

# Waadanta



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**October 2025**

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



## Paytham Malkari Dance Festival 2025



**Respect  
for our  
Elders**







# A word from ...**Mayor Wayne Butcher**

## **Paytham Malkari was a big hit again this year, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes ...**

I think it's building momentum every year, so being an annual event, I think it still certainly has potential to grow more.

This year was focused on respect for our elders.

We lost some key elders since the last festival, so it's been quite an emotional ride.

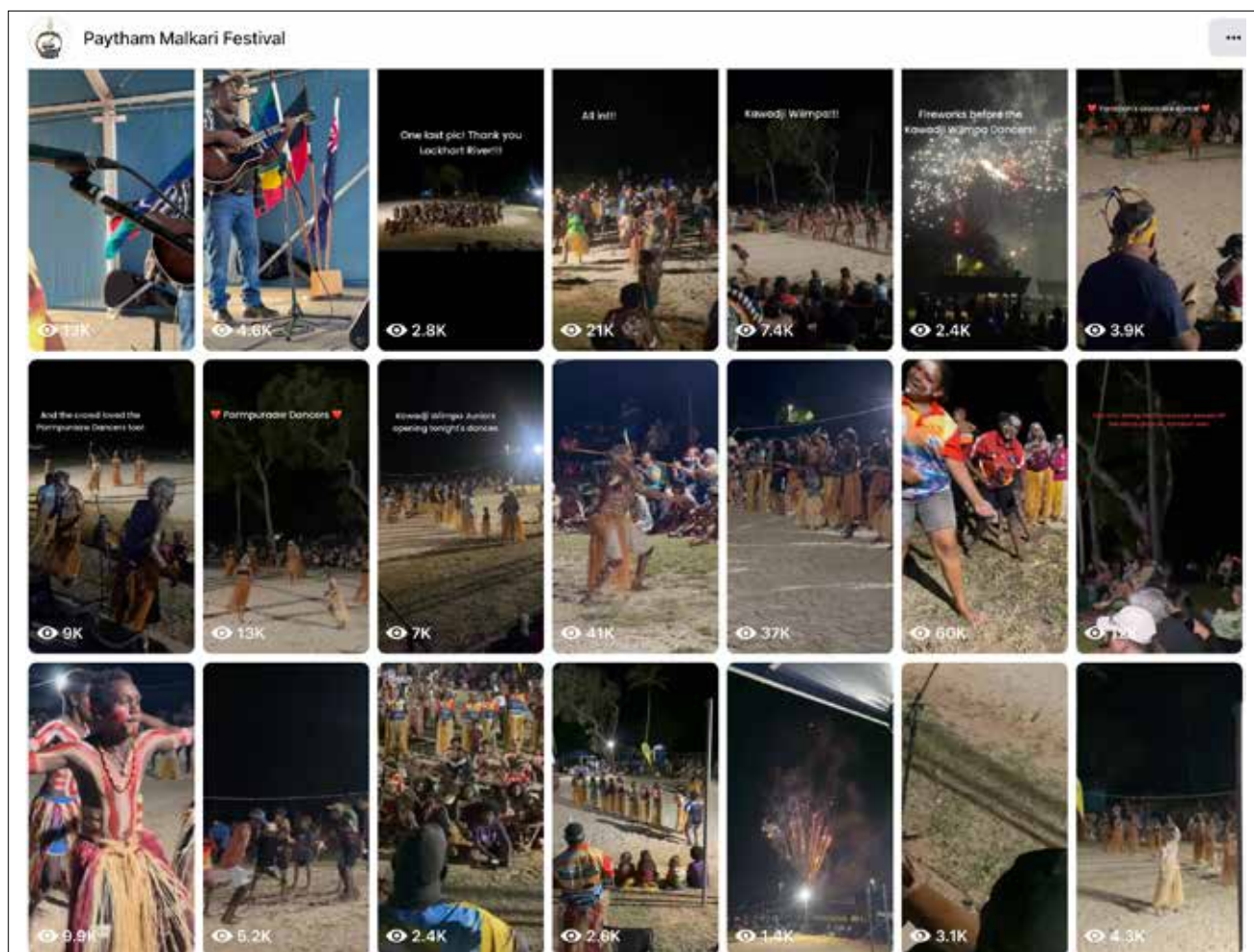
Last year, we celebrated 100 years with those elders and then they left us, which reminds us of how important our older people are in the community.

It's critical they are respected and valued whilst they are still with us, we all need to invest more time in

that older generation.

So it was a really good festival.

Pormpuraaw and the Yarrabah dance group came along, which was great – big thank you to Brother Mala Neal and his team for coming to us on very short notice.



*This year's Paytham Malkari Dance Festival reels on Meta/Facebook have proved popular.*







*The Accord with the State Government and Indigenous Shire Councils was signed by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Partnerships Minister Fiona Simpson, Local Government Minister Ann Leahy, LGAQ Policy Executive members Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Mayor Alf Lacey and Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Mayor Wayne Butcher, and LGAQ President Matt Burnett.*

## Local government

We had a big win for Indigenous shires in Queensland at the recent Indigenous Leaders' Forum (ILF).

The 17 indigenous shires signed an Accord with the state government, trying to refocus on some of the critical agendas where we need to look at some practical partnerships and tangible arrangements to try and address some of our challenges.

For our Lockhart community, the government champion and the ministerial champion were very effective, and over six or seven years, we achieved a lot.

Every government talks about cutting the red tape, and that was a great strategy that did bypass a lot of red tape and was very effective.

This new Accord is an assigned partnership arrangement that is value-added to the good work around from ministerial and government champion programs of the previous government.

But being a signed document makes for more accountability involved now, which means the 17 indigenous shires in Queensland can hold the government accountable to the signed agreement.

