

Waamta

NEWSLETTER

December 2017

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.

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE





A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

Firstly Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Lockhart Community, hopefully everyone enjoy a wonderful festive season with many happiness and laughters with families. It's important to respect each other and enjoy with pride reflecting on 2017 and planning for a better 2018.



Greetings from Mayor and all the Councillors of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council.

The Council has once again achieved an 'unmodified' (good!) Audit for 2016/2017, the seventh financial year in a row. Accountability and transparency are critical in 'good governance practice'.

Team work in governance, administrations and on-the-ground staff are essential to productivity.

Financial accountability has been a challenge over the past few years as the Council has attracted additional infrastructure investment, which has a led to an increase in our annual budget revenue.

It's also been a great calendar year for capital

infrastructure, particularly in roads (CRF, CIMA, W4Q, TIDS and QRA), seven new house builds (currently in progress) and our Water Park finally completed.

Civil Construction

Work under the Community Resilience Fund (CRF), was tendered out to the open market with the successful Tenderer given a task not only to complete the project but to also be a capacity partner to assist the Council with delivery.

Three investments – the Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance (CIMA), Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) and Working for Queenslanders (W4Q) – were rolled out into one 'Project', which was the

Council's first ever attempt to build a road to bitumen standards.

One of our biggest successes over the year was Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) funding, which was once again delivered in partnership between LRASC and local civil construction businesses.

We have seen yet another new business established and participating in those works, meaning the Council has once again supported local people to engage in meaningful economic development.

It is and has been important to us to maintain local Indigenous participation in any investment in our Community.

Front Page Pics: Elvis Mow from NCS Contracting; Darcy Bounghi, Harold Sandy & Tristan Elu; Rebecca Elu; Daniel Short; George Brown; Faye Hobson; and, Junior Harold Sandy.





The Lockhart River sub-regional discussion group at the Cape York Agenda 2,0 Summit at Palm Cove, Cairns

CYLC 2.0

Over the past three months the Cape York Land Council and Cape York Partnership have held two Land Summits with people of Cape York.

The summits have focused on three key areas:

- **Land Rights:** Finalising Land Claims and discussing what to do with the current Land ownership (Land Trust, PBA, Freehold, etc) and ILUA's.
- **Empowerment:** Supporting and providing responsible decision-making opportunities for individuals, clan and family or language groups.
- **Economic Development:** Ensuring Land Tenure readiness and scoping businesses opportunities on country.

Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference in Gladstone 2017

I was given the opportunity to present a paper in an open forum for the whole conference on LRASC Delivery Methodology called 'Building, Employment Strategy and Civil Works'.

On a panel of four, we all took the opportunity to present our innovative ideas and strategies for our respective Shires.

My presentation captured LRASC changes in our delivery methodology in maintaining,

upgrading and building new houses and Civil Construction Projects in 2017 which included CRF, CIMA, TIDS, W4Q and QRA, as above, all delivered through, open tender sub-contractors, LRASC workforce and local Lockhart businesses. I also spoke about our Youth Employment Strategy, which offers year 10 to 12 work experience within the LRASC workforce and helps with transition from school to an employment pathway within the Shire.



New Councillor

WELCOME to new Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Councillor Darren Macumboy, who was sworn in last month following a Council by-election. Thanks also to Cr Marshall Symonds for his work.





Right: Speaking on 'Building, Employment Strategy and Civil Works' at the LGAG conference in Gladstone; Left: Patrick Johnson



National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH)

As the NPARIH program in its final financial year, the Council is managing 100% of this Investment in our community.

Over the past four years we have strategically built our capacity from managing 25% to 45% to 75% and, finally, 100%.

The NPARIH is worth a lot, but was always delivered by Government, and houses were always maintained and delivered by outside contractors.

Managing this housing investment has presented the Council with business opportunities and given us the ability to strengthen our workforce by up skilling new young employees through apprenticeships.

It's important for our people to build our own houses because, at the end of day, it's not about the new house but who built that house!

