

Waanta



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June 2025

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

Footy is back!





A word from ... Mayor Wayne Butcher

This year's Paytham Malkari Dance Festival will be held on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 October, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

It will be focused on acknowledging our Elders, past and present, who have guided our community to where we are today.

They have kept our culture strong all these years as well, and some will be particularly missed this year.

They are the key to handing our culture on to the next generation – we're thankful to those who have participated in the past, as well as those who will be there this year. But the Elders will be our main focus, and we want to design our program around them.

The loss of some key elders who have been very supportive and active, not just in the Festival, but in all the years of travelling as the Kawadji Wiimpa Dance Group to Laura and the other Cape communities and beyond, will be keenly felt.

It will be emotional and sad, and they will be missed.

But I think they would want to see this fire keep burning.

We hope to bring some

tourists to the Festival this year.

And Pormpuraaw has already indicated their interest in coming back again, with a bigger team.

They enjoyed it last year, and I think they will help to strengthen it more.

There's a lot of interest from other communities, but we can only cater for so many, unfortunately, so there will only be two other dance groups.

We're a small community and we have a small group organising this year, and we're looking to our younger people to lead the way.



New projects

One of the projects we're aiming to finish this year is a new softball oval down next to the footy oval.

Our aim for next year is to hold a sporting carnival here again in the community.

We'd like to see regular competition with rugby league and softball, junior and senior.

So we'll have a sports and recreation hub down there.

The other big project is starting the five houses in the new subdivision.

Subdivision housing

We're keen for some naming ideas, for the subdivision itself, and also the streets.

Traditional Owners will have a say in that.

We aim to roll out five houses a year there, and the reason behind that is to try to skill up some more tradies from here in Lockhart.

The council will probably advertise shortly for apprentice carpenters, plumbers, electricians and painters.

We're looking at those four key trades, and the building of those houses is an ideal opportunity for people to learn those trades so we have more local tradesmen.

We're looking at yet another subdivision as well because there will be growth in housing, and that could and should mean growth in employment and small businesses.

That's our hope.

It was great to visit Cherbourg Community as part of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

Indigenous Leaders Forum for the 17 discrete Indigenous Shires of Queensland. It was magnificently hosted by Cherbourg Council and community, and a great opportunity for them to network, advertise and showcase their successes.

We enjoyed their hospitality and had the chance to speak up on our issues through NITV with John Paul Janke.



Pics by Dean Saffron, Michael Monk and 4US Mob





ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
 Back: David Brookdale - Doomadgee, Joseph Callope - Weipa, Adikuam Adidi - Bamaga, Billy Brown - Umagico, Nelson Gavenor - Mornington Is., Isaac Hobson - Lockhart R., Richard Kelinda - Aurukun, Fred Clay - Palm Is., Jimmy Kendall - Edward R., Kenny Jimmy - Kowanyama, Jomen Tamwoy - Cowal Creek.
 Front: Mrs. Violet Abington - Woorabinda, Eric Deeral - Cairns, Herbert McLean - Hope Vale, Len Stewart - Cherbourg (Chairman), Tanu Nona O.B.E. - West. Is. Rep., Getano Lui - Cent. Is. Rep., George Hye - East. Is. Rep., Mrs. Jennie Neal - Tarrabrah.
 Absent were P. Nunn - Bloomfield River and H. Quinn - New Mapoon. 26/29-3-74



Happy 40th Birthday to Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama, Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Napranum, Woorabinda and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Councils, and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council!

Sunday, 30 March 2025, marked a significant day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agency, leadership and self-determination in Queensland.

Queensland Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Fiona Simpson said the Councils played an important role in facilitating self-determination.

"These councils are the backbones of their communities and I'd like to congratulate them on their drive and self-determination to improve the lives of their residents," she said.

In the top picture: The Aboriginal Advisory Council in 1974 was a precursor to elected local council. Source: Fiona Simpson MP, Pic 2 (by Christine Howes): Aboriginal Coordinating Council (ACC) Chairs & CEOs in 2001; Pic 3 (by Christine Howes): after the last ACC meeting in 2006. Pic 4 (Source: Fiona Simpson) Mayors at the 2025 Community Cabinet meeting in Cairns in March 2025.





Left: Queensland's Mental Health Commission project manager Jermame Herbohn with Mayor Wayne Butcher and below with Community Services Director Douglas Williams.

A Queensland Health First Nations Suicide Prevention pilot project has been launched in Lockhart River. Jermame said it was a true privilege for him to spend time in Lockhart River and reconnect with friends and family.

"I was inspired by the strength, and dedication of those working in the community, and grateful for the opportunity to witness their great work firsthand," he said.

FULL STORY Page 14



Roads

We've got two teams back in action again by the time this goes to print.

We've started work on our main access road again, and they've also been working on our local roads.

Five local business owners

form our subcontracting community, they will work with the Council, who will project manage, and they will be working on the Chulungun Outstation road, the Garraway road and then down to the Old Site road.

There's a fair bit of work to do between the turn-off and about 30 kilometres in.

We've actually got to rebuild the road, form it up and re-sheet it, so the community should be aware of the work down there.

Lockhart River: On 30 March 1985, the Lockhart River community elected five councillors to constitute an autonomous Lockhart River Aboriginal Council. On 1 January 2005, pursuant to the Local Government (Community Government Areas) Act 2004, Lockhart River Aboriginal Council became the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council. *Source: Fiona Simpson*

Snap Fact Check

Then: 2012 LRASC

\$7 million in revenues
46 employees
\$600 thousand in deficit
2% self-revenue

Now: 2024 LRASC

\$38 million in Revenue
115 employees
25% self-generated revenue
15 Local Businesses
12 years of unqualified or unmodified Audits
Build and maintain all our infrastructure (roads, houses, etc)

Source: LRASC



Queensland 17 Indigenous Shires forum with the Queensland Government Cabinet in Cairns in March this year.

"Designing a pathway forward for Local and State Governments needs proper long-term sustainable partnerships developed to ensure appropriate investment into our respective Indigenous Shires that reflect our Communities' agendas, priorities and focus," Mayor Wayne Butcher said.



Council leadership

We have a great Council at the moment, with Alistair, Krystal, Steven and Dorothy.

There's great leadership potential there, which is good, because this will be my last term as Mayor.

If anyone is thinking about it, they should come and see me, I'm open to talking to any potential candidates.

I think one of the key things in governance is having stable governance and continuity of good leadership.

I've been fortunate to have the community's support and that stability has been the backbone, as has a continuous administration arm, of what we have achieved.

