

# Waamta

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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## Council progressing professional training for staff



Council supervisors and team leaders have been taking part in a Team Leadership and Supervision training workshop, facilitated by Diane Price, earlier this month.

It was the second workshop in an ongoing series. "This workshop is about communication, delegation, managing performance, handling conflict situations, all the usual sorts of

leadership things, what it takes to be a good and effective leader," she said. "I find them a very participatory group, they're enjoying it and they seem to take a lot away from it.

"This program will finish at the end of the financial year so there will be another two days each in February and April, and then we'll look at performance in June."

*Merry Christmas*  
**LOCKHART RIVER** and  
*Happy New Year!!!*





*A word from...*

# Mayor Wayne Butcher

Firstly I want to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Lockhart River community and Council staff. Another year has just gone and I'm looking forward to 2013.

Sadly we have lost good people during 2012, and during the Christmas break we will inevitably be thinking of our loved ones.

I want to encourage everyone to have a safe Christmas with your families, and to remember this is a time to celebrate and have quality time with family.

I'd also like to congratulate our Council administration staff for our recent 2011-2012 Audit reports for the LRASC and the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company. Both reports received unqualified (good) Audits, with fewer high-risk issues raised

than ever before.

This indicates that administration of the Council is in good order and financially secure.

Our Accountant, Stanley, has a very good team in the Council office in Cairns who manage the bulk of the administration and finance of the LRASC.

This is the fourth successful year in a row for our Audit reports, which is a great achievement, not only for the current Council but also with thanks to the efforts of the previous Council as well. I would like to take this opportunity



to say thank you again to Lockhart River community people for electing myself and our very dedicated team of Councillors to our positions.

We are all working very hard for our community.

My role as a leader in the Council and the community is crucial to challenging the barriers we all face, as is working closely with community people to make positive changes.

As you all know, education is my passion and this Council will drive the education agenda in 2013 to ensure that every child in Lockhart gets a fair go at getting educated in primary and secondary schooling.

I'd also like to say the LRASC workforce has been brilliant over the past six months. Our aim as a Council is to continue restructuring the organisation and developing more employment opportunities for local Lockhart people.

As a Council we have challenged the workforce since April and we are very happy with the response.

We have witnessed great improvement and progress in such short time – our workers have shown great commitment and taken on greater responsibility.

LRASC will be introducing new policy in 2013 to employ more young people into the work structure to ensure we build local skills at a very young age.

We are also looking forward to major roadworks, eight new houses and a major upgrade of the store shed over the coming months.

There will be many new political and community challengers for the LRASC in 2013.

The promises of home ownership and freehold land title in the community, a new campground for tourists, our Alcohol Management Plan Review and the continuation of our education agenda are all before us.

So please family: enjoy your Christmas and New Year, keep it safe and with plenty of happiness, and I will look forward to working with you all again throughout 2013.

*Wayne Butcher*

Mayor  
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council



*Above & Left: Myself and Elder Patrick Butcher Snr (above) recently visited the Australian National Museum in Canberra. We were invited to assist and sort out a display of Lockhart River artifacts and craft. There is a canoe on display there, built by the late James Butcher (Patrick's father) on the banks of the Claudie River in Lockhart Community in 1976. It is believed to be the last dug-out canoe made in the Lockhart River area and it was amazing, it was in great condition and looked awesome on display. There were also other materials and paintings from our community, collected over the years for anthropological studies, which were also on display. The Lockhart River Community culture display will be there for four years.*

*The white fellow with me on the left is Athol Chase, an anthropologist who worked in Lockhart River in the 1970s.*







# Corporate Services



## Help with internet banking and business close at hand

ICT (Information Communication Technology) Data Officer Joseph Muchoki, left, has been busy working on improving the Council's infrastructure, particularly around the library, he says.

"The main agenda is mainly what the community will get from our library because I want them to be trained in IT and especially in things like banking, things like online shopping and finding government documents on the internet," he said.

"That's my main focus now.

"We have a number of computers in the library and they can even make a few others up from our library in our boardroom from those who needs specialised or personal care, personal training.

