



WUJAL WUJAL ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL Newsletter February 2008

Wujal Wujal, Via COOKTOWN, QLD, 4895
Phone (07) 4060 8155 Fax (07) 4060 8250
Email ceo@wujalwujalcouncil.qld.gov.au

Milestones mark new chapter in Wujal history

Three important milestones passed late last year will mark a new chapter in the history of Wujal Wujal community says WWASC Mayor Desmond Tayley.

In late November dignitaries including Queensland Minister for Local Government Warren Pitt, Cook Shire Council Mayor Bob Sullivan and government representatives from Main Roads and Sports & Recreation were in Wujal Wujal to congratulate those involved and celebrate the community's achievements.

They were there to participate in the formal opening of the new state-of-the-art sewage plant and sports oval complex, as well as to witness the presentation of certificates to council employees who have successfully completed various training initiatives up to Certificate III level in Waste Management.



Mr Tayley & Mr Pitt tour the new Sewage Plant with staff, Raymond Sycamore & Rodney Denman.

management - my council strongly recommend that a project evaluation be undertaken soon to enable us to assess the efficiency and the effectiveness of our project. "In addition such activity will provide us with valuable lessons to be learned from undertaking similar projects and activities in the future.

"It may also assist with the future maintenance work. "The second milestone we will witness this afternoon will be the presentation of certificates to our employees who have successfully completed Cert II and Cert III in Waste Management.

"To these employees please accept on behalf of the Council our sincere thanks and congratulations, you will be the backbone upon which the operation of this plant will rely on.

"The third milestone is the opening of the sports oval. "This project has been on the drawing board for a long time but I am happy that with the support and generosity of the Queensland Government Stage I of the sports complex has now been completed.

"With the completion of this stage we now have excellent facilities for our people to enjoy a game of rugby league, AFL, soccer and if I may add, a new and interesting, locally complicated version of golf which combines the modern game of golf with traditional games of hunting, fishing and bravery.

"The success of this project would not have been possible without the support of a wide variety of backgrounds of people."

Mr Tayley said he also wanted to acknowledge "the Wujal Wujal community and members who through their insights and visions conceived of these ideas and nurtured them to their conclusion".



Looking ahead: Mr Tayley discusses the causeway with Local Government Minister Warren Pitt & Main Roads District Director Bruce Gould.

Mr Tayley said the Council and community were grateful to past and present leaders who had the vision "to make these dreams come true".

He said the first milestone was the formal commissioning of the community's new sewage plant.

"The new \$6m project that will be an addition to the ever-expanding infrastructure of the community," he told the gathering.

"We are very grateful to the Queensland Government for its generosity in supporting us to expand the frontiers of improving quality of life for our people.

"When this project is fully completed we will have a state of the art sewage treatment plant that will be the envy of many shire councils.

"As council now embraces the concept of best practice model on all our operations and in keeping in line with the universal accepted standards - the practice of good project

...Council Bites & Bits...

WUJAL WUJAL ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL is pleased to announce the recent appointment of *Wade McKinnon* to the position of Sports & Recreation Officer for the community.

Over the past few years Council has noted with growing concern some of the risks some travellers have put themselves into when attempting to cross the causeway while there is water across the roadway.

As residents would be aware, some of these attempts have been unsuccessful, causing a loss of assets and inconvenience to other causeway users.

Council has requested proper signage be erected on both sides of the causeway to inform travellers of the dangers of crossing the river.

Council has also requested that an authority to take responsibility for opening and closing the causeway at the appropriate times be identified and agreed upon.

In the long run Council has said what is needed is the construction of a permanent bridge across the river, the upgrading of some of the creeks between Wujal-Wujal and PK; and sealing of some of the steep gradients on the road.

WWASC has also written to Deputy Premier & Minister for Infrastructure & Planning, Paul Lucas, asking the government to scrap proposed 'Iconic Queensland Places' legislation in favour of better synergy between existing agency such as Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993 and the Wet Tropics Coast Regional Management Plan (Qld EPA & Park and Wildlife Service 2003).

Council submitted that the proposed legislation would discriminate against the interests of Kuku Yalanji people by unduly restricting ordinary activities and denying residents from acquiring economic, social and emotional benefits from their environment.

