



Waaanta

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
Web: <http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>
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

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



Hopevale/Wujal Wujal band 'Black Image' playing in Lockhart River for the first time ever!

**Our
community
together!**

MORE PICS INSIDE!

CEO David Clarke



Well the wet season is finally here and it's been a very hot build up to it too, CEO David Clarke writes...

Our boys have already been around to take away rubbish, old cars, and boats in preparation for the cyclone season, which is still with us.

If you still have anything you don't want get in touch with us and we'll see what we can do to pick it up.

If you have cars to be collected tell Solly or Wayne Lavender and they can arrange for the right kind of machines to take it away safely.

Elections

As many people will know this year is an election year.

It is an important time when people get to choose those who will provide leadership and direction to our shire.

If you are not on the roll you can not vote.

One big difference this year is those people who have run for Council **MUST** have done a training course before they nominated - either on-line or at some face to face training held at the Council

Chambers and Puuya Centre in early February.

Social Club

Another thing I want to talk about is our Social Club.

You can see the renovations hitting top gear and we are getting ready to install the kitchen, cold rooms, and new toilets.

We are aiming to get the building completed by State of Origin and hoping we might get Black Image back again for the opening.

Council can't hold the



ABOVE: Members of our Municipal Services team Raymond Young, John Hobson & Peter Giblet





LEFT: In December last year the Laura Dance Festival Shield – in which our Kawadji Wimpa Dancers shared the win with dance groups Mayi Wunba (Kuranda) and Kayn Kowesal (Bamaga) – was passed on to Bamaga for their turn to hold the trophy.

license or run the new club so we are looking for people to put their hand up as a new Social Club committee is formed to help guide the way it is run.

I think we all agree there are times when people are not drinking the right way so our new Club will have the chance to make a good place for everyone to sit down and enjoy a few drinks together in a good, safe, and fun way.

Meals will also be available, offering more employment opportunities for local people.

If you've been to Pormpuraaw we are looking to make some-thing a bit like they have.

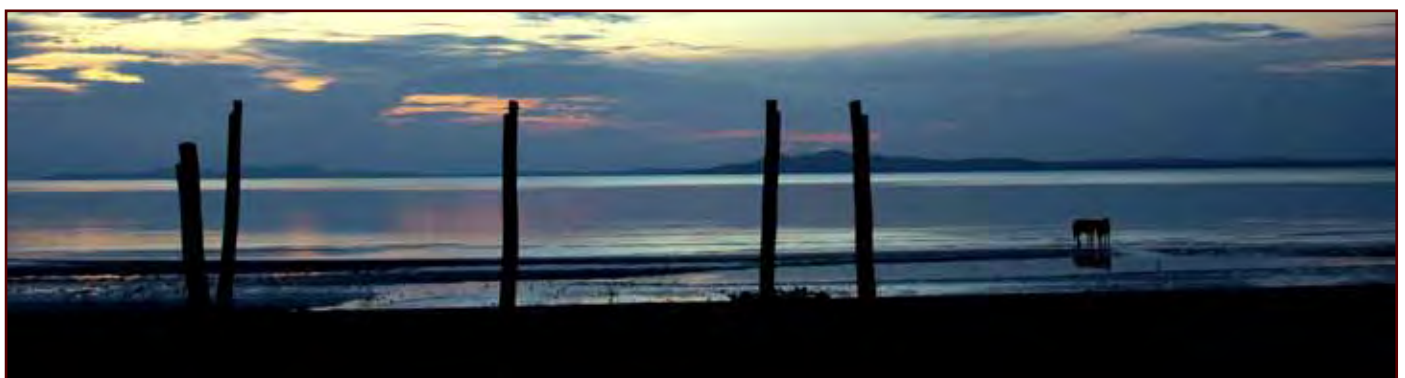
So step up, good people, put your hand up and guide us on how you think it should run.

We will be holding a meeting soon to select the Committee.

Great Australian Bites

I also want to take this opportunity to thank those people who made our Community Day – part of the nationally organised Great Australian Bites event – the great time it was.

Thanks to Margie for the background organising, Team Belinda and the teachers, Bessie, Bella, and Beverly for the great mayi, Phil and Bob for helping with the running and the tug-o-war, the ice cream



*A fairly typical wet-season-build-up sunrise...with horses...
Pic by Christine Howes*



team of Wayne, Noleen, Clayton and Mim, the Kup Murri team lead by Mayor Wayne who caught the minya, then cooked him and got him down to the hall hot, the BBQ team, led by Josh and the health team, our dancers and singers, and of course our band boys Normie, Snowy, Brian, Ellie, Mikey, otherwise known as 'East Coast', who warmed

everyone up for the Harrigan boys "Black Image" who took us into the night.