"I'm definitely available for people to come and book some training time with me, they can come to my office."



Pic courtesy Puuya Foundation



Senior Administration Officer Dora Accoom - pictured above left with cleaner and receptionist Faye Hobson is looking forward to a change of scenery when she heads down to Cairns for three weeks very soon while Finance Director Stanley Mugwiria (pictured right with Cairns-based staff Denise McGregor & Jane Mugwiria) is on leave. "When I get back Deanka will go back down to continue her studies," she said. Also pictured above is cleaner Priscilla Mattisey and Post Office/Bank Manager Lee-Ann Hatz.



# Tenant steering committee a work in progress

Every household in Lockhart River is expected to fill out a Housing Review Form, Housing Officer Jasmine Accoom wants to remind people.

She said she was there to help if anyone had any difficulties with the form.

She also said there were other changes.

“Tenants now have to pay for their own repairs, like broken doors or windows,” she said.

“I know the Maintenance Call Centre phone isn’t working at the moment, but that should be back next year.

“In the meantime, tenants are using their own phones or they can come and see me and I’ll send an email to the Centre.”

She said the number to call was 1300 738 616.

In other news, she said, renovations have been ongoing, with more to come, and the steering committee was now up and running.

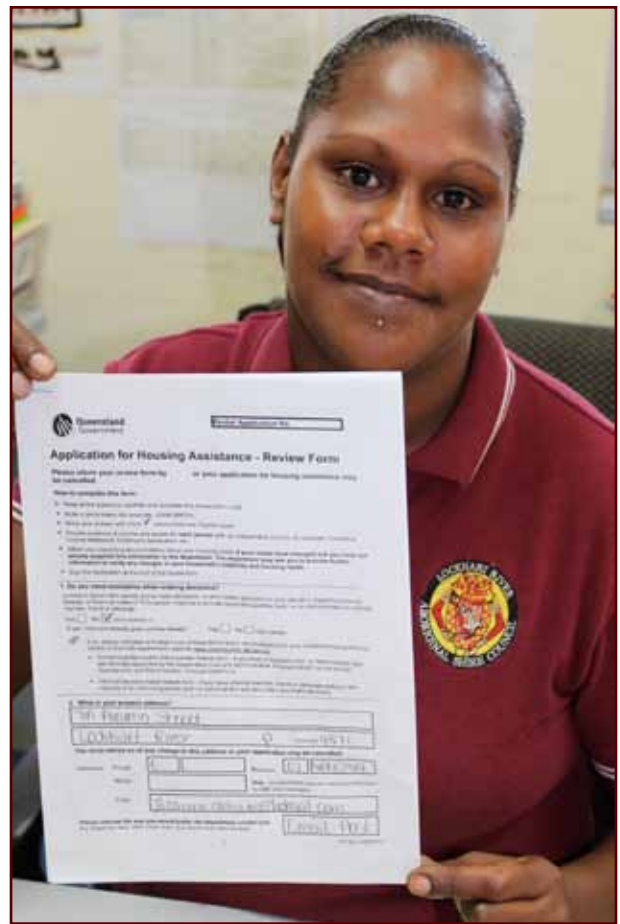
“The houses have been renovated inside, and now they’re working outside of the property, like building carports and new fence, gates and verandahs,” she said.

“The steering committee is called the Tenant’s Advisory Group and starting next year we’ll be having meetings every second week of the month.

“Chair is Marshall Symonds and secretary is Kaylene Koko, other members are Moira, Brian, Cr Bally and the reverend.

“They’re not there for maintenance issues, but they can have a yarn with the Group about violence in the houses or overcrowding and things like that.

“We’re still looking at what groups like this have done in other communities, so we’ll have more about that in the next Waanta.”



Jasmine has been Lockhart’s Housing Officer for about three years now. “But I’ve worked for the Council for five years,” she said. “I’ve been Sports and Rec Officer, back-up Centrelink agent, reception, admin and finance.”