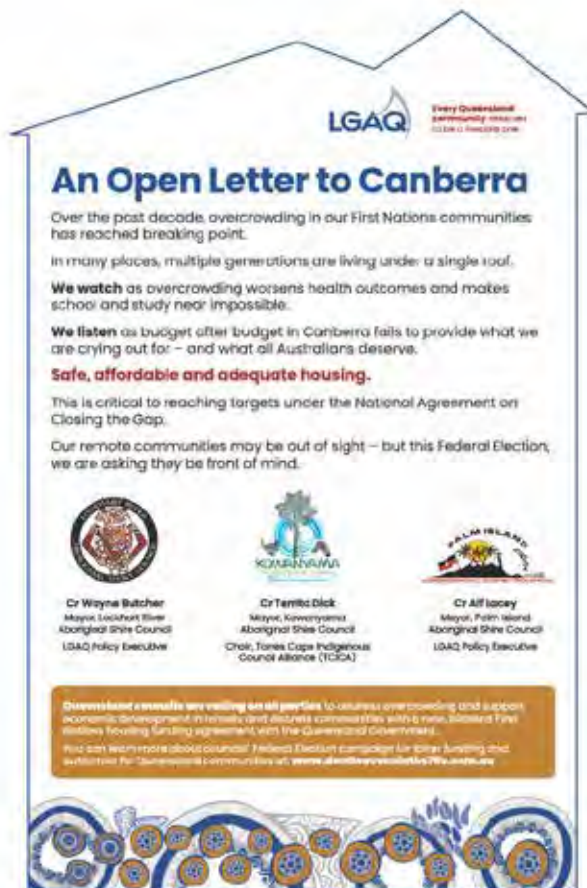
Having a long-term CEO, a long-term accountant and a lot of other long-term employees has given us that stability.

With stability, you can grow and that's what has happened.

We grow over time, not only financially, but in employment, business capacity and capability.

Look at the store shed, all run by local people now.

Look at the plumbing



section, all run by local people now. Look at the road crew, we only get a supervisor in on a seasonal basis, but it's managed 12 months of the year by the local workforce.

That stability has given us a great opportunity to build capacity and capability all these years.

I'm confident the organisation is in a great position.

We've had unqualified, or unmodified, audits for the past 15-16 years, and that reflects not only good governance, but good management.

It's still got room to grow, but we need to get to a position where we're kind of playing out like a plane lifting – you kind of grind your way up, but when you get to

For more than ten years, the 17 Indigenous Shires in Queensland have been lobbying Canberra for adequate Housing Funding to counteract the challenges of overcoming high rates of overcrowding in our respective communities' housing. Our lobbying has had no result, and yet the Federal Government's 'Closing the Gap' Policy indicates failure. Unless Governments start listening to community leadership, failure will continue to be the norm.

cruise control, it's easy for the pilots to change, because you know you're headed in a good direction.

I think it's time for me to give that opportunity to the next group of leaders, and I think it's a good time to hand over leadership as well.

In the last election, there were only two returned mayors out of the 17 Indigenous Shires in Queensland, and that's an average over the past four terms.

We have just under two years to go and I think it would be great if, ideally, the young people who are involved with leadership now in local government get the opportunity to continue.

Wayne



A word from ...

CEO

David Clarke

Look out, the dry season is well with us again, CEO David Clarke writes...

Dry season means we crank up our construction activities, which also means we crank up the business opportunities for our people.

We did okay last year working together, but this year promises to provide more opportunities as local business slowly but surely takes control of our economy. Remember Council is here to help you bring your business dreams alive.

Subdivision

Look at our new subdivision, eh. It will be a great place to live now that we have secured the funding to build urgently needed new housing. Congratulations to the Council for securing the long-term funding for building on the first 21 blocks there. We are also building a couple of new staff houses. Both these projects let the Council do another intake of apprentices. We are very keen to try some of our

young ones over 15.

If you have a family member interested, come and see Noleen in the office and we will have a good yarn about the opportunities coming up.

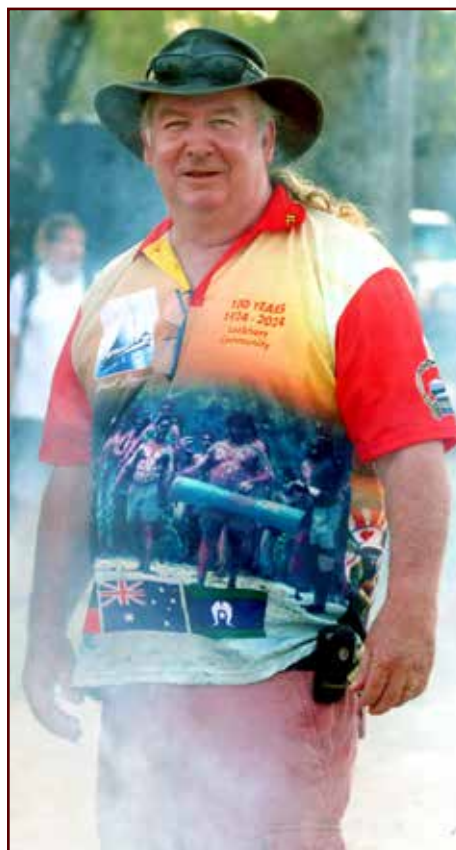
Paytham Malkari

How good was our Paytham Malkari Festival last year?

It was great to see everyone take such pride in our culture.

This year will be even better as we celebrate our culture together.

There will be many more visitors than last year, with the festival happening in school holidays on the 3rd and 4th of October.



This year, we have the steering committee drive the event, so everyone has the chance to help us make it better than ever. Remember, there is no Laura festival this year, so there will be more tourists. It will be a great opportunity for us to show off our culture, ngaachi, and art. If anyone has any business ideas around running tours for visitors to the festival, now is the time to come forward so we can yarn up on how Council can help, so don't be shy.





Services

Council delivers a lot of services to our town.

Some of these services happen on ngaachi like roadworks.

Council is proud of the jobs and businesses it has created, but we are also proud of the respectful way we have worked with the Traditional Owners of our shire.

To many, it is a bit confusing with Mangkuma holding the title, but then there are five Native Title

bodies over the same ngaachi.

It would be great if all the PBCs got together with the land trust to work out who Council should pay money to for sand and gravel, who should make decisions on cultural monitoring, new roads and gravel pits.

Let's hope this can happen sometime soon.

In the meantime, Council will continue to be respectful of those who own the land in our shire.

On a positive note, Council has finally got a little bit of

money to start our Ranger Service up again.

Only a small start with a Coordinator and two Rangers, but we will need guidance from the landowners on how to run this service.

Let's get prepared for another big dry season loaded with opportunities.

I urge everyone to take advantage of them.

Enjoy it all, stay safe, and look after one another.