We are yet to test the waters to actually see how effective it's going to be, but if it works, it should be evident in every respective shire.

It used to be a one-sided affair, but now we literally have to all commit and account to it.

We didn't want another talk fest.







## More local government

We've had the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) AGM where the current chair, Kowanyama Mayor Territa Dick has been re-elected.

Torres Shire Mayor Elsie Seriat is the deputy so we've got both Cape and Torres Strait Islander representatives fairly on the leadership in TCICA.

There was some talk about the identity of TCICA and we had a bit of a brainstorming session around that because there is a growing interest from the other shires, such as Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Yarrabah, to become members.



So there could be a possible name change in the future to capture that, as we look at the core values of TCICA and its roles and responsibilities.



*Cr Krystal Dean; CEO David Clarke, Cr Steven Bally, Deputy Mayor Alistair Bowie;  
Cr Dorothy Hobson & Mayor Wayne Butcher.*

## Leadership

I'm enormously proud of the leadership and vision our elected Council team and corporate arm

have shown over the past six months as we have faced our challenges, including too many losses.

I'd like to thank our

Councillors, especially our younger people, as they have met those challenges and continued to move forward – we are proud of you.







*Our road contractors have worked hard this year to keep our roads safe and our money in our community. Some of the team are pictured here at the 6am team meeting, out on the Old Mission Road.*



### **Arthur Beetson Foundation**

I've been yarning with the Arthur Beetson Foundation (ABF) about how Lockhart can work with them in partnership.

Ian Lacey is their manager, and our discussion was around mental health in our young people, particularly men, so I was talking to him about how we might build a partnership.

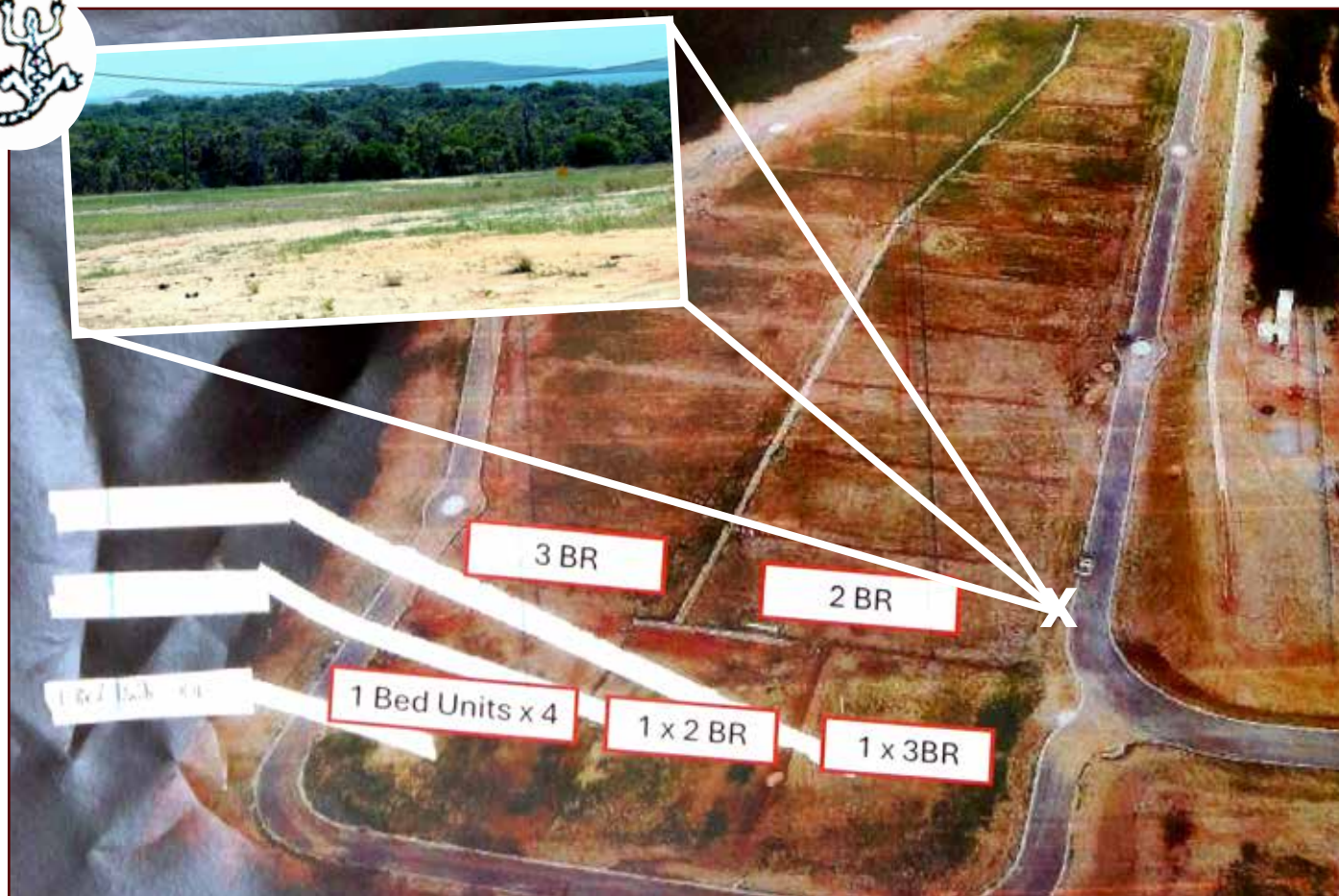
Lockhart has done good work around building our capacity to build and maintain our own homes and roads – how can we value-add to that with the support of the ABF and some of those old rugby league stars?

I think we often take those life skills for granted but a lot of young people find them challenging.

So maybe there is an opportunity for the ABF to work with the community in value-adding to some of that good work, utilising some of the role models like Petero Civoniceva (*pictured left*) and a lot of the old rugby league players.







