

Waaanta

NEWSLETTER

September 2016

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

c/- Post Office, Lockhart River Q 4892

Ph: 4060 7144 Fax: 4060 7139

PO Box 1037, Cairns Q 4870

Ph: 4031 0155 Fax: 4031 5720

Email: ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au

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



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

Scorpions win 2016 Cape comp!





A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

We had some good outcomes in 2016, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

The Scorpions finally won the Cape Cluster, so I think that was great for the community.

It was a great, great weekend, and I think the boys have well deserved it.

They worked hard for it through the year, and I think that was building up over a couple of years, so finally we've managed to blend the team together, and get a good outcome.

We got through the 2016 financial year with flying colours again, so we have what's now called an "unmodified" audit, which is the same as the old "unqualified".

So that's good news again, our books and our management structures are in place and performing well.

Perhaps that is reflected in that in 2017, for the first time, we'll be building 100 per cent of our new houses ourselves this financial year.

There is five on track to be completed by March, and then we've got a further eight houses allocated and due to be started early in the year.

That will fill the subdivision up then, so we've gone from 30- to 50- to 100 percent of our new homes being built by the council.

In our roadworks, we've completed the beachfront, and it looks a lot tidier down there now, with the bitumen.

We also got a second stage of the Community Reinvestment Funds, so we got some more money to put some more

bitumen down in 2017 as well, to continue from the Garraway.

We also got our Cape York investment package, which will include a two-lane bridge at the current one-lane bridge airport.

The Pascoe River causeway is also completed, so that's lifted up another 300 millimetres, which will make the crossing a bit safer, and I think that we'll get another month out of it now.

The CRF also paid for the layout of about two kilometres of bitumen on the other side of the Garroway, so we got some culverts in, and we got some bitumen laid out, so that was a good outcome.

There were other QRA works which were delivered by our local businesses, so Paulie



Veronica's stall, featuring salty plums and homemade clothes, on market day- just one of the many enterprise opportunities around Lockhart River

Piva, Norman Bally, and Ryan Omeenyo were sub-contracted for the Council.

Council project-managed the job, while local businesses supplied machinery and labour force.

That covered the Pascoe Farm Road, Kingdom Come Road, all the roads around town, and the Wenlock Outstation Road, which is a fair bit of road.

Their work also included the Old Mission Site Road, which means a lot to them and the community.

The Council is right behind supporting local business for two reasons.

Firstly it's about building capacity amongst our mob so they can build and maintain our own roads and secondly, local business ventures support our own local economy which in turn supports local business establishment.

All in all, it was a great, great outcome.

The Peninsula Business Alliance had their AGM late in 2016 and I'm now their chairperson, and

I've also been appointed to the Cape York Partnership Board.

I'm a community rep from Cape York, along with Dion Creek from Coen.



*At the Garma Festival with
Senator Patrick Dodson*

They have sent us on a couple of field trips, one was to the Garma Festival, so we went there with the Jawon program.

The second was to Kununurra, in the western Kimberleys.

There is a very large population of indigenous people in Kununurra, which was an eye-opener for me.

Over there I got to see the Argyle mines and some of the indigenous business who are contracting in the mines.

We also went out to one of the IBA-bought properties out there, where they were practising tourism as well as cattle.

I also got to look at some of the setup for the Basics Card in Kununurra, and talk to some of the traditional owners, at their art centre there.

My feeling is the Federal Government will probably roll the Basics Card out nationally.

I think the important thing about trips like this is to just get a bit more political savvy around the indigenous agenda on a national level.

While we have politics at local, regional, and state levels, I think it's just as much as important to be up to date on a national scale as well.

On these trips I've taken opportunities to speak to people like Federal



*Year 12 graduate
Jenny Hobson –
congratulations!*





From the Mayor (continued)...

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, on a few political issues, and I also met up with some of the new labour senators like Patrick Dodson.

I also got to meet Stan Grant and a few other political indigenous leaders who are working at that national level.

I think it was good to see other communities and how they get along.

Compared to Lockhart – while some social issues are very similar – if you look at things like education, housing and

roads, I think we're a fair way ahead of some of the communities I've visited.

Of course, we've still got a lot of work to do.

I think the biggest challenge for us, in Lockhart, is to get children to school.

And the other challenge is, when kids finish school, to get them into a job.

That's probably our two biggest challenges.

We're going to need generational change in work ethic.

We really need to bring young people into the workplace and skill them for the future, and we also need young people in governance.

Congratulations to Jenny Hobson, who was our only Year 12 graduate last year and she's going on to university now.

I'd like to wish everyone in the community the best for 2017.

Wayne Butcher



Enjoying their smoko on the beach were Cecil Macumboy, John Butcher, Ross Mackay, Stanley Butcher, Alan Warradoo & James Macumboy

Pic by Christine Howes





A word from the CEO...