From the preparation crew to the clean-up gang, a big and well-deserved 'thank you'.

It's the team that wins the day and wasn't it good to see everyone coming together for a good time with laughs galore as everyone ripped up the dance floor!

Appreciation

Lastly I want to acknowledge the work of our Councillors over the last term.

It's not easy being a Councillor.

It is a big weight to carry and sometimes it's hard to meet expectations and make everyone happy.

Having worked very closely with our current Council, I can honestly say they all work very hard to get the best result for our town.

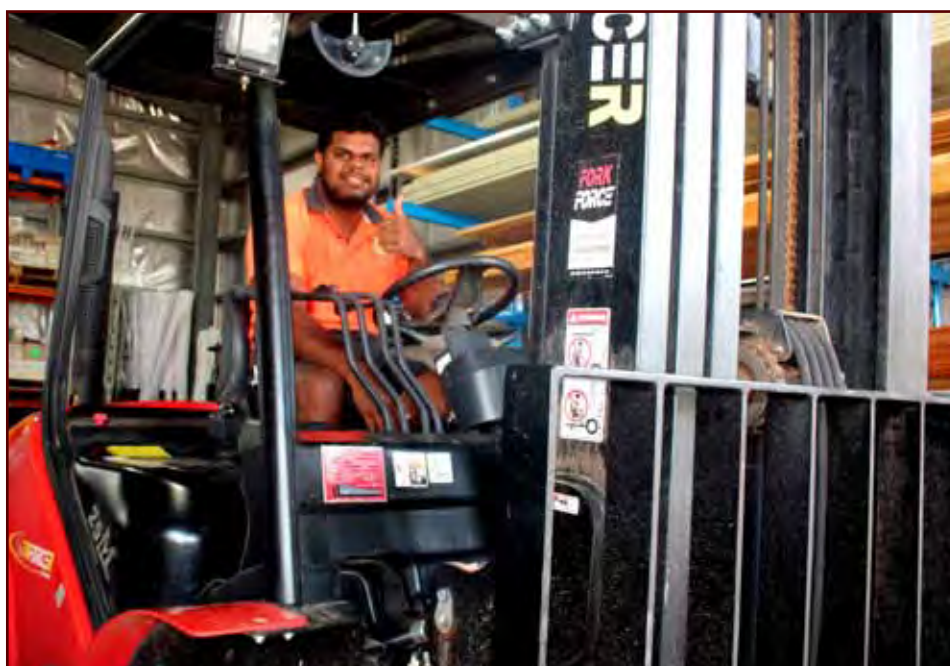
What we have achieved over the last four years is the direct result of their tireless efforts.

They all care deeply for Lockhart and its future and I want to go on record and say a big thank you to them for their tireless work. They should be proud of their achievements.

I look at some other communities and don't see the level of leadership or strategic thinking that we have here. We are indeed lucky.

Until next time, stay safe and look after each other.

Dave Clarke
LRASC CEO



TOP: Store worker and truck driver Brian Macumboy - earlier this month Brian told journalist Alf Wilson, from 'Big Rigs', he loved his job; BELOW: Benny Macumboy in the Council's new forklift.



Corporate Services



Audit

The 2018/19 annual audit for Council and Aerodrome Company concluded within the legislative time frame of 31 October 2019.

Once again congratulations to the Council for achieving another clean bill of health in the accounts records keeping of the Community finances.

We have obtained unmodified audit opinion from the Auditor General and we are very proud of these results.

Our finance results and position show very strong foundations compared to Councils of our size in Queensland.

Annual Report

The 2018/19 Annual report has been completed and posted in our website ready for you to read.

Please visit our website to access and read these reports, and contact the CEO for any query or clarification.

Accounting Software

The new accounting software is progressing very well and we are back to our full speed of getting things done.

We decommissioned Practical Plus and rolled out SynergySoft effective 1 July 2019.

As usual with a new system, we have experienced some challenges in switching off our minds from PCS to the

new accounting software but the finance team has successfully handled this transition as a team.

Implementation and training of more modules (Human Resources, Central Records, Asset Management, Workshop maintenance and Report Manager) are all in progress with estimated full implementation by June 2020 if all goes according to plan.

Our success is an outcome from the team effort put by all members of the finance department and with full support from Council and CEO.

Thank you everyone involved in this project.

