

Waaunta

NEWSLETTER

December 2014

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

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LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

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



Pride of our Community
Years 6 & 7 celebrate!





A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

Firstly, I'd like to say Merry Christmas to the whole community, my fellow Councillors and Council staff Mayor Wayne Butcher writes.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, enjoyable and a happy 2014 Christmas and welcomes the 2015 New Year in peace.

I think we're all deserving a break this year; it's been a very sad year for Lockhart. We've lost too many of our families, Lockhart people, this year, we've buried too many of them and had too many funerals.

Condolences

My condolences go out to all the families again, everyone will miss their loved ones this Christmas, so my heart and thoughts are with them.

There's some community unrest at the moment and I'm hoping people will be able to put that behind them over the Christmas break.

I think the sad times, the funerals and the pressure, must have got to our families but now we need to look forward to 2015 and try to really enjoy our Christmas.

We need that Christmas spirit back in town here again.

We need to do some happy activities for everybody, bring the community back together.

There has been some planning around sports and rec activities for the whole community for the Christmas/ New Year break and I'd like to encourage people to time to relax and reflect on 2014 and enjoy themselves.

Housing

In other news, we're getting momentum now with our housing program and the new constructions.

By March next year we should have 8-10 new houses.

Next year we will slowly be finished filling in the sub-division and get more housing. We need to break the community up a bit - overcrowding is a big issue.

We got 52 people on the waiting list and we only got 28 lots on that sub-division, so we're only just going to get over half way, but if we fill the sub-division up as quick as we can maybe there's a possibility of building another one and getting some more houses.

Fences

We also got the Fencing Program, which is going along really well now.

It's making the community look good and I'm encouraging people to take a bit more pride in their yards, clean it up and get some plants in there.

Now you have the fences up, there isn't any excuse to not keep your dogs in your yard and keep the cows and horses out of the yard too.

A fence is only as good as the gate shut.

We're getting a lot of driveways too, so there will be concrete driveways into a lot of houses.

Upgrades

There's a few other upgrades; there's four or five houses that are going to get major upgrades as well as a lot of replacement bathroom.

So, there's a fair bit of work around housing.

The other thing we're concentrating on is town beautification, so we've just planted in a heap of trees and shrubs in the park here, and we've got more foxtail palms coming in line in the entrance of the community on either side and a 'Welcome to Lockhart' sign.





Year 12 graduates: Left: Cr Butcher with Brandon Piva, Arthur Pascoe and Ethan Pascoe at Abergowie College; Below left: Arthur Jason Pascoe Jnr with his grandmother Sue Pascoe also at Abergowie College; and Below: Tristan Elu at Nudgee College with his parents Morgan & Rebecca



PDR & Roads

And finally on the Peninsula Development Road, the Lockhart Council along with the Cape Indigenous Mayor's Alliance (CIMA) has been lobbying very hard for communities to have access to employment and business opportunities as construction on that goes ahead.

There's a fair bit of seal that's going to go on between Laura and Weipa over the next five years.

We're pushing for employment opportunities for people from Lockhart to work out there next year.

We want opportunities for

Traditional Owners as well as Indigenous business owners on Cape York.

That's going to be a big project over the next five years, and the Lockhart Road to as well.

We've just got another \$2 million invested into doing the Lockhart Road, so we're looking at probably rolling out some culverts and causeways next year as well and putting down a bit more seal.

I think over the next few years the road is only going to get better and there will be a lot of economic opportunities that flow on from it.

Once upon a time it was hard to get any produce to the market, whether it was cattle or

fisheries or any agriculture.

I think by the road being good it'll cut the cost on freight, the cost of getting to and from Cairns or Weipa.

It'll be a lot cheaper and easier as well.

I think it's going to be exciting over the next few years with the housing investment and the roads investment.

It's given the Council – the Council being the principal contractor in the delivery of roads and housing – it's given us an economic opportunity too, as well.

Continued next page...





CIMA

CIMA will be meeting in mid-December with TOs and Cape York Indigenous business owners to workshop around looking for a capability partner or capacity-building partner – someone who can build roads, bridges, and how we can partnership for them for outcome for Cape York in the long run.

The beauty of that is we're doing it from the ground up because it's actually come up from people on the ground. We already have support

from Cook Shire and from the government as well.

