity to test the different trades.

We've recently put Dorra Accoom on as the Deputy CEO, which I think is a big step. Dora has a lot of experience throughout the whole Council, so we couldn't find someone who is more capable than Dora.

We've also got a Fencing Program coming in 2014, so we're going to basically fence the whole community over the next two years.

We also have a painter in at the moment, so there are







*These are the kids who have earned themselves a bike each for their awesome attendance records over the last school term of the year. Congratulations & well done!!!*

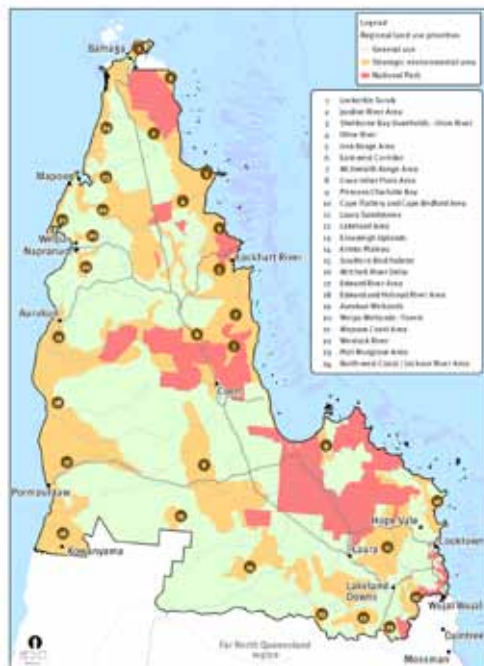
some painting programs that are going to go on as well. So there is a lot of work happening. It's very exciting. We really want young people to be a part of this too, to take on apprenticeships and traineeships. I think the School Concert was the highlight of the year for me, just to see all those happy, smiley kids (see pages 12-13).

That's probably the most I've laughed all year. Those kids are born with the same opportunities as any other kid in the world, and it's really up to the parents to make that opportunity become a reality. I encourage parents in 2014 to send their children to school. Education is the most important thing in life.

As I always say, a child with education will have a lot of choices; a child with limited education has limited choices. It is the key to these children's futures, so please make sure your children attend school next year.

*Wayne Butcher*  
Mayor, Lockhart River

## Comment sought for Cape York Regional Plan



The State Government's draft Cape York Regional Plan started public consultation last month, and the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney is encouraging Lockhart River residents to have their say.

"I urge people on the Cape to take a look at our draft plan and make up their own minds on the economic, environmental and social opportunities it presents for their future," Mr Seeney said. A departmental spokesperson said the plan would mean greater certainty for all land users on Cape York. "The preparation of a statutory regional plan for Cape York will also facilitate development in the region," he said.

The draft plan designates and maps three strategic land-use priorities to manage competing economic and environmental interests. Lockhart River residents are encouraged to have their say on the draft plan prior to its finalisation in mid-2014. Submissions on the plan can be made until 25 March 2014. To find out more about the plan and making a submission:

visit: [www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/cape-york](http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/cape-york)  
email: [CYRegionalPlan@dsdip.qld.gov.au](mailto:CYRegionalPlan@dsdip.qld.gov.au)  
call: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)







# Corporate Services

## Council takes break until New Year

Council will close from Friday 20 December to Monday 6 January, CEO Peter Opio says.

Mr Opio said the Cairns office had been focussed on working on the financial statements and audit requirements and ongoing general business as well as the annual report.

"It has been a busy time," he said.

"The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council's financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2013 has been audited by the Queensland Audit Office and the Council received an unmodified audit opinion, which is a good audit.

"This is the fifth year in a row the Council has received a clean bill of health.

"Staff in our Finance and Administration

section must be commended for a job well done.

"The Council's Annual Report for 2012-13 is also complete and can be now accessed from the Council's website at <http://www.lockhart.ald.gov.au>"

From the Lockhart River office, newly-appointed Deputy CEO Dora Accoom said several staff were already on leave and of those who weren't many of those completed an Occupational Health & Safety Course earlier this month.

"It was all good, very detailed and getting the answers put to the right questions and all that," she said.

"I'm also in training



Above: Lockhart office staff Jasmine, Greta, Dora, Deanka & Faye. Below: Staff at an OH&S course.



for the Deputy CEO position and I'll be going for training, probably with Noleen, and maybe starting next year. That's going to be exciting." Meanwhile, Deanka Omeenyo has been appointed Senior Administration and Payroll Officer, heading up the Finance Section of the Lockhart River office. "At the moment I'm doing my Cert 4 Business Admin training and that should be ending next year," she said. "I'm looking at doing a diploma in the future."