Dave



LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

MONDAY 30 JUN 25	TUESDAY 01 JULY	WEDNESDAY 02 JULY	THURSDAY 03 JULY	FRIDAY 04 JULY
Making Indigenous Flag Colored Necklace & Bracelets YOUTH CENTRE 9am - 4pm	Activities cancelled	Design your own NAIDOC poster! ARTS CENTRE 9am - 4pm	Make your own air-dry necklace pendant or Make a fruit or chocolate smoothie YOUTH CENTRE 9am - 4pm	Make your own poster to support your team NSW or QLD YOUTH CENTRE 9am - 4pm

MONDAY 07 JULY 25 ~ NAIDOC WEEK ~	TUESDAY 08 JULY 25 ~ NAIDOC WEEK ~	WEDNESDAY 09 JULY 25 ~ NAIDOC WEEK ~	THURSDAY 10 JULY 25 ~ NAIDOC WEEK ~	FRIDAY 11 JULY 25 ~ NAIDOC WEEK ~	SATURDAY 12 JULY 25 ~ NAIDOC WEEK ~
Start 10am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flag raising - Council Office BBQ Start 2pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oz Tag - Footy Oval Social Club Events Start 7pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elders' dinner 	Start 9am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a shell mobile Weaving at Youth Centre Start 6pm - 8pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Disco at Social Club 	Start 9am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-painting Body Art at Youth Centre Start 7pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladies Pool competition at Social Club 	BOYS ONLY - Movie night YOUTH CENTRE 6pm - 8pm	GIRLS ONLY - Pamper & Movie Night YOUTH CENTRE 6pm - 8pm	AGES 1 - 9 YR OLD Arts and Craft LIBRARY 9am - 12noon



Paytham Malkari on the way!



The focus of this year's Paytham Malkari Dance Festival, to be held at the end of the school holidays on 3-4 October this year, will be on acknowledging Elders, Mayor and organising committee member, Wayne Butcher says.

Councillor and committee member Krystal Dean said they were particularly keen to pay tribute to an elder who had been key to previous festivals. "We've sadly lost one of our elders and now we have to work towards doing the organisation without her," she said.

"But we will also pay tribute to her at this festival, so we're working towards that.

"Next school term we'll be working to making dance costumes for more than 50 juniors who will dance."

She said the best thing about the festival, to be held in the last week of the September school holidays, was sharing their culture with other communities.

Last year dance groups from Bamaga and Pormpuraaw joined the festival, this year Pormpuraaw was confirmed,



Cr Steven Bally, CEO David Clarke & Cr Krystal Dean

and another would be invited soon.

"Seeing them come and showcase their culture, and just feeling alive when you just see them just sharing their culture, being proud of who they are," she said.

"Dancing and getting to know them too, as well.

"Most of us, communities, know each other by families and stuff like that, but it's good to see different communities attending our festival and sharing culture together.

"Making ourselves stronger and not forgetting who we are and where we come from.

"I think that's a big part of our identity is just to get back to culture and knowing ourselves and I think that's

what's missing here with the younger ones – they're all over the place with technology and they forget who they are and what their identity is."

Cultural leader and songman for Lockhart River's Kawadji Wiimpa Dance Group Simon Butcher said it was a "whole of community" effort to host the Festival.

"Everyone comes together and we support each other," he said.

"There will be a lot of preparations, especially collecting bush materials.

"The importance of this festival that we have in this third year is to pass the baton down to our younger ones and make sure that they continue it."



Simon Butcher





April rains force shut-down

Rain, rain and more rain caused the closure of Lockhart River Aerodrome for nearly a week while Council teams stood by waiting for a 6–7 hour window to repair the water-damaged runway back in early April.

The team was able to make temporary repairs during the rain event, but not enough to allow full service.

Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) chair Wayne Butcher said at the time their biggest concern was medical evacuations.

He said they were worried while the airstrip had been closed.

“Our capacity to fix it is weather dependent,” he said.

“Our our crews were fully armed and ready to go, but we needed at least six or seven hours to make it work.

“The rain we had caused several blisters and holes, we could get helicopters in, but not planes.

“No fixed-wing aircraft could use the runway, which limited the community for emergency evacuation.

“There was an SES helicopter available to evacuate patients from the community but there was no sign of clear weather to drain the water away so repair work could get going.

“The delay in the opening of the runway had already caused a backlog in passenger movement,

freight, and mail.”

He said they had planned to hold another LDMG meeting on if there was no sign of the rain letting up.

“It was torrential,” he said. “I think we had 250–300mls on Friday and that continued overnight.

“It was difficult to get updates because our usual sources depend on the internet, which had become intermittent,” he said.

He said there were several people stranded, on and off the community.

“We’ve had a lot of government and other service deliverers who hadn’t been able to get out, or in,” he said.

“All the roads were cut between us and the PDR, so the aerodrome was the only way, at that point, other than the barge, which continued to keep us in food and other supplies.

“Moving people was our problem at that time.”



Pic above by Nerelle Nicol.



Airport upgrades in progress 11

Lockhart Aerodrome Company (LAC) is excited to report the airport will soon have a few new and important upgrades.

Two new electric gates, in the front and in the back,

will enhance airport security and allow easier out-of-hours access for emergency services.

New lights will also be installed, as well as a large capacity aviation fuel tank.

“The lighting will be LED lighting, which is more visible to the planes and a more

reliable system,” manager Bill Rogers said.

“We have just been notified that we will be installing our large capacity tank on the air side for jet A1 aviation fuel.

“It’s an upgrade.”

The Lockhart River Council business attracts lots of stopovers, so the airport upgrades will also benefit them as well as the community.

“Once they know about the upgrade, they will be dropping in,” Mr Rogers said.

Customer service officer Hayley Meihana (seated), manager Bill Rogers, support worker Kiki Ona, Teako, who just passed the ARO training course and James Goods. Inset: Sue and Steve at the Iron Range Cabins



Army checks in on local reserves

Brava Company of the 51st Battalion FNQ Regiment commanding officer, Gareth Hughes, was one of three from the Battalion to recently visit reserve soldiers in Lockhart River.

“We’re just visiting two reserve soldiers who live and reside in Lockhart,” he said.

“Just having a chat, see what they’re up to, see if they want to do any courses, see how they are welfare-wise.”

Accompanying Mr Hughes on the patrol boat were Corporate Bob Ali and Quartermaster Juway Lacey-Bind (pictured).

Mr Hughes said Brava



Company covers south to the Staaten River of Coen with petrol bases in

Aurukun, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama, Lockhart River and Coen.



Digital skills programs on offer



Ngaachi Nyi'ilama Business Hub offers several language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills programs, funded by the Queensland Government's Department of Small Business and Training, Employment Training (DESBT), which have attracted a lot of interest, Business Development & Support Officer Jermaine Thomas says.

"DESBT funds an Indigenous workforce skills development training program that helps people essentially move from unemployment to employment by focusing on their numeracy, literacy, language skills and digital skills," he said.

"We start from the basics,

such as learning to use a keyboard, mouse, and navigating around a website," he said.

"And from there to the foundation skills of using a computer, such as passwords, forgetting passwords, resetting passwords, accessing email,

printing, filling out forms, using a scanner, attaching a document to the email and sending it from there.

"That's what we do here and there's been big interest."

He said the courses were a boost everyone could access.

"They all help to build confidence, build capacity and gain employment," he said.

"Those core foundational skills can help to start or run a business.

"And we can also help with the next level and help a business, such as a PBC or land trust, or any other existing businesses, apply for grants.

"If they have the idea but don't have what they need, for example, we can help them navigate their way through, getting it all down and answering all the questions.



From previous page...