### Subdivision

We've also got that new subdivision now and we'll be rolling out houses there very shortly.

There are a lot of applicants, especially young people, for the one-bedroom units.

The good thing is the subdivision is built on the Line Hill block, which means it is freehold and home ownership is possible down the track.

The other thing we're looking at building is acreage blocks or rural blocks for homeownership.

There will also be an opportunity for us to grow small businesses and for the community to invest in building those businesses further, too – that

means the council will be able to generate revenue from rates as well.

I think what we've seen over the years is the growing confidence in our local businesses, we are working together in partnership and building high-quality works to standard and within budget.

### Footy!

It was great for the Scorpions to be back in a rugby league competition again with the Southern Cape.

We won the grand final, so that was a big boost for the young men in our community, especially, but also the community in general, too.

We had the third or the fourth round here in Lockhart River and there was an

amazing atmosphere here.

It was good to have the rugby league back in town, I think after about nine years or so – 2016 was the last time we played here.

Then we had the follow-up with the festival, so they complemented each other back-to-back.

We've got some great pics of our team further on in this issue of *Waanta*.

### Goodbye to 2025

I'd like to wish all our families and community a happy and safe Christmas and New Year period.

Please be kind and think of each other as you enjoy your end-of-year festivities.

*Wayne*







A word from ...

# CEO David Clarke



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**Well how good was our Paytham Malkari Festival eh! Everyone was on such a high after it –I watched kids dancing in the street for days after, CEO David Clarke writes ...**

It was like medicine for our town and our culture.

Congratulations to everyone who came and made it the outstanding success it was.

Our Yarrabah and Pormpuraaw dancers really made it a Cape family event, and we really appreciate their efforts to come and join us in cultural celebration.

Special thanks to the Committee for your guidance and tireless effort to keep us all focused and structured.

Thanks also to our on ground lion hearts who made sure we were all fed and looked after. No one was left out.

Our dancers were magnificent and made us all proud of who we are and what our culture

means to us.

Seeing all our gangs join up to hold the cultural spotlight was very special.

The great fireworks followed by our Lockhart Ya Wo song to all our visitors just made the night.

It was our town at its best.

Thank you to everyone who put in their best effort.



*Members of the Paytham Malkari Dance Festival organising committee: Simon Butcher, David Clarke, Emma Schuh, Ethel Singleton & Dorothy Hobson.*





As we head towards the wet season, the race is on to get our building and roadworks complete.

Let's hope the wet season gives us a break and sleeps in a bit.

We have done a record amount of roadworks already, but it would be good to finish all our planned works.

Great work from all our teams.

I hope you are as proud of your work as we are of the way you get stuck into it and get the job done.

Solly Hobson has shown good leadership working with Civil Works mentor, John Mansbridge, to bring our team up to speed with the latest machine guidance systems and equipment.

Council has machine guidance systems in our grader and excavator.

It will serve our town well going forward and will let us bid on Main Roads work going forward.

Congratulations to the team for delivering the freshly bitumened works near Pascoe River.

A two-year project full of tricky parts that our team delivered.

Well done.

I'm personally pleased that the small business

opportunities Council is creating are being

taken up.

We have to make sure the work is done properly, on time, on budget, and built to the right standard.

If we keep doing that, then we can keep delivering the work and the money stays in Lockhart.

It can be a long and hard season, but we have to push on and get our program finished, or the work will go to outside people.

No one wants to see that happen, so it's up to us to smash him properly.

### **Art Centre**

In Art Centre news, Council is now providing administrative services to the Art Centre. Council will be guided by the Artist steering committee for day-to-day operations.

At the moment, Rosella is taking care of the place, and we encourage everyone to go and get their creativity on at the Centre.

### **Rangers**

Council's new Ranger service will start soon.

We are looking for a coordinator and a couple of Rangers.

We will start small but work very closely with the other ranger services in our area.

Keep an eye out for that one.

### **Corporate Services**

A big shout-out to our Corporate Services team,

led by Stanley Mugwiria, for delivering our 15th unmodified Audit in a row.

I hope you are as proud of your work as we are of you.

Remember, we can not do what we do in Lockhart without your work in Cairns. Thank you.

### **Building Services**

Next year sees the start of our new building program on our subdivision.

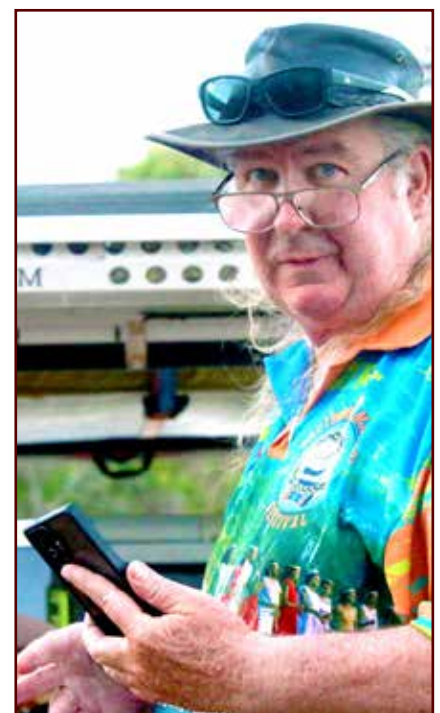
New apprenticeship opportunities will come with it, so let Council know if you are interested in a construction career.

### **End of year...**

Thanksto all our hard-working teams as we head towards Christmas and congratulations on another year of delivery for our town.

Take care of each other over the break and love and respect to you all.

*Dave*





# Suicide is everyone's business



Suicide is a major concern in our community. With help from NACCHO (National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation), Apunipima Cape York Health Council (ACYHC) has a team working on it in Lockhart River and three other Cape communities through a 'Culture Care Connect' aftercare program.