# Airport & cabins in very good hands



*Deanka Omeenyo has spent some time in Cairns, studied, and came back with a set of well-rounded skills enabling her to take on the Iron Range Cabins and the aerodrome, alongside Natasha Accoom. The two have been working together while manager, Manfred, has been on leave. Deanka says next year she is looking forward to going back to the Cairns office and her usual role as Payroll Officer while she furthers her studies in Business Administration next year.*







# Engineering Services



*Black & More Partner/Principal Project Manager, Greg O'Brien (right), is the Partner responsible for the Project Management Division of Black & More. With more than 20 years experience, he is an expert in the management of civil projects including water, sewerage, roads, drainage and storm water. He is a Member of the Institution of Engineers Australia and the Australian Institute of Project Management.*



## Quintell Beach Development

Funding has been allocated for the construction of the Quintell Beach Camp Ground. This project is being managed by Council's engineers, Black & More. Two potential locations for the campsite have been identified.

One concept is located immediately to the north of the existing barge ramp with the other concept located to the south of the barge ramp.

Council is currently negotiating with local residents and traditional owners to determine which concept best meets the community's needs and aspirations.

Designs for the camp ground have been completed with tenders to be called once the final location of the campsite has been confirmed.

The proposed campsite development represents one component in an overall capital improvement campaign for Quintell Beach including the creation of parks and gardens, landscaping, beautification and improvements to the barge operational area.

These facilities will be a valuable asset to the local community and are designed to attract visitors and tourists to the local area who may have otherwise bypassed Lockhart River.

Construction works are likely to be to commence on site in early 2013 at the conclusion of the wet season.

## Lockhart River Council Store Upgrade

Tender documentation for the construction of a new shed to complement the existing Council Store has been prepared and issued to tenderers.

A construction contract for these works is likely to be awarded early in the new year with works to commence at the conclusion of the wet season.

These works have been designed to upgrade Council's existing storage and delivery capabilities.

The site has been surveyed and geotechnical investigations are scheduled to be undertaken prior to Christmas.

Council will be carrying out the construction of the carpark and civil works in early 2013 in preparation for the construction of the new store.

## Lockhart River NDRRA Works

Emergent works on the Lockhart River road network have now been completed.

Restoration works on the Lockhart River road network have recently been approved by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) which has provided funding for the works.

These works are currently being carried out by Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council in partnership with local contractors.

These partnerships have been highly successful, providing employment and training for members of the Lockhart River community. Additional rectification works are still being carried out on many of the Lockhart River roads and it is expected these will continue until the onset of the wet season.

## Lockhart River Lighting Upgrade

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council is liaising with Ergon Energy regarding the installation of street lighting in the community.

A number of additional areas which require lighting have been identified and Council is working with Ergon to ensure these areas are included in the scope of works. Ergon Energy is finalising its designs and expect to commence works once any environmental or cultural heritage issues have been addressed.

Works are likely to commence in early 2013.

## Iron Range Airstrip Maintenance

A funding application has been prepared and submitted for the upgrade to the Iron Range Airstrip.

This application was based on the upgrades and rectification works identified in the engineering report which was prepared for the airstrip earlier this year.

It is anticipated that works on this project can proceed as soon as the necessary funding has been secured.



# Building workforce getting better and better

Building Supervisor and Enterprise Development Manager, Colin Ford (*pictured*), says he is wearing a few hats at the moment, all well-supported by a very capable workforce.

“We’ve got a major Main Roads contract on for signage packages and we’ve got Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding and then we’ve got a major push on the road gang happening with QRA, which is Queensland Reconstruction Authority; that’s going

very well,” he said. “Internally, we’ve just been made the Q-Build agent for the area, and the Department of Communities have relinquished some of their power as well, which is great, but it puts the load right on the workforce. “We’ve had a big turnaround in the workforce attendance recently. “The last couple of months I’ve been here we’ve managed to get our attendance right up, so that’s good. “There’s 12 major renovations that have just been finished and the Council plumbing section is in on that and doing very well. “We’ve also got a lot of occupational therapy jobs underway. “Normally, they would do 28 jobs a month for Council;

we’re upwards of 45 to 50 at the moment so things are turning around, but we’re still struggling with lack of numbers and capacity. “Building is a hard thing in a remote place, but we’re starting to get there. “On the whole, the whole workforce have lifted up to the game and they’re doing very well. “Out of the cutbacks in government, there’s some positive things – Lockhart has a very progressive Council. “We are able to deliver a lot of things in services, and our responsive staff are quicker than ever before. “It’s all positive for Lockhart. “We’re growing at capacity so we’re looking forward to a big year next year.”