The team also has had new Centrelink Officer Greta Accoom on board for just over a month now.

"Parents should start getting their kids' Abstudy ready," she said. She said during the Christmas break her clients will need to use the Library's computers. "I'll put a notice up, but they'll have to go and use the public library and use the computers there to lodge their forms," she said.

### Important changes to Abstudy

There has a change to the ABSTUDY End of Year review process.

Most ABSTUDY students will receive an End of Year Review form that needs to be filled out and returned. Secondary students in Years 8 to 11 will have their study details automatically advanced to the next grade. Students will receive a letter advising these details. You are not required to respond unless the information is incorrect, or the secondary students in

Years 12 or 13 will receive a Continuation of Study Form (SY075).

You only need to complete and return the form if you are doing further study. Tertiary students, who have study details already recorded for the next calendar year, will not be required to contact unless their circumstances have changed.

If you have any questions please contact ABSTUDY on Free call number 1800 132 317.





# Engineering Services



## All systems go for Pascoe River Crossing

Council has secured funding and arranged for construction of a Link Slab Crossing of the Pascoe River.

Slab components were constructed by Cook Shire Council who installed the slabs and undertook associated works before the first rains of the season.

These works have now been completed and were funded by Department of Transport and Main Roads (TIDS).

### *Quintell Beach*

Council is currently working with the State Government and Cape York Land Council to address tenure and Native

Title issues associated with the construction of the Quintell Beach Camp Ground.

The works will involve the construction of a new camp ground consisting of a toilet block, BBQ facilities and camping facilities.

Construction is expected to be carried out by the Council workforce. Works are programmed to commence at the conclusion of the 2013\2014 wet season and be completed prior to December 2014.

### *Blady Grass \ Cemetery Road Upgrade*

A contract for the Blady Grass \ Cemetery Road Upgrade has also been awarded to Newton Spencer Contracting.

These works will be undertaken simultaneously with the Illa \ Wachee Street Upgrade and will be completed early in 2014. This upgrade will provide all-weather access to the Cemetery area and help to mitigate drainage issues in the area.

*continued next page...*

*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.*







# Upgrades part of new projects



*Council Purchasing Officer Jenny Theochari and Regis Edmond (left), store manager Mattie (above right) with a new recruit and Ross the painter are busy working on improvements that will benefit the Lockhart River community.*



## *Council Store Upgrade*

Construction of the new shed and associated civil works at the Council Store has been completed by ESW Constructions and Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council. Works commenced in March 2013 and have provided over 1400 hours of local employment and training during construction. The works have been handed over to Council who are now operating out of the new shed. The project is under a six-month defects and liability period, which runs until March 2014. Renovations to the existing store will be carried out by the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council workforce. These works are scheduled to commence in the coming weeks and be completed early in the New Year.

## *Lighting Upgrade*

Lighting upgrade works in Lockhart River have been completed by Ergon Energy. Nearly 50 street lights were installed and all damaged streetlights repaired as part of this project, providing increased security and improving road safety in the community. Council are liaising with Ergon Energy regarding the identification and installation of additional lighting within the community. Council are also investigating the installation of solar lighting for the Quintell Beach BBQ area and toilets block. These additional works are programmed to be completed early 2014.

## *Road Signage*

Council has obtained additional Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) funding to extend the signage works undertaken in 2012/2013. This will complete signage on Portland Road to the Lockhart River Body. Cook Shire Council have received funding for signage from the Lockhart River Shire Council boundary to the Peninsula Development Road (PDR). Council are liaising with Cook Shire Council regarding assisting them with the installation of these signs in early 2014.



*Lockhart River Natural  
Disaster Relief and Recovery  
Arrangements (NDRRA) Works*

Council is continuing to undertake restoration works on the Lockhart River road network, working with and being assisted by local contractors. Currently approved rectification works are being completed on Portland Road between the Wenlock River and Threeways. Works are programmed to commence on Old Site Road, Line Hill Road and Pascoe Farms Road, once approved, after the Wet. Council are liaising with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority regarding the approval of a betterment

submission which will allow upgrades to a number of creek crossings to be undertaken on Portland Road. The works would be completed in conjunction with rectification works in 2014.

*Illa and Wachee Streets Upgrade*  
The design for the connection road between Illa and Wachee streets has been completed by Council Engineers Black & More.