National Indigenous Education Forum

In October I was invited to present at the National Indigenous Education Forum in Darwin, my paper was on a 'Community Approach to Education'.

It was about the importance of our whole community refocusing on the Importance of education, re-valuing education and working together to improve on our children's opportunities to have the best possible education.

The community cannot rely on the education system to teach our children, we as a community must get involved.

Education starts at home, on the streets of our community and on our country.

We must get our culture and language back into the curriculum in our school and on country.

A whole-of-community approach and involvement in education was to be a common theme over several days of the national forum discussions.

Patrick Johnson (Uutaalnganu/Kaanju)

I ran into my long lost brother, Patrick Johnson, in Darwin - I can't run past him because he is the only Australian to ever run 100 metres under 10 seconds!

He's been living in the Northern Territory for the past 10 years and seemed keen to head back to Queensland, somewhere nearer to home.

Pat has had a great career in athletics, he would be ideal to support the development of some home grown athletes from Cape York, something he sounds very passionate about.

Once again I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to working with you all once again in the New Year.

Wayne Butcher



Our team of Councillors

December 2017

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL COUNCIL



Left to Right: Crs Darren Macumboy; Paul Piva & Dottie Hobson; CEO David Clarke; and, Mayor Wayne Butcher with Deputy Mayor Norman Bally



LEFT: The LRASC had another successful 'Youth Employment Inattentive' school holiday program. The Council offer Secondary Students in years 10 to 12 paid work experience, as they are coming to the end of their secondary education. Young people need to think about life after high school and this initiative offers them an opportunity to explore and experience the working environment.

RIGHT: Department of Water & Energy Director General and Government Champion for LR, Paul Simshauser, at the official launch of our solar trial 200kw solar system, now installed on roofs of all our Government buildings.





Pic by Cr Wayne Butcher



ABOVE: In September this year all staff supervisors attended Disaster Management workshops in preparation for this year's wet season, which is expected to bring at least one cyclone to the region.



Toowoomba Concordia High School students Patricia Rockeby and Jana Giblet helped to write a book called "Two Ways Strong - Jaz's Story" which was published in time for book week. They took it to Brisbane, where they met former Governor Quenton Bryce at the launch.

2017 Lockhart Scorpions' Presentation Night

The Lockhart Scorpions has another great year participating in the Cape Rugby League Cluster for 2017 Coach Wayne Butcher writes...

We had a very hard game first up against Aurukun in Coen setting the tone for the season. We were very unlucky to have lost the Grand Final game by two points, especially when we had

try's disallowed in the first half. However, we have a young team with lots of depth in talent and that will make the Scorpions very competitive over the next few years.



AND THE WINNERS WERE...

- Game 1 Player: Scotty Accoom
- Game 2 Player: Tristan Elu
- Game 3 Player: Dominic Macumboy
- Game 4 Player: Alistair Bowie
- Game 5 Player: Smithy Bally
- Semi Final Player: Les Zarro
- Grand Final Player: Brandon Piva
- Players Player: Chris Johnson
- Rookie of the Year: Phylanie Piva
- Coaches Choice: Gary Warradoo
- Most Improved Back: Dominic Macumboy
- Most Improved Forward: Brandon Piva
- Best Back: Stephen Bally
- Best Forward: Gareth Hobson (C)
- Best & Fairest: Benedict Macumboy





A word from the CEO...

Well, here we are looking at Christmas, a time when we think about family, friends, and the year we have just had.

This year saw our Council break records for the cost of projects delivered and the number of projects delivered. Thank you to all our teams who have been working so hard.

It's only when we sit down and go through the list that we realise how much has been done.