“We can also help with doing tax returns.”

Mr Thomas said he was on the lookout for an administration assistant.

“We need someone who

is approachable and can communicate and connect with whoever walks in our door.

“We are also keen to encourage people to walk through the door and we make them feel comfortable,

there’s no shame, we understand them and we have programs suited to their needs.

“Learning is a lifelong journey, we are flexible and we’ll be here to help people through that journey.”



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Many Rivers has been working from Ngaachi Nyi’ilama Business Hub to support people and communities to achieve their business and economic goals.

North Queensland regional manager Denny Carmichael (*pictured above*) said they could help with anything to do with business.

“Many Rivers helps people start up a business or, if they’re in business, helps them to understand their cash flow, their money story, business plans, do tenders, do a whole lot of stuff,” she said.

She said Many Rivers looked at all types of ideas.

“We look at all projects,” she said.

“Anyone that comes to visit me, from artists to some of the civil guys, and everything in between.”

She said Lockhart River’s facility had been helpful.

“It’s great,” she said. “We’re talking about personal finances, so it’s good if people feel comfortable coming here, or we can just go down the beach or under a tree.

“We can be wherever people feel comfortable talking.”





Pilot project helps to save lives

A Queensland Health First Nations Suicide Prevention pilot project has been launched in Lockhart River with a visit from Queensland's Mental Health Commission project manager Jermane Herbohn.

The program, funded by Better Care Together, was in its initial phase, working as part of the Com Dev team.

"The community has been able to fund two community Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) workers here, which is good," Jermane said.

"And because they are community members, they will know the issues around the community more than any other person.

"They've already built trust, they've got a better relationship.

"They're also related to people in the community, and they will know more about what's needed.

"They will have some help from support supplier service, Beacon Strategies, who will be here to mentor the two workers."

He said their main focus was on suicide prevention.



Jermane Herbohn (left & below) with Ashlee Manantan and Rosella Namok



"They give support, help, someone to talk to, yarn to, but also point them in the right direction," he said.

Jermane said he was a Muluridgi man from the Mareeba/Mount Carbine area.

"I have links with Kuku Yalanji and Wakaman tribal groups, and also Yidinji and Jakabal people in the rainforest," he said.



Huge benefit for men's future



15

Helping Lockhart River men to have a better future is why Queensland Corrective Services recently held a Positive Futures program at the Men's Shed.

"It was a program run over three days where we talked about addressing the issues of drugs, alcohol, domestic violence and doing things differently – what we can do to make a positive change, how we can look at our situation and how we can move forward," Queensland Corrective Services program delivery officer Andrew Burton said. "It's a men-only program for men who are on probation, parole or in community service with

Queensland Corrective Services."

He said they mostly talked through the program content that included motivation and change, anger and violence, substance abuse, power and control, jealousy, trust and fear, family and connection, and being a dad.

"We use some multimedia, but mainly a lot of yarning because the boys really engage with that," he said.

He said he had also worked in Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Aurukun and Thursday Island, in a region which went as far south as Innisfail.

"We hope when these guys all finish their order, they don't return to our supervision," he said.

"We always say, 'we never

want to see you again'.

"Sometimes we see some familiar faces, but they always take something away from it, and I think slowly we are making a change.

"It's things like having more work opportunities, that would be a big one.

"They all say that in communities it's limited, but when people are engaged in something meaningful, that is shown to reduce offending."

Mr Burton has enjoyed his first visit to Lockhart River.

"I've been really pleased to be here," he said.

"It feels like a very good group, very respectfully engaged, and that's what I've noticed a lot about the blokes here, so I'm keen to come back.".



Queensland Corrective Services program delivery officer Andrew Burton and case manager Andrea Whiting.



Corporate Services

*Back: Finance Officer
Trainee Chloe Accoom
& Purchasing Officer
Paul Snow. Front:
Corporate Services
Director Stanley
Mugwiria, Corporate
Services Coordinator
Maureen Semei,
Finance Officer Elvira
Marticio and Accounts
Payable Officer
Rhonda Soerge.*



Cairns Office has been joined by Tarmanie Clark and Chloe Accoom from Lockhart River, Corporate Services director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

Both girls are young and full of energy to reinvigorate the Cairns finance team. The young Tarmanie has been doing under School Program for the previous years and decided to join us on a full-time basis after she graduated from year 12 last year.

The two girls have been enjoying the learning in the Cairns office and have enjoyed mentoring from their experienced colleagues.

We are here to support them in developing and growing in their careers.

Unfortunately, in May 2025, Anja Hartley

resigned from Council employment to take some time off and possibly consider doing something different after that.

She has been one of the most experienced and greatest team members who has gained specialised knowledge and skills and has been at the peak of her productivity.

She will be missed by the finance team and the entire Lockhart River Community.

We wish her all the best in everything she decides to undertake out there.

Finance audit update

Last year's 2023/24 audit

received an unmodified Audit Opinion from the Auditor General that provided further evidence that Council is at its best in financial management to ensure every dollar is appropriately accounted for.

Also, the 2023/24 Annual Report was completed and approved by the management on time.

These corporate documents are all available on the Council website for everybody to access and have a good read.

The interim audit for the current 2024/25 financial year has been completed, and



Council management is waiting for the interim audit report to be ready and made available to the Audit Committee and tabled in the Council meeting. It is anticipated that it will be a good report, and as usual, the management will be rolling out the implementation of the audit recommendations. This year's final audit visit for Council and Aerodrome Company is scheduled for early September 2025. Currently, the finance team is preparing and getting ready for the end-of-year closing and

opening of the new 2025/26 financial year. We have a fantastic team that is well prepared for the task, and afterwards they will commence preparation for the final phase of the annual audit. **Budgeting and planning** The process of preparing the budget for the 2025/6 financial year is underway, and soon the Council will be convening to discuss and approve it before the due date of July 2025. This will be accomplished

hand in hand with the 2025/26 Operational Plan to be ready for implementation in the new 2025/26 financial year. When completed, discussed and approved by the Council, these corporate documents will be uploaded to the Council website for easy access and read by the public. **Council website** Council website has been refreshed and fully loaded with updated corporate information. Please take a moment to peruse the Council website to keep you updated with Council publications. Thank you, and good to talk to you all.

Stanley



Above left : Clocking out on her last day was Assistant Accountant Anja Hartley, who resigned in May this year. Above right: Receptionist Fay Hobson and Training Coordinator Noleen Clark in the Lockhart River office. More Lockhart River office news next page...





The Lockhart River office has a full team at the moment, who are working hard for the community, Office Manager Deanka Omeenyo says.

Included in the crew are Noleen, Maree, Celia, Fay and sometimes Hayley.

She said they wanted to let the community know about was access to local airfares.

“We do local airfare for everyone who comes in here and we keep a register,” she said.

“They can do their own bookings on their phone, but the most important thing is they need to have their own gmail address or any email.

“Instead of coming back here for a copy, they can get a copy in the email.

“When they do the booking, they can do it themselves, make a phone call, pay over the phone when they call the Skytrans or Hinterland.