Council Admin Staff Deanka Omeenyo, Noleen Clark, David Clarke, Greta Accoom, who is our Centre Link Agent, and Celia Accoom, master cleaner and number one help-out

There's plenty of opportunities around at the moment, LRASC CEO David Clarke writes...

Happy New Year everyone! We've got a big year ahead of us again, particularly in the dry season, but first a big thank you for your work last year. We took on plenty but got the job done. This doesn't happen by accident and takes a team effort from those men and women delivering services to our people and improvements to our roads and buildings well supported by our administration team. I'm really pleased that each year we are doing more and more work ourselves either straight from Council or through our small businessmen. I'm looking forward to seeing more people coming forward with their business ideas this year. Remember we are here to help your dreams come alive so don't be shame or shy and come and yarn up.

Most of you would have noticed the waterfront project has been finished, so now it's just a matter trying to build some stronger sheds down there and some more barbecue

areas for people to relax over the summer time. We're going to fix up the toilets down there too so are looking for some ideas for people to maybe paint the building?

The Water Park is well into design and will be started before long as will the first step of our Canteen renovation. Both projects will make our town more livable.

Council is also committed to working with TOs getting their outstations back up and livable. It will be a joint effort this one, because Council hasn't got much money but can help a little bit with trying to make the roads as good as we can. We're also committed to helping with water supply, but everything else is going to be up to the TOs to bend your back and help either build your own houses or get your ideas working out on your ngaachi. Everyone would have seen the extra effort our road gang put in on the road down to Old Site, Nunda, Chinchanyaku, and Angkum.

We also put a new bore in at the back of Chillie Beach to help our Kuuku Ya'u outstations with their water supply.

Everyone would have noticed that the airport is back open again – looking pretty flash and all sparkly and new. I'm very pleased to say that job came in on time and under budget and I'd like to thank the working group who helped make sure that we had as much medical coverage we could while the airport was closed. We had a month with only three Medi-vacs, but we had a really proactive and constructive working group with Cape York District Health, RDFS, our clinic here, Apunipima and others.

It was a very good process, and it kept our community as safe as we could given the closure, so our vote of thanks to all involved in that process.

Continued next page...





TALKING RUBBISH

1st FINDINGS FROM THE LOCKHART RIVER COMMUNITY CASE STUDY - October 2016

Keeping Lockhart River clean and looking deadly

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council is responsible for managing township rubbish runs and dumps. There've been a few Mitre 11s at Lockhart River over the years with the current site opened up during the last 10 years. The old landfill is now used for disused, older cars. The original Mitre 11, closer to town, now serves as the dog pound.

SEPARATING WASTE AND LINKING TO RECYCLING WHERE POSSIBLE IS KEY TO A LONGER LASTING DUMP.

Wanna plastic bag?

The evidence is in: more sea turtles die from swallowing plastic bags than in any other way. Sea turtle is a special traditional food for local families at Lockhart River. Bush and sea-foods are important to the good health and the well-being of locals.

SAY NO TO USING PLASTIC BAGS. PUT ALL USED BAGS IN THE BIN.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csfQ6StBWcU>

Marine debris: All at sea?

Marine debris is all the rubbish that ends up in our oceans.

We know from visiting the beach some rubbish comes from our local community, while a lot of it washes up from other places.

Recent research shows clearly that most Australian marine debris is made of plastics and comes from people living in the bigger cities, or from overseas.

But that rubbish keeps washing up in remote areas: like here.

Our communities need to be resourced to remove debris. This is important work for strong Puuya and a real service for the better health of local people and for country.



From the CEO (previous page)...

Council would like to thank Willy Clark for his many years of service as Justice Group Coordinator, which has not always been easy. Police Department are also looking for a Police Liaison Officer so if you know of anyone looking for a good job?

So plenty of highlights coming this year with Laura Dance Festival and our big 50th birthday celebrations as a town coming up so be proud and get involved. Thanks again for your work and let's send Lockhart go front in 2017.

GET YOUR COLD ON!

BAGS OF ICE ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY FROM THE COUNCIL STORE FOR A \$2 GOLD COIN DONATION.



SEPARATING RUBBISH

E-WASTE = Old computers, TVs, printers, digital cameras etc.



MUSTER UP YOUR OLD PHONE

Don't chuck old mobiles into the long grass – they can start a fire!

TAKE BATTERIES TO THE DUMP

Old batteries leak sulphuric acid and give off highly toxic fumes.

And what about all those rusty “old-timers” ?

Old cars are valuable for parts – they're also home to dangerous animals like snakes and spiders

Community has a proud history of re-using older cars – from finding that replacement spark plug to checking out an older motor for newer parts! Bush mechanics skills are alive and well at Lockhart River.

But remember to keep a sharp eye out for animals that bite, and – when your old car has no more value to you, or is clogging up your yard – ask your Council to help you remove it to the local car dump.