Overall, the Council argued, there was no need for the new legislation as amendments to the existing Integrated Planning Act 1997 could be achieved without much difficulty to accommodate the "special" interest of the State intended to be covered by the new Bill.

Corrections Note

In the last WWASC newsletter (February 2007) Geoffrey Rosendale was incorrectly identified as the CDEP supervisor – the CDEP supervisor was and still is Jeffery Yougie. The Council and newsletter editor wish to apologise for the mix-up, and also to Cr Keith Rush for misspelling his name.

NOTICE TO CDEP PARTICIPANTS: If you are directed by your CDEP supervisor or manager to attend training or training courses and you do not attend you will not be paid for those days. It is a requirement under the CDEP guidelines that all participants must be willing to undertake training. If you fail or refuse to meet your mutual obligations to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council CDEP you will be EXITED (terminated). Note also that this is Federal Government policy and that funding for our CDEP projects and workers depends on compliance with these policies.

Cause for concern: the high volume of traffic on the under-signed causeway across the Bloomfield River



Local Government Elections

The next local government elections are due to be conducted on **Saturday 15 March 2008**. Below are some dates you should know for the 2008 Local Government elections:

Close of Rolls: Thursday, 31 January 2008

Nominations Open: 2 February, 2008
Nominations Closed: 12 noon, Tuesday 19 February 2008

Polling Day: Saturday, 15 March 2008
Voting Times: 8am-6pm

For more information see the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website at: <http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/>

WWASC blazing trails for other Councils: Pitt

Wujal Council has not only adopted best practice but has been forward thinking in its refusal to accept anything but, says Queensland Local Government Minister Warren Pitt.

Speaking at opening ceremonies for the sewage treatment plant and sports oval, Mr Pitt said in many ways Wujal was becoming a "trail blazer" and was doing "marvellous" things the community could be proud of.

"I'm very pleased to see this Council not only adopt best practice but be forward thinking and that's really important, that your leadership in the community is forward thinking, that you are prepared to meet the new challenges and not accept anything but best practice in everything they do," he said.

"To the members of the Wujal Wujal community, you are rightfully proud of your community and you have every right to be so, this is a good community and it's on the move, it's going places and I look forward to coming back time and again to see the progress that has been made.

"The community sewage project delivers some very good outcomes for this community.

"It brings your health standards into a new era but it also is not just another water treatment plant, it's not just another sewage project, this is a plant that would not be out of place on some of our resort tropical islands in Queensland."

Mr Pitt said the plant was started in September 2005 and had the capacity to service a community of up to 750 people.



"Approximately 4500 hours of labour went into its construction and people who worked on its construction are now being followed through by people who will make sure it operates correctly," he said.

"There are six people involved but three of them are members of this community who are

holding down very very important jobs.

"Jobs that not only meaningful but are vital to this community and I congratulate the three who have their Certs II & III, these certificates are not second rate and they will stand up anywhere and it's very important whenever we do training that we train to a standard that is the standard and that's what happened in this case.

"Can I just say that as a community Wujal Wujal is not over and done with yet with it's development, there are many challenges here to your local authority, there are many challenges to the residents of this community.

"I can see a time when Wujal Wujal is not just a place that you pass through on the way to Cooktown or elsewhere, but a place where people will want to stop and instead of dropping litter will actually drop money.

"Your council has plans to ensure that Wujal Wujal is a destination point as well as someplace along the road.

"So ladies and gentlemen it is with great pleasure that I represent the state government here today to officially declare open the Wujal Wujal Sewage Treatment Plant, it is a significant day for the community."

Cooperative approach high on Cook's agenda

A cooperative approach to service delivery has achieved a great deal across Wujal Wujal, Cook and Douglas Shire Councils over the past 15 years, says Cook Shire Mayor Bob Sullivan, (pictured right with Cook Shire CEO Colin Burns).

"The Bloomfield Valley is a beautiful, wonderful place but it's got three local authorities," Mr Sullivan said. "If we're talking about what's best for the community and what's best for the residents and ratepayers for that area, it's about delivering services and it's about cooperative arrangements between those councils, and that's what should be happening, we should be helping out."

He said he recalled his first

meeting with Wujal Wujal Chair at the time, George Kulka, and Douglas Mayor Mike Berry in 1991.