So, how we design this partnership arrangement is very important, and if it works it will be a good template to use across the board in any other future investments.

CEO

Finally it's unfortunate our CEO Ian Bodhill, who we recruited about four months ago, has some health issues so he's off on leave at the moment until the end of January.

In the meantime we have recruited David Clarke, a former CEO and resident of Lockhart, who knows the local government system, knows how government works and knows Lockhart people – that's the most important part.

We'll be keeping our fingers crossed that Ian will recover well enough to return to us, we'd all like to wish him that and a Merry Christmas to him and his family, we'll hope to see him again in 2015.

Wayne Butcher
Mayor, Lockhart River



Teachers and staff leaving Lockhart this year are pictured above with Mayor Wayne Butcher. They were given a traditional and very emotional send-off at the end of year concert by Father Bryan and the singers below.





A word from the CEO...

‘In days of old when men were gold’, CEO David Clarke recalls, all the community would come together at Christmas and have a big dance competition where teams would practice and train for at least a month beforehand, he writes.



In the old days, Christmas dancing was really big Island style. Families would join to get their own dance team together and style up with old and new dances. After that big kup murri, so it was very communal, very much a sense of Lockhart as a society. We all remember these great times when everyone would come together, Para, Pama, kids everyone.

It’s been lovely to come home and be received so warmly by the Lockhart family. For my column here in Waanta, I want to touch on the things that bring us together. I want to focus on the positive things that strong family leadership can bring. You all have your own naarchi and traditional obligations and rights over that naarchi but we all live here in Lockhart. Things like Laura and Christmas dancing, our sport, our art, the way we look after each other during our sad times, these are the things that bring us together – these are the best things about our community. Our strong culture and our Lockhart identity are the cement that binds us and keeps us strong.

We want to try and bring back that mind-set from those old people who aren’t with us any more but who cared deeply about our community and wanted to make sure we moved forward as a town with a shared purpose, not just as a group of families. In particular we need parents and families to step up when our young people are talking wrong and say: ‘no, that’s not the way we do things, we work together here, we don’t work apart’. We got a lot of positives to focus our attention on – the Mayor’s already talked about some of those – the new sub-division and the new housing we’re building, the road works that we’re delivering, the small business development we are encouraging, the potential for home ownership. We are full of potential.

This place is very special to me personally for a range of reasons. A lot of friends and my Lockhart family here – you have always been very close to my heart and everyone knows I met my wife and had my kids here who were always loved and cared for by you the people of Lockhart. It’s where my family calls home.

There’s lots of things that are different and a fair few things that are still the same. These days the Council tends to be more just the boss of local government matters in theory. In practice Council still does an awful lot more than normal local governments do. But the Councillors and myself do these things because it’s what we need to do as a community to make our community better. It’s about setting the vision together and working out how we’re going to manage the challenges that are coming towards us. We can only stand up to these challenges by standing shoulder to shoulder together as one. Work with us and stand united as Lockhart.

So my friends enjoy your break, thank you for your work during the year, look after one another and have a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

David Clarke
CEO, LRASC





Corporate Services

How to utilise a good audit report to achieve good operating results

With the conclusion of the external annual audit by Auditor General (Queensland Audit Office), Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire has once again received unqualified audit report for the 2013-14 financial year. This is a good report and has now been achieved for six years in a row.

This serves as strong evidence our finance and administration team is determined to maintain financial discipline within the Council's operations.

The bottom-line operating results achieved were below the budget target mainly due to transfer loss of 51 houses on 40 years lease agreement with Queensland Government.

Nevertheless, the team is now focussed on achieving positive operating results during the 2014/15 financial year as stipulated in the budget proposal. The message is that our good audit report should be

translated into good operating results.

The finance team has continued to support major construction projects in housing and roadworks through periodic reporting and acquittals.

Despite the fact that these projects have additional workload for the finance team to bear, we have done everything to our best in this support role. Christmas break is around the corner and everybody in finance and administration is looking forward to it after such a busy year.

We will close office on 19 December 2014 to resume on 5 January 2015.