Chilli Beach has been the focus of Tangaroa Blue's volunteer beach clean-ups for many years, and the beach is really looking better for it.

Where beach clean-ups take place year after year, debris on those beaches becomes less and less with time

Other beaches in the Lockhart River area could also

do with help in reducing the huge rubbish and debris loads they get flooded with year after year. Most local beaches can only be accessed by barge.

Everyone at Lockhart River will need to work together to get the funds and manpower needed. For that to happen, Community has to agree that remote beach clean up activities are a clear local priority.

The LOCAL TOP 5

We spoke with the CEO and some staff of Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council about rubbish, waste and marine debris during our visit in September 2016. The Top 5 issues identified at Lockhart River in terms of rubbish and marine debris are listed below.

1. New bins for recycling old mobiles, batteries and chargers available soon at Council's offices
2. New bins for recycling used printer, ink and toner cartridges available soon at Council's offices
3. A single Council-managed drop-off point for waste oils may be set up during 2017
4. Local beaches facing the south-east – like Old Site and Indian Bay – have huge loads of un-managed marine debris
5. Up-front resources will be needed to set up local recycling, train and employ manpower

BIG ESSO TO Everyone

Thank you very much to everyone who spoke with us, showed us around and helped us to get a handle on rubbish issues and waste management activities at Lockhart River during our visit.

Kevin & Ellie

FOR MORE INFO

Call Ellie Bock or Kevin Blackman on (07) 4065 3393 or our mobiles 0417 606 425 or 0429 339 406 or email us at: rainqld@bigpond.com

We're happy to call you back if you leave us a message asking us to.





Finance & Administration Services

Congratulations to finance team for good audit results.

The 2015/16 ended with final audit that was completed within legislative timeframe in October 2016. The Council achieved good audit results and this confirmed that we are managing our finances in reliable internal controls environment. Once again we congratulate our strong and committed finance team that made it possible to get this across the line by the due date. The team has highly appreciated the continued support and motivation from the senior management and the Council.

The preparation of the annual report is underway and this will be available in our website as soon as it is completed.

Budget and Operational Plan for the 2016/17

The Budget and Operational Plan for the 2016/17 have been completed and posted in our website. These documents were done to provide guideline to the Council's annual operations.

The most notable projects identified for completion during the year are:

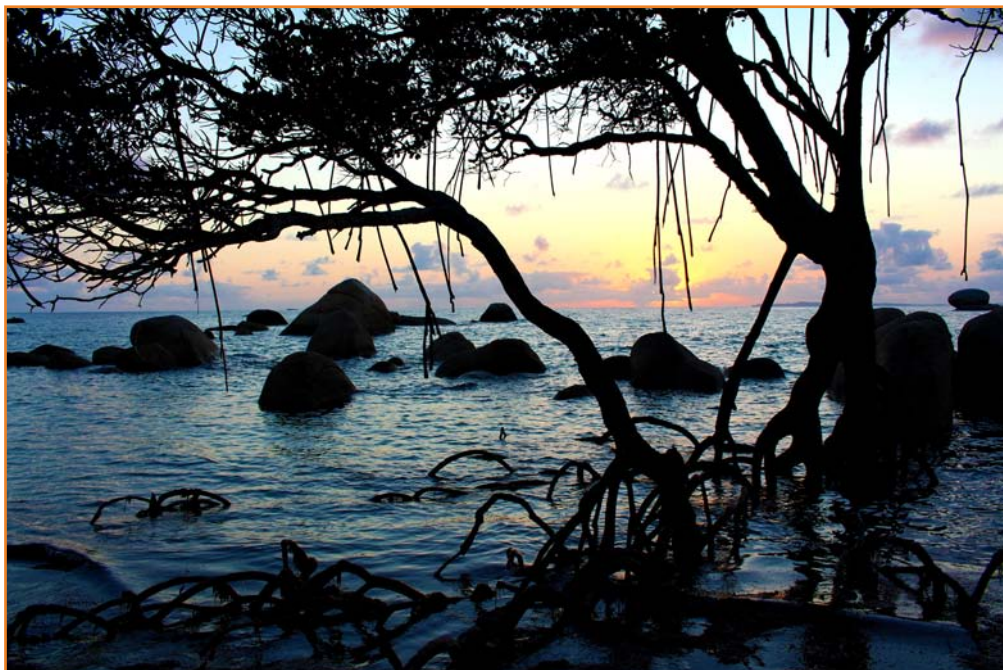
- Rehabilitation of the Old Canteen Building
- Construction of new Water Park
- Completion of Contractor Camp and staff accommodation
- Rehabilitation of the runway pavement works
- Portland Road restoration works
- Old Mission Road restoration works
- Pascoe River Crossing upgrade works
- Pascoe Farm Road restoration works.