The Illa \ Wachee connection road has been designed to improve site access to the newly constructed shed at the Council Store and divert surface stormwater flows around the new Council Store. The contract for the

construction of this has recently been awarded to a local contractor Newton Spencer Contracting. Newton Spencer Contracting will be working with Council to ensure that employment opportunities for local residents are provided as part of these works and local resources are utilised as much as possible.

These works will be commencing immediately and are due to be completed early in the New Year.

The project is funded by the Commonwealth Government Roads to Recovery program and Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council.

*continued next page...*



*Plumbers (top), mechanic and workshop workers (above) are kept busy with new projects while the Dump Manager (left) keeps his equipment well maintained.*





# Full steam ahead with subdivision

## *Lockhart River Subdivision*

A contract has been awarded to ESW Constructions Pty Ltd for the Construction of the new 28 Lot subdivision at the intersection of Line Hill Road and Kuttini St, Lockhart River. These works are currently underway on site. Earthworks and roadworks are approximately 50% complete with the sewer reticulation currently being installed by Council's plumber.

Works on the subdivision will continue over the wet season and are currently programmed for completion in March 2014. ESW Constructions are working with Council to ensure that employment and training opportunities for local residents

are maximised during the works. The project will also include significant involvement from the Council workforce.

Once completed the subdivision will provide 28 fully serviced allotments where Council can construct new houses for the local community.

Works on the housing will commence in the New Year.

## *Drainage Master Plan*

The Drainage Master Plan for the Lockhart River community is approaching completion.

The Plan provides an assessment of the existing infrastructure in the community and identifies areas which require upgrade works. It will provide a valuable planning tool for Council, allowing

them to identify the scope of drainage improvements and upgrades required within the community. It will also provide Council with the ability to prioritise and manage future drainage upgrade works. The draft Drainage Master Plan will be completed late December 2013. The report will be finalised in early 2014 following review and input from Council.

## *Iron Range Airstrip Maintenance*

Council are currently liaising with the Commonwealth and State Governments to secure funding for the upgrade of the Iron Range Airstrip.

Works on this project will commence as soon as the funding has been secured.



*Work is well underway at the new subdivision site.*







*Workers at the new 28 lot subdivision have completed approximately 50% of the earthworks.*

# Plenty of work in building industry

Regis Edmond has been on board for about two months and is very busy!

“We’re persevering, building up capacity and resources gradually, and I believe we’ll get over the line,” he said.

“We will actually get Lockhart in a better position. At the moment the State Government’s Building and Asset Services (BAS – the old Q-Build) has been able to give us a lot of work.

“So I’m in the process of ordering all the materials and as soon as the carpenter gets here next year we start fresh.

“So next year there will be plenty of work for everyone including training for the local boys.

“We’ve also got two houses that we’re going to build for the next program and that will be demolishing a house and replacing it with a new one which will be part of the housing for the subdivision.

“At the moment I’m looking for carpenters and hopefully they’ll be some coming on board very soon.

“We’ll probably just wait after Christmas now until everything gets started cause I don’t think anyone can travel now in the wet.

“But what I have at the moment, I do have two local boys and a carpenter who is leaving.

“At the moment the two boys are doing some renovations on houses and some maintenance work.

“As soon as all that gets done we’re going to put more houses up.”

Mr Edmond said he came from the building trade,



*Regis Edmond, centre, and members of his team are gearing up for a busy 2014.*

especially carpentry, and would soon have his builder’s license.

“I’ve worked nearly 25 years in the industry,” he said.

“I worked a lot in Melbourne, worked a fair bit in Cairns and I’ve done the islands a little bit and I’ve done a fair bit in Lockhart a couple of years ago, I was up here as a foreman, and now I’m back in Lockhart again.

“I’ve done quite a fair bit around the Cape – Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Bamaga – I’ve been pretty much all around the Cape.

“It’s quite enjoyable to come to Lockhart again and meet up with a lot of fellows I haven’t seen for awhile; it was quite welcoming actually.

“The Council has been very, very supportive and I’m hoping I can get this job done for them.”





# Home away from home for Sergeant

**Relieving OIC** – here until February – Sergeant Andrew Pool says being in Lockhart River for a few months meant leaving his family behind.

“I worked in Coen last year and my family actually came and saw me a couple of times, but it’s just that bit further this time, and I know the roads have been cut up so we’ve decided to just wait until I get home,” he said.

“My kids are a bit older now anyway; I have three kids, the youngest is 13 and the oldest is 17.

“The message we want to get out here over Christmas is the kids can have fun, but obviously do the right thing by themselves, their parents and the community and not get up to anything unlawful.

“There are plenty of things they can do to occupy their time without getting into trouble; that’s the main thing we want to get across.