## Clearing the decks for Christmas

Electrician Tony Bainbridge says they are working very hard at the moment to try and clear the decks before Christmas.

“We won’t be able to do everything before then, but we’ll do our best,” he said. “It’s a matter of priorities, so the less-important jobs will have to wait maybe until after Christmas, which isn’t all that long. “I have what you might call an Electrical Assistant James Macumboy who is he’s very helpful. “He’s just away, down in Cairns, at the moment. “I’ve been here almost a year and I’ve seen big changes already. “The old cars has always been a thing with me and they’re gradually getting taken to the dump over time. “And the other thing is the town is tidy now compared to what it was, and that’s very good for morale.”



*Above: Electrician Tony Bainbridge, Carpenter Brian May and Trade Assistant Daniel Short*



*Above: Contractors Simmo, Shane & Jess*



*Left: Contractors Sam & Vinnie*







*Above: Lockhart River's road gang: L-R: Cecil Macumboy, George Brown, Jim Hobson, Billy Sandy, Chris Bally & Solomon Hobson*

**Council Store Manager Matthew Redman** – pictured right with road gang supervisor **Solomon Hobson** – says he is looking forward to a new concrete apron at the Store.

In particular he is hoping it will help when they officially become the local Sea Swift Agent in early January.

“That means we’ll be doing all the freight from out of our store shed, not down on the barge on the beach anymore, so they’ll be no more rubbish left down there, it all gets brought up here,” he said. “So everything will come here every Monday afternoon after the barge comes in and unloads in the morning.”



**Workshop Supervisor Joshua Hubbard** says other than a few too many absences, the workshop is going well.

“We got three on including myself – two local apprentices and a tyre fitter,” he said.

“They’re both in third year and they’re both going back for last blocks at TAFE, so that will be good.

“Hopefully they’ll finish so we can take on some new workers some time next year.”

*Pictured Left above: Frankie Hobson & Stanley Short*

*Right above: Apprentice Plumber Morgan Hobson & Labourer Edward Dean*





# Puuya Foundation learning circles focus on education outcomes



## Lots of progress was made at the second Lockhart River Education Learning Circle held in Cairns in October, Puuya Foundation chair Dottie Hobson says.

“Progress was made for education and for our Early Years Learning and Parenting project, which will provide a good foundation for education in Lockhart River,” she said. Puuya Foundation Director Veronica Piva said early learning with involved parents was the key.

“Early learning with involved parents is the key, others can’t do it for them, the parents need the skills and knowledge to give their children the right opportunities,” she said.

CEO Denise Hagan said there were already early years programs in Lockhart.

“Playgroup, Families Together, Families as First Teachers (FAFT), Parents and Learning (PaL) and school are all for the early years,” she said.

“We aim to have them working better together, building on their strengths.”

The Learning Circles have helped the community leaders involved to clarify their vision for a centre for children and families, with integrated services for early childhood education and care, parenting and family support and child

and maternal health services. Mayor Wayne Butcher has said: “We need to ensure that every child in this community is given a fair go at getting educated.... We need to be driving these changes, not being the passengers”.

Principal John McSweeney reported progress in school attendance, behaviour and resulting improvements in educational outcomes because the community and school leaders are working together. “Every class has shown an improvement in reading since the beginning of the year,” Mr McSweeney said.

“There is a steady and consistent improvement in NAPLAN – reading, spelling, writing, grammar, punctuation and numeracy across years 3, 5 and 7. Some individual students have made substantial gains.” There has also been good progress in secondary schooling through the partnership with Council, Transition Support Services (TSS), School and PaCE.

A number of students have gone back to secondary schools, most year 7’s have schools for

next year and TSS has drafted a book (‘Partner Boarding School Profiles’) to help parents choose the right high school for their children.