The finance team has provided support to the ongoing delivery of these projects in addition to their normal workload. Also we have continued to provide exceptional administrative support to the Building Services as they construct 5 new houses and carry out major upgrades as part of recoverable works and own revenue generation initiative.

Traineeship opportunities for young talents

We are still encouraging and calling for young talents from Lockhart River Community to join our team for future roles within our department. We are committed to assisting them with traineeships in business administration careers. Those interested may contact our Training Coordinator-Noleen Clark at the Council Office for more information.

Stanley Mugwiria





Building Services

“At the moment we do have quite a few local workers, and quite a few of them taking up their apprenticeships again,” Building Services Manager Regis Edmond says.

“We have two labourers and two tradesmen working as subcontractors, and then we have another two contractors helping us.

“We have five new builds and we have started with block homes.

“Part of the work will be done by contractors but most of the work will be done by the Council workers themselves, depending on what stage we’re at.

“So there’s seven locals working with us at the moment.

“We also have a fair bit of refurbishments and renovations to existing homes.

“We’re just waiting to allocate the tenants into alternative accommodation so we can get into their house and start fixing them up.

“There are quite a few trees around town which should be



cut this year and tidy up the yard.

“And there’s also more roofing to be done.

“Of course we’re trying to push all this through before the wet season.”

He said they also had an ongoing paint program.

“We’re probably going to be painting up to 10 houses this year,” he said.

“On top of all this we’ve got all the usual maintenance work, which is called through from Building and Asset Services (BAS).

“We’re trying to get them done as quickly as possible, as soon as we receive the work order.”

Regis said he had seen the community come a long way in the time he had been there.

“I believe we’re well above standard now,” he said.

“And I really have to thank the community for their support.

“Reporting their maintenance work means we can try to get on board as soon as we can get to it, which means it’s sorted instead of tenants sitting on things for too long.



Top Pic: Les Zarro, Chris Goodhew & Regis Edmond; Left: Darren Cedric watching his roof being fixed and house painted

Continued next page...



“And we can do stove replacement, any internal work that needs to be done, such as bathrooms, or whatever it is,” Mr Edmond said.

“And most of it is wear and tear maintenance work, so BAS wears the cost of it, not the tenant.

“Tenants in this community have been very, very good and when they see things getting done they like it.

“We’ve done a lot of bathroom renos this year, a lot of floor coverings and people will be getting carports as well.

“We are well on-track so again I’d like to thank everyone for their support.”

Top Pic: Chris Goodhew & Chris Johnson; Middle: Concrete pouring on a Saturday morning; Below: Dominic Macumboy, Rod Kopzur, Edward Dean & Patrick ‘T-Rex’ Accoom





Engineering Services

New Works Supervisor Russell Cox said the community was still benefitting from NDRAA and QRA, particularly for the independent contractors around town.

He said he currently had a crew of about eight independent contractors to the Council.

“They’ve been working on QRA Flood Damage Restoration work, and we’ve also got our local Road Gang that are assisting us with some of this flood-damage work with the concrete structures and that sort of thing,” he said.

“We’re doing bulk filling, table-drain work and trim to grade on the carriage ways on a number of roads in the rural area of Lockhart at this time.

“NDRAA is the federal group and QRA is Queensland Reconstruction Authority – it’s been very important.

“I’ve worked in quite a few shires around North Queensland doing the same sort of thing – QRA flood restoration – so I think that it’s great that communities like this do get their fair share because they obviously suffer a fair bit of flood damage up here on an annual basis.

“It’s good to see something’s getting directed into these sort of areas.”

He said he was looking forward to seeing more locals get involved.

“There will be more work, we’re upskilling them and then we see the satisfaction that they get from doing a good job, and I have seen that –

that beach frontage, that was done by our local guys.

“The pride on their faces after it was completed and the ownership that they took of it – just incredible.”

Road Works Crew captain Solly Hobson said they had finished the beach road and were now looking forward to finishing the Old Site Road.

“The beach was the first job for the local boys to do the final trim and actually for the sealing, so that was a good job for them,” he said.

He said there was more to come.

“We just had a couple of concrete structures up here yesterday



where they’re putting margins on causeways,” he said.

“They’re getting into some quite good work; it’s not just mundane stuff.”

Mr Cox has been on the job for just over four months and said he was finding his new location “idyllic”.

“I’ve worked a lot on the rural environment when I was back in New Zealand, and I far prefer it from the urban sort of clutter,” he said.

“And working up here – it is just an absolutely idyllic place.

“The temperature is pretty good for me – I’m a Kiwi and I hate the cold, so this is perfect.”



Pictured Top: Russell Cox; Left to right: Raymond Young, Ashley Accoom & Herbert Pitt





Independent contractor Paul Piva said all up he was now working with about ten local boys, and a “mate” of his from Bamaga on the Old Mission Site Road.

“Blokes are approaching us and asking us for work so it eases my job a bit; I can spend a bit more time in town doing some paperwork and just making sure that everything runs smoothly – getting fuel and things like that,” he said.