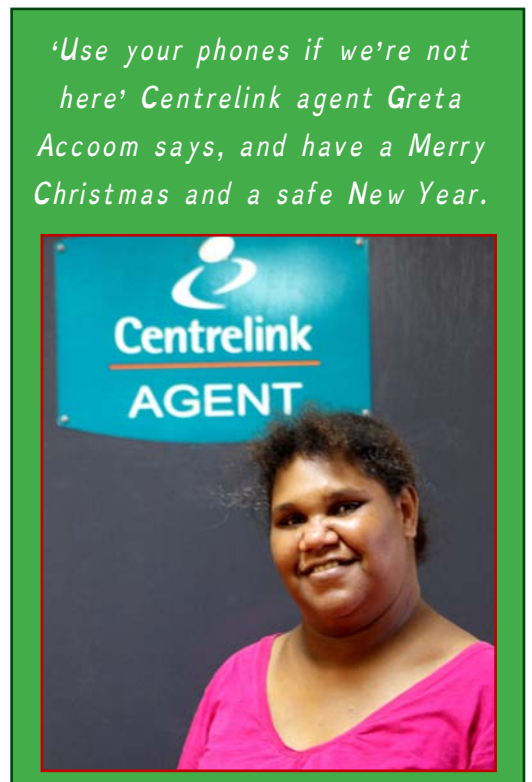
During the Christmas break, we will be open for limited hours to provide banking, post office and Centrelink services to the community members.

Details will be released soon from the administration office.

We are very keen to attract and train young people within the community to develop and progress finance careers.

Any young person with interest in numbers should contact Stanley Mugwiria (Finance & Administration Manager) for mentorship into finance roles within his team at the commencement of 2015 calendar year.

HAVE MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Top Right: Faye Hobson in the Post Office; Above Jasmine and Dora Accoom



Community Development Team

While Community Development Director Dottie Hobson is on leave, Christine Stewart has taken up the reins, preferring to keep a low profile and let the Team's work speak for itself, she said the only news she had to share concerned the radio, which should be up and running by the time this Waanta goes to print.

She said Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media (GRAM) has reported that the new microwave TX is now being purchased, and the radio service to Lockhart River will be restored within the next few weeks.

"Thank you to Lockhart River Council for their support in getting this done," they said. Christine also wants to wish the community all the best for the coming Christmas and New Year Season.



Above: Women's Shelter workers Lorraine Clarmont and Ethel Singleton were keen to see everyone in the community look after each other, they said. "I will still be working over Christmas and we'll have Maria here too," Ms Clarmont said. "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and be careful and look after one another."



Steady, steady is the word from Men's Group Coordinator Rodney Accoom.

He said Lockhart had had a sad year but they were still there if they were needed.

"We're trying to get things going, and steady, steady we're getting there," he said.

"This is a bad year for us.

"If there are men in the community here having a tough time, they should come over.

"We got two tarps here now set up on the side so when we start doing the carvings we can sit under the shade and work from there, we're hoping to get some movies on soon and there's always band practice."

Below: HACC worker Bessie Hobson says all the staff were looking forward to having their end of year Christmas celebrations on the beach! It's a busy time of year for them, even with a client or two off the books while they take a break down south. We have about 22 clients at the moment," she said. "We decided after we do our barbecue with our clients, we are going to do some Christmas wrapping for the children here for Christmas Day as well."





YARI Trip to Hopevale

Congratulations to the group of Lockhart Rivers young leaders who headed to Hopevale for a leadership camp with Creative Tracks and the Hopevale Arts and Culture Centre.

This was a great opportunity for Lockhart's young people to meet and form friendships with Hopevale youth and build on their leadership skills.

Camping out on country at the beautiful Billy Boil farm provided an amazing opportunity to share and learn. Big thank you to Hopevale Art Centre, the crew at Creative Tracks and Council for their support!!

Greita and Beno will be putting on plenty of activities for young people all school holidays.

Look out for a program near you!!



p8: Top: Jacinta, Fran, Brooke and Leah enjoying the beautiful Hopevale beaches; Above Left: Jacinta and Claudia cooking for all the kids; Above Right: Sharing Shake-a-leg with Hopevale youth; Left: Celebrating Halloween; Below: Creative tracks filming the group in their hilarious "Survivor in Samoa" episode. p9: Clockwise: Beno and Tremain catching sharks with spears they made in a culture workshop; Condoman and Lubilicious made an appearance at the Lockhart River Health Expo; Drug education on camp; and, Learning traditional Samoan dance.