PaCE Chair Greg Pascoe raised concerns about PaCE funding ending in December this year. “We need to talk with Minister Garrett and DEEWR to keep this funding going for Lockhart River,” he said.

At the end of the day, there was strong commitment by all present to continue with the Lockhart River Education Learning Circles next year.

Many said that they felt inspired by the actions taken, the vision and commitment of community leaders and empowered by the discussions with positive partners.

Ms Hobson acknowledged the support of everyone concerned.

For more information on the Puuya Foundation, Lockhart River Education Learning Circles or the Early Years Learning and Parenting Project, contact Chair Dottie Hobson or CEO Denise Hagan 0419 681 025 [denisehagan@puuyafoundation.com.au](mailto:denisehagan@puuyafoundation.com.au)











2012 LR Primary School Concert







# Community Development Team



*Above: Kaylene Koko & Mavontae Moses; and Right: Mawella Warradoo, Irene Clarmont & Chloe Accoom*

## Wipe your Neeyi, No More Kukulu,

Lockhart kids have big problems with their ears and many kids have trouble hearing.

That makes it hard for them to pay attention and to learn to read and write. But simple things like getting kids to blow their nose will mean less ear infections and less deafness.

Selma Kum Sing from the Queensland Hearing Loss Family Support Service has been coming to Lockhart to see what the community can do about ear health and hearing loss.

She has held group discussions with people from the Clinic, Council and the Health Action Team, and a few ideas are currently being tested.

One was to develop locally-owned resources starring Lockhart kids.

The message was 'Breathe, Blow, Cough' but in a fun way so the kids would remember and want to listen. A music video starring Lockhart kids at Kid's Club has just finished being recorded and produced.

Dietician Matt Topping heard a musician was coming to Lockhart







# Need some quals? Noeleen can help!

Employment and Training Co-ordinator Noeleen Clark is happy to be back in Lockhart River and helping people get trained up once again.

“I will be doing this until the end of June next year until the funding runs out,” she said.

“Anyone who wants training in any way, shape or form or upskilling is more than welcome to come and see me at any time.

“That includes anyone on Council projects, or anyone who has any interest training whether it be co-ordinators who want their staff trained or members of the community.”



*Enjoying the new HACCS refurbishments were Beverley Hobson & Leila Clarmont (right). Not only does it have a bright new paint job, the Centre also has brand new furniture and curtains throughout - very flash!*



# Yupla Sabi! It's music to their ears!

as part of a men's nutrition team so he passed on the message.

As a result medical student and musician Joel Wenitong - a founding member of Last Kinecton - offered his talent recording, mixing and making the video.

He has many years experience working in ear health in Newcastle, so was ideal to help write and record the 'Snot Song'.

Kid's Club After School Care

workers Margie Hobson and Emily Pascoe helped add some Lockhart words:

*Wipe your Neeyi  
No more Kuku  
Yupla Sabi!*

The music video starred Mashonda on vocals, with Nguumpii, Barney, Herbert, Telsey, Zoe and Troy.

People involved were Indigenous Community Development Worker with Queensland Hearing Loss Family Support Service in

Townsville Selma Kum Sing, Apunipima Cape York Health Council's Dietician Matthew Topping, Men's Health Team Leader Bernard David and 3rd year medical student from Last Kinecton Joel Wenitong.







# School hols activities in planning

**Youth at Risk Initiative (YARI) Co-ordinator Ray Genn has been working hard with offsider Richard Piva to gear up for the Christmas holidays.**



“We’re gearing up for the Christmas gigs, which are the Christmas barbecue and the Cemetery clean-up on the 24th of December,” he said.

“They also have a barbecue there for the community; the local band will also be invited to play along to that.

“There will be music, dancing and potentially some karaoke.

“And also within the school holidays, there are other activities such as workshops for the children.

“We’re looking at putting a mural down at the

Community Hall and a face-lift at the Quintell Beach with a mural.

“The kids will be all involved in the design and the application of the paint and we’ll also have another guy, whose name is Daniel, he goes by the name of Morganics.