“I’ve got competent blokes throughout my job site, and I feel confident to leave them there, so it’s great.

“It really suits people to get up at 4.30 or 5 o’clock in the morning and be ready to pre start by 7 o’clock and get started – driving out yesterday we were saying just how different people are – everyone’s got a spring on

their toes now.

“And the good thing about it is the money is actually staying in the community, and it’s never happened like that before.”

Supervisor Ryan Accoom said it was good to be working.

“Feels good to get the locals working out here and keep the money in town,” he said.

Mr Piva said there were other benefits to the community.

“Blokes who have never had experience in business just get in there and do it, I mean you go and have a look at the road, it’s a testament to what I’m talking about now,” he said.

“The road is probably the best it’s ever been.

“Last Sunday we had 10 vehicles come out to the Old Mission and they wouldn’t have been able to do that two months ago, it was so rough.

“Already they’re talking about what are they going to do when the six months is over.

“It’s a pity we couldn’t do it all year round because of the wet season, but that’s how it is.

“Now we just need to build on what we’ve done this year and make sure we’re better off next year – learn from our mistakes and go another step.”



Pics this page: Darren Macumboy on the roller; Paul Piva and (left)

Norman Bally & Ryan Accoom;

Facing page: Lunchtime views at the Old Mission site; Mulla Sallee,

Rodney Accoom, Solly Hobson

& Andrew Johnson enjoying the hilltop view; Mark Sandy & Matt

Redmond; and right is the Parks

and Gardens crew, also

enjoying their view!



Store Supervisor Matt Redmond says he's happy to be back and he's noticed some changes around town. "Mark Sandy has been running the place while I haven't been here," he said. "He's done a great job and he's showing me what to do, which is good. I can see there's been a lot of changes in the town over the past two years, and for the better I think. In everything – the road works, the guys starting up their own businesses, everything – that wasn't here when I was here last time. It's good to see the place moving forwards, not backwards."







Scorpions 2016

Pics by Christine Howes - see more at <http://www.chowes.com.au>





Municipal Services

Essential Services Officer Morgan Hobson works with Environment Health Officers Cecil Macumboy and Edward Sailor on keeping Lockhart's water supply clean.

"I look after the water operation and the sewerage waste operation – essential services," he said.

"We're now in full operation, testing for E-coli on a monthly basis, and maintaining chlorine levels weekly.

"The bores are all fixed now, we've just had a makeover of Bore 6 and we'll be working on Bore 5 soon too.

"So it's all progress, progress, progress."



*Pictured are:
Morgan Hobson;
Paul Jensen the
plumber with
chippie Alistair
Bowie; and Frank
Hobson*





Community Development

Community Development news includes:

- we have recruited for a new Community Justice Group Coordinator, having farewelled Willie Clarke, who is now working at the clinic
- we have recruited for a new HACC Coordinator and Community Development Manager
- the Youth and Kids Club programs have done their Christmas holiday programming, with plenty of good activities on the agenda
- we supported the Mayor's Christmas Party, which was held on Friday 23rd December
- we are organising and supporting a 'healthy dogs, healthy people' project, which kicked off in November (with the vet visiting)
- we organised a Women's Wellbeing Day at the end of November, to link in with White Ribbon Day on the 25th.

Lockhart's Women's Shelter staff say the weather has been cooler these past few months, and that's meant they haven't been too busy.

Workers Lorraine Clarmont and Luka Getawan (*pictured right*) said it had been a busy Christmas season and the New Year.

"Everybody came along for practice for Christmas dance and come to the church for choir practice," Ms Clarmont said.

"Everybody should be happy and enjoy life – go dancing, practice dancing or whatever.

"I also want to let everyone know that this time is jellyfish time.

"Everybody should be aware and look after their children and go with their children if their children down to the beach to supervise them."

Ms Getawan said they were hoping to revive their sewing sessions soon.

"We might try and get some bandanas for everyone and headband," she said.



More than just their sense of style, these two little ones – Harley Accoom & Sania Hobson – also share the same birthday every year on the 13th of October





It's been a very busy few months for the HACC Guest House, which has had a full house for most of 2016.

Leila, Bessie and Beverley, along with HACC Coordinator Noella Clarke, said on top of making as many as 26 or more meals a day, they've been busy training as well.

"We've taken over the PUUYA Centre accommodation, which is very useful because there's certain times when not everybody wants to share or they can't share for whatever reason, so that's a nice space to have," Ms Clarke said. "But of course it means more work, and there's a lot of work that goes into the guest house, probably a quarter to a third of all our day is doing the guest house or running the guest house as well as the Home and Community Care. It's a big job, but our staff are really reliable, and it couldn't be done otherwise."

