



Yarrabah News

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

V4 Issue 05: MAY 2020

Restrictions eased - with more to come

Restrictions on movement in and out of Yarrabah have eased and residents can now travel during daylight hours as long as they leave and return within a six hour period, Mayor Ross Andrews says.

But, he said, any future detections of local transmission of Covid-19 in the Cairns or Hinterland Area will mean a review and possible return of restrictions.

“There has been a couple of demonstrations over the past few weeks where people have expressed their concerns about the restrictions and their frustrations in terms of being restricted now for the past 10 or so weeks,” he said.

“I can understand their frustration, but we’ve been working through a process with the State and the Federal Governments since then and we have been able to ease some of those restrictions.

“Over everything else, we are following public health advice so we can look after and protect the most vulnerable people in our community, who are our elders and chronically ill.



“The restrictions to date have been a challenge for all of us and I hope it has helped that we can now travel to Cairns and go about our daily business, do some shopping, pay bills and so forth.

“Some of the feeling I’ve been getting is one rule for Queenslanders and other



Mayor Ross Andrews speaking to Stefan Armbruster for SBS News in late May

rules for others, but I think it’s really important to see Covid-19 for what it is – a threat to life.

“The virus is real and until there is a vaccine or a cure we all need to remain vigilant, and we need people to understand: if there is another outbreak in Cairns or in our region, the restrictions will be back.”

He said residents living away from the community were still subject to the 14 days isolation condition. He also said anyone who did not have exemption pass was still obliged to apply for isolation or exemption if they wanted to return.

“The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and Council has worked hard on a comprehensive crisis response plan to protect the community, not only from this pandemic, but from any future emergencies,” Cr Andrews told SBS News last week.

“We have a comprehensive quarantine isolation plan and a proposal that we

have submitted to the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) and from there, that proposal will go to the State Government. I think it’s important to acknowledge that we need to balance health and safety with community wellbeing.

“Remembering we have very high levels of chronic disease and we have overcrowding, which are the result of systemic neglect from governments over a very long period of time, the question for us is, ‘how can we find the right medium that will work for everybody?’”

He said once the Federal Government transferred responsibility for the Biosecurity Act back to the State Government’s Chief Health Officers Directive process, the plan would become a reality.

“We are all looking to the 12th June 2020 to see what happens next,” he said.

“It’s a challenging environment for all of us at the moment.”

Donations gratefully received by several Yarrabah agencies

Far from being 'out of sight, out of mind', hundreds of donations have been made to support the Yarrabah community during the lockdown period, including a full truckload of goods diverted from heading down south.

Circles of Care Yarrabah Program Coordinator Leisa Garling said several services were working together to make sure the goods went to where they needed to go. "The donations have come from all over Cairns and the surrounding areas," she said. "They included six pallets of goods which were bound for bushfire country down south. "But the lady who collected them, Jaimie-Lee Markham, contacted us and said she wanted them to come here, after she heard about our situation. "When I asked who helped her to put it all together she said, 'a small group of friends and strangers offered their time to collect, sort through and pack'.

we spoke to Council and they not only offered to pick up the items with their truck but they gave us a space to sort through, store and put packs together for families. "They even made their own staff available to us to help, which was amazing – it wouldn't have been possible without YASC's partnership and support." She said the donated items included:

- Clothes from sizes 0000 to 5XL
- Hygiene items
- Nappies, wipes, baby food
- Blankets & sleeping bags
- Towels
- Kitchenware
- Some non-perishable food
- Animal food

MEANWHILE St Alban's Op Shop was continually receiving basic household goods and had a lot of winter clothing at the moment, Rev Annette told the *Yarrabah News*. "During lockdown the op shop was the only department store in Yarrabah and became somewhat of a community hub and gathering place," she said. "We will continue to endeavour to stock the things people need, particularly for those residents who do not have a way of getting in to town for shopping." She said the Church was grateful for the support of Total Food Network, who planned to hold a sausage sizzle fundraiser for them in early June.



Mutkin Residential & Community Aged Care staff and helpers Shirleen Murgha, Lenore Mossman, Fenton Murgha & Tennyson Singleton are pictured here distributing boxes of donations received from the Government in late April.



If YOU leave Yarrie, you must still help us protect our community and our families from Covid-19

- **Our Elders, smokers and chronic disease sufferers should stay isolated wherever possible!**
- **WASH YOUR HANDS with soap and water, or use hand sanitiser or wipes, BEFORE entering any public place and BEFORE getting back into your car.**
- **KEEP YOUR (SOCIAL) DISTANCE!!!**
- **Even at home, practice lots of hand washing and wiping down surfaces, especially after shopping.**
- **Don't share things and restrict unnecessary travel and visits.**

REMEMBER: there is no treatment or vaccine - getting into an ICU will be really hard if lots of people get sick!

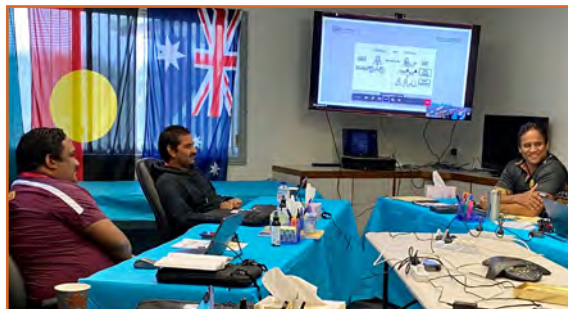


Huge congratulations to our Wugu Nyambil participants Joseph Hari, Dhiraj Hari & Brian Wason on completing their 12 weeks Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) with Glencore and Myuma Aboriginal Corporation in what will be a great opportunity for each of them to gain ongoing employment, skills and experience within the mining industry.



If you are a Wugu Nyambil Participant and is interested in the next intake and would like assistance with your application please contact us on 4060 0500 or email :admin@wugunyambil.com.au

Congrats to first term Deputy Mayor David Baird



Yarrabah Councillors have voted to take up the position of Deputy Mayor on a rotational basis.

As a result, Cr David Baird will be the first to hold the office of Deputy Mayor until March next year, to be followed by Crs Willett, Underwood and Jackson (not necessarily in that order).

MEANWHILE the new Councillors underwent induction training in early May (pictured above left), hosted by the Department of Local Government Racing & Multicultural Affairs.

In one of the first tests of our virtual technology, the training took place online because of Covid-19 and by all reports went well.



Artwork thanks to Elvertina Johnson ©2020



RATEP
Enrolments for Semester 2 are open.

If you are interested in studying to gain a qualification as a teacher's aide, please contact Trisha in the RATEP Room at the Primary School. Enrolments for Certificate III and Diploma of Education are available. Enrolments for Early Childhood will start in September.

Phone 0436 692 764 for more information.



Yarrabah News is published fortnightly by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Yarrabah community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor.

We have 1,444 likes on Facebook! Follow us today!

Yarrabah News is online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

For more information contact Christine Howes on

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OUR NEXT DEADLINE will be

Thursday
25 JUNE
FOR PUBLICATION IN
EARLY
JULY