"We sat on the Bloomfield River, where the causeway is now and we talked about relinquishing the blocks at Dagarra to the Department of Communities and they would then build the causeway using their money," he said. "From that day we've had a cooperative approach."

He said he and Mayor Desmond Tayley shared concerns about what would happen when Douglas Shire Council became part of Cairns in March this year, and that they had shared those concerns with the Minister.

"Douglas will be amalgamated into Cairns, Wujal and Cook will still be here - will Cairns still have



as much interest in the welfare of the Bloomfield Valley as Douglas did?" he said. "The Minister is saying, and rightly so, that we can't do it prior to the elections but after the election he wants to have a meeting with Cairns, Cook and Wujal Wujal to work through the issues in the Bloomfield Valley and we hope that happens very early this year.

"All these issues have to be resolved, just to make Wujal more viable.

"I'd call myself a friend of Wujal and that's the way it should be."

Broad shoulders leading WWASC Tech Services

As Technical Services Manager for the WWASC, Jaime Guedes has responsibility for Roads and Drainage, Workshop, Water and Sewerage, Housing and Environmental Health.

That's not even to mention things happening around the community, but not managed by the Council, including the Granite Creek Bridge construction, the road works along the Bloomfield river with Earthtec and drainage issues on the Southside Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield Road.

But Mr Guedes is philosophical and patient about the many demands around the job he has taken on. "As long as we don't lose focus projects can come to fruition, sometimes it can be a bit frustrating but I find that the main issue is being consistent and persistent in the approach," he said.

With some major projects, such as the sewage treatment plant, new housing stock on the Southside and sports oval coming to completion over the past 12 months in particular, Mr Guedes and his team have had a busy year.

And there's more to come.

Some highlights for the Wujal Wujal community in 2008 will be new water reticulation, new river intake, and a new ground level water reservoir which will mean better water flows and pressure to every household in the community.

Water & Sewage Officer Graham Harris said the project will mean more training for workers from the community.

"There shouldn't be as many breakdowns with the new reticulation system now; it should be five-ten years before we start getting damages.

"It'll happen and it'll be better for the town, just as sewerage is a great thing for the town now.

"About eight months ago now there was grey water around from the septic tanks everywhere so it's cleaned the whole town up and you can just start seeing it now."



Water & Sewage Officer Graham Harris

Mr. Guedes said that the real price of delivery of municipal services has been distorted historically by the use of CDEP. "This is no longer an acceptable practice as per the CDEP program guidelines," he said. "It has to be acknowledged by all stakeholders that the cost/ratio per head of population of the delivery of municipal services to



Technical Services Manager Jaime Guedes

communities like Wujal Wujal outstrips many times what our city counterparts are burdened with.

"And when recruiting experienced and accredited operators we are competing in a State environment so the Council's ability to offer work conditions and remuneration to applicants has to reflect that.

"That means the operations and maintenance budget aspects of the new plant is a problem we have to face and we'll be facing in future years.

"That is an issue I'm sure the council will be addressing constantly with the powers that be; but the point that I have to put forward is that none of us object to best practice when it comes to discharges to the environment."

He said one of the ways the Council was addressing the cost of running the municipal services was to ensure that their heavy machinery and

earthmoving equipment was contracted and subcontracted to external work.

"Council has been very proactive in the past couple of years with the philosophy that the Council's not only a cost centre but also a revenue centre and in this area we have had some very good results," he said.

"That means our machines haven't stopped for the past two years which at the same time helps us a little bit on the shortfalls in our municipal services and social responsibility programs that council wants to engage.

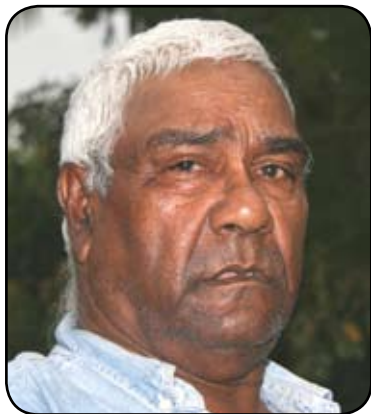
"That also brought a lot of benefits for a lot of our guys because it's intensive training and experience and is nice to see them gaining employment in other areas, which is a great thing."