Business mentoring and training still high on Noleen's list

Senior Admin and Finance Officer, Training and Employment and Business Mentor Noleen Clark says things have been busy with changes to staffing arrangements in the Lockhart office but other than that things were well on track.

“Business mentoring is still alive for those that would like to go ahead and have a business if at all possible,” she said.

“Training is still going ahead and hopefully we’ll have a timetable for training after Christmas.”

She said paperwork was proving to be challenging for her two proteges already up and running.

“But they’re doing well,” she said.

“In other news I recently escorted Massy Pascoe to Bond University for a scholarship presentation ceremony – she’s the first person from this community to win a scholarship to university.”

Well done Massy!



Peter Ropeyarn (above) and Jimmy Hobson (left) with their new businesses – a water truck and a bulldozer, both working on roads around town.



Congratulations Y



Years 6 & 7 - enjoy high school!





**Congratulations to the
2014 Lockhart River State
Primary School Best
Attendees - well done!!!**

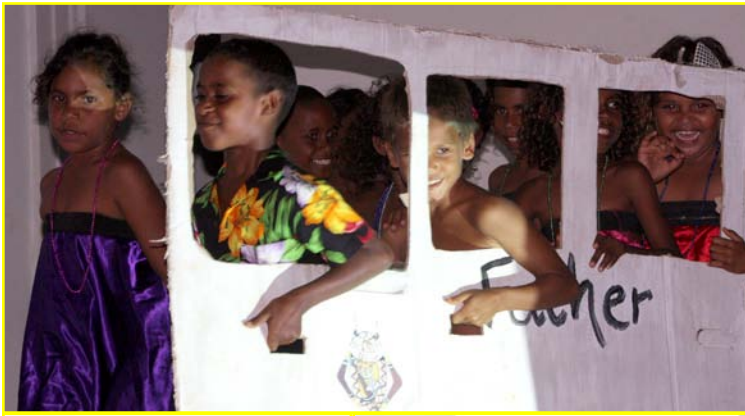


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C O N C E R T 2014



PRIMARY SCHOOL CONCERT 2014





It has been a really busy year for the Puuya Foundation with our continued emphasis on early years activities for parents and children.

Waves and smiles greeted the arrival of the Kuunchi Kakana (Families Together) Centre's new bus as it did the first of its rounds of the Lockhart River community.

The bus has been out and about transporting parents and kids to activities on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Puuya Foundation Chief Executive Officer Denise Hagan said the children were particularly happy about the arrival of the brightly coloured bus, which was funded by the Department of Education, Training and Employment. "The kids feel special to have

a new bus because they know they will be able to get to a range of great activities organised for them and their families by our Kuunchi Kakana team," Ms Hagan said.

The end of year school concert was also exciting for our early years kids Kuunchi Kakana Manager Tanya Koko said. She said the little ones had been practicing Twinkle Twinkle little Star and were very happy about the concert.

Planning for our new building, the Kuunchi Kakana Centre has also advanced.

Many people in the community have provided great input into

the design of the centre, to be built opposite the State School, and we hope to commence construction early in the new year.

Once the centre is established, children and their families can continue to take part in early learning and parent activities and programs such as culture, Families as First Teachers, Parents and Learning, art and craft, internet and library sessions, and excursions.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to working with you in the New Year.



For more information on Puuya Foundation activities, contact Tanya Koko (KK Manager) on 0447 055 564 or Denise Hagan (CEO) on 0419 681 025.



Kapayn Kuyarn permits respect for land & sea



Implementing a permit system for hunting and giving respect back to the old people are two of the main things the Kapayn Kuyarn committee is trying to achieve for now, facilitator – one of several – Greg Omeenyo says.

“Kapayn Kuyarn is made up of representatives from Wuthathi, Kyku’yu, Kanthanumpu, Uutalunguna and Umpila,” Mr Omeenyo, pictured right Shapelle Accoom & Taylor Omeenyo, said. “This is about our future and our kid’s future. One of the key roles of the representatives within the committee is to get a permit system in place here to show the government we are trying sustain our turtle and dugong through implementing an Indigenous governance.