We would like to work with the interested community members to develop a shared understanding of the issues,



challenges and solutions, and co-design a Suicide Prevention and Aftercare Response Model specifically for Lockhart River.

We'll be yarning with other key people and groups in Lockhart River to include their ideas and priorities for designing a community-

centred model.

The goal is to explore topics such as raising awareness about suicide and preventing it, early help, crisis assistance, and aftercare support – all in a way that respects local culture and fits with what the community needs and wants.

## One step at a time...

**Getting Ready:** We visit regularly to engage, build rapport and develop working relationships.

We start by working out who needs to be involved, which includes anyone who wants to help make a difference in the community to reduce suicide.

We especially want to listen carefully to people who have lived through suicide or have struggled with suicidal thoughts so that we can learn from their experiences.

**Listening:** We invite everyone to come along, community members, people with lived experience and other helpers.

We respectfully hold workshops or meetings to hear everyone's ideas and views.

**Working Together:** We team up to come up with ideas, find solutions, and put together a draft plan for a suicide

prevention and response model that will work best here in Lockhart River.

By working together, we'll make sure Lockhart River has a model to implement that reflects local voices and helps keep the community safe and supported.

**Make improvements together:** We keep listening and learning as we go, making changes to our model based on what people say. This helps make sure what we're doing stays useful and right for our community.

**Taking action:** We will document and deliver the community's model to make sure it suits local culture and needs.

**Checking and Updating:** We keep an eye on how things are going, ask for feedback, and make changes if needed.

Co-designing with the community will start in early 2026 and our workshops will be done by the end of March.







*Council Store workers Isaac Rokeby, Benny Macumboy, Ashley Wilson and Elly Macumboy with Building Services Director Regis Edmund (left).*

The process of closing the 2024/25 financial year was accomplished very smoothly and consequently, the opening of the new year 2025/26 was achieved without any technical issues, Corporate Services Director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

The Auditor General issued an 'Unmodified Audit Opinion' on the Council's 2024/25 general purpose financial statements.

This was a good audit report and further demonstrates our strength in financial accountability and reporting.

The audit report was signed by the Auditor-General by the due date of 31 October 2025 to ensure prompt compliance with Local Government Regulation 2012. Recommendations from the audit report have been accepted by the management, who are rolling out their implementation in full.

I participated in this year's LGFP Annual Conference at Pullman Cairns International Hotel, themed 'Unlocking Potential', last week, where I discovered the significant transformations artificial intelligence (AI) is introducing to the local government sector. The speed

of technological changes is amazing. Another interesting topic was on Project Management Fundamentals from the finance officer's perspective.

It was a busy two and a half days of listening to presentations from different local government sector specialists, and I appreciated the learning experiences. Additional representatives from the Cairns Office should participate in future LGFP conferences.

Special appreciation and recognition of the finance team members who have taken on extra responsibilities in financial services, increasing their workload.

Maureen has expanded her scope of duties to include grants administration and Joan is the new Payroll Officer in addition to what she does.

Rhonda has added bank

reconciliation to her docket.

Paul Snow, our new purchasing officer, has streamlined procurement by seeking competitive quotes, allowing the Council to benefit from better value for money.

The entire team is highly committed to offering comprehensive and dependable financial services to the Lockhart River community.

There is a likelihood that Council will close for the Christmas break on 19 December 2025 to re-open on 2 January 2026.

My message to the finance team is that your hard work and commitment are truly appreciated.

This holiday season, may you find time to relax and enjoy the company of loved ones until we meet in the new year.

All the best with your festive season activities.

*Stanley* 





*Lockhart River Corporate Services staff including Office Manager Deanka Omeenyo, Training Coordinator Noleen Clark, CEO David Clarke & office worker Tamarnie Clark (no relation) with Cr Dottie Hobson; Receptionist Faye Hobson; Bank and Post Office workers Hayley Meihana & Marie Hobson with Centrelink Officer Celia Accoom.*



## Art Centre's welcome re-opening

Thanks to Council and renowned artist Rosella Namok (*pictured*), the Lockhart River Arts Centre is up and running again.

"I'm just trying to get it back running again, which has been very good," she said. "We've had a lot of tourists come through and some good sales."

Rosella said there were five artists who came in regularly.

"We got Mum Dotty, Auntie Thelma, Nana Evelyn, my mum and me," she said.

"I'm trying to get all them young ones to come through, too."

Rosella said she was enjoying looking after things.

She said that while the centre didn't have internet for now, they were still selling artworks through the centre itself instead of the webpage.



She said she still needed some extra hands on deck.

"I'm going to put some more tables down there for more local artists to come through," she said.

Rosella, who started painting when she was 16, was keen to encourage younger people to come to the centre and join in.

"Give it a go because it's our community Arts Centre," she said.

"It's here for everyone."







# Business (Hub) is booming

A lot of positive outcomes have come out of the Business Hub, which has just wrapped up two years of funding from the Department of Small Business, Employment and Training.

“We did very, very well running the indigenous Workforce Skills and Development language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills program,” Business Development Support Officer Jermaine Thomas said.

“We saw a lot of positive outcomes, employment positive outcomes with people doing their white card and then going on to working on the roads or working with Council in trades like painting or carpentry.

“It is a mandatory requirement to have a white card before you go on the construction site, so there was a big uptake.

“The program helped people take the steps to gain employment.”

Even though the funding has stopped, he said help was still very much on offer.

“The Business Hub is still open to everybody,” Jermaine said.

“We’re now focused on creating a productive, culturally safe space for community members, supporting local

businesses with administration support or resources, such as the internet, computers and a space available for meetings.