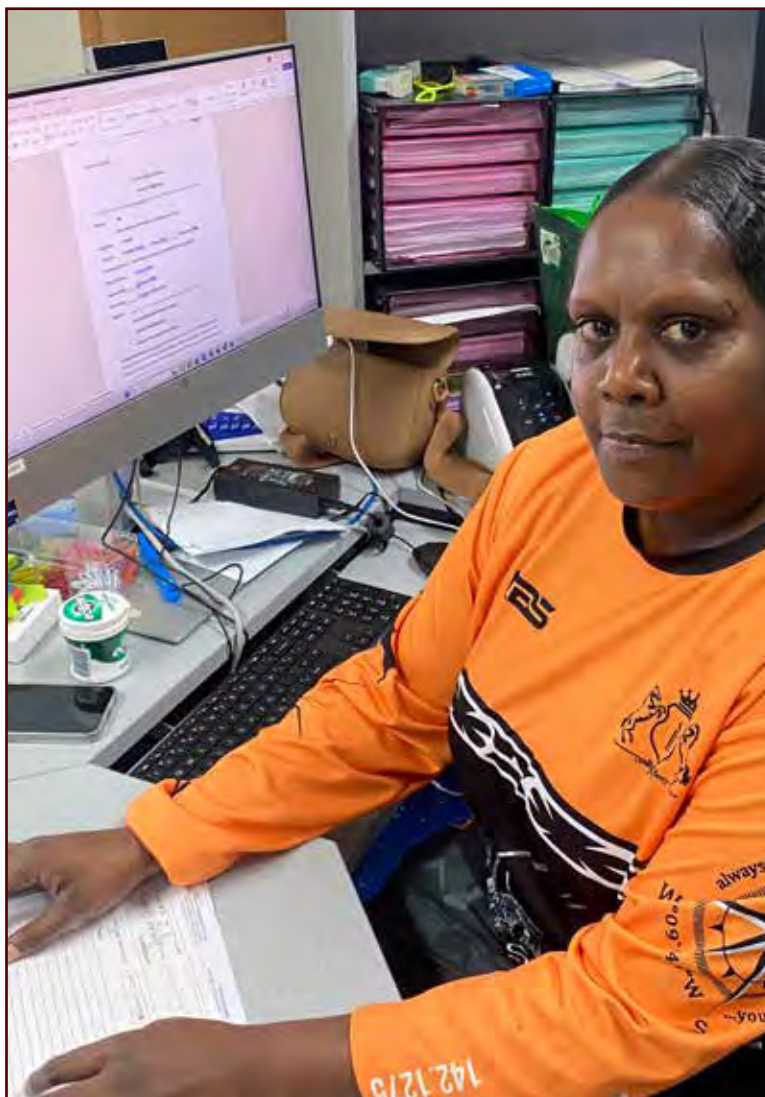
“I can help them, I just send the local fare through and they can do the bookings from there.”

Lockhart River office staff

Centrelink agent Celia Accoom, cleaner Chantelle

Hobson & Post Office agent Maree Hobson.

Below: Office Manager Deanka Omeenyo.





The Municipal Services team includes James Bally, Harley Nathan, Daniel Accoom, Norman Bally, Eddie Bobongie, Stanley Butcher, Billy Sandy, Kenny Warradoo & Kenneth Namok.

I look after Environmental Health, Animal Management, the Water team and Parks and Gardens, Municipal Services director Eddie Bobongie writes...

We probably have, maybe, 14 people working in the area, and Parks and Gardens have most of them.

There are three in the Water team, one in Animal Management and an Environmental Health worker.

I play a big part, I cover for them when they're away for training.

So people think the director is sitting in the office, just looking at emails and doing reports but I work differently, I like to get out and work with the boys as well, outside.

We have got a new side-by-side, mainly for pest control or weed spraying.

We've got a 300-litre tank that fits on the

back, but we haven't tested it out yet.

We're looking at doing a lot of spraying, there are a lot of weeds around the community, drains, houses, fences and that.

So that looks like a big job for us.

(Continues...)





We've got two boys who were doing filtering in water and sewage but they've been travelling, I think their first course started a couple of weeks ago in Mapoon, for a week.

They have also been in Weipa for a Water Workshop, and then straight after that they were down to Aurukun for a block there.

After Aurukun then they will be in Napranum, then Pormpuraaw, before they graduate in Lockhart River in September.

There's also some more training coming up in Environmental Health, which starts in August in Cairns with the Tropical Public Health Service.

So we're getting training happening and our workers qualified.

They're a good team.

Eddie



Eddie Bobongie



Alan Warradoo



Building Services



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We had been working extremely hard to complete majority of QBuild works before the end of the financial year, and we've also completed some council government funding works, Building Services director Regis Edmond writes...

At the time of writing, we were making plans for the new financial year.

Staff houses are works in progress, which will roll over to the next financial year, and we are hoping to get them done by July or August.

Funding for Stage 1 of the subdivision houses is in progress, which will probably be a set of units, two two-bedroom houses and two three-bedroom houses.

As the program rolls on, council will build more houses each year until we complete the 25 blocks in the whole subdivision.

We have Aiden working with Rod mainly on the staff houses, and Alistair's team Izion, Kegan and Jimmy.

We have had a fair bit of maintenance,

renovations and work, which we were on top of in time for the end of the financial year.

Council is also getting some work from the Puuya Kuunchi Kakana Centre, which is a work in progress and Education Queensland has given council the opportunity to quote on some work, which is also now in progress.

These works are on the school sport infrastructure and drainage, and renovations to their resource room, which will turn into a classroom and should be completed over the school holidays.

Our two carpentry apprentices, Izion Warradoo and Kegan Bally, have just returned from TAFE with success through their training.

(Continues...)



Building Services manager Regis Edmond, Izion Warradoo, Jimmy Hobson and Alistair Bowie working for their community.





(from page 21...)

We are fully supporting their efforts, and they will be doing a lot more of their training when we start the new construction on the Subdivision.