“What he does is creates music and so we’re hoping to have close-to-professional productions of four songs with inclusive film clips to go along with that, and that’s an ongoing relationship with a dance

theatre that came in the last holidays to do dance workshops with the kids.

“So, over the next three years they’ll be more presence with Morganics ADT, which is the Australian Dance Theatre, which will look at opening up opportunities for the kids to get into the dance theatres nation wide.

“Other ongoing things are activities such as the movie nights, the spontaneous day trips out to the waterfall, swimming hole.”





# Stay out of the Courts (!) says Willie

Justice Group Co-ordinator Willie Clark has committed years of his life to justice in Lockhart River, working hard to keep people out of Court and hoping for a better life for everyone.

“What I try and tell the people in the community is you need to say no, and think twice before you do anything silly, make the right decision,” he said.

“It’s better for yourself, saving you going to court.

“No one else pays your fine.

“It leaves you in a stressful way.

“It leaves you with no money.

“I would like to see your life change next year and think about changing your life with your family.

“Alcohol is not the answer to all your problems.

“I just want to see you have a better life, change a better life here in this community.

“I keep saying the same faces going to court every time.

“As the Justice Co-ordinator here and in the community I like people to understand I’m here to help them, no matter what problems they have.

“Come and see me for any problems you have regarding Court cases, family problems, child safety issues, any matters that you have problems with.

“I would like to see all the elders and other family cause it’s your business to help those trying to take their own lives, especially around suicide.

“We don’t want to see any of our young



people go, but during this Christmas break I want everybody to be safe and start looking after each other and have a better, safe time for Christmas.

“And for next year I’d really like to see 100 per cent of kids going to school and more parents attending school’s meetings to find out how their kids are going in school because in a couple of years time our kids will be going to high school after year 7 they’ll be going outside the community and they need to be prepared for that.

“From the Justice Group, I would like to thank my members for supporting me, attending my meetings.

“Best of wishes in the new year.”

# Take it slow, be good, says Ethel

Women’s Shelter Co-ordinator, and member of the Justice Group, Ethel Singleton has a similar message.

“All the staff would just like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,” she said.

“And, just take it slow and drink in moderation and behave yourself.

“We wouldn’t like to see families break up over Christmas.

“We want to see them all together enjoying themselves.

“Hopefully we won’t be busy over Christmas, but the trend already suggests we might be, which is sad.”

Ethel has just completed her Attainment in the Homelessness Course.

“I passed that so I’m happy with that,” she said.

“Homelessness is a problem everywhere and it is global.

“I have had the same staff now for some years and I’d like to see them get into some training.

“I think it’s essential that they do that, especially in homelessness and domestic violence – that’s our core business at the Women’s Shelter.”







# Plenty to do at Kid's Club!

**Lockhart River Kid's Club is open Monday to Thursday after school from 2.45-5pm, and joins with YARI at the Community Hall on Friday nights for a movie or disco.**

Margie Hobson and Emily Pascoe, who started at the beginning of August, and Lisa Butcher, who started at the beginning of October to help out on movie nights and school holidays, have lots of activities going on during the week. "The kids particularly enjoy art and craft activities with the 5-in-1 easels for painting, white board, black board, felt board and magnetic board," Community Support Co-ordinator for the LRASC Community Development Team Cate Adams said.

"We have been running very successfully since our new staff started in early August.

"Recently Lisa Butcher started, helping out when we are busy. "It's quite an achievement to have the Kid's Club open every day so staff – and the kids! – should be proud of the good work they're doing.

"We've had between 15 and 40 kids attending every day, and 30 - 60 on Friday nights.

"We cater for primary school aged kids 5-12 and do anything and everything from dress-ups and painting to sport.

"Michael Morris from PCYC has come up a few times to do some sport activities with the kids.

"Matt, the nutritionist from Apunipima, has been doing 'Fun with Healthy Food' activities every month. We've also had Jo from Apunipima's dental health come and talk to the kids about brushing their teeth.

"She gave them toothbrushes and holders to keep at Kid's Club as well as some to take home.

"So there's been plenty going on and we're excited about the school holiday activities we have planned as well."