Mr Guedes said a new public toilet block on the North side of the Bloomfield Crossing within the DOGIT area would also go ahead this year.

The Technical Services Section will continue to strive to deliver efficient, safe, clean services to the community throughout 2008 with commitment from staff and CDEP workers.



Members of the team: Housing Coordinator Mark Zippel, Housing Officer Zeila Gordon & Apprentice Carpenter Guau Wallace



TO, former Councillor and Chairman George Kulka says the way many changes have been brought about on Wujal Wujal community is still a cause of concern to him.

Mr Kulka, who served on the council for nine years from 1994 to 2003, said he was particularly concerned about the transition from the Community Services Act to mainstream under the Local Government Act.

"If you're looking to strive for equality or autonomy with the Councils, I think it's a Clayton's thing, you know and I think it's an insult to the Aboriginal community, especially this one here," he said. "It's all just been lumbered on us." He said it was "probably inevitably, down the track" going to happen but shouldn't have done the way it did. "It looks like amalgamation will be the outcome of this transition from CSA to mainstream," he said.

"I don't agree with how this transition has gone, they've put a lot of strain on the now-elected councillors.

"It was hurried through and I think it all had to do with native title claims and a heap of other issues.

"That's where I get very critical about all this, and that's still my problem.

"You know when we're doing the green paper and the pink paper and the white paper and everything else, well we're striving to get some sort of change alright, but our way."

He said it was a problem because it was still "not sorted out".

"When are we going to be able to fully say we're on equal terms with the local governments around us?" he said.

"We're being forced into being a shire council and we have to abide by local government rules and regulations but it doesn't feel any good when you go somewhere and people say 'oh you're mainstream now, you're local government' and I say 'no, not really'.

"Because I'm here and this poor council here is on 64 hectares of land, they've been lumped with this local government status, which is a whole lot of bull to me, and that's the truth because if you look, where's the reality in it? I feel sorry for this council here because they were pushed into something.

"This business about this transitional thing, you know it's all a gamin thing to me and I think enough bureaucrats know the word 'gamin' without me having to interpret that or explain what that is, but that's what it is." Mr Kulka said the Council had his full support.

"I've always tried to support the council here as much as I could, I've always been here for them if they wanted anything," he said.

"They've carried on with what we left over with the housing and sewage infrastructure and made that complete which I'm happy with that, the new football oval and everything else.

"And a lot of this has been in the wind for a very long time, back in the ACC we pushed for all this sort of thing.

"Autonomy was what we wanted, that's what we were on about, we wanted a better deal than what we're getting now.

"I'm just angry about how this was done.

"I might talk double Dutch sometimes but while I'm going around in circles the point I always come back to is that I disagree with the way the whole concept has gone, if I could say it in my language to you I could explain it a whole lot better to you.

"Plain and simple, it's a rotten deal, but I don't blame the Council, a lot of it's out of their hands."

CDEP News from Manager Wendi Rowlands

I would like to thank all CDEP participants for their excellent work throughout 2007 on the many projects undertaken by Council. Great work!!!!

Wujal Wujal CDEP is considered one of the best performing CDEP'S in the Far Northern Region. We have earned this reputation due to the very hard work of our participants, staff and Council. We hope to continue this very high standard in 2008. Just to let all CDEP participants know, we will be starting our nursery project early in 2008. The Australian Agricultural College Corporation from the Mareeba

campus will be coming for a site visit to Wujal Wujal to discuss the project soon.

Any CDEP participants interested in establishing a nursery and propagating native shrubs and trees for a Community Beautification project please see Claudia at the CDEP office to put your name down. We would like to encourage all CDEP ladies to enjoy this project as well! Our Arts project will also be starting in April and we hope to see all artists participate in this project!!

A reminder also that if you do not lodge your time sheet every week, signed off on by your supervisor, you

will not be paid. If you are unsure who your supervisor is please come to the CDEP office and we will advise you.

All CDEP participants are also strongly advised to join with one of the two job networks. It is to your advantage to join as they can assist financially with boots, uniforms, blue cards, and specialised training services to help you find a job.



Wujal Wujal Aboriginal

2004

Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Desmond Tayley says he will be recontesting the March 2008 elections for the position of Mayor.