Stanley



Back Row: Left to Right: Greta Accoom (Centrelink Agent), Darlene Accoom (Admin Trainee), Noleen Clark (Training Coordinator), Deanka Omeeny (Office Manager), Chantelle Hobson (Admin/Cleaner), Simone Accoom (Admin Trainee), Zali Hobson (Admin Trainee). Seated: Left to Right: Faye Hobson (Admin/Receptionist), Maree Hobson (Bank/Post Office Agent), Stanley Mugwiria (Director of Administration & Finance).





Planning for Cultural Precinct and festival grounds underway

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire has been working closely with the elders of our Community, planning on building a Cultural Precinct facility on our beach front CEO David Clarke says.

“Our architects have had several meetings in the Community with some of key stakeholders including the Kawadji Wimpa (Dance Team), Lockhart Art Centre (Artists), Men’s Centre (Local Band), Elders and

Traditional owners,” he said.

“The first stage has a draft plan for the main festival grounds, camp grounds for visiting communities and another for tourists.

“This is about having our own annual Cultural, Arts,

Craft and Band Festival grounds.

“The site is where the original Dance Festival was held in 1973, the elders of the Community have always said they wanted the Dance Festival back at Lockhart.”



ABOVE: Elders and Community stakeholders working on the plans at the HACC and the Puuya, Men’s & Art Centres



Community Development



The Great Australian Bites - Lockhart River's Community Day 26 January 2020

As always our Community Development team worked hard over the Christmas and New Year period, helping to keep our community rolling along comfortably and safely, Com Dev Director Margaret Barnes writes...

It was our great pleasure to join in with nearly all our Council workers and departments in organising our Great Australian Bites event on the long weekend in January. I was very sorry not to be able to be there, but by all reports the weekend was a huge success, not least because of the way everyone

pulled together and worked as a team to make it so.

I hear most of the community was there when Cooktown/ Hopevale/Wujal Wujal band Black Image played for the first time in our community!

Or was it they there for the Kup Murri, so expertly prepared by our Men's Group and youth, or the salads and

side dishes prepared by our HACC staff, with more help from our young people.

We are thankful we were funded to hold such a fantastic event.

A great effort by everyone concerned and a wonderful kickstart to what we all hope will be a good year for everyone.

Margie

CAPE YORK NEWS

Lockhart River celebrates Great Australian Bites

By CHRISTINE HOWES

FOR the first time, Lockhart River joined the Great Australian Bites experience on Sunday, with an exciting line-up of local, visiting and traditional entertainment, and featuring a community kup murri.

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said the Great Australian Bites events were an opportunity to celebrate all there was to love about Australia.

"Great Australian Bites is an opportunity for Far North Queenslanders to come together to enjoy fresh regional produce cooked by local chefs, while listening to home grown entertainment and soaking up the summer atmosphere," Ms Lui said.

Cooktown/Hopevale/Wujal Wujal band Black Image took the opportunity to make their first visit to Lockhart River – something they told an enthusiastic crowd they had been meaning to do for years.

"We had a great night," drummer Cliff Harggan said.

The Great Australian Bites events were presented by the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, the Queensland Government and the National Australia Day Council.

By all reports the day was a huge success with almost 100 per cent of the community enjoying what turned out to be a very happy occasion for everyone, including visitors.



Local dancers.



Tug of War enjoyed by the community.



Local musicians and Black Image celebrate Great Australian Bites with Mayor, Cr Wayne Butcher (right).



Local Elders prepare the Kup Murri.



Young local dancers enjoying their performance.



Ice cream cones for all - a rare treat in Lockhart River.





Lockhart River's Great Australian Bites!





Lockhart River's
Great Australian Bites!





Lockhart River's Great Australian Bites!

Waanta February 2020







Engineering Services

Keeping an eye on quality assurance, making sure paperwork is up to date and value for money is all part of the role of LRASC Roads Inspector Wayne Lavender.

He said he was working with all the contractors, including Solly, even though it was still the wet season.

“This time of the year, the contractors don’t start back till about May, after the wet,” he said. “But I’m here now so we’re redoing the main workshop shed, getting the smoko room back up and running, and making it more as a industrial set up.

“So really just tidying up a few things that need to be done in the shed, simple things like tidying up, which is working out to be a good team building exercise so they’ll be ready to do and work hard when the time comes.

“I’ve found if you’ve got a good shed and a good atmosphere for the boys to work in, they’ll want to come to work.”

He said he had been to a lot of communities throughout the Northern Territory in particular.