As usual, QBuild will give

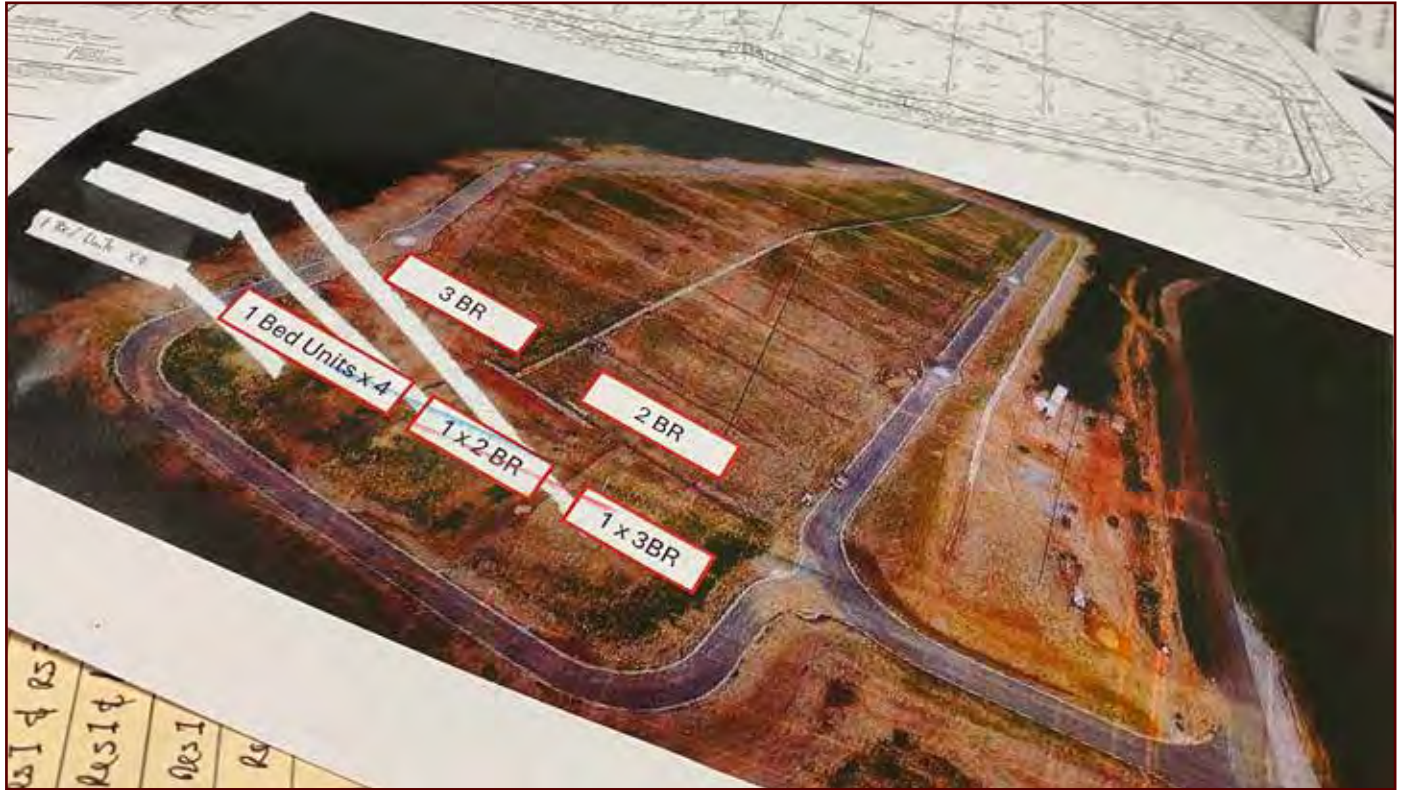
council more work for the next financial year, which will also keep all our young carpenters up to date with their training.

And finally, as always, we need everyone to keep reporting their maintenance work as it happens.

Don't leave it for too long, it will only get worse.

I'd like to thank the teams for their good work this past financial year.

Regis

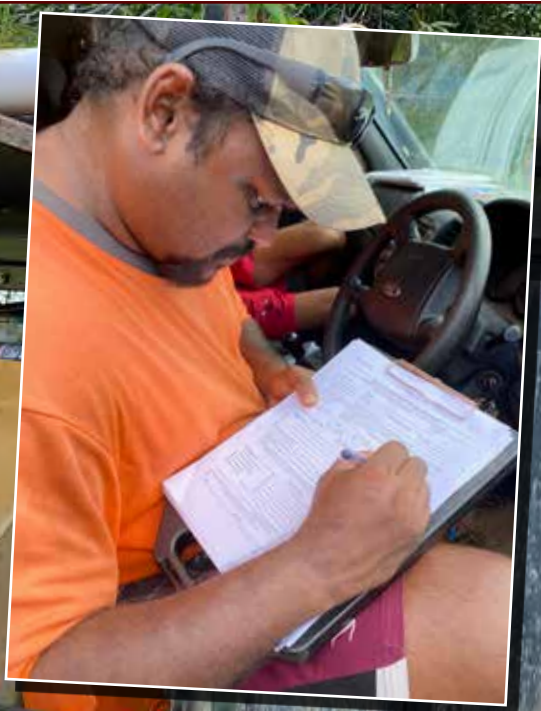


Building Crew Rod & Aiden (left) are working on new staff housing (below)



Left: Kevin from PJ Electrical working on a new air conditioning in the HACC building.

Below: Alistair Bowie enjoys keeping up with his paperwork, while apprentices Izion Warradoo and Kyjaun Accoom are ready to get to work.





Engineering Services

Well aware that the community is concerned about the potholes on local roads, Solly Hobson and his crew say they will be backfilling them with gravel before they are taken up to lay new bitumen.

They are also working at the big culvert on

the main road, getting it finished before a resealing of bitumen.

Over the next three to four years, they will be working their way back to the Pascoe crossing, adding more big culverts and more bitumen.



Above: Robert from Black & More working on local roads.



Above: Workshop crew and customers Lachie Akker, Tony Pascoe & Cecil Macumboy. Left: Tony Pascoe





LRASC Road Crew (above): Chris Johnson, Andrew Brown, Tristan Elu, Darren Macumboy, Solly Hobson, Rodney Accoom, Steven, Gible & Harrison Tabuai.





Community Services

Community Services are running well but still on the lookout for Justice Group and HACC coordinators, and a Sports & Rec officer, Director Douglas Williams writes...

The Men's Shed is in the process of buying some tools for a tool library, which we think will be a fantastic venture for the community.

Father Mathias has a good rapport with the men, and there have been regular group meetings with a lot of help from Joseph, Peter, Nick and Floyd, who have been holding meetings and talking about grief and domestic violence.

Many thanks to RAATSIC and the Royal Flying Doctor Service for their support, at the moment, they are also helping the Justice, Men's and Women's Groups' work with our DV offenders and others.

The Women's Shelter is still going well, and the Youth Centre is going really well.

There have been lots of kids

there; they are still running discos during the school holidays, as well as sports afternoons and arts and crafts sessions.

They have also made a start on making the dance costumes and jewellery for the festival this year.

The Women's Shelter have had a weaving and bead-making workshop and several youth came along to that.

The HACC centre is still looking after our Elders and disabled, cooking their meals, helping with their washing, transport for medical appointments and respite care.

The three ladies are brilliant, they cook and deliver the meals without a fuss every



day and keep the place clean for the guests.

The IKC is still being run by Lorraine Warradoo and our after-school hours care, run by Emily, Daphney and Irene, is working out of the library at the moment as well.

We have a gym set up in the old Community Hall, which lots of people are taking advantage of.

To access that, there are no set hours, they need to find me and sign in for a key.

The Indigenous Knowledge Centre, or Library, is a very important place in Lockhart River.

Lorraine Warradoo runs the Library/ IKC and the First Five Forever program for preschool age children.

Parents are encouraged to attend and help their children develop a thirst for reading.