"I want to continue on with the good work that this council has done and I'm hopeful that good candidates will put their hand up and help us to continue that work," he said. "When people vote in March they should consider who they feel will give 100% commitment to working with the community so the Council could continue to provide better services for the community."

He said highlights for him over the past year included the publication of the newsletter, the openings of the sewage plant and oval as well as seeing the police station finally go ahead.

"It's good to have that newsletter come through and the number of people who had their input as well as just the information getting out there was one of the highlights for me," he said. "It's transparency, where council give all the information to the public as well, it's one way we can communicate with people so that's a bonus for the council and the community. We also opened the sports field and sewage treatment plant late last year, a whole heap of training happened through the year which has been good. The police station is one of the highlights as well, we've waited so long and it's been in the pipeline for about ten years so to finally see it come to what it is today now, to see progress on the ground. It will open in February if all goes to plan and we can get supplies into the community to finish it, hopefully it will be done. The other thing I'm quite impressed with is the housing on the southside and particularly the boys who were involved with that. It's good to see community people involved with projects like that and it's what many communities would aim for, to build the capacity of it's own. We've done that, and we've got a good team there that's doing the new housing and renovations so congratulations to those guys, I'm really proud of them. Over the past three or so years, especially within the past year, some of our aspirations have come to the forefront and we've achieved them, so overall I'm pretty happy with the outcomes. What the council has done this year is we've worked together united as a team to get these projects done. And also I'd like to mention the staff have done a wonderful job, without their support and their hard work none of these projects would have come and also the community as well, who have supported us, if it wasn't for them these things wouldn't have happened, so a big thank you to them."



Cr Keith Portfo
Mayor,
Care, K
Life Pro
"I will b
March
election
of a Co
Deputy
Rush sa

"It's been a pretty rocky road being
the past three years, I've had my
but it's been rewarding in a lot of w
seen things go ahead, like the p
the good work that's happening i
home where there's been a lot of
awarded. The kindy is running ok
I'd like to see more parent particip
is running very well, Sharon A
a great job and she's encourage
to go and get their certificates a
they're doing really well. It's been
a councillor and I wish future Co
time and the hope they can hand
get tough but you've got to get to
some hard decisions and don't
make hard decisions."



Cr David Jackson

Portfolios: Housing, Sports & Recreation

"I am going to run again because there are projects here in Wujal that I would like to fight for, to k
"One of the reasons I might not have run again is because councillors cop the blame for everyth
not necessarily their fault, people need to get up and participate a bit more in the actual running
see that there are projects that we can do, depending on the TOs and the council as to how we
enjoyed working with the present Council and that the Housing portfolio was also a source of p
here for their housing and for their rent on their housing," he said. "Queensland Housing has tak
and we run at 98% of the people paying their rent before time, so that's a very big thing for Wu
bounds from what it was four years ago. We've got funding for upgrades and renovations but we
for new houses so we can alleviate the problem of overcrowding in the houses." He said a bus w

Recreation portfolio, even though a lot of work had been done by previous Sports & Rec Officer, John Oswald. "He's d
very proud for what John did for sports and recreation," he said. Cr Jackson said he was confident newly appointed Sport
would work hard "to be able to fill his boots". In terms of the future he said current Councillors had done a great deal of t
point of gaining certificates as qualified Councillors. "I didn't know anything about being a councillor but with the training t
he said. "I'm very proud to be a local councillor and I'm very proud to have served Wujal Shire Council."

Wujal Shire Councillors

-2008

David Jackson
Portfolios: Deputy Mayor, Health, Aged Care, Kindergarten & Recreation

David Jackson is contesting the 2008 Council elections for the position of Councillor, present Mayor Keith Jackson says.

David Jackson is a councillor for Wujal Shire. He has been through ups and downs, but he says, "I've been a councillor for 14 years, I've seen the police station and the old peoples' certificates being taken away at the moment, it's a bit of tough one with this transition and amalgamation going on. Some people might think they can do better than the previous council but be aware of the Local Government Act and all the other outside agencies we have to work closely with. They should also be prepared to work closely with the community as Councillors, show no favouritism, just do the work. Everybody thinks they can be better than the previous council but we're not moving backwards anymore, we're moving forward, so just do it for your community, be strong and do your work properly."

