

ABORIGINAL CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER VOLUME I, NO 3: AUGUST 1999

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ACC consultations result in combined crime effort

The Aboriginal Coordinating Council has been congratulated for its commitment to the development of a recently launched strategy for dealing with youth crime and self-harm prevention in communities.

Minister for Families, Youth & Community Care Anna Bligh said the ACC had come up with a solution "that goes to the heart of the issues facing their young people".

The new strategy was jointly launched by the ACC, Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and Apunipima Cape York Health Council late last month.

It was devised after extensive consultation by the ACC with Cape York Indigenous communities, local organisations and the State Government.

ACC Chair Wayne Connolly said the Coordinating Council had undertaken extensive consultations to find out what communities wanted.

"And it was clear they wanted home-grown solutions to the issues facing their children and they don't want to send their children away," he said.

"So this project tackles the issues at the grass roots."

He said he was confident the strategy would address the fundamental problems facing young people at risk of harm in our communities.

"Because communities were involved in creating this solution, it will maintain widespread community support which will ensure its success in the future," he said.

Ms Bligh said it was clear from the consultations that no single service would have addressed all the issues.

"This \$482,000 package recognises that communities wanted a response that attacked the problems facing their young people on a number of fronts," Ms Bligh said.



Festival season underway

It's the dry season throughout the Cape and Gulf regions as festivals big and small get underway while travel through the area is still possible.

Pictured above are Kowanyama locals getting into the spirit of things at the Gulf Shield football and softball carnival.

This month we feature just three of the major events over recent months, with more football carnivals planned for later in the year as the season gets underway.

"This is a grass roots solution that coordinates the development and delivery of specialist intervention services."

Executive Director of Apunipima, Kerry Arabena, said one of the greatest difficulties facing Indigenous communities was getting a coordinated, targeted response from all the different government departments.

"We don't want new band-aid solutions," she said.

"We need structural change and cooperation to maximise the delivery of all the available services to our communities."

"The ongoing efforts by all agencies involved in this project will ensure successful interventions for our young people at risk."

Welcome, once again, to the ACC Newsletter. This issue we look at the GST and its implications, profile Umagico and keep you up to date with plenty of community news and events. Also on pages 12-15 you'll find pics from Laura, Weipa & Kowanyama - were you there or did you know anyone there? Contributions to the next newsletter, particularly any community news, views and profiles, are most welcome. They can be made by contacting the editor, Christine Howes, via the ACC office on the number above or by calling 0419 656 277. The next deadline will be in October.

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National Heritage Trust Weeds & Feral Animals Program Project Manager Sean Seymour & Aboriginal Liaison Officer Clive Henderson

Ferals targeted in new Cape project

Feral pests such as dogs on communities and allergy prevention through weed control are just two of the spinoffs from a new project for Cape York communities.

The Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals project was jointly-sponsored by the National Heritage Trust and the Cook Shire Councils, said Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for the communities of the Cape York Peninsula, Clive Henderson (pictured above right).

Speaking at Umagico on the tip of Cape York, Mr Henderson said training and employment provided by the project as well as long-term care for the environment would benefit not only communities but homeland areas as well.

“My job is to go out and meet with community councils and Aboriginal traditional owners and to find a way they can do training to deal with the eradication of pests, weeds and feral animals.”

He said training for communities worked at a number of levels starting with education about the problem itself followed by individuals being trained up to manage it.

“But it’s totally up to the community if they want us there and they tell us what they are wanting to do,” he said.

Mr Henderson said the project, based in Cooktown, had only recently got underway.

“There’s more yet to follow up on and this is our third community visit, so we are just gradually working our way around,” he said.

CSA Review kicks off in September

A major review of the Community Services Act (CSA) is due to start during the first week of September, says ACC Executive Director Peter Opio-Otim.

Mr Opio-Otim said there would also be a workshop for all Council Chairpersons and Clerks leading up to the official start to the review.

“We expect to have a warm-up meeting on Wednesday 1 September with all our Community Chairpersons and Council Clerks as the lead-up to the two-day workshop,” he said.