Ms Clarke said she felt she had achieved what she set out to do with the HACC and hoped to be moving on soon. My intention, after a lovely year in the HACC Centre setting up the new programs and all the changes that have with My Aged Care, and some of the ones that are coming for NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme), is to perhaps go back to nursing for while," she said. "In the meantime, 'My Aged Care' is the new Federal Government roll-out of a streamlined operational program that will affect everybody in Australia, it's all new and it had to be set up on our computers.

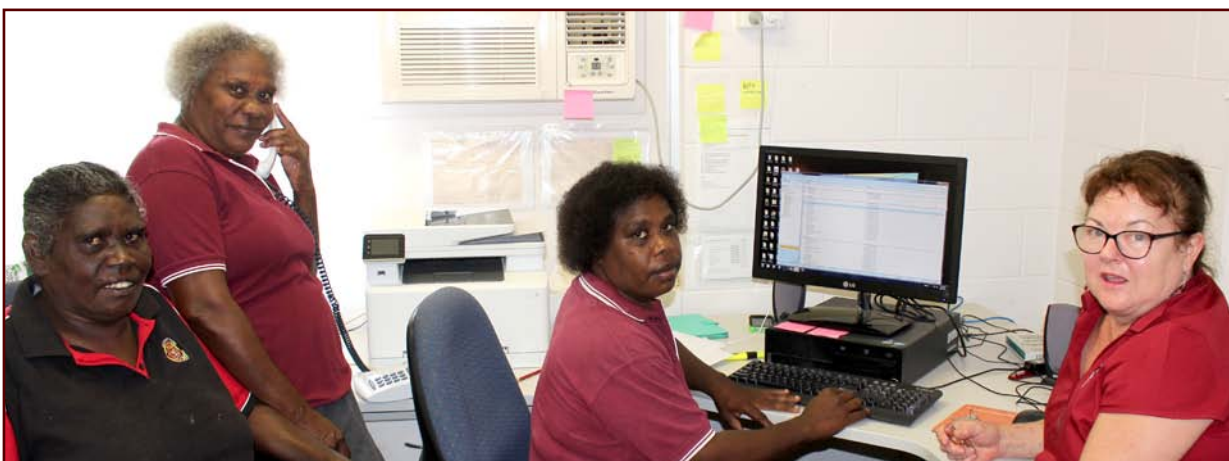
"It's basically getting everything so that everybody is being treated the same way and there's no dissimilarities between states, it's all about services.

"All the old programs are obsolete, so putting that together is what I did this year. My intention is to leave here and then someone else can move into this position. The job will be advertised, which all jobs have to be. I am happy to hand over – that was always my intention."



Above: Bessie Hobson, Leila Clarmont

*and below
with Beverley
Hobson &
Noella
Clarke*



Between fitness classes on the beach with My Pathway participants, trips away to play basketball and lunchtime sports with the school, the past few months had been busy for PCYC Indigenous Sports and Recreation Officer Reniat Sandy (*pictured right*).



“What I do is based on sports and getting all the community together to play whatever sports they want to,” she said. “The classes down at the beach started because the women wanted to do exercise – morning exercise – so I worked with them and we started beach walking with warm-up and exercise like squats, etc.” She said they had also enjoyed a successful week of basketball in Cairns last month. “It was fun,” she said. “I had Stephen Giblest, who is a community volunteer, and on the team there was Dominic, Fabian, Tristan and Ayiesha. We drove down to Cairns for the weekend and we had good fun. So Lockhart River actually played basketball; normally the two boys are football players, but they liked it, and they got the confidence of it. And the two girls I had on my team, they’re pretty much NFL players too, but they enjoyed it and they felt really good at something they had never played before – awesome.”

And finally, she said, cricket was the current sport of choice in the school playground.

“The school will be putting an cover over the basketball court, which I will be able to use for our lunchtime sport, and we also have a place for equipment now,” she said. “We just play whatever sports they want to play, at the moment that’s cricket.”

Ms Sandy now has an office in the My Pathway building, if you’re keen to get involved you can see her there.



Hanging around town at left was Alexandra Butcher, Naria Giblest, Chloe Accoom, Shaznae Kennell & Shania Kennell



A quiet period for the Men's Group means families are out and about, which is a good sign, Coordinator Greg Omeenyo says.

"We're getting more programs and more projects happening for the Men's Group up here, but it's going a bit quiet lately in terms of school holidays and things, so that's a good indicator families are out and about," he said.

"We've been having meetings, and the girls were coming up here and using the Men's Centre prior to going up to Bamaga for the festival – they were practising every night at one stage there.

"Over the past few months we have had good support from the Council, especially the Deputy Mayor Norman Bally.

"I give a lot of credit to him in terms of him coming up here

and give that extra support from a Local Government perspective, and I think he's doing a good job with that.

"You can only do so much as an individual, but the men that have to help themselves at the end of the day.

"Over the next few months we'll be looking at setting up more programs, especially now there are changes in parole and probation.