David Jackson says, "I'm very proud of Wujal community and what's been done we'll get our certificates,"

Cr Agnes Walker

Portfolios: Justice, Law & Order

"I'm not going to run again, I think I've had enough after 14 years, I would have run by my health is more important," says Cr Agnes Walker.

Cr Walker, who has been Chair of the Council under the Community Services Act, said the highlight of her tenure has been watching a police station finally be built.

"I think it was an issue when I was the Chair so it's been going on for a long time," she said.

"The highlight would be the building of the police station and working closely for justice in the community. The justice group here is very strong and have done a wonderful job, they've worked from the bottom of their hearts and I'm really proud of what they've done and what they're doing now. I would like to say to the new Councillors to be aware of what's going on, it's not an easy task to take on, it's a bit of tough one with this transition and amalgamation going on. Some people might think they can do better than the previous council but be aware of the Local Government Act and all the other outside agencies we have to work closely with. They should also be prepared to work closely with the community as Councillors, show no favouritism, just do the work. Everybody thinks they can be better than the previous council but we're not moving backwards anymore, we're moving forward, so just do it for your community, be strong and do your work properly."



Cr Coraleen Shipton

Portfolios: CDEP, Youth, Finance

Being a Councillor for Wujal Wujal has been a "real challenge" for Cr Coraleen Shipton who says with some regret that she won't be running for a position with the Council in March. "I just want to concentrate on the young ones for the moment," she said. "I've been working at the kindy for just over a year now and I feel that being on the council has taken a lot of time, I can't really concentrate on the kindy because I'd like to get this childcare." She said

one of the highlights of the past four years was "getting somewhere" with housing. "Housing was one of the biggest frustrations in the past and I feel like we're getting somewhere, our waiting lists have dropped a lot," she said. For her portfolios Cr Shipton said she would like to see more support for CDEP and youth in particular. "Training, I just find we've got a lot of dropouts and knocking kids back off CDEP is one of the things," she said. "We don't like to see them on CDEP, we'd like to see them get further education and come back onto our community so they can fill all these positions." In terms of finance she said no one would want to see a repeat of what has happened in the past and that present staff were "good people" and had made sure the proper procedures were in place. "The council never makes a decision without going through them, if there's money there we can spend we'll do it, other than that we just won't," she said. Cr Shipton wished future Councillors all the best and expressed hope that the community would come to understand the differences between the old Community Services Act and the current Local Government Act. "They keep saying we should do this, so and so, why can't you do that now?" she said. "They will see how difficult it all is, at the public meetings they say 'why can't you do this, why can't you go there', they don't understand the red tape, so I wish the new Council all the best."

ILUAs promise role for Kuku Yalanji in land management

"We know the land and native package in front of us does not deliver all the benefits we had hoped at the start it would, and we know that when it is in place we will still have to fight for our childrens' future. But we also know that it is the best package we can achieve these days. We are glad this agreement has been made."



APRIL 2007: The words above come from a statement from the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people after 13 years of negotiations for a bundle of 15 Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

The Agreements, signed in April last year, account for 230,000 hectares of land.

In an emotional ceremony, during which then Queensland Premier Peter Beattie acknowledged "200 years of bad policy", many spoke tearfully of elders who had not lived to see the Agreement signing and hopefully about the future.

Mr Beattie, paid tribute to the original native title claimants, the CYLC and local and Aboriginal Shire Councils who were involved in what he described as a complex process.

DECEMBER 2007:

Words by DARREN COYNE

In December last year, the Federal Court recognised exclusive native title rights over 30,300 hectares of unallocated State land, allowing the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people to exclusively occupy, possess and use the areas. They also had their non-exclusive rights recognised to access, camp, hunt, gather, conduct ceremonies and be buried in the ground in the 96,000ha of timber reserve and lease areas. Qld Minister for Natural Resources Craig Wallace told the gathering that the court had simply recognised what they already knew. "You have always known that you are the custodians of this land," he said.



What the ILUAs deliver:

- The largest grant of Aboriginal freehold land ever made in Queensland
- A greater role in land management, including management of national parks and some reserves, to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people of the Daintree
- Protocols and agreed development processes with three local government bodies and utilities
- Mining royalties and the grant of freehold land to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji
- Relaxation of some of the restrictions of the Wet Tropics Management Plan for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji

Health Service survey brings early results

A Community Health Survey, carried out in October and November last year, has brought some results for the community already says Wujal Wujal Director of Nursing, Lisa Fletcher.