“The main purpose of both meetings would be to agree to very specific terms of reference for the review of the Community Services Act.”

He said both the Director-General and Executive-Director of the Department for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development (DATSIPD) would attend.

“We have been advised that the Director-General and the Executive Director of DATSIPD will be coming down to discuss with our elected members the review issues,” Mr Opio-Otim said.

“And we expect that at the end of this workshop we should be able to enter some sort of common ground in terms of what needs to be done.”

He said he was confident the ACC would receive funding for both Chairpersons and Clerks to attend.

“In the case of the funding for the review of the Act DATSIPD has released some funds to the ACC to help but we also did meet with staff from the department to indicate there is good reason to have the Council Clerks to attend that meeting as well,” he said.

“We are quite confident that the department will be able to give us some money to help pay for those costs.”

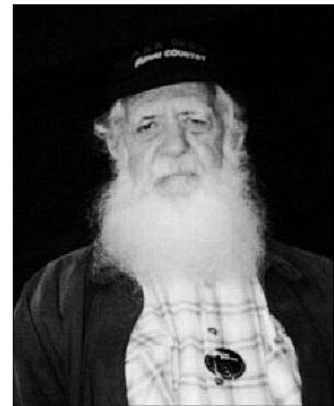
IAB Chair pays courtesy visit

Queensland Indigenous Advisory Board Chair and Quandamooka elder Robert Anderson recently paid a courtesy visit to the ACC’s Cairns offices earlier this month.

Mr Anderson was in Cairns, Malanda and Weipa for the first time since his appointment and said he felt it was appropriate to pay the visit.

He was in the region to attend Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Draft Document of Reconciliation Consultation meetings (see pages 10-11).

While in Cairns he also took the opportunity to pay a brief visit to Yarrabah.



IAB Chair Robert Anderson

Regional arts gets funding boost

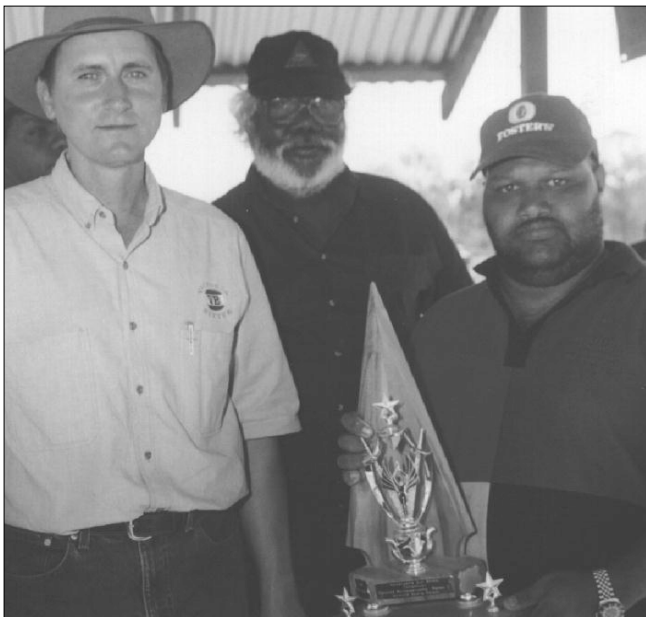
Arts funding in Far North Queensland will be boosted significantly under a \$2.25 million allocation to regional art projects this financial year says Arts Minister Matt Foley.

The Beattie Government has increased Regional Arts Development funding for 1999-2000 by \$250,000 over the 1998-99 figure.

Mr. Foley said the increase to Regional Arts funding honoured Labor’s commitment to regional Queensland’s cultural life and jobs.

“A strong focus on regional arts is essential if we are to celebrate the strength and diversity of Queensland culture and generate jobs in our regions,” Mr. Foley said.

“Labor’s commitment to regional arts is demonstrated in our expansion of the Queensland Biennial to eighteen regional centres as well as Townsville, Mackay and Brisbane and this increase in funding for Regional Arts confirms that Queensland-wide focus,” he said.