“The way I talk about Indigenous governance is about giving the respect back to the old people. We’ve talked about some rules and regulations and the committee has come up with a draft management plan.

“It includes how government people like the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, fisheries, Marine Parks, National Parks can also be involved.

“So we’re wanting to work in closely with the enforcement side of things and also trying to look at implementing programs like mentor training where

there’s Ranger programs, getting grants from outside where we can look at water quality and monitoring, and get the Rangers to collect data so that belongs to the community then.”

He said Kapayn Kuyarn was there for the community.

“It’s made up of two representatives of all of the clan groups so it’s community Traditional Owners,” he said. “There’s about 10 of us. This thing is basically based around the community where we sort of take the weight off the shoulders of Council dealing with land and sea issues.

“We’ve done a couple of workshops and pretty much everyone’s agreed on it. We just need to now do a big community workshop to engage with the community to say that you can’t keep on going out hunting, taking photos and putting it out on Facebook, which is basically the media. We’re trying to educate the people to talk about sustainability and also looking at ways of not getting the media attention.”

He said for more information see Kapayn Kuyarn Permitting Officer Loddy Chippendale.





Engineering Services

It's been a big workload, and there's more to come, but most of it should be done on time, Building Services Provider Manager Regis Edmond says.

"At the moment we do have an extensive workload," he said. "We have maintenance, renovations and new buildings all actually currently on the books now and some occupational therapy renovations as well as some painting.

"And we do have some minor works and maintenance

work for the Queensland Government's BAS (Building and Asset Services) which is the former Q-Build maintenance work.

"We have a team of four carpenters, two local trade assistants, a painter and a school-based trainee on our team. We will get most of these works completed, even

though for some of them there's more time.

"There's about 15 houses to be painted and half of them money has been allocated for them.

"There's three major refurbishments and we have already started on one of the new Council houses and there's one to be started very soon."



Left: Builder Ray Thunguu Namok with Parks & Gardens workers Billy Sandy, Daniel Short & Stanley Butcher; Carpenters Darrin Cumner & Jyren Kyle; Cal Clarke & Tristan Elu; Above: Gary Warradoo, Regis Edmond & Gary Tapper; AND finally, the Lockhart River Road Gang!



Two teams of two contractors and two local workers each are busy building six new houses on the new subdivision.

ESW supervisor Mike Davies said splitting into teams meant two houses could be built at once. "All the steel posts and all the concrete is done now on the whole six houses, so it's just a matter of going ahead with all the timber work now," he said.

"We'll take the weather as it comes, but it won't take us long to get them ready for the roofs, so if we can have a light wet to the end of



January...once we have the roofs on we can work undercover then."

He said they should be ready to go by March or April next year.



Frozen and cubed water is by far their most popular item with the community at this time of year, Warehouse Supervisor Toby Dagan says.

Mr Dagan is headed home for Christmas to get married, but will be leaving the store in the capable hands of Store Manager Mark Sandy and school leaver Jason Pascoe Jr.

"Mark will be Acting Supervisor for the first time," he said. "He has to do well to prove that when I leave he's capable of taking on this role.

"We don't generally have a local running the place, and I think it's about time that changed. He just needs the confidence, so hopefully he gets that over this six-week period."



Pictured above: workshop mechanics Napoleon Short & Tony Pascoe; Below left: Mark Sandy, Jason Pascoe Jr & carpenter James Macumboy + Toby Dagan





Farm workers enjoy the fruits (and vegies!) of their labour



my pathway
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

This time last year Lockhart's farm was little more than a patch of weeds and a couple of junk sheds.

That's been turned around by nearly 20 Remote Jobs & Community Program (RJCP) participants who have worked hard and completed most of their Certificate II training in Horticulture.

Land Management Training Coordinator for Training Connections Australia (a branch of My Pathway) Warren Canendo said they had been busy!

"We've done a whole of range of things from planting trees and shrubs, spraying weeds to soil testing to planting, pruning and getting some garden beds together so we can start planting some fruit and veg, rebuild and get some new veggies and that into it.

"Eight weeks have passed since we started the formal training and out of the 19, four have found jobs already.