"We asked questions about how we could engage community people in looking after their own health," Ms Fletcher said.

"One of the major problems we've found here is that we invite people up to have lots of things done - we have a wonderful service and range of health services available to the community - however a lot of the time they don't come and participate in those services.

"So we were trying to find out how we can better engage community."

She said the results showed they needed to be "out in the community more".

"We'll try and get more health promotions happening out there, to have health providers out in the community rather than just at the clinic, so we will endeavor to do that in the coming months," she said.

Healthworker Alice Tayley said a health expo hosted by the Health Service in November last year had been a big success.

"They said that was a great idea," Ms Tayley said. "We cooked and in the afternoon we had a career

thing with the grade seven's going away to high school this year.

"Other service providers came along, ATODS from Cooktown, a diabetes educator, nutritionist and the primary health care team which included a podiatrist and a physio."

Ms Fletcher said that was just the start.

"We hope to hold more activities like that because that's what they asked for in the survey," she said.

"They also asked for some help with mental health, they talked to us about stress, especially at that time of the year, and what sort of things we could perhaps help to provide in terms of how to manage that stress.

"So we're trying to develop a community activity which we hope people will get enthused about and come to.

"We'd like to call a community meeting at some stage and feedback to the community what they told us about what they needed and talk to them about how best we could put things into place for them.

"There are so many surveys done with the community and so often nothing comes out of it so we wanted to do something we could try, we couldn't promise we could do everything people wanted, but we will try to get some of them happening."

Workers recognised for long term health service

Career milestones in long service have recently been reached by no less than three staff members at the Wujal Wujal Health Service. The WWASC would like to congratulate Alice, Lisa and Clifford for their outstanding commitment and achievements.

Alice Tayley

"I live in Wujal community, I'm a senior health worker and my portfolio is child health," Alice says.

"I just finished doing my Cert IV at QATSIHWEPAC and just last month I got my 15 years of service up in health, which I'm very proud of.

"I started off as a general health worker and then I specialised in child health and I'm going to child health in Cairns next year, so more study!"

All of Alice's 15 years has been worked at Wujal Wujal and she hopes to continue on to finishing her diploma within the year or two."

Lisa Fletcher

"I'm the director of nursing at Wujal Wujal Primary Health Care Centre," Lisa says.

"I've worked for Queensland Health for more than ten years, in that time I've done palliative care and I've worked in Indigenous health for the past ten years.

"I've also worked in mental health and I've been here in Wujal for the past two and a half years."

Clifford Harrigan

"I'm an advance healthworker at Wujal Wujal, I hadn't realised it was ten years already, it's gone quick," Clifford says.

"I've worked two years in Cooktown, six years in Kowanyama and two years here in Wujal.

"I've specialised in sexual health, chronic disease such as diabetes, xrays and a bit of everything."



Wujal Wujal Community Care rated 'high' by national standards

Wujal Wujal's Community Care Centre is on a 'high' after achieving recently being accredited the same according to national standards.

Coordinator Sharon Anderson (*pictured walking with Centre resident Mary Wallace*) said she and her staff were proud to achieved the 'high' accreditation and owed their thanks to everyone concerned.

"We're very proud of the fact that we achieved a high, which just shows that the staff, clients and community in general

have done a lot of work towards getting to that standard," she said. "To get to that level we had to develop a lot of policies and procedures and implement them in our workplace.

"We had to make sure that our clients were informed about the standards and their rights and that they knew how to complain and all the rest of it.

"We have also done a lot of training, we've been sending the girls to Cooktown and to Cairns for different training sessions and we've been able to do that because we've had DSQ quality money, we don't actually get funding for training so it's very hard.

"We don't actually use the CDEP time that we've got towards training but we're continually looking towards developing our staff - the service is going well."



Walker Family Tours set to grow into the future

Since the day they started, and it's been five years already, the Walker Family have enjoyed offering tours of their country to Wujal Wujal visitors.

"We're still enjoying, since the day we've started and still today, it's been a learning curve and a challenge," Tour Manager Francis Walker said.

"It's still the family business, it's all the family.