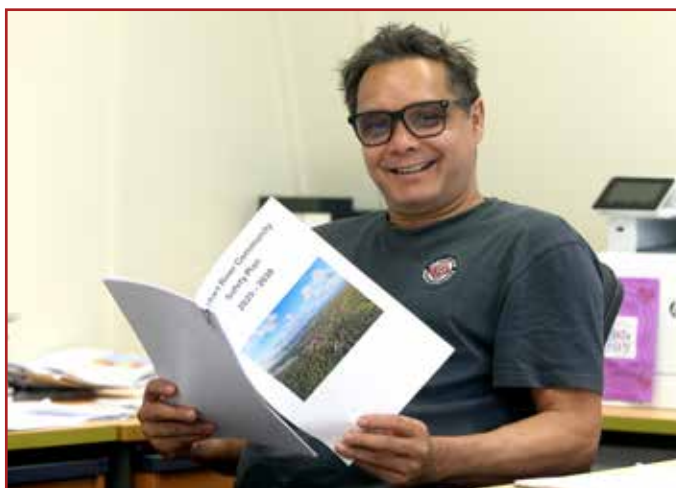
“The experience we have now means our foundations are solid and we can be more productive and help more people.

“And we still have access to Doug Williams as an adult educator, which means if anyone feels they just need that one-on-one, face-to-face adult education, then Doug can step into that role.”

He said personally, he was still connected to the social club as a bookkeeper and contact person.

“Any other spare time, I’m with my young family, down by the beach, raising two kids in Lockhart River,” he said.

“It’s a beautiful thing.”





# Municipal Services



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Our Municipal Services team joined the rest of the Council in their preparations for the Paytham Malkari Dance Festival, director Eddie Bobongie writes...



We were there, from mowing all along the side of the road to the beach there, managing all the bins and right through to a quick food inspection on the Friday.

We're always trying to keep things clean around the community, it's what we do, but sometimes things get a little out of hand.

We don't want to see rubbish lying around, it's not difficult for people to pick up and take away their own mess.

Take some pride in our community and use the bins, we shouldn't have to pick up

after people.

We can't mow safely with things like plastic bottles lying around, so our Parks and Gardens team, which is about six or seven of us.

We've also got workers in Environmental Health, which includes the rubbish truck, Water Quality Control and Animal Management.

We also need to prepare for the wet season and potential cyclones.

Disaster management means making sure we've cleaned up our own yards, making sure we've got plenty of water, and

we have our own generators so everything keeps running, and we need to make sure they are all fuelled up.

Be careful of wires that might



come down in any storms.

If anyone has any issues with animals, environmental health or water, they need to let us know.

The vets are due in this month, so watch the notice boards for them too.



Eddie







# Building Services

Since the new financial year, we have been busy with QBuild work, Building Services director Regis Edmond writes...

We're happy that tenants have been reporting all their maintenance work.

Council have tendered on QBuild work for this financial year, which includes house upgrades, there's going to be a lot of bathrooms, kitchen and laundry upgrades, and we're hoping for a few roof replacements too.

So the council crew will be doing some small upgrades on buildings such as the Land and Sea Building, which is probably going to need a new roof, and maintenance on some of the council houses, as allowed in the budget.

The new staff residences are nearly completed and will go back over to the council to get tenanted.

We are about to start work on the new Sub-Division.

The plans are still with the consultants for final touches and we should be seeing them soon for Council approval.

The Department of Housing is also in the process of developing extensions for some residences as they are overcrowded.

Once approved by all parties, we'll be looking at getting materials to Lockhart so we can



start building.

If the wet comes early, we will have to push things next year after the wet season.

During that time, we will have plenty of work.

We want to encourage our local crews to apply for the work, otherwise the work will be advertised and we'll be looking for crews to come up.

We want to do as much of this work ourselves as we can.

We will also need labourers and trade assistants, so any young ones in the community who want to work, or who want to do an apprenticeship, can go and see Noleen in



the Council office about enrolling.

Apart from that, there's just minor, little work outside of the Council at the school, the teachers' and police residences.

That's why we are encouraging everyone to get on those work orders and get this maintenance done, so we can get more of this work, which keeps everyone busy.

*Regis*







*Apprentice Izion, carpenter Alistair Bowie and Building Services director Regis Edmond.*

*Below: painter James Macumboy with his family.*

While waiting for the new subdivision materials to arrive, carpenter **Alistair Bowie** and his team have been busy.

“We’re doing maintenance and repairs until we get the new subdivision material up here,” he said.

“We would have loved to have started it by now, because we don’t know when the wet is going to kick in.

“Hopefully, next dry year, we can get the ball rolling and we can get onto building four or five new houses.”

He said his team included two apprentices and one trade assistant and that he would probably be looking for more when the time came.

“Anyone interested should let me know,” he said.







# Engineering Services

Council Roads Supervisor John Manabridge says his team are just about finished with a couple of big jobs.



"We're doing the road works at the Culvert 117, finishing it off," he said.

"It's going to be sealed soon, but the local boys have done the work."

He said the job had been ongoing for almost a year. "It's a really big one," he said.

"And another kilometre of road south of it will be sealed soon, so that's it.

"Then it's only signage after that.

"But the boys, especially Solomon Hobson and Tristan Elu, are the key pieces in this puzzle."





All teams – sometimes as many as 30 people – are out, working hard to get ahead of the coming wet season, Roads Contractor Crew Supervisor Anthony Carlesso says.

“They work roughly 6am until 6pm for up to 14 days in a row,” he said.

“That’s a pretty long day.

“They’ve been doing the Old Mission Road, 3–36km out of town.

“That road actually goes out to the old site, down to the beach.

“Old Site Road is 60km long, but we divide it in between each river, and that’s how the submissions go in through QRA (Queensland Reconstruction Authority) – there are six job sites in all.

“Then we’ve got Pascoe Farm Road to move onto.”