All adults and children are encouraged and welcome to come to

the library to borrow books.

The Outside School Hours Care program is also operating out of the IKC building, for children under 10 after school and during school holidays.

They do arts and crafts as well as reading, movies and computers.





Father Mathias Tovotasi

The Women's Group has been meeting regularly, although on hold for some weeks because of Sorry Business, Women's Shelter coordinator Ethel Singleton says.

"I've been trying to organise a get-together for the women, like a luncheon or morning tea, we've got gifts for the women," she said.

"I've been doing some shopping for the women, but everything's been on hold.

"We've had a few ladies in, children, just taking time out from situations, and that's okay.

"And if anyone wants to come in and have a cup of tea with us, that's okay.

"We're here to assist the women."

Father Mathias Tovotasi has been in his position as casual Men's Shed coordinator for just over two months now.

"It's just new to me," he said. "The boys, they really want to do a lot of activities, so we have quite a number of tools for carving here already, and we have a guitar and other things for music here.

"So we get it all set up and get the boys together and try and get something

going on."

He said he was always there for them.

"When someone needs me, I'll meet them and maybe they'll have problems," he said.

"We have two rooms here to give them time out from their families if they need to cool down.

"It's good."



Ethel and Barbara from the Women's Shelter

With the Dance Festival coming up in September, Ethel said they would once again be involved in making skirts and helping with headbands and arm bands, and she was looking for people to help and to get

the dancers together.

"It's going to be emotional for me because my right-hand person won't be here, although we know she is here in spirit," she said.

"We will get everything ready here."





Lockhart River's Youth Group

operates out of the Youth Centre, where Elaine and Esme work with young people between the ages of 10 and 25 years.

Younger kids can attend the Youth Centre and play games, do arts and crafts or watch movies.

Elaine and Esme also organise sports at the

oval and, during the school holidays, they run movie nights and discos.

Elaine also spends a lot of time helping youth to stay on track at school and helping older youth who have gotten themselves into trouble.

Elaine and Esme also run grooming sessions and makeup sessions for the girls, as well as working with clinic staff for health checks.



*Bessie Hobson, Bella Hobson
& Eleanor Short*

The Home and Community Care (HACC) team of Bessie Hobson, Bella Hobson and Eleanor Short continue to take care of community members and visitors who stay overnight. They provide meals for 26 clients at the moment and continue to do cleaning and washing after visitors leave.

The Justice Group is still going strong and continues to help community members – even though they are still on the lookout for a coordinator, acting- and former-coordinator (and Community Services director) Douglas Williams says.

“We represent the people, help the people every court date,” he said.

“Ethel’s still the chair, Dottie, Bessie and Karen are some strong voices there.

“Corrections, Youth

Justice and Child Safety all liaise with the Justice Group.

“Some of the Elders who were involved have recently passed.

“From all the sorry business recently, there has been some dealing with grief sessions.

“We do a lot of DV sessions at the Men’s Shed.

“Otherwise, as per normal, Justice Group would still like more members. We’ve also got a bus to transport people on camping trips and day trips.”



Helpful laundry services



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Michelle Wasiu and Patrick Butcher Junior

As winter sets in, Orange Sky's laundry service continues to be a huge asset to the community.

"It's good providing service for the community," Patrick Butcher Junior said.

"With winter here, we've got a lot of clients coming in with blankets. We got the facility and the washing machine to cater for big loads.

"It's been full on for me and Michelle, but we've been hard at it. It's been really good, we enjoy it.

"We get very busy for six months of the year in the monsoon season.

"Nearly half of the town depends on us. It's good to provide this service for the community."

Maria sorry to be leaving

Cape York Employment's Maria Zaro loves Lockhart River and is genuinely sorry to be leaving she says.

"I've been living here for a while and I'm loving the community," she said.

"I'm loving the people.

"I've built that rapport, I love Lockhart, my heart's here.

"It reminds me of home, where I come from, Murray Island.

"Lockhart will always be a key in my heart."

She said she left a crew of 10 on their yards work, helping to maintain 86 houses for the elderly, single mums

and families on disability, who can't cut their own grass. The boys are loving

it, we'll lose some of them when they go back to the roads, but they're enjoying it," she said.

"We've helped some of them get their white cards, birth certificates,

driver's licenses and blue cars – anything they need, we can help with."





Wave monitors are vital

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) in Queensland uses wave monitoring buoys to track wave conditions along the coast.

These buoys measure wave height, direction, and period, providing valuable data for understanding coastal processes and potential impacts. DES maintains a network of these buoys, and the data collected is used in various applications, including coastal management and hazard assessment.

Jake recently installed one of the buoys just off the boat ramp.

Please keep well away from the buoy as much as possible so it can do its job!

How does wave monitoring work?

Wave monitoring in Queensland is powered by a network of purpose – built buoys and onshore technology.

Here's how it all comes together:

1. Wave buoys float offshore

These specialised instruments ride the surface of the ocean, constantly moving with the waves.

2. They measure movement in real time

Using internal sensors and GPS, each buoy records how the ocean rises, falls, and shifts with each passing wave. This reveals key information like wave height, direction, and timing.

3. Data is transmitted to land

The buoy sends a radio signal to a nearby receiver station on the coast.



Engineer Jake Shayer recently installed one of the buoys just off the Lockhart River boat ramp.

4. Receiver stations process the data

A computer at each receiver station analyses and stores the data, then sends it to a central system in Brisbane for further checking, distribution and archiving.

5. There's backup for stormy weather

Receiver stations are equipped with solar panels and battery backups to keep them running during power outages – which is especially useful during cyclones and other extreme weather events.

6. Data is never truly lost

If the signal is interrupted, the buoy continues storing data internally. This can be retrieved once the buoy is collected from the water.

7. Buoys are calibrated regularly

Each buoy is carefully checked before and after deployment to ensure accurate results. Most are in the water for about 12 months at a time.





Please keep well away from the buoy as much as possible so it can do its job. Buoys measure wave height, direction and period, providing valuable data for understanding coastal processes and potential impacts.

How wave data helps Queenslanders (and Australia)

Once wave data is collected, it gets put to work in plenty of practical and important ways.

- **Shared with emergency services**

During extreme weather events like cyclones, wave data is sent to the Bureau of Meteorology. It helps assess how incoming waves might affect coastal communities and supports timely warnings and disaster response.

- **Used by scientists, engineers, and planners**

Coastal experts use wave data to better understand erosion, sediment movement, and how the coastline changes over time.

It also informs the design of sea walls, jetties, harbours, and other coastal infrastructure.

- **Supports maritime navigation and safety**

Port operators and maritime organisations rely on wave data to plan shipping movements and keep vessels safe – especially in rough conditions.

- **Feeds into global wave models**

Queensland's data contributes to international wave forecasting models, helping improve predictions across the world's oceans.

- **Helps with recreation and tourism**

Fishers, surfers, sailors, and tourism operators can use the data to plan safer and more enjoyable trips on the water.