"Mainly the sisters conduct the tours, there's about six of us, and we work seven days a week when people ring up to book in or if we happen to be at the falls and there's business there we'll take it.

"It's a family business we started in 2003 and we wanted to make a difference for ourselves by getting off welfare, particularly CDEP, so we went down to the beach as a family for the weekend and started talking about what difference we could make.

"I had this vision a long time ago but on that day I didn't push my family, I wanted them to be ready to take on such a commitment and have the skills to manage such a dream.

"So as we were having lunch down at the beach shack, there came the Bloomfield bus from the resort full of their guests cruising up the river and as I sat back listening to what my family was talking about I said if we were serious about getting into business there was our opportunity in that boat, we could be doing that.

"Since that day our dreams have become a reality and this is the fifth year we've been operating without any assistance from the government and we wanted to build and challenge ourselves, how we could get this far and yes, we do need some assistance to expand our business.

"We've recently been granted some funding from State Development for a catering van so we'll be having that operating next season when they come into the falls, if they don't come on our tours at least they might buy something.

"The whole idea about getting into business is creating employment opportunities for the family and also for the wider community of Wujal."



Francis Walker delivers a Welcome to Country for the openings of the new Sewage Plant & Sports Oval in November 2007

The Peach in the Rainforest

Wujal Wujal kids heard from one of their heroes about the importance of positive choices, hard work and dedication when South Sydney Rabbitohs former star player, David (the Peach) Peachey visited the Aboriginal rainforest community for two days late last year.

The visit was sponsored and organised by Liquor Licensing and Queensland Police to support Liquor Licensing's Strong Community Life campaign promoting safer drinking in Indigenous communities.

"For the young people in this remote community to meet their hero was an inspiring and unforgettable experience," said Chris Watters, Executive Director for Liquor Licensing.

"When sports stars like the Peach, share their stories of positive choices, hard work and dedication to their sport, it helps young people to recognise the importance of setting goals and making healthy, positive choices."

He said the former Rabbitohs full-back leapt at the chance to visit Wujal Wujal, a vastly different experience from his previous visits to communities in regional NSW.

"I was blown away by Wujal, the Kuku Yulanji people clearly have a very strong sense of community and a great deal to be proud of. They have some very talented young people and a beautiful location," David said.

"It was a brilliant opportunity for me to get out there and talk about the importance of setting goals and living the dream, staying healthy and looking after yourself and your family, and not letting grog ruin our future."



David Peachey, Mayor Tayley & CEO Peter Opio

David grew up in Dubbo, New South Wales, and as a ball boy from the sidelines he admired the way his three uncles - Mick, Martin and Marshall - played the game.

Not only was David inspired by his Uncles' prowess on the football field, he also had them on hand to keep him on the right track.

"They were always helping me along the way," he says. "Usually they would just give me a little one liner here and there to pull me back into line if I was going off track a bit.

David has used his success and position as a role model to establish the David Peachey Foundation, which aims to help kids from Indigenous and Islander backgrounds to "Be Smart, Stay Clean And live your Dream".

He also encouraged kids to stay on in school and further their education.

"It's not all about making more indigenous football players - although there are undoubtedly a large number of incredibly talented kids out there. It's about making the dream real, whatever that dream is. We all started with a dream.

"If these kids stay in school, set some goals to achieve their dreams, we will have more Indigenous doctors, lawyers, teachers and engineers," he says.

"Our kids need more role models that they can relate to. Those of us that are successful have a responsibility to get out there and help our kids and give them all the support they need."

*Article & photographs provided courtesy
Liquor Licensing Queensland*



The Hoop Dreaming Tournament was a Queensland-wide PCYC project for Positive Futures so children could interact with children from other communities, meet positive role models and most of all have fun. The Tournament was held in Cairns on the 25th-28th January 2008. Wujal Wujal boys teamed up with Palm Island boys and won the Grand Final in the under 14 division against Cloncurry. Wujal Wujal girls team played under 19 division and came 3rd place in the tournament. Well done to all players and organisers, the weekend was a huge success! *Nikki Gong, PCYC Activities Coordinator*



The Census/ABS team who came to Wujal Wujal to interview people in November would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the project - well done!!!

Look who came to Wujal Wujal!!!

More on page 11...

