

Yarrabah News



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

V4 Issue 04 : April 2020

Our new Council!



Yarrabah's new Councillors David Baird, Brian Underwood, Kenneth Jackson & Lucrecia Willett with Mayor Ross Andrews (centre) have made their declarations and will hold their first Council meeting in the coming weeks, no doubt in between Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) meetings, which are ongoing as the Coronavirus, or Covid-19, lockdown continues for residents.

It took a long time to call the final results, but they eventually got there, re-elected Mayor Ross Andrews says.

"I'm so happy to serve the community again with the new Council for the next four years and I'd like to thank the Yarrabah community for putting their faith in me," he said.

"I promise I will do my utmost to serve the community to the best of my abilities and lead us into a safe and secure future.

"It's hard to see past the current Coronavirus situation, but the challenges remain the same.

"I'm looking forward to consolidating

the work of the past four years towards moving forward on health, education, employment, economic development and infrastructure.

"There's a lot for us to do.

"I'd like to welcome our new Councillors on board and I'm looking forward to working with them."

He said there was a great deal of experience between them.

"Many of them are board members of some of the smaller non-government organisations in the community," he said.

"Cr Baird is on the Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services and Gindaja Treatment

and Healing Centre boards as is Cr Willett, who is also on the Yarrabah Seahawks Rugby League club; Cr Underwood is on the Mutkin Residential Aged Care board and Cr Jackson is a Police Liaison Officer.

"So we have a wealth of talent and experience to draw on and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do as we work together over the next four years.

"And finally, for myself again, I feel very much honoured and a privilege to be re-elected as a second term Mayor, and thank everyone for their support."

MORE INSIDE...

The Yarrabah Council and other local authorities have the full support of Gungandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation (GMYPPBC) in the current Covid-19 situation Chair Dewayne Mundraby says.

In a Public Notice posted in and around the community, and available on their new website (www.gmyppbc.com), Mr Mundraby said they were aware of several breaches to Yarrabah's current travel and access restrictions occurring within the GMYPPBC Trustee Area.

"In an attempt to minimise further access breaches moving forward, the GMYPPBC will be working with the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and local authorities and undertaking monitoring and surveillance of the area until such time as the travel and access restrictions are lifted," he said.

"We thank you in advance for appreciating the severity of this situation and ask that you refrain from being aggressive towards our team who are working to assist the Community during this difficult time."

Mr Mundraby said the breaches were putting several people and the community itself at risk.



"[They are] not only putting themselves in danger, and breaching Yarrabah travel and access restrictions, but [they are] diverting limited resources to their immediate needs and putting members of the wider community at high risk through the possible transmission of the Covid-19 virus," he said.

"We support the measures and steps taken by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, Local Essential Services and

State and Federal Governments to protect the Yarrabah Community from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

"If you have a particular need or any concerns during this time, and to avoid taking matters into your own hands and placing yourself or others in danger, we ask that you approach Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service, Gindaja Treatment and Healing Centre or the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council for help and assistance."

We will get through this - Mayor

"We are all well aware by now, that we are living through challenging and unprecedented times," Mayor Ross Andrews says.

"Our absolutely first priority is to ensure that our community is protected from Covid-19, so we are working with all the appropriate authorities and organisations to ensure that we sustain our efforts in preventing and minimising any potential risks that will have detrimental effect on our people," he said.

"Once we have managed to get through these challenging times – and we will get through them – we look forward to the next steps of a recovery phase.

"It is so important for community to support us in our best endeavours to lead through these challenges.

"We need to get behind the Local Disaster Management Group, which is the LDMG, and the appropriate authorities before we can start to look forward."

Taskforce

He said LDMG's approach had been to develop a Pandemic Sub Plan.

"We've also established a Covid-19 Taskforce made up of health and clinical experts," he said.

"This is about taking on a comprehensive approach to protect Yarrabah from Covid-19.

"The Action Plan which has come out of all this provides the road map for reducing the Coronavirus impact on our community.

"The Governments have recognised our local leadership and solutions with the support of resources, it's important for us to mobilise the community to respond to this pandemic."

He said part of their solution was a combination of options.