"People are trying their best, but especially coming from Indigenous community, there's always these downfalls.

"I think people are getting wiser, the community, especially from the men's side – they're wiser now, they're asking questions – I think

people have woken up a bit.

"We've been getting support from the elders as well.

"My main goal here is to just trying to get more men out and about on country than actually staying in town, and I think the big factor behind that is resources and again it comes back to the budget, depending on how much we got there.

"But I think it will happen; it's steady, steady getting there, we just need that extra bit of push I think, support, and I think we need more meetings.

"If we actually get up and do it ourselves, like start doing it, it actually becomes something for us to do then."



Men and boys hanging out together at the Art Centre

Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) Coordinator Greita Pascoe and Youth Worker Krystal Dean continue to work and have travelled together for a week of workshopping at the State Library in Brisbane.

The Cultural Festival in Bamaga was also a highlight.

“We’ve been preparing since August for the Cultural Festival in Bamaga, and so we travelled up there in September,” Ms Pascoe said.

“We had a nice opening and two performances during the day, some demonstrations and Friday night itself.

“After that we travelled to Brisbane for a workshop for IKC coordinators which happens every year.

“Krystal travelled with me because there were workshops for what she does as well as mine.

“One of the really good workshops was called ‘First 5 Forever’, which was about understanding they’re listening to every word and learning from that.

“We both found the workshops very interesting and inspiring for us.”

She said there wasn’t a lot going on at the IKC at present, other than their market days.

“I have five new computers as well, for the community, but they’re not operating yet,” she said.

“At the moment Krystal and I, each Thursday we’ve been doing a get together with the elders.

“Krystal gets some of the young people involved with that, and every Friday afternoon we do cultural classes with the school.

“Our Lockhart River IKC been open since 2002, so we’ve been up and running for 14 years.”

Puuya Foundation

Mums are saying good, positive things about the Kuunchi Kakana Centre and what we’re doing, Manager Tanya Koko says.

“They’re seeing a lot of difference,” she said.

“Going from our Centre to pre-prep has been a good transition for our kids.

“The children here are learning self-respect, respect for environment, respect for others and respect for resources.

“They’re making their own decisions; they’re becoming more independent, and the best thing about it is the parents are actually noticing.

“We are still growing, we still want more attendance.”

She said they were lucky to have Julia Hilson come and do some Montessori training with staff and parents in September and November.

“Puuya Foundation really supports our ongoing learning, so that standards here are the same as anywhere else,” Tanya said.

“Julia is really good – she’s understandable, very respectful, listens and gives us good input and feedback.”

More pics next page!!!



What parents, grandparents and carers say about our program...

“I like it here, it’s fun and it means a better future for our families.”

“This is a good education for our children.”

“It’s fun for my kids and they are learning at the same time.”

“I’m grateful for this chance to meet other parents and our kids to meet other kids.”





Thanks to an initiative by the Puuya Foundation, children at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre and Lockhart River School have enjoyed a number of visits this year from the Girls from Oz, who travel to remote communities to help make a difference in young lives through dancing and singing.

“At Kuunchi Kakana Centre our focus was on the babies and children,” Kylie Lee-Archer, Program Director of Girls from Oz said.

“Because they are where it all starts and because they benefit so much from singing, dancing, all of the language that comes with singing, as well as the co-ordination and the fine motor skills that come with that,”.

“When they get to primary school age then, for the girls in particular, it starts to become even more about the

hidden curriculum – things like confidence-building, taking healthy risks in the classroom as well as enhancing self-esteem and resilience.”

Girls from Oz was formed by directors, staff and alumni of the Australian School of Performing Arts.

Kylie, who is also a Teacher, was joined in Lockhart River by Harriet Benham, who is also a Speech Pathologist. Both are in the Australian Girls Choir.

“Between us, we sing and dance and bring all the different

little bits and pieces that we’ve got from our own alternative experiences and bring that to life here in Lockhart River,” Kylie said.

This program is part of the Puuya Foundation’s aim to build partnerships, programs and activities that enable Indigenous Australians to access the same life opportunities as other Australians.

Puuya Foundation thanks our wonderful Patron, Dame Quentin Bryce, for introducing us to Girls from OZ.

Puuya

Foundation





Wide choice for My Pathway participants

My Pathway Regional Manager for Lockhart River, Les Robinson says they are offering four major work activities for their CDP participants.

“One is called ‘Fresh From the Farm’, which is producing goods and vegetables for the community,” he said.

“At the moment we are still working out what we want to grow and what the community would like but after Xmas we are planning to have a weekly market where the community will be able to come and buy fresh farm produce.

“We also running a Welding Workshop at the farm and Chris Dean is showing the guys how to make things using steel and a welder.

“One of the things that will come out of that will be two grandstands for the oval.

“They will also be building a trailer and making tables and chairs for around the community.”

He said the other two groups were given language names, they are: Lockhart Ngaachi Kanti Kanti (Lockhart is a Beautiful Place); and, Wayimukamu thika Maupimana (Women making things and doing).

LNKK maintains the cemetery, the entrance to town and the block where the church and the store is located, one of their major projects at the moment is to erect a fence between the shop, School and Puuya Foundation centre, so that the area can be a place the community can use for recreation.

“This is a joint project involving the Puuya Foundation, Council, School and My Pathway,” Mr Robinson said.

“Over the wet season they

will be working on producing pre-cast concrete items, including polished tomb stones that people can place on their family graves.”

WtM is an overarching activity which constitutes a number of micro activities designed to engage women in activities they are interested in.

“Some of the things the women do include textile, sewing, soap-making and cooking activities, the products of which are then sold to the community,” he said.

“There are some big plans in place including working with the PCYC to do exercise classes, having Apunipima Cape York Health Council run Health Workshops, and partnering with HACC to put on a fortnightly Lunch for the Elders.





“One of the new community activities we’ve just started is Walking to Learn which gives parents the opportunity to go and sit with their kids in school to help them with any problems. “It’s a great idea to have this as an activity, they learn a bit,

the kids learn a bit more and it helps the teachers out.

“We’ve already got six or seven people on that and we’re trying to get a few more.”

Mr Robinson said in Lockhart River the CDP was really about trying to support the community

and increase engagement.

“We’re trying really hard to make our activities relevant to community needs and our participants interests and we are always looking for new ideas to help to develop into activities,” he said.



Lockhart River Art Gang Punya Kuntha - Strong Heart

Over the past few months we have achieved positive outcomes in our business performance indicators, Art Centre Business Manager Enoch Perazim says...

Our participation at the 2016 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in July was a success in terms of revenue over previous years.

We also participated at the Darwin Aboriginal Art fair in early August 2016.

The market in Darwin was quite competitive and gave us an insight on how we can focus on quality in body of work, art consistency and appropriate responses to sensitive buyers.

In both art fairs, we also

met and exchanged contacts with new galleries and we are progressing to extending our portfolio of engagement with current and new galleries.

Our participation in Darwin was through Indigenous Art Centre Alliance (IACA) who secured a stall and invited three member arts centres which included our art centre to test and trail the art fair.

We plan to return to Darwin in 2017.

We've also been successful in obtaining and retaining our core funding from 2016-2021 from the Department of Communications and the Arts through the Indigenous Visual Arts Support (IVAIS) grant program.

Whilst our funding was trimmed as part of a nationwide redistribution program, we were pleased to have secured a locked-in long term agreement.





p 26: Artists Evelyn Sandy; Patrick Butcher Jnr; Smithy Omeenyo & Simon Butcher, who was sorting through old photos;

p 27: Dottie Hobson; Thelma Hobson and Art Centre workers Terry Platt & Enoch Perazim

We also successfully retained funding from Arts Queensland under the Backing Indigenous Arts (BIA) funding program as well as the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) commencing current financial year 2016–17.

In the financial year ending 30 June 2016, the Art Centre achieved a net growth in dollars compared to the last five years of negative net growth.

The challenge going forward is to maintain and continue this growth however the market landscape indicates another tough financial year ahead.

Other brief achievements include 3 successful executive group visits by Bond University and Jawun Group.

The group visits resulted in significant sales.

We also welcomed the Cairns Chamber of Commerce group visit in early October to the Art Centre.

We thank The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council for facilitating these important visits.

We have participated in three exhibitions including the curated exhibition at Cairns Art Fair in July, Across the Top Exhibition at Art Mob at the Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery in Hobart Tasmania.

The Hobart exhibition featured works from six different communities and from Queensland Silas Hobson was the only selected artist to participate.

We also participated in the “Dreamtime Exhibition” facilitated by Pearl Museum of Fine Arts in USA which includes two other Indigenous art centres from Australia.

The exhibition started 24 September 2016 and will end in 7 January 2017.

We were also able to sign off our Christmas Promotional Plan with our galleries.

We offered them a promotional deal and gave them the leverage to tailor it and refine it according to their market and customer dynamics.

In September, Mr Perazim was on leave and the Arts

Centre was kept open thanks to temporary Relief Manager Silas Hobson, accountant Rachel Burgess, Community Arts Officer Johanne Omeenyo and Arts Studio worker Terry Platt. This was a first-time step taken by our Art Centre and was also the first time the Arts Centre was managed by an all-Indigenous team.

Our goal is to develop our Indigenous capacity to levels that they fully understand how their Art Centre business operates and be better positioned to participate productively and with responsible ownership.

Finally, the Corporation held a successful annual general meeting on 3 November 2016 and we have a new board for the next one year term.

I take this opportunity wish you all an early Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2017.

Enoch Perazim
Business Manager



Scorpions 2016