On the 4th of December, we tragically lost a much-loved member of the Lockhart family, our Workshop supervisor, Anthony Macri. He has left behind his life partner, Kayeleen and their three beautiful children, Layla, Danyal, and Dylan, along with his Mum and sister.

As a workshop supervisor, Anthony was a valued member of

the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council's leadership team.

As a family man and community person, he was outstanding.

His family's loss is our community's loss, and we extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to all who knew him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. His funeral was held in Mareeba on the 19th of December.





# Community Development



Community Development has several job vacancies in various departments, director Douglas Williams writes ...

We have a new Sports & Rec officer, Jamila Piva, and Elaine Williams and Father Mathias are our part-time Justice Workers.

We haven't had a Sports & Rec Officer for a little while, so Jamila's role is to get involved with the kids.

Her role includes recreation, so it doesn't have to be just sport, it's a pretty wide role that can include helping out with fishing, movie nights and discos with the rest of our team.

She may also take a role in supporting the Lockhart River Scorpions and, we hope,



*Douglas Williams*

perhaps revive a softball competition.

We have lots of activities coming up for the Christmas period, so keep an eye on the

noticeboards for those.

Things are going well.

*Douglas*



*Teamwork:  
the Home and  
Community Care  
(HACC) team –  
Elanor Short with  
Shelley, Bessie  
& Bella Hobson  
– take care of  
accommodation  
and cook 25+  
meals a day..*







# Elaine loves her youth work

Instrumental in helping the young people in our community across a range of different areas is Youth Coordinator Elaine Williams (pictured right).

She says she loves her job. "It's been exciting, really," she said.

"It's really good working with the kids because they teach me a lot too.

"Having to learn new things, learn how to do things differently and appreciating all the things from small to big.

"I'm working with people who are very important in this community."

The age group Elaine works with ranges from 10 to 21 years.

"I find the group grows a



lot bigger during the school holidays when the boarding school students come home," she said.

"And usually you get the younger ones that always want to follow their big brothers and sisters."

She said there were all sorts of activities, which for the past few months had mainly

focused on the Dance Festival preparations – although there was always plenty of other work to do.

"The older ones need help with things like their tax file numbers, licenses, Blue Card or Centrelink," she said.

She said she had also helped them with employment opportunities.

"We support the older kids through that," she said.

"There are other opportunities, if they want to make or learn to adjust their own clothes, I have those skills and can teach them how to use a sewing machine. That's been useful for those who wanted to learn how to do their own dance tops, there's a spare sewing machine here for the older kids to use."

She said networking across the other community services was important to her.

"I have worked with Royal Flying Doctors Service, so if the older ones come in and they do have a lot of things on their mind, or they're going through a lot, then I can be able to help them in that way in setting them up with a counsellor.

"If girls reach out to me, then I would get in contact with Ethel, who is the Coordinator at the Women's Shelter.

"She's always there to help and has been in this community for a long time.

"And I send boys up to the Men's Shed to see Father Mathias if they ask for help."

Elaine's dual role as a member of the Community Justice Group was also helpful.

"For those who need to do community service hours, I can record their hours," she said.

"I can stand up in court







too and talk on their behalf and I've done some work supporting young people who are in prison."

She said the younger ones brought her a lot of joy.

"I laugh a lot with the younger ones," she said.

"They're real giggly, jokey, funny kids.

"And then you get the teenage ones that come in, 13, 14, 15, they love their little

joke around, and they all have different ways of bringing in good laughter inside the youth centre and the programs."

Elaine was born and raised in Townsville and lived in Melbourne before moving to Darwin to take care of her sick father, who has passed.

"I moved from Darwin to here," she said.

"Not only just because of my partner, but I also do it as a healing thing, to help

me grieve. It's good to have a connection to Country and the people here.

"My mother's a Kaanju woman, so that also connects me.

I'm a very open



book, and I've got a very big open heart to always learning.

"I have great love and respect for the people of this Country."







# Men's Shed in good use

Men's Group coordinator Father Mathias Tovotasi (pictured) said the men in the community are making good use of the Men's Shed.

He said men were welcome to ask for the use of the shed if they needed it for any activities they wanted to do.

"That is what the men's shed is meant for," he said. "The men can also come up and stay because it's quiet for them. It's really good

for them to just sit down by themselves. We've had a lot of sorry business this year."

He said the footy had helped. "A lot of people went down and watched them, which is very good," he said. And, as well, I try to get the boys together to do their music things."

He said he was concerned about the lack of interest in the church.

"That's my bit of worry, the



church will not be in this place in the future because of young people not attending," he said.

## Justice Group is here to help

Chaired by Ethel Singleton, who is joined by Dotty Hobson, Elaine Williams, Bessie Hobson and Karen Koko, the Lockhart River Justice Group is doing well, coordinator Douglas Williams says.

"Elaine Williams and Father Mathias are our part-time Justice Workers, and there is still room to employ another person there as a coordinator," Douglas said.

"More members would be great and we need people to help with bus driving and setting up camps for the kids and the Elders – it's not always legal and paperwork."

He said Elaine and Father Mathias were also there to help.

"They can help with domestic violence victims and perpetrators, and also things like bail

applications," he said.

He said there was also a broader scope to the 'paperwork' side of things.

"The work of the Justice Group is to support people in Court and make sure the Court knows the relevant history," he said.

"A lot of people think it's just a job to get them off, but that's not our job, our job is just to be fair, impartial and advise the court of mitigating circumstances such as trauma in their life or if the offence is out of character, for example.

"We support them through the court process, and try to steer them to support services such as the men's or women's group, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, ATODs or whatever it might be."

He said the coordinator's work was a little broader.