# More murals on the way

Word around Lockhart River is that everyone **LOVES** the six new murals around town, put together with the help of the Lockhart River Art Centre and CDEP.

The mural project was started by the Art Centre and later received funding from Creative Livelihoods, whose grand vision was to have Lockhart covered in murals for a fresher, brighter and more colourful look around town.

Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation Cultural Retention Officer Tammie Davidson said there was more to come.

The murals so far:

Library building:

- by Kevin Matty, and
- a communal board by more than a dozen people

CDEP building:

- by Nicholas Bally and Norm Young

Council office:

- by Elder Lawrence Omeenyo

Art Centre:

- by Adrian King

Airport terminal:

- by Silas Hobson

These six murals join the very first one done by the Men's Group at the Men's Centre.

A launch and morning tea at the CDEP office was attended by several dozen people including Elder Lawrence Omeenyo who drummed and sang.

Cr Josiah Omeenyo, who holds the Arts Portfolio with Council and officiated, thanked everyone in Lockhart who helped paint the murals, as well as the Art Centre and CDEP for their assistance.

Peter and Tammie from the Art Centre thanked everyone who helped create the



murals at the Art Centre and at public sessions held near the library. They also thanked the Lockhart Shire Council for its support of the project. Several murals are still being worked on, with more to be installed at the Community Hall, Playgroup building and school. There are plenty of spare boards to go around, and anyone is welcome to come along to the Art Centre to take part – please come in and see Peter or Tammie!







# Need some help getting to high school?

Community Officer for the Transition Supports System Krystal Dean plays an important role helping year 7s and their parents prepare for high schooling down south.

“I’m based here to work in the community just to help them here, like to home visits with parents and everything,” she said.

“But my role here is to work with the year 7s here, just helping them get everything ready for next year.

“So things like getting the forms signed and sending them down to schools, and helping them with photocopy or email and fax.

“They can also come to me if they want me to look up which schools they want to go to.

“For the kids, I go into their class every Wednesday, taking two or three aside to talk to them about high school – what they will be getting from high school and just making them aware of what high school is like when they leave the community and the changes they’ll experience.

“My message to the kids would be don’t get too homesick. I know it’s your first time going out to boarding school, but just make new friends and make sure you phone home, just phone home whenever they feel homesick. “I tell their parents to come into my office to use the phone just to give them a call or give the schools a call. And we also have Skype here so they can Skype from this school to whatever schools they are at.”



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Human Services**

Are you currently studying or considering:

- Training
- Further education or
- High School

Have you claimed ABSTUDY?

Contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 132 317 to lodge your claim or visit your nearest Service Centre or Agent.

humanservices.gov.au

# Rangers working hard to prepare for wet season

Ranger Facilitator Danielle Hudson (*right*) is well trained for her work, as are all five rangers currently onboard.

“We’ve just finished our Operational Health & Safety, and Small Motor Mechanics, and then we’re doing the big one – a Cert III in Cultural Management of Country,” she said.

“There are five of us at the moment and we’re all at the same level.

“Everything is winding down now, coming to the end of the year.

“We’ve just put in for some more funding to put on some more rangers and we’ll know the outcome of that by January.

“At the moment we’re all just getting ready for the wet because we know we’ll be stuck in the community, so we’re going to try and



concentrate on weeds, feral animals and just beautifying the community.

“Problems that come with the wet season are things like erosion.

“So we’re also concentrating on the beach which has a very bad erosion problem.

“We’re going to try and combat that by planting trees and getting community involved in that too.

“I think overall we’re all looking forward to the near year and saying goodbye to this one.”





# Doing things by the by-law

As Council by-laws are put into place it's the job of Local Law Enforcement Officer Chris Penn to make sure they are followed.

His primary focus for now is on animal management, part of which is about organising regular veterinary visits. "We give contraception to the female



dogs and give tick-and-flea and worming treatment to all the dogs," he said.

"If they've had any bites or scraps or anything like that, we give them a penicillin shot.

"We put down a lot of the mangy dogs, so now most of the dogs here now, people own and want.