“To parents: just know where your kids are, know what they’re up to, stress to the kids how it’s a beautiful peaceful community and let’s do the right thing by each other.

“Driving unlicensed and driving drunk are one of the biggest factors in Indigenous people



getting in trouble in Court.

“It is a big problem and all they need to do is come up to the Police Station, make sure they are licensed and if they’re not, don’t drive.

“We can give people dates when their license will be ready to be reissued if they’ve been disqualified, but drink driving is no excuse; you just can’t do it and you’ll get in big trouble.

“Some of the drink drivers we get have kids in the car as well and that can cause a lifetime of issues; the kid can become disabled or die, so that’s a big no-no. We will be out there enforcing that.

“I was actually here for the opening of our new police station here, it was my first day! And I thought it was a



really good representation from our organisation.

“There was the top four police officers right from the Commissioner to Assistant Commissioner for the whole northern region and then our District Officer and so on.

“It showed the community that our bosses are taking Lockhart River seriously. You can see by the station that they’ve done a really good job.

“I think the community who were there appreciated their efforts too.”







# Dancers join celebrations

Lockhart's Kawadji Wimpa dancers travelled to Mapoon in November to participate and perform in their Paanja Festival, held to commemorate 50 years since the community was forced to shut down, and celebrate how far they have come since then.









# Lockhart River State School Concert 2013



Pics by Christine Howes





# Community Development Team

It sure has been a busy year Community Services Manager Dottie Hobson says.

And she said one of the best things to happen has been 'Making Day' with the Mums.

"That's been happening every Thursday with the mums," she said.

"Every Thursday where we come together and do either printing or screen printing or making jewelry or some things, and at the end of every month we hold a little market day so we can sell them.

"A lot of our young mothers are making things for the little ones, and then we get second-hand clothes to sell, very cheap.

"We had feedback from our Family Together worker Tanya who said the young mothers needed something to do, they were bored, so we came up with this idea which is going really well. "Hopefully it will get bigger, it's for anybody and everybody who have something they'd like to sell that they can come to our markets and sell it.

"That's the message that we need to get out to the community.

She said in other news Noleen was back.

"It was good she came back because a lot of people

were asking for help to set up their own little small businesses," Dottie said.

"She has set up a few people now nearly ready to get their business up and running."

However she said in other areas there were staff shortages.

"Especially when the school holidays is on, it's going to be hard doing something with the kids without our youth worker," she said. "We've got Greeta, she's our assistant Youth Worker but we still have to try and get somebody in that area to help. Over the Christmas period I'll work with her doing activities for youth and the little ones.

"We also don't have a PCYC worker because Sam is actually going too. "It's going to be a tough month because all the kids are home from school holiday now.

"We seem to be getting a lot of activity happening in town but not enough staff. "We are hoping we get more staff, but that's actually going to depend on our funding too.

"If we get more funding, we'll get more staff."



Above: Staff learning first aid last August



**Womens' Shelter Coordinator Ethel Singleton** said she and her staff would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"Enjoy your Christmas break," she said. "We're always here if anything happens."

She said they were always wanting to 'put the word out' about their basket making and other activities they were doing. "We put the word out and a couple of young ones have come

a couple of times to have a go at it," she said.

"We also involved with seniors, playing the bingo here whenever we can.

"We're trying to get involved with other programs and help out in the community so we're



going all the time.

"We've been happy with what we've been doing here - it's been a busy year."



### MARKET DAYS

< — — >

*are advertised on notice boards around the community and offer the opportunity for anyone in the community to buy, make or sell second hand clothing, crafts, food..or whatever they like!*



**A steady stream of guests needing accommodation over the year have kept the HACC ladies – Ivy, Leila, Bessie & Beverley – busy in 2013.**

Coordinator Ivy Hobson said they were also doing more than 20 meals a day for their clients.

"At the moment now, because we don't have any visitors come over the Christmas holiday now we start to clean up," she said. "We just concentrate on our cooking for the last two weeks."



**In August Council staff took part in a Remote First Aid course at the Puuya Centre (pictured left).**

HACC Coordinator Ivy Hobson said the material they covered included tips on what to do if they were caught out bush with no water and how to care for anyone who might be injured. "What to do if we got lost in the rainforest or something like that, how to set up a shelter and get water," she said.

"We also learn how to take temperature every half an hour, take the temp and write it down."

Leila Clermont said the course included a field trip to the beach.

"If someone got hurt fishing we learned how keep them safe and what to look for," she said.

"I also learned how to do bandages for sprained ankle, broken arm, and when you're far away out bush, to set up a tent to keep the patient underneath from the heat of the sun, keep them there until someone arrives."