Here are a few examples:

- The **Building Services** team delivered five new houses and have taken on the construction of another five. They've built sheds at the Men's Centre, staff dongas and the dump as well as doing many renovations. The **Engineering Services** crew have delivered 12 new culverts on the main road, got everything ready for bitumen around the hall, and given our local Lockhart sub-contractors some great business opportunities fixing up Chuulangun, Pascoe Farm, and Kingdom Come Roads;
- The **Corporate Services** gang stepped up to the challenge of a huge increase in their work load delivering yet another unqualified Audit Report (they call him unmodified now) and rolled out the fibre optic project which will give all our work sites good quality internet;
- The **Community Development** team, under the new leadership of Margie Barnes, continues to deliver good services to our people on a daily basis, with special mention to the **HACC** team for their perfect score (18/18) in their independent review;
- The **Municipal Services** crew have done all the plumbing in our houses old and new, put a new water line through to Line Hill, have looked after our environmental health and played a big role in our new water park.

THE best part about this is we have done nearly all the work with our own people.

This creates new jobs, lifts our skill levels and keeps investment in our town.

Next year we can look forward to more of the same with the creation of the social club and rebuilding our canteen, building more new houses, and some significant road works including more bitumen on the main road, and grading the Lockhart River valley all the way to Angkum and Old Site.

We've also got the new walking track to the beach, more solar lighting, and some

new playgrounds for the kids to look forward too.

These projects will create small business opportunities for our people.

In about March, council will be asking people who are interested in starting a business or are already in business, to apply to get on the council preferred supplier panel.

We will run several information sessions on how to do this and you will have plenty of support, so don't be scared or worried to step up and give it a go.

Once you get on this panel, Council can go straight to

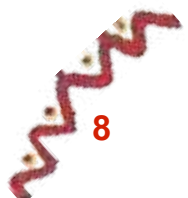
your business for jobs.

So if you've got an idea, make it happen.

One thing I want to highlight is the amount of hard work our Councillors put in behind the scenes.

I don't think people fully understand how important the selling of our dreams as a community is, and the amount of work our Mayor and Councillors put in to bring investment to Lockhart.

When our team is away from home they are lobbying state and federal ministers, and sniffing around for new





opportunities for our town and its people.

They have all done a powerful job and should be congratulated.

After such a big year, please take the time to relax with your family.

Thank you all personally for

your work this year.

I look forward to the challenges to come as we focus on making our town the best it can be in 2018.

Stay safe, look after each other, and have a very merry Christmas.

Dave Clarke



Top: Learning Circle meeting at the Kunchi Kakana Centre; Left: Plumber Paul & Paddi-Boy Accoom; Above: Stanley Short





Corporate Services

The finance team has done a highly commendable job for the Lockhart River community Corporate Services Director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

We welcome the completion of construction works for the new fibre optic infrastructure and IT upgrade that was commenced two months ago.

This project has been delivered on time and to budget, and the council's information, communication and technology is expected to be more reliable and resilient to weather conditions.

The 2016/17 audit was completed on time and council obtained an unmodified (clean) audit opinion by the Auditor General.

The finance team has appreciated the support provided by council management and leadership.

This report can be accessed from the council website.

The annual report for the 2016/17 financial year has been

completed and is available on our website.

Hard copies will be available at the council office.

Council will close for Christmas break on Friday 22 December and resume on Wednesday 3 January.

Finance services will not be available during the closure period.

Banking and postal services will be available on the following days:

- 27 December from 9am-12 midday
- 28 December from 9am-12 midday

I congratulate all the team members for their contribution and may this Christmas end the present year on a cheerful note and make way for a better 2018.



Maree Hobson (Bank Clerk), Deanka Omeenyo, (Office Manager)

Chantelle Hobson (Reception) & Noleen Clark

Training opportunities in and around Lockhart River are on the increase, Governance Training Coordinator Noleen Clark says.

“And almost everyone who has started their training this year has been successful,” Noleen said.

“We were very proud to have one of our young men complete a Cert III in Civil Construction Plant Maintenance.

“We’ve had roller training, other heavy machinery such as grader and front-end loader training, and training in traffic control.”

Noleen said apprentices were also achieving as they attended their courses at TAFE in Cairns.