"We do a lot of work helping with blue cards, birth certificates, redress money claims, superannuation, SPER payments, youth justice, parole support and child safety," he said. "There's a lot to it, and we're always happier to see people before things become a problem, rather than let it get to that point. "So if you have a letter you don't understand or are concerned about, come and see us first because leaving it can make it a bigger problem.

"We've had people who have been knocked back for Blue Cards, not knowing they can appeal, but there is a time limit on that. If they haven't appealed within that time frame, there's nothing we can do, but if they come and see us as soon as they get the letter, we can help."







## Kids are enjoying using the library

Library Coordinator Lorraine Warradoo, pictured,° says the library continues to be enjoyed by all ages, especially the children.

“Kids come in watching movies and on the computer,” she said. “And we also do movie nights and disco school holidays,

and getting ready for the festival.”

Lorraine gets help from Emily, who helps with the Kids’ Club school holiday program.

She also said no one is working at the radio station at the moment.

“They’re waiting for some parts,” she said.







# THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FESTIVAL BIG PUPS HOSTED AN OPEN MIKE + JUNIOR PRACTICE NIGHT





# PREPARATION FOR THE BIG EVENT







# Paytham Malkari



Friday 3 +  
Saturday  
4 October

Lockhart River  
Festival 2025



## Respect for our Elders



All welcome. Two nights of traditional dancing featuring Lockhart River's Kawadji Wiimpa Dance Group and the Pormpuraaw Dancers. Food trucks onsite. Hosted by the Lockhart River Community. Tourist campground available for visitors: \$10 per vehicle, per night. Follow our Facebook page for more info or phone 4060 7144.

Lockhart River community was also happy to welcome the Yarrabah dancers, led by Mala Neal, and Big Pups, who played on the night before and managed sound for the main event at this year's Paytham Malkari Festival. It was a success, thanks to the community's dedication and efforts.

*Pics by Christine Howes.*











# DAY/NIGHT ONE





# PORMPURAAW DANCE PRACTICE



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# DAY TWO PREP



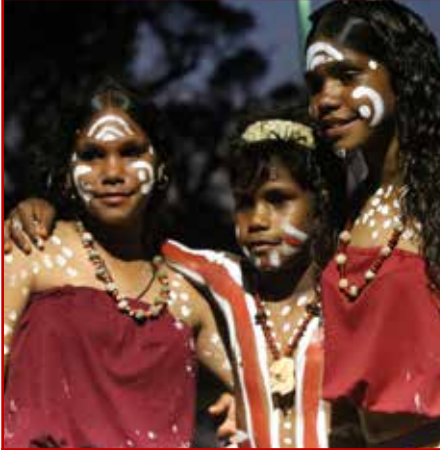








# NIGHT ONE





# NIGHT ONE



33







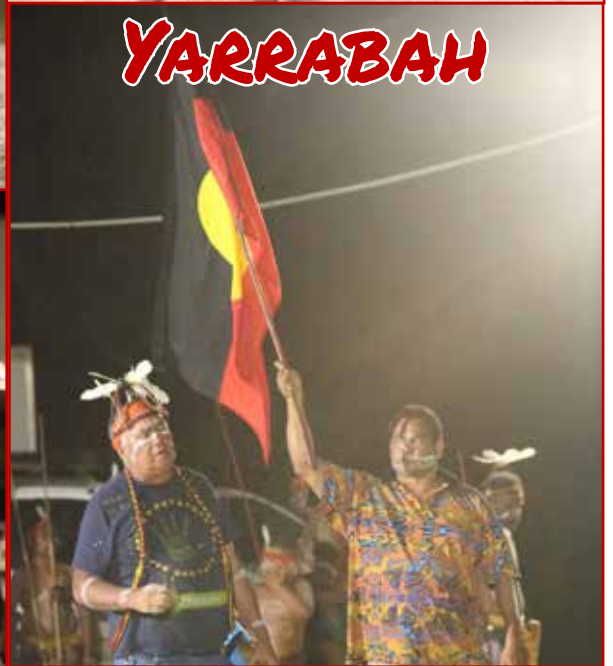








**YARRABAH**











# KAWADJI WIIMPA























## Media Coverage: Paytham Malkari Dance Festival



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LEFT: The Cairns Post - subscriber-only coverage 8 October 2025



LEFT: The Koori Mail, 16 July 2025  
BELOW: The Koori Mail, 22 October 2025



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## EAST MEETS WEST



### Dancers eye cultural flow at Paytham Malkari

What happens when cultures collide? Party, song and celebration as Kawadi Wompa dancers welcomed Inupians from Pomorupine and Lockhart River to the two-day Paytham Malkari Festival in Lockhart River. Join the tradition - with its modern take - on Page 6.

## Song, dance brings communities together at Lockhart River festival

### 'It's about celebrating where we come from'

by CHRIS HARRIS

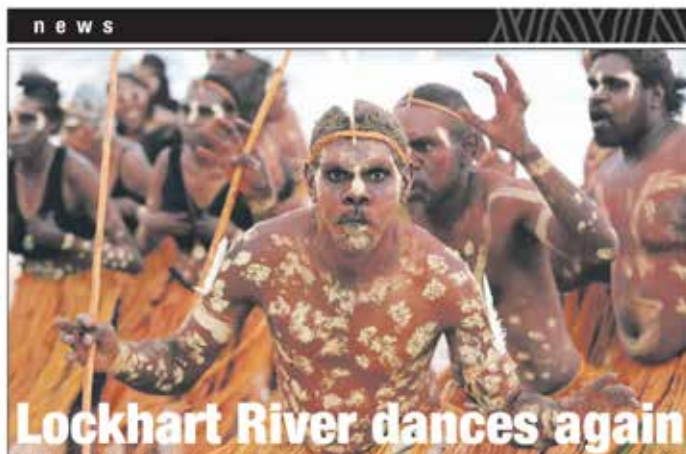
Traditional music is something a little more modern, Lockhart River dancers have been their cultural traditions in the Pomorupine and Lockhart River communities.