Gulf Shield Results

All-Round Sports Person: Robbie Sands
Kowanyama Achievement Award: Corrinne Daniel

Softball

Winning Team: Doomadgee Sharks
Runners Up: Pormpuraaw Taipans
[Grand Final Score: 13-5]

Junior:

Best Pitcher: Megan Burns (Normanton)
Best Catcher: Louise Daniels (Kowanyama Top End Jnrs)
Best Batter: Florrie Liddy (Port Stewart)
Best & Fairest: Melanie Walden (Doomadgee Sharks)
Kowanyama Junior Encouragement Award: Claritta Frank

Seniors:

Best Pitcher: Valma Lawrence (Kowanyama Top End Snrs)
Catcher: Kylie King (Doomadgee Sharks)
Batter: Elizabeth Donald (Pormpuraaw Taipans)
Best & Fairest: Fay Aplin (Doomadgee Sharks)
Kowanyama Senior Encouragement Award: Corrinne Daniel

Rugby League

Winning Team: Lockhart River
Runners Up: Doomadgee Dragons
[Grand Final Score: 32-7]

Best Back of the Comp: Charles Toby (Doomadgee Dragons)

Best Forward of the Comp: Paul Piva (Lockhart River)

Leading Try Scorer of the Comp: Robbie Kepple (Coen - 20 pts)

Most Outstanding Player of the Comp: Terrance Taylor (Doomadgee Dragons - played final with broken shoulder)

Team Trophies - Best & Fairest:

Arukun: Eddie Putchamunka

Coen Colts: Robbie Kepple

Cooktown: Cliff Harrigan

Doomadgee Crushers: Shane Booth

Doomadgee Dragons: Travis Fraser

Lockhart River: Wayne Butcher

Pormpuraaw Sharks: Russell Hill

Kowanyama Fish Hawks: Fitzroy Lawrence

Kowanyama Warriors: Evans Josia

Kowanyama West Coast Cyclones: Michael Burke

Napranum skills touch state and national teams

Napranum and Weipa combined have no less than eight representative players in north Queensland sides for touch football, some of whom with a strong chance of making both state and national teams.

Napranum Council Indigenous Recreation Officer Keith Sambo said touch was virtually the only sport played by adults on the community.

"Touch is the only sort of sport that the adults play besides basketball although we've just started up rugby league lately," he said.

"There's a full-on competition up here and the women play softball."

He said in May a team of under-20s had returned from the North Queensland touch championships undefeated.

"We took out the Sportsmanship Award and we also had six players get selected in the north Queensland side," he said.

He said the community had a number of representative

players in other age groups.

"Including myself in the over-30s north Queensland side, there's one young lad who played in Queensland country last year and went to the nationals in Coffs Harbour," he said.

"He got selected as a shadow player in the men's open as well."

But he said with the North Queensland Cowboys offering the opportunity to play warm-up matches in the NRL competition, rugby league was gaining ground in the community.

"We just started up the under-21 Central Cape side made up of Coen, Lockhart, Aurukun, Napranum and Mapoon which travelled to the NQ Cowboys game to be curtain-raiser to the Cowboys vs Canterbury game," he said.

"We're getting some support there from the Cowboys, there starting to identify that there is talent there in the Cape and starting to open the doors."



Above: Kowanyama Council Senior Executive Officer Bob Sands with 4K1G broadcasters Steve Anderson and Nathan Goodwin at the Kowanyama Gulf Shield



Wearing the new ACC uniforms are Consumer Affairs Officer Andrew Lewis and Administrative Assistant Belinda Brown

Below: A funny thing happened while searching for unit numbers at the Weipa Caravan Park, after a very long drive by ACC staff and friends to the Croc Eisteddfod. A very large mud crab wandered across the road untagged, legal and for all the world to see. We're sure we heard it say 'have me for lunch tomorrow, please'.

Andrew Lewis, Barbara MacGuinness and Rowan Foley (that's his shirt) were only too pleased to oblige, along with the assistance of a curious resident (left).