“We are very happy with their success and our apprentices are

also very happy with their efforts,” she said.

“At the beginning of the year we had a mentor for them in Jim Brooks, who has helped with everything from literacy and numeracy, to computer training, and to how to fill in their training books.

“He has been instrumental in helping the apprentices to perform when they are at TAFE to obtain really good results.

“We found it extremely beneficial and we’ve been very fortunate to have him.”

Noleen said 2018 was looking promising.

“We will do more traffic control training, probably more machinery training because what they want to do with the workforce now, is have them multi-skilled in driving different machines, so we will do more of that again next year,” Noleen said.

“We will also probably do first aid again as that’s always necessary, and for our store staff we’ll be offering handling and storing dangerous chemicals and dangerous goods.”



Orange Sky laundry taking clean and green strides

Lockhart's new Orange Sky laundry truck 'Pytham' is already making a big difference around the community.



After several launches – two down south and two locally – the solar powered, beautifully painted vehicle has two washing machines and three dryers, its own generator and 80 litres of suds to boot, and it can also take on board 300 litres of clean and 300 litres of grey water.

Driver Jaiden Reynolds, who is originally from the remote community of Toomelah in New South Wales, said the truck had been well-accepted around the community.

“We try and encourage our

friends to do their own washing and teach them how to use it, so they can just come along and use it whenever,” he said.

“We’re in a different place every day of the week.

“It’s a great opportunity for people to sit and have a yarn and get everything, their sheets, blankets, towels, undies, shorts and shirts, all done at once.”

Jaiden said he had been in Lockhart for just over a year now and hoped to be wearing a Scorpion’s jersey next year.

“ I got to play a bit of rugby league professionally

in Brisbane, for the Redcliffe Dolphins,” he said.

“I did a bit of sports and recreation when I first moved up here, but then I moved over to the clinic as a health worker, so I could finish my studies in that field.

“My partner and I had a baby nine months ago.

“I want to try and encourage other people in the community to do what I’m doing.

“This is their community and they can make a difference by doing something different, or not thought of before”



The Orange Sky laundry truck can be found on the following days at the following locations:

MONDAY: HACC

TUESDAY: Health Clinic

WEDNESDAY: Puuya Centre

THURSDAY: Kuunchi Kakana Centre

FRIDAY: Men’s Shelter/Women’s Shelter

Pics: Top: Pytham truck launch at Bond University, Gold Coast; Pytham launch at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane, with Nick and Lucas founders of ‘Orange Sky’; and, the Pytham “official” launch in Lockhart River





Engineering Services

Major roadworks are underway along the main road, Engineering Manager Russell Cox says.

“Our team’s involvement in the work is basically all of the earthworks and road-based preparation,” he said.

“A separable portion has been awarded to NSC Contracting, and they are tasked with the installation of culverts on our section.

“They’ve also got a section in the Community Resilience Fund (CRF) work they’re installing culverts in.

“We’re doing the earthworks and road-based preparation under that.”

Russell said they had also been tasked with the bitumen sealing for the whole lot, through the CRF and CIMA contracts.

“We’re probably about 70% completed of our part of the

project, so we’ve just got a little bit of earthwork to do,” he said.

“We’re currently working on road-based preparation as well.”

Russell said all the 2.2 gravel was in stock now, adding up to around 9,000 tonne, which they would start to put onto the road.

“We’ve utilised mainly our grader and dozer to push up the fill material out of pit 22,” he said.

“We’ve also got a body truck out there carting gravel and pit material, and a JCV that’s doing minor ancillary type works until we get into drainage work nearer the end of the contract.”

He said they’d been under the

pump timing wise in the lead up to Christmas.

“I think with the impending weather, it’s going to be touch and go as to whether we actually seal or not,” he said.

“So we’ve got our fingers crossed, and we’re trying to pull out all stops to increase productivity on the site.

“On site there are two traffic controllers, a truck driver, supervisor, two labourers and three on concrete.