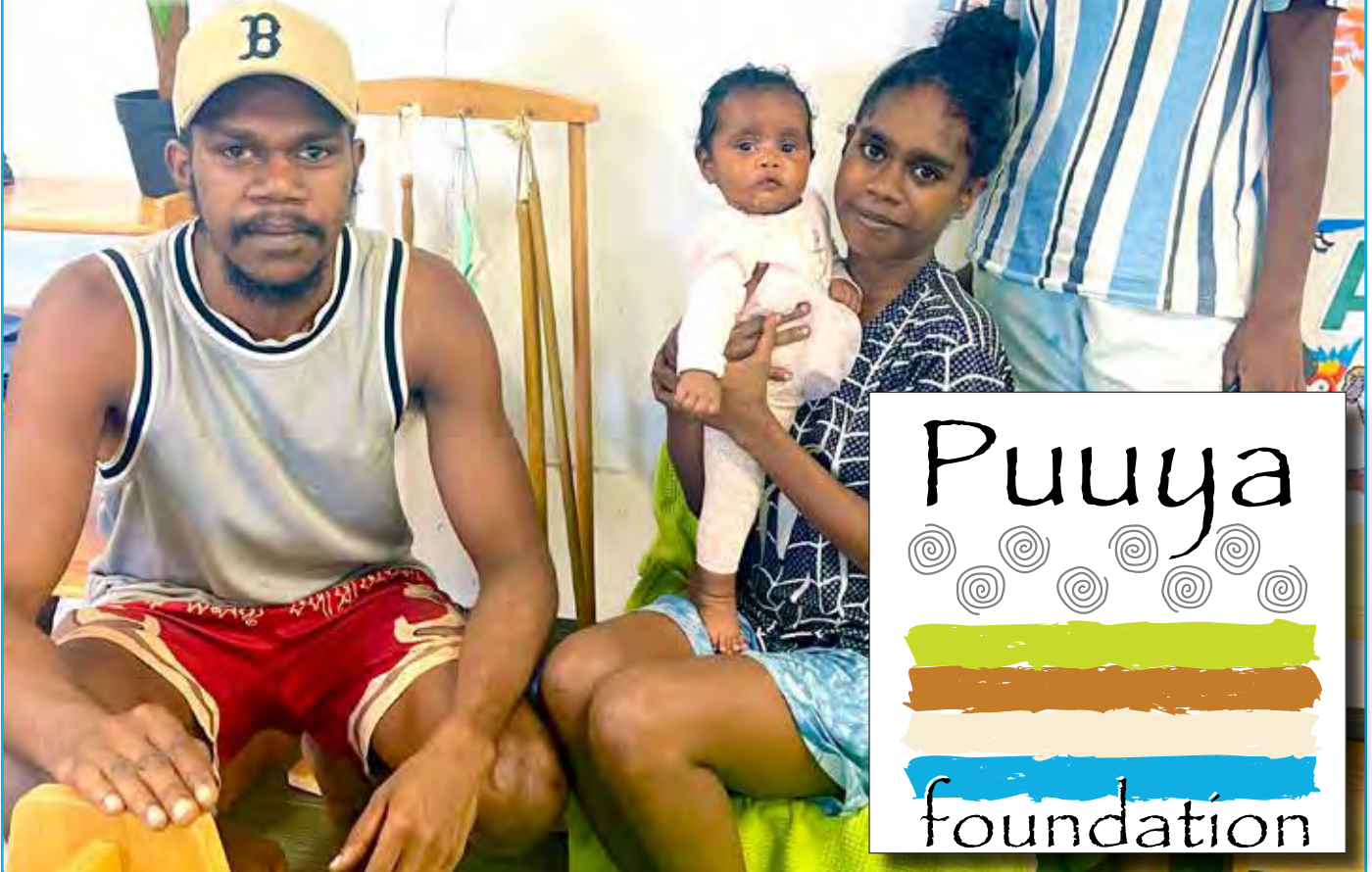
- **Available online for public access**

Up-to-date data and graphs are uploaded every hour and made available on the Queensland Government website, so anyone can check in and see what the ocean is doing.





With building operations underway at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre to open as a Licensed Child Care Centre, four of our staff members are nearing the completion of their Early Childhood Education studies.



Puuya
foundation

Staff are studying hard and went for one of their final TAFE Blocks in Cairns in June.

The Early Years Parenting Program held many fantastic events throughout Terms 1 and 2.

During the Easter break, there was song and dance with the Girls from Oz, weekly Culture Days and a special Mother's Day Luncheon to recognise

the love and effort that mothers, grandmothers, and aunties put into raising the children of our community.

The Strengthening Our Next Generation (SONG) program encouraged students to take the big leap to boarding school and provided support through that transition.

A big success this semester was partnering with Lockhart State School to see nine Lockhart boys apply and

be accepted into Mungalla Silver Lining School near Townsville.

The boys all moved down together and looked after each other in the change to their new school.

If your child would also like to go to boarding school or has already been accepted into one, and you would like additional support through the process, please come and see our staff.





The KK Centre also hosted a youth camp during the June school holidays.

Puuya
foundation

The Walking in Wellness camp was a cultural response to our youth's social and emotional wellbeing needs, and aimed to build resilience and important life skills needed to excel. They developed their skills in managing stress, fostering healthy relationships and building self-esteem. We also look forward to

working with our youth to create safe spaces for them to flourish.

The Puuya Foundation wishes to continue to be a central hub for all men, women and children in Lockhart River and we encourage anyone who would feel they would like extra support to come and see our staff to direct you to the services you need.



Footy is back!



Round One – Hope Vale 14 June 2025



Footy is back and the Lockhart River Scorpions boasts more than 30 players in a strong squad, ready to take on the Southern Cape Cluster.



Team manager Eddie Bobongie said they were keen.

"We're looking forward to it," he said.

"Rugby League is back in Cape York.

"It's great for the community to get the spirit of Rugby League back again.

"The Scorpions unite the community.

"We've got a lot of young and upcoming players who have always wanted to be Scorpions, so it will build that spirit and that's really great for everyone here.

"That's what sport does and that's what culture does, so we're looking forward to it."





Hope Vale 2025

Pics by Christine Howes





Hope Vale 2025

Pics by Christine Howes





Venue useful for all events

The Lockhart River Social Club's venue is so beneficial to the community as it holds get-togethers, socialising, meetings and discos, among other activities.

"It's really meant for everyone coming together, socialising and, yeah, just a good gathering place," said club manager Rex Cannon (pictured right).

"This place is used for all kinds of things – venue hire, catering.

"We even use it for youth discos, and we're going down the track of having movie nights and other events, so we can use this place for all sorts of things."



It has had to close now and then for sorry business reasons and because of break-ins.

Mr Cannon said the break-ins were "very disappointing".

"I think now and then, we just got to get the message across that it is their place and we just need to look

after it," he said.

"Especially the young ones, the youth.

"We had a lot of break-ins involving youth, and I think if they understood the purpose of this place and down the track, they could come here and enjoy themselves.

"It's a good space here."