"It's a very special moment - we've got art, music and dance - we're particularly proud of the dancers from Pomorupine and Lockhart River who are here today," Lockhart River Mayor David Clark said.

"It's about celebrating where we come from and celebrating our traditional culture," he said.

"Some of the young ones are working on their own things, but they're still very much connected to their traditions," he said.

"We're all about celebrating where we come from and celebrating our traditional culture," he said.



The most recent of Cape York meets the east - the Pomorupine dancers performing on the beach at Lockhart River. All photos: Christine Meese.



Lockhart River dancers performing on the beach at Lockhart River. All photos: Christine Meese.



Lockhart River dancers performing on the beach at Lockhart River. All photos: Christine Meese.



Lockhart River dancers performing on the beach at Lockhart River. All photos: Christine Meese.

LEFT: The Cape York Weekly, 14 October 2025

Waanta October 2025







# People in Lockhart River

## September/October 2025











# Laundry service is popular

Patrick Butcher has been a supervisor at Orange Sky for more than two years now and loves being able to help members of the community with their laundry needs.

‘My role here at Orange Sky is to keep an eye on the machines when locals come in to do their laundry,’ he said. ‘It’s definitely great, and it’s a free service we’re providing.’

He said the service has been in the community for almost 10 years.

‘It’s run by Orange Sky, which is a non-profit organisation, and they are in a few communities across the Cape and Palm Island,’ he said.

‘They provide this free service and employment opportunities for the locals, too.’

Patrick said he was working with Jermaine from the Business Hub to start his own business when the Orange Sky opportunity came up through Cape York Employment.

‘I took it with both hands,’ he said.

‘It’s ideal for me, it’s not far from my place, it’s only a four-minute walk.’

‘I come in every morning and it gives me something to wake up for – a purpose in life, knowing that I’m actually giving something back to my community, and we are helping people in our community.’



*Above: Patrick Butcher and Daniel Short.  
Below Patrick with his son Simon.*



## Happy on the beat

*Police Liaison Officer Massy Pascoe has had her job for two years now and says she likes it, and will keep doing it.*





# Lockhart River Scorpions win grand final



By ALF WILSON



A WELL-DRILLED Lockhart River Scorpions won the grand final of the Southern Cape Cluster Rugby League competition defeating a gallant Coen Colts 38-28.

Finals day was held at Cooktown's John Henry on August 9 before a large crowd which included visitors from the remote Aboriginal communities which had teams.

In earlier semi-finals Coen Colts beat Hope Vale 30-16 and Lockhart River defeated Pormpuraaw 22-16.

Player of the final was Lockhart River's Andrew Brown.

Rachael Morgan, the QRL League and Club Co-ordinator for Cape and Torres regions, said there was a high-energy atmosphere that brought nothing but positivity for everyone involved.

"For both Coen and Lockhart River, this marked a long-awaited and emotional return to rugby league. It's been years since either community stepped onto the field, and this season was a powerful reminder of how much the game means to these regions," she said.

Rachael said that Hope Vale and Pormpuraaw played with incredible spirit, forming new teams and adding a fresh competitive edge to the cluster.

"Their involvement brought the total number of teams to four with more than 150 players participating this year. An impressive achievement that speaks volumes about the strength and passion in our communities. Behind the scenes, a tireless working group made up of dedicated representatives from each community has driven this initiative forward. From fundraising and logistics to player coordination and compliance, their commitment has been the backbone of the Southern Cape Cluster's revival. Thanks to



Lockhart River Scorpions have won the Southern Cape Cluster grand final.

their hard work, all four teams met the essential requirements to return to the field in 2025 – an effort that should not go unnoticed," she said.

## Highlights

One of the major highlights of this year was that each participating community had the chance to host a round.

"These home games didn't just bring people together, they reignited local pride, boosted morale, and reminded us of the

unifying power of sport. Whether on the field, in the crowd, or behind the barbecue, everyone played a part in making each round special," Rachael said.

She said that in terms of officiating, the progress has been equally exciting.

"At the start of the season, each team nominated individuals to complete the referee accreditation course. These new referees have stepped up with confidence and professionalism, improving week by week and contributing to the game's

smooth running and integrity.

"I'd like to extend a huge congratulations to all players, staff, volunteers, and spectators for making this an event to remember. The weekend didn't just showcase skill or competition, it embodied the true spirit of rugby league: resilience, community, teamwork, and heart," Rachael said. "This year's success has laid a solid foundation for even greater things to come with teams already looking forward to the 2026 season."

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A Community is a group of people with the same common interest – the Lockhart Scorpions and their supporters build pride and respect in our community, Mayor (and team manager) Wayne Butcher says.

"Always build from the inside out and grow locally," he said.

"Investing in the next Generation of young players has also been our motto. Led by the older players, we nurture the future and build success through the Scorpion spirit and belief."

He said their best rounds of the year were hosted at their own Isaac Jeffrey 'Chalpy' Hobson Oval in August.

"Lockhart Scorpions and Coen Colts, our next-door neighbours' rivalry in rugby league has a history and legacy that still survives," he said.

"We encourage respect for each other and leave the game on the paddock where it belongs.

"Sports was the biggest winner and Lockhart community thanks everyone for travelling here and

enjoyed rugby league and wish all players, communities and families a safe journey back home."

CEO David Clarke said it was a great day.

"A credit to all the teams and a big thank you to John Pritchard and Eddie Bobongie's crew for turning out the field in such great condition. Respect all round," he said.







***LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL  
SHIRE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO  
WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES AND  
COMMUNITY A HAPPY AND SAFE  
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR.***