“The three people we have on concrete are getting experience with concrete pads, steel placement and steel tying.

“In my other areas, the workshop, parks and garden crews are all doing well, keeping busy and moving forward.”



ABOVE: Rodney Accoom and Russell Cox; TOP RIGHT: Mayor Wayne Butcher on the road with Tristan Elu; LEFT: Workers on the main road with Harold (Teddy) Sandy



ABOVE: Josh Hubbard, Anthony Pascoe, Allister White, Napoleon Short, Adric Morris and Alec Richard Omeenyo

There's always plenty of going on at the Lockhart River Workshop, Supervisor Allister White says.

"We have a big team, a lot of work, and a lot of developments," he said.

"We've got new machinery coming in so we're just making sure it keeps up with all the roadwork.

"And we're getting a good fleet

management system in place, just to make sure everything's up and going with as little down time as possible.

"The Council's fleet has everything from light vehicles to the heavy earth-moving

machinery, and we also do a little private work as well."

Allister said he was hoping to be able to add some apprentices to his team.

"We have no apprentices, only assistants for now," he said.

"Our two young assistants here are keen as beans, and they've got a good, eager energy to attack the work.

"They've enjoyed the work and they're here all the time, so they definitely deserve an apprenticeship."

Allister's father Ryan and his Uncle Lance (recently retired) built the workshop in the early 1990s.

LEFT: no car too big or too small! :)





*ABOVE: The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
Parks & Gardens Crew*



PLAYING TO A FULL HOUSE!

The Lockhart State School held their end-of-year Concert in late November, the day after our Year 6s graduated! We hope you enjoy our pics of these two great big events over the next few pages!









2017 School Concert





Building Services

Construction is due to start on a range of new houses with the delivery date yet to be determined, Building Services Director Regis Edmond says.

He said as soon as the new construction program was in place he would be able to announce when they will be ready.

“It could be a six to eight month project,” Regis said.

“We’ve done really well with the five houses to date.

“Our completion depends on how many staff we have and the wet season coming up.

“We can do all of the work in the wet season as long as we get a roof up.

“However the major holdup is getting contractors for the project, because Christmas is coming up.

“We are looking for carpenters, possibly one qualified carpenter, a painter,

a roofer and an electrician.”

He said Council had advertised for the positions.

“We still have a full crew of apprentices, other than Ronnie, who has left, but they will all be going back to TAFE next year,” he said.

“We have quite a lot of maintenance work to be done in the new year as well as renovation work.

“In terms of council buildings, the Women’s Shelter badly needs repair, but approval for the work was rescinded when there was a change of department.

“The water park is pretty much completed as is the Men’s Shed.

“And we’ve also done some

work in the radio station and the Indigenous Knowledge Centre as well.”

Regis said they had also put in an application to build a new airport terminal.

“The boys have worked hard this year and I want to thank them for all the effort they’ve put in,” he said.

“They’ve been really good and hopefully we can keep going in the same way next year.

“I would like to wish them and their families, and the community a Merry Christmas.

“We really need you all on board, full of energy and ready to start again in the new year.

“Thanks must also go to Council who have been very supportive of the work we’ve done.”



ABOVE: Painters Thomas Abraham and James Macumboy – Picture on the left with thanks to now-retired Ross McKay

Between barges and stock takes Store Manager Matt Redman says he and offsider Mark Sandy (pictured right) have been “flat out” over a very busy year.

“Flat out unloading trucks, especially for Building Services,” Matt said.

“Crisco has come in as well.

“I think we’ve done seven trailers in two weeks, so we’ve been really busy.

“Luckily, we’ve had Johnny Kepa on board helping us out as well. Each week we’re getting more and more ‘stuff’ – it just depends what people ask for. Anyone can come here and buy what they need. If we’ve got it here, we’ll sell it to you. We’ve been on our toes for well over a month now.”

Matt said he was looking forward to going fishing in his new boat.



MEANWHILE Store