## A big area of expansion within the Council's Community Development section has been Family Together.

In November alone, more than 108 people made contact with programs including Playgroup, FAFT, Kid's Club, Library, Women's Making Group and Parents as Learners (PaL).

Worker Tanya Koko said young mothers were their primary target group because of their influence over Lockhart River's future.

"We do three to four activity days every week," she said.

"All age groups of the kids are covered, and the mums as well with our Making Day every Thursday.

"Providing cultural learning opportunities for children and their parents, practical approaches to supporting child development, engaging youth and just generally trying to actively engage people in their children and community is what we're about."



*Left: Parents, artists and kids worked together to create a stunning mural on the wall of the Kids' Club building;*

*Below and Right (facing page): Family Together activities on the beach and at the Art Centre*





# 2013: the year of Big Ears & pizzas!



High school teacher Sandy Marshall says she hopes the 'East Coast Cafe' (pictured below) – famous for their pizzas in particular – will return on a regular basis in 2014.

"The project was the result of a partnership between the school, Puuya Foundation, the Commonwealth Bank and My Pathways," she said.

"We got a grant to get started because it's about helping some of our disengaged secondary students have a go at actually working something like a real job.

"We have all the pizza equipment, shirts, shoes, cash register and it runs from the My Pathway offices.

"Hopefully it will run every Friday fortnight in 2014."



Skytrans, Apunipima, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Queensland Health and Lockhart River Council all put their two-cents or more in to bring former-Shakira singer Simone Stacey to the community to star in our Big Ears Concert and Family Fun Day at the end of October.

All of Lockhart River turned out to hear Simone sing while kids and parents alike laughed at skits by Karen Drury and Karen Koko – simulated snot and pus included. Simone also told us about her experiences with her daughter's ear infections. The night was finished with the energetic and creative Lockhart River Dancers, who flew out the next day for workshops in Melbourne (see page 23). At the Family Fun Day, teachers, Kids Club, PaCE, Playgroup and Art Centre workers led activities including making Big Ear headbands, a mural, listening exercises, balance games, learning how to make tissue spears and bubble paintings, decorating a mirror and lots more followed by a healthy lunch. Deputy Principal Yolanda Coutts coordinated the Concert and Family Fun Day with the Ear Health Working Party led by Selma Kum Sing (visiting Indigenous Community Development Worker) and committee members who included Council's Community Development Support coordinator Cate Adams, RFDS Child Health Nurse Karen Drury, Lockhart School disabilities teacher Barbara Williams and Families as First Teachers (FAFT) coordinator Julia Scarfo, as well as Pre-Prep teacher and ATODS worker Maria Warmbly and Family Together worker Tania Koko.

Yumpa Mukana

## Big Ears Concert

Kids CAN have healthy ears Yumpa Wulumana

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Sept - Community Hall



Food at 6:00,  
Concert at 7:00

Special Guest

**Simone  
Stacey**

The Voice, Shakaya

AND

**Kawadji-  
Wimpa  
Dancers**



Queensland Health - Queensland  
Hearing Loss Family Support Service  
Lockhart River State School  
Families as First Teachers (FaFT)  
Lockhart Playgroup  
Lockhart River Art  
ATODS







# Training is Noleen's business - make it yours!

Employment and Training Co-ordinator Noleen Clark has been working hard to get as much training as possible on a very limited budget.

"People who need upskilling or anything else people have asked for, should get in touch," she said.

"It's important for the community. We've had a lot of training go on this year, not least of all Cert 4 in Workplace Health & Safety which included working safely at heights, working in confined spaces and first aid.

"We also have a Cert 2 in

Construction we're holding over to next year and a Cert 2 in Conservation and Land Management.

"There have been other smaller programs here and there.

"I also still do business mentoring, in other words encouraging people to go into small business

"We're about to form a company – three guys are going to the finance bit of

the application so it shouldn't be too long before they're actually looking at buying machinery to have their own small business.

"I'm happy with what I've achieved this year, I'm looking forward to actually seeing more small businesses come to fruition and the community starting to get an economic base, which is badly needed to go ahead into the future."

## Travel safely over break says Justice Group

Justice Group Co-ordinator Willy Clark urges everyone to be careful on the roads when travelling this holiday season.

"I urge everybody to have a happy and safe Christmas for the year 2013 going into the year 2014," he said.

"I would also urge parents to spend more time with their children and all young juveniles to keep out of trouble, to start looking after each other and report any incidents to the police.