“I was born and bred in Alice Springs,” he said.

“So I’ve done a lot of communities, I looked after 37 for plumbing.

“To me Lockhart River is a really good community, well organised and everyone works together well.”



Road Crew team members Wayne Lavender, Rodney Accoom, George Brown, Tristan Elu, Stephen Giblet, Isaac Rokeby, Gennis Giblet (top) & Solly Hobson





“It’s great to have a full crew on board and even though it’s the wet season there is still plenty of work for us, workshop supervisor Alister White says.

Pictured above L-R is Napoleon Short, Teddy Sandy, Richard Omeenyo, AJ White & Brandon Piva; and left is trainee apprentice Carlsen Accoom.





Building Services

We made some progress at the airport cabins and a couple of other renovations before the Christmas break Building Services Manager Regis Edmond writes...

Everyone is back up to work now, so we're targeting maintenance which comes under our work orders and there are renovations. And we have two young

trainees at the moment, they are on a six months trial and they are working out to be good young blokes. Chris Johnson is supervising them and they're doing well.

All our former apprentices, who are now qualified tradesmen, are taking on some work of their own and they're also doing very well.

Regis



Building crew team members L-R Gary Tapper, Jamile Hobson, Les Zaro, Kyuan Accoom, Chris Johnson, Phil Watt & Alister Bowie

Farewell & good luck!



The end of the dynamic duo as Rosco (Ross Mackay) semi-retires to Bali to build some villas and a restaurant. James will miss his mate and painting partner.





Rain, shine ...or storm...trainees Kyjuan Accoom (18 – *middle above*) & Jamile Hobson (16 – *left above*) said they were enjoying working with their supervisor Chris and occasionally Alister Bowie (*right above*) on whatever needed doing around the community.

“Alister doesn’t like to sit around and do nothing, he always get us up and working,” Jamile said.

he goes hard out and he pushes us too.”

Kyjuan said they both enjoyed the work.

“Working for the council, we have to work for our

money, not sit around and just bludge, we have to work,” he said.

Both agreed they loved the work and doing things for their community.





Lockhart on my mind: the dedication of the Lockhart database by Athol Chase



Lockhart River's cultural future – and past – is a step closer to being secured and as close as it may ever be to being truly protected, much loved and very distinguished friend of Lockhart River Athol Chase says. Mr Chase attended the launch of the new facility and has this to say about what it might achieve. “First I want to acknowledge the Lockhart people,” he said in his speech to the crowd.

“I came here first in early 1971 and have kept up a connection with the place and the people now for 49 years, over half of my lifetime, and over a number of generations of Lockhart people.

“Their old people and everyone today have been my close friends and my relations, and they have always treated me with deep friendship and warmth.

“I want you all at Lockhart to know how important that has been to me.

“So, thank you Lockhart, for leading me through a lot of my life in very important ways.

“I have tried to repay your great generosity in accepting me here.

“First, I have recorded quite a lot of the cultural material which the old people wanted

done, stories, country names, family histories and so on.

“There are also many hundreds of photos I took, and others have provided them too.

“Sometimes I think I need another 50 years to have done a better job.

“But we remember I am not the only one: David Thompson has been here for a very long time as well, and his language material etc is an important part of the database.

“Most important is the other member of the database team – Debbie Cesari.

“She has done the data entries into the electronic database, and really has got the data storage into shape.

“So, what is this database?

“Really it is a great treasure house of photographs, country maps

and place names, audio tapes, documents all from our research work up here over some 50 years.

“The backbone of all this material is the dedicated work done by your wonderful old people, those either born in the bush or in the early days of the Mission.

“When I first came here, invited by ya'athu Mick Omeeny, the 300 plus Lockhart people were going through a lot of troubles.

“They were then under the Queensland State Government control in a very rough and tough way.

“The government wanted Aboriginal people in places like Lockhart to become like parra.

“They were to forget all that rubbish culture stuff and what they saw as rubbish stuff from the old people,



and move you into the white world only.

“They called it the Assimilation Policy.

“Your old people, men and women, wanted me to work hard to save their important cultural knowledge about their countries, their stories, their ceremonies, and their family backgrounds.

“They told me right away that they wanted me to get them all back on country, with young people, so they could learn, and I could ‘book him down’, that important cultural knowledge, so it could never be lost.

“Some of you will remember our trips with families down Uutalnganu or Night Island way, and into Umpila country in 1975 and 1976.

“In 1977 we went up to the Pascoe and to the Olive River, again working with the old people from Kuuku Yau and Wuthathi countries.