"I run a pound; if they get caught in the school they get instantly impounded and then you have four days to come and get them.

"If you don't come and get them, I'll put them down.

"I put leaflets out when the vet comes.

"I've also been in negotiation with Council about what we're going to do with the horses.

"I wanted to move them out of town, but people actually own them; they don't do anything with them but they own them.

"So, we're going to try and get a spot close enough to town that they're not in town, but close enough that people can, if they do want to do anything with them."

## Lockhart's latest 'Taj Mahal' open for business

It is an exciting time for Lockhart police, writes new OIC Sergeant Warren Murdock.

There has been a number of developments since the last edition, not least of which is opening of the new Lockhart police station and accompanying Court house or, as we like to call it, the Lockhart Taj Mahal.

Three of our officers have now moved on – Dave Holmes to Cairns, and Murray and Alison Sanewski, to Cunnamulla.

They have been replaced by myself Warren Murdock, my wife, Constable Annie Murdock and Constable Alan Taylor.

Senior Constable Matt Male is still with us however rumours are he, wife Miss Ruth and their beautiful new edition, baby daughter Joanna, may soon be following Dave's lead and also moving down to Cairns.

My wife and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the friendly manner in which the community has welcomed us to town. I can honestly say since arriving here in January the community has been an absolute pleasure to police and quite the contrast from policing in Surfers Paradise from whence I came, not that I didn't enjoy my time there as well.

It is also particularly encouraging



to see the way that the Council, the Justice Group, the school, the clinic, government organisations and community groups are prepared to come together with police in an effort to tackle the current issues relevant to Lockhart.

For those of you who don't yet know me I am more than happy to discuss any concerns or initiatives that you may have.

I am keen to learn from you and be flexible in my policing approach, with particular consideration to cultural matters and the myriad of issues associated with living in a remote community.

Whilst policing requires a varied focus, my

current priorities for Lockhart are reducing domestic violence, establishing a PCYC or similar recreational centre to engage the community and assisting the community in getting drivers licences.

Far too many people are ending up in jail for driving without one, but they can often be attained quite easily.

Remember: even if you have been disqualified for life, you can apply to get your license back after just two years.

Come and see me if you want to find out more.





# Farewell well-attended for Dr Charles Ellis

*Most of Lockhart River know Dr Charles Ellis, who has been coming to Lockhart with RFDS for almost 10 years, Senior Health Worker at the Lockhart River Health Centre Karen Koko writes.*

Last month was his last 'official' visit to the community as he has decided to move to Brisbane next year to be closer to his family.

Dr Charles was great, he really cared about the health of the community members.

I would like to thank him for his commitment and dedication to improving our community's health over the years.

A community BBQ was organised to say thank you for all the years that Dr Charles has been coming to Lockhart.

Tuesday 20th November was the big night and most of the community turned up to say 'thank you' and 'goodbye'.

There was laughing and dancing and even some crying (including from Dr Charles!!) but overall everyone had a great time.

I would like to thank the following people:

Auntie Dottie Hobson and Ray Genn, without your support this never could have happened; Eddie Sailor and his crew from Jobfind, who decorated the community hall with the coconut leaves. You did a great job! Erica from Jobfind, for preparing the salads and supplying the garlic bread.

Marshall Symonds, who donated the drinks for the event.

Paul Piva, for picking up people in the bus and doing the cooking and Ethel Singleton and Wayne Butcher for the speeches you made.

And most of all a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Josiah Omeenyo and Uncle Leffy who organized for the Lockhart River Dancers to perform for Dr Charles.

Dr Charles was sad to be leaving but we never know, he might come back for a visit one day!!

**From all the staff at the clinic, goodbye Dr Charles and best of luck.**



*Pics with thanks to Karen Koko*



The font used in this newsletter is called 'Dyslexie' and is a special typeface designed for people who have difficulty reading, especially people with dyslexia so they can read more easily.

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This Waanta was written, photographed, edited and produced by Christine Howes, except where otherwise stated, for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council © 2012. Feedback or contributions are welcome, please email the Editor at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au) or see Council reception. The next issue of Waanta is due to be published in March 2013.