"Those in Court now and on community service need to finish their community services so they can be cleared for the next year. "They need to stop stealing from other people, when people steal from them they get upset, it's the same, it's the opposite way, so they must think about other people.

"If they do end up in Court they get a criminal record.

"In the future when they get a job, their boss will ask for their criminal history and if they got a criminal history they will be refused.

"I'd like to see a lot of children

continue going to school, get well educated, and I'd like to see the parents support their children and start disciplining the children, not by hitting them, but money wise: 'So, okay you're not going to get a bike this year until you start going to school'.

"There's a lot of ways of disciplining your children.

"Take them out camping, get them out of the community where some other kids encourage him to do break and enters and all that, follow their footsteps, especially the older ones.

"The younger ones need to say no; it's not hard to say no.

"Or they need to report to police or their parents or even to the Justice Group

"I'd like to see Christmas Day celebration with family.

"My goal is to keep the number of people in the Court system



down low, and I urge people in the community to respect their community and be good neighbours. "We don't want to see any fights or anybody hurt in our community, so we need to take responsibility and start looking after our community, keep it clean, get our kids on weekends camping out, taken away for a holiday somewhere, teach them fishing and all that "Merry Christmas from the Justice Group."





The Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP), which started on 1 July 2013, takes over from the services and programs that have been here such as ITEC, Job Find and CEA.



RJCP is a one stop shop that has been designed to help build stronger and more sustainable communities.

The aim is for local people to have the training and support they need to get jobs, with a view that everyone who can work should work.

Those who cannot yet get a job will participate in meaningful activities that will contribute to their communities as well as making them more work ready.

The RCJP program is driven by the community and needs strong partnerships with the community to be successful.

An example of a recent activity My Pathway has undertaken in partnership with the Lockhart River School was around food safety and cooking for yourself

and your community. This was an initiative created to:

- Re-engage students from the school to reconnect with learning, with the goal of getting them to return to school in 2014;
- Utilise RJCP participants as role models and mentors for the students;
- Provide a meaningful and engaging activity to build the skills of RJCP participants with the potential of establishing a local cooking and catering enterprise; and,
- Develop skills around cooking and healthy lifestyles.

The pictures are from the Hospitality Certificate 2 course delivered to



engage those disengaged. Friday night pizza nights (East Coast Café) will be ongoing through next year with the hope of creating more nights and offering different meals (rice and curry dishes, spaghetti, etc) if demand is high.



## From the Lockhart River Health Clinic...

Jellyfish season is here in Lockhart River. Several large Box jellyfish (Appun) have been sighted in other parts of Cape York and we need to be prepared. The clinic has placed a bottle of vinegar at the beach boat ramp (on the board) to be used in case of a Jellyfish sting. If someone has been stung by a box jellyfish you will need to pour the vinegar over the sting for at least 30 seconds, then call the clinic or 000 immediately – box jellyfish stings can kill people. Please do not use the vinegar for any other reason as this could save someone's life!

We welcome our new director of Nursing, Vikki

Jackson, and her husband Colin. Vikki has come to us from a long time working in various clinics in Cape York and we are very happy to have her as part of the team at the Lockhart River. Come and say hello next time you're in the clinic.



We would like to remind everybody in Lockhart River, including children, that the use of emergency call, 000, is for

emergencies only. Lately children have been dialling 000 for prank calls and waking the nurses up in the middle of the night. This means that nurses are unable to work the next day and patients have to wait longer to be seen by a nurse. Please tell your kids not to call 000 for anything but an emergency.

A friendly reminder that the new clinic opening hours are from 8.30am– 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Emergencies only after these times and on weekends. The clinic will have limited opening hours over the Christmas period. Please ensure you have all your tablets prior to the clinic closing during this time.

**Merry Christmas from all the team at Lockhart River Clinic and BE SAFE!**







# Lockhart artist honoured in US

Lockhart River artist Rosella Namok was a Guest of Honour at a Houston Ballet World Premier in the United States earlier this year, after being selected as the designer for one of the company's productions.

The show was produced to the music of Igor Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps* (The Rite of Spring) and choreographed by the Houston Ballet's Artistic Director and acclaimed Australian born choreographer Stanton Welch.

"I got really excited when they told me they selected my artwork for the backdrop," she said. Ms Namok travelled with her son, Zane, to Houston in Texas. for the World Premiere of the ballet and exhibition launch, which was attended by Australia's Ambassador to the US Mr Kim Beazley.

"It was very exciting," she said. "I was a Guest of Honour. "And it was the first time Zane went overseas."