"We have a combination of independent quarantine and isolation sites, and support for home isolation in place," he said.

"These options came from consultation with every home in Yarrabah who wanted home isolation, and being able to offer 'best practice' where independent sites have been offered to people who didn't want to, or couldn't isolate at home.

He said the Plan also included allowing the LDMG the power to quarantine individuals while test

results for Covid-19 were processed.

"If a positive result is returned, they are empowered under State and Federal laws to isolate that individual in Cairns."

He said high on the agenda was a subcommittee of the LDMG taking a look at alcohol and substance abuse issues in the community.

"The subcommittee is looking at making amendments to the Alcohol Management



Plan as part of Covid-19, and to minimise any potential risks against illegal substances getting into Yarrabah," he said.

"We also need to deal with some of the social challenges around mental health, self-harm and withdrawals for those who suffer from severe chronic addiction.

"At the same time, we have to stop illegal alcohol and other substances coming in, the movement is putting our very lives at risk at this time – everyone's life – and I'm sure

nobody wants to be responsible for being the one person, because that's all it takes, to bring this disease into our lives.

"We must keep it out and on that basis we need to deal with what we know are very complex issues.

"We need the community to trust that we are doing our best to find some middle ground while trying to minimise that harm."

Alcohol Survey

He said the subcommittee had worked with Queensland Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) to put together a survey.

"The survey will give us an appreciation of what the community thinks about these issues.

"Do they want to see a little bit of alcohol in the community, being carefully managed?

"And how can we minimise the risk of Covid-19 getting into our community because of people coming and going through the scrub or via boat?

"We need to renew our approach so we can protect everyone, but it will take some time and we're asking the community to be patient with that – whatever they come up with has to go through several steps before it gets to the Queensland Cabinet for endorsement, and it will be quite a rigorous process."

He said Yarrabah residents only were encouraged to find the 'Renewed Approach to Alcohol' survey online.

Renewed Approach to Alcohol – for Yarrabah residents only – proposed amendment to alcohol management plan in Yarrabah.

The Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) is active and the Yarrabah LDMG are exploring opportunity to amend parts of the Plan. Before deciding on options, community input is required. Residents of Yarrabah who are aged 18 years and older are encouraged to participate by completing the survey below.

Community agencies support the process – Gindaja Treatment & Healing Centre will be mobilising staff to issue survey material and collect responses for residents who may not have access to computers or smart phones.

The link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KQYZMKC>. This information is also available on the Council's website. <https://www.yarrabah.qld.gov.au/community-notices/>

Foreshore options up for comment - closing Tuesday 5 May

See Council's webpage or Facebook for details

Well done Fiona!

Fiona Patterson, has been successful in a JTBelieve submission for her to attend the Women & Leadership Australia's (WLA) upcoming Australian Women's Leadership Symposium in Brisbane later this year.

Mission Australia bags YASC help



Mission Australia's Circles of Care team put together some care bags (pictured below) for the Dream Buyal Bandu girls with some fun activities to help with the lockdown over school holidays.

The problem then became, how could we get them to the kids?

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council to the rescue!

As well as their own jobs and the extra workload due to the pandemic, they visited each girl at their home and dropped off the bags for us.

We seriously could not have pulled this off without them, they went above and beyond, love teamwork!!

Our Circles of Care team can be contacted by phone Monday to Friday, Leisa Garling 0475 803 140 or Greg Fourmile on 0437 731 088.



thrive
PARTNERS IN MENTAL WELLNESS

POSITION VACANT

Casual Female Thrive Support Partner for NDIS participants.
For more info contact
Melissah.Thomas@thrive.org.au or Thrive on 40 569 444

WELCOME!

to the newest member of our family – John Walter Scott Yeatman – born 20 April 2020 at 9am in Cairns Base Hospital to Thelessa Mundraby & John Yeatman (jnr) and baby brother to Nakayia. Congratulations and love from your families.



Yarrabah News is published fortnightly by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Yarrabah community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor.

We have 1,375 likes on Facebook! Follow us today!
Yarrabah News is online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

For more information contact Christine Howes on
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OUR NEXT DEADLINE will be
**Thursday
28 MAY**
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