“This was seen a little bit

by Mr Pat Killoran from the Queensland Government as making a war with him!

“So that is what your database is.

“It is the best we can do to keep faith with those old people.

“You young people, you now have the responsibility to look at all this cultural and historical information now stored up here about your families, your countries and the place names in it, and you can listen to those departed old people giving you their voices and their photos.

“I hope it will take you back to those old people as you hear their voice, see their pictures and understand what they are saying.

“We really hope that the database won’t end up sitting here gathering dust.

“You have a room, the computer to get into the database, a sound system to

hear the voices, a projector system to see the pictures, and if you want, there is a printer to get some material printed out.

“Johanne Omeenyo is the person who will get you into the computer.

“This is another arm to the capacity building which Mayor Wayne spoke about so strongly in the Waanta Council Newsletter in 2019.

“Let’s call this ‘Cultural Capacity Building’.

“Remember as well, this is your database.

“You are the bosses of it, not outsiders.

“You will have to think very carefully if outside people want to get into it.

“If it gets into wrong hands you might not be able to control what happens to your own knowledge.

“Finally, I just want to finish by saying lots of love to you all.

“You are a big part of my history too, and of my family, of Lesley, James and Matthew Lockhart Chase, who send their best wishes to you all.

“See you all next time I make it to Lockhart.”

Athol Chase

(sometimes old feller, muuka, piinya, yapu and various other family names)





Are you OK?



With Coronavirus around, people might have some of the following feelings:

- Feeling in a state of **shock** or disbelief
- Feeling exhausted, fatigued and **tired**
- Feeling **stressed** and/or **anxious**, worry for no reason
- Being **protective** of family and friends
- Think every time you **cough** you have the Coronavirus
- Thinking **everyone** else who cough has it too

You can feel more **in control** if you:

- Stay close to family and friends, **yarn** to someone, come in to Apunipima Social Emotional Wellbeing team
- Get latest info on Gov websites and Apunipima, **rumors** aren't always real news
- Keep **cultural**, look after each other "you ok aunty?", "do you need anything?"
- Eat **good food** to keep your **mind strong**
- Be **calm** and be **patient**
- Do **hygiene** as the health mob tell you, keep **fit, healthy** and get checked at **clinic** if you need reassurance (we don't mind!)



It's ok to be concerned about the Coronavirus but please call any of the numbers below if you get really worried.



Emergency Contact Numbers

Apunipima Clinic or SEWB Centre
 Lifeline Crisis Support - 13 11 14
 Beyond Blue 24/7 - 1300 224 636
 QLD Health - www.health.qld.gov.au



Possible Symptoms of Coronavirus



If you need to go to the clinic, please call first.



our health in our hands

LR Clinic Ph 4060 7155

Stop the spread of Coronavirus



our health in our hands



LATE ADDITION: MARCH 2020

Don't wait, act now!

“Don't wait to protect yourself from this illness, start now!” That's the message to Lockhart River from a well-known medico, who has worked with several Aboriginal communities on the Cape, and says we are extremely vulnerable.

“They need to understand they are very high risk and there is no treatment or vaccine,” they said.

“Getting to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) from any community will be hard when there is a peak.

“So our only chance is to take care now and make sure we isolate all new entries into our community – whether visiting or local

– for 14 days.”

They said anyone unwell with fevers or cough should stay away from clinics and phone for advice.

“Our Elders, smokers and chronic disease sufferers need to be isolated,” they said.

“Lots of hand washing, washing surfaces, not sharing things (cigarettes, cups, etc) and restrict all unnecessary entry – all of which is

basically all the current advice but they need to take it seriously.

“Avoid crowds and big groups, and our grannies might have to go without some time with their grandkids for a bit.

“And most important of all is if we wait until there is a case in our community before we do these things, it will be too late.”

As of Friday 27 of March Lockhart Community will go into a more restricted Community shut down.

People entering by air will be heavily restricted and there will be no road access. Lockhart River's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) has focused on three areas of concern:

1. Upgrading restrictions to further limit future access into our Community.
2. Identify a site to locate our most vulnerable and elderly people.
3. Identify a quarantine area to ensure we can quarantine any people entering the Community, as of Monday 30th of March [next week].

Please take instructions given to you and your family by Council, health officials, police or other authorities very seriously.

Stay safe everyone

Note also permits are now required to enter the Cook Shire only [not Aboriginal communities or Weipa, at this stage] by road or air. For more information see www.cook.qld.gov.au/coronavirus