Ms Namok's paintings were introduced to Stanton Welch by Houston Gallerist and Honorary Consul to Australia, Nana Booker of Booker Lowe Gallery. Two of Rosella's paintings were subsequently selected to be transposed into large-scale backdrops for the ballet.

"When I saw my work, I got a bit emotional, a bit teary," she said.

"Seeing it as a big backdrop like that was a surprise. It was like 20 metres by 10 metres – it was huge.



*Above: Rosella receives on-stage applause from the performers for her backdrops. Below: Rosella with Mr Kim Beazley and with her son Zane and one of the dancers.*



"It was on a proper canvas, not on a projector."

The Houston Ballet wrote how wonderful it was, "for two Australian artists living over eight thousand miles apart to be drawn together through your beautiful work," to Ms Namok. The world premiere was performed at the Wortham

Theatre in Houston, Texas, on 7 March 2013. An exhibition of Rosella's paintings was staged to accompany the ballet. Ms Namok was an inaugural member of the Lockhart River Art Gang and her paintings have been included in over 30 national and international exhibitions, biennales and prizes. They are also represented in every major public gallery in Australia in addition to major corporate and private collections in Australia and internationally.

On the way back to Australia, Rosella and her son stayed overnight in Los Angeles.

"We stayed near Hollywood Boulevard," she said. "We had a ball."

Kevin Rudd has also asked Ms Namok for permission to use one of her paintings on his Christmas cards this year!

Ms Namok is also a great supporter of the Puuya Foundation. "When they asked me for some paintings we really wanted to support things like that at home," she said. "It's always good to have that connection with home; I travel around the world with my artwork but all my artwork is of home."







# Reaping rewards for Learning Circles

Puuya Foundation has successfully applied for funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Reaping Rewards Program.

This funding is to support of their Education Learning Circles (ELCs), which are a partnership between the Puuya Foundation, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, Lockhart River State School and their Parents and Community Engagement Committee (PaCE).

The most recent ELC was held in Lockhart River in October and included participants from Toowoomba, Weipa, Hopevale, Yeppoon and Cairns. ELCs were first held in June 2012 and enjoy great support for their continuation. They have a strong focus on early years learning and parenting, school attendance/truancy, secondary schooling, improving learning and education outcomes and staff cultural awareness. Working collaboratively is getting results. The ELCs continue to help the community leaders clarify their vision for their children and families, with integrated services for early childhood education

and care, parenting and family support as well as child and maternal health services. Invited guests from St Brendan's College in Yeppoon and Western Cape College in Weipa also participated in the learning circle and discussed issues with retaining secondary students in education. As a result, they were able to see and hear first hand the issues facing students, parents and the community, all of which they said was very valuable. Learning circle participants continue to be inspired by the willingness of the various organisations to work together. Feedback from participants included:

"Learning Circles continue to grow – they are an absolute model for best practice community development and capacity building."

"Having Learning Circles keeps us accountable for our actions and for working together to get results. With the constant

encouragement and support, better things happen every time – thanks Puuya Foundation and all who participate."

"It was really good to hear about what's happening in early years learning as this is the foundation for our secondary students."

"It was really good to learn about this community and the parents of the youth we have at our secondary school. I have a better understanding of where the kids are coming from."

"This is wonderful – it has been really great to be part of this Learning Circle and understand what's important to this community."

"There is real collaborative action happening and sharing of information as a result of Learning Circles – thanks Puuya Foundation, Council, School and PaCE"

95% of participants said ELCs had increased their knowledge of issues facing the community and been valuable to them in their role.







# Artists are making a big impression

The Lockhart River Arts Centre has had a big year which can only build on its strength and reputation into 2014.

Coordinator Robbie Neal said, for example, that Irene Namok had a show this year at Alcaston Gallery and that show in Melbourne actually sold out before it even opened.

"We were at the motel and the gallery owner came and picked us up in her car and we said: 'How's the show going?' and she said: 'It's terrible,'" Ms Neal said.

"And Irene and I looked at each other in panic thinking nothing must have sold, and then she said: 'I sold everything in the gallery and everything in the

stockroom and I've got nothing left to sell on opening night'.

"So that was really exciting for Irene.

"Then, the following month, Naomi Hobson had a sell-out show at Alcaston Gallery again, and Naomi Hobson has also been shortlisted in the Togart Contemporary Art Awards this year and for the Gold Coast Art Award.

"Both those prizes are prestigious.

"They are both open awards to anybody in Australia, so that's really good.

"Also, Lawrence Omeenyo was shortlisted in the Western Australian Indigenous Art Award for his ceramic sculpture and that was huge as well.