"On top of that we're now producing mangos, tomatoes, cucumber, and we've just put in some watermelon and pumpkins in ground.

"We got paw paw, bananas and beans. And we've just put a bore put down too so we got permanent water, which is great. We have a good working relationship with the Council, which is great.

"It's a good thing if we all work together."

Mayor Wayne Butcher also said it was good to work together.

"We're working in partnership with My Pathways on the farm, so it's great to see the focus back on the community farm and the energy being generated towards that project as you can see the outcomes and benefits already," Cr Butcher said.

MEANWHILE First Aid Training has been underway, not only for My Pathway participants but any community members also interested.

Eddie Row and Ali Lloyd Row were in Lockhart to deliver the two-day course.

"We're here from My Pathway, and we're doing some first aid training for clients as well as some of the community members," Mr Row said.

"We've got ladies and men doing the course, which is over four days, so we're doing two lots of courses two days each.

"The participants are learning first aid, CPR and hopefully they'll go away and be able to use that in the community.

"Hopefully they won't have to, but if they do need to they will understand and know what they can do to help people."





Police Sgt Warren Murdock has urged the community to pull together over the Christmas break.

“Have some Christmas unity,” he said. “We just want to see people happy and safe.”

He also urged anyone driving in or out of the community to be careful and to watch their fatigue levels.

“We hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas and we look forward to working with the community into the new year,” he said.



Above: Ergon have offered to pay, through the Art Centre, local artists to decorate ‘telegraph’ poles around the community. Danielle Hudson is one of several who have taken up the offer.



Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council – School Holiday Activities for December 2014

A partnership of Youth at Risk Initiative + PCYC + Live Learn Leap

YARI Workers: Greita (0455 598 204) & Beno (0467 868 702)

Kids Club: Margie, Emily, Denise F, Beverly B

PCYC: Stephen & Jacinta

Mentors: Father Brian, Rodney A (0427 607 380), Norman B (0409 692 172), Paul P

Program flexibility can be discussed with the Youth Workers

Adults assistance would be welcome.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 December 2014	2 December	3 December YARI softball School CONCERT	4 December	5 December	6 December	7 December
8 December YARI /PCYC Swimming Kids Club- 1:00 -4:00pm arts & crafts 5:00pm- 7:00pm PCYC – Touch Football	9 December YARI & Apunipima – beach & multi media 10:00am- 12pm PCYC Kids Club –	10 December YARI & Apunipima – beach & multi media PCYC Kids Club – kitchen & movies	11 December YARI & Apunipima – beach & multi media PCYC Kids Club - movies	12 December 6:30pm – 9:00pm YARI /PCYC Disco Night 5:00pm- 7:00pm PCYC - Rounders Kids Club - waterslide	13 December YARI Car Wash 10:00 – 3:00pm – movie night	14 December 9:00am-9:00pm Live Learn Leap/PCYC @ Community Hall
15 December Live Learn Leap @ Community Hall 9:00am – 9:00pm	16 December Dept Natural Resources – full day booking @ Community Hall	17 December Council meeting Council breakup, Santa, BBQ YARI/PCYC Touch football carnival evening movie / chillout Kids Club – story telling down the beach	18 December YARI /PCYC Rugby ‘Old Men versus Youth’ Kids Club – Arts/Craft/painting	19 December YARI 5:00pm-7:00pm PCYC activities Kids Club trip to Chilli Beach n.b Greita away return 22 December	20 December YARI movie night & BBQ	21 December YARI evening chill out & games night
22 December YARI PCYC activities Touch Football Kids Club	23 December YARI Quintell Beach Disco PCYC Kids Club clean up day	24 December YARI movie night PCYC Christmas Eve Kids Club kitchen & movie	25 December Christmas Day YARI Fun activities at oval in afternoon	26 December YARI disco	27 December YARI movie night	28 December
29 December	30 December YARI Fishing Competition @ Chilli Beach	31 December YARI Fishing Comp @ Quintell Beach	01 January 2015 YARI Fishing Comp	2 January YARI Disco & chill out	3 January YARI movie & chillout	4 January



*Lockhart River Aboriginal
Shire Councillors & Staff
would like to wish everyone
in our community a happy
and safe Christmas and a
joyful New Year*