"He and Silas Hobson both went over to Perth for the Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards

"We had a very successful time at CIAF (Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair) this year too, and CIAF is fantastic because it gives us a chance to promote all of the artists, which is what we really want to do, rather than just the ones being that are very

— >



*Evelyn Omeenyo is one of the Arts Centre's busy painters.*



## Kawadji-Wimpa dancers benefit from Melbourne visit

In September the Kawadji-Wimpa dancers travelled to and worked with the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts, headed by opera singer Deborah Cheetham, at the University of Melbourne.

For 10 years the Centre has connected Indigenous visual, design and performing artists with a pathway to their future in the arts. Situated at the heart of Melbourne's arts precinct, the Centre fosters innovation in the research, development, advocacy and presentation of Indigenous cultural expressions.

A short video featuring the Lockhart dancers can be found on the Centre's website: <http://vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/wilin>

The trip was a huge success with the dancers performing a contemporary dance piece for a huge Melbourne audience.



successful in the galleries.

"We want to actually promote and give everybody an opportunity to sell their work, so the Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair provides that opportunity.

"All the artists get a chance at a sale during the dry season.

"When the tourists come through there's the chance for artists who may not have been lucky enough to get accepted by a recognised gallery, but they can still sell a lot of work directly to the tourist trade through the Arts Centre.

"And, of course, the money that the artists make flows back through into the rest of the community.

"They get paid directly, but then they also pass that on to family and friends, so the whole

community benefits from the sales at the Arts Centre."

Cultural Retention Officer Elise Fenn has been with the Centre for six months.

"I look after cultural retention and community development projects, so my main role is not that high-level artist development, it's more working across the community trying to engage people in community arts projects, increasing people's participation at the Arts Centre and just helping to facilitate cultural activities in the community," she said.

"The main project we've just nearly completed for this year, and will be ongoing next year, is the Mural Project at the Kids Club and Playgroup.

"The mural was the vision of

the Mums and Bubs Group to transform the wall.

"They wanted it to begin as rainforest going through the different landscapes to end up down at the beach and then in an underwater scene.

"Then artists, community members, the mothers themselves and all of the kids who attend Kids Club have contributed to painting and doing shell mosaic and different things on the mural.

"In 2014 we hope to also install a playground so we'll put in an old tinnie with tyres and hopefully shade cloth, and the women have come up with their own vision for blackboards and different things.

"It's already looking stunning, so next year will be a big year."



# Love of airports started early

Like many, Manfred Kranabetter loved visiting airports as a child and watching the planes land and take off. Little did he know back then that one day he would land himself a dream job managing and running an airport.

Manfred, the Manager of Lockhart River Aerodrome, migrated from the cold climates of Austria to warm Australia when he was 21 years old. He arrived in New South Wales, found work in his trade as a boilermaker/welder and settled into the Aussie lifestyle before he joined the Army. After seven years with the Army and managing a few piggeries afterwards he found himself in Tropical North Queensland.

“I’ve always had the urge to come further north, so eventually I did,” he said. “And that’s when I met my wife Miriam.”

Manfred recognised the airport’s potential the first time he took up his post 18 years ago.

“I remember saying that eventually this airport is going to be in demand,” he said.

The airport is a vital transport hub for Lockhart, especially during the wet season. Skytrams provides a daily passenger service, and Manfred said there are many other chartered flights stopping in.

“We get about 200 landings a month,” he said. “We get government charters, private charters, tourism groups and



*Manfred, pictured with staff members Natasha and Gordon, has been managing the Airport for 18 years.*

planes that need to refuel.”

The 1500m sealed, secure and all-weather runway has 24-hour operations, thanks to pilot-activated lights. Originally there were three runways built on the site in the early 1940s.

“It was rather large actually,” Manfred said.

“The American Air Force initiated the base here during World War II.

“You can still see some remnants of the old base, but most of it is gone now.”

Manfred can show you where the old aircraft parking base was located as well as the location of the former Air Force camp sites, administration facilities, demolition storage facilities,

cookhouse and bunkers.

The Lockhart River Aerodrome Company, owned by Lockhart River Shire Council, also manages the Iron Range Cabins.

“The money from the cabins is put back into the airport,” Manfred explained.

Manfred would like to see the airport expanded as the area grows.

“It gets really busy throughout the year,” he said.

“Sometimes it’s pretty intense around here.”

While he never dreamed he’d be running an airport when he was a child, Manfred said he wouldn’t have it any other way. “It’s a great job and Lockhart is a great place to live,” he said.

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](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au) or see Council reception.

The next issue of Waanta is due to be published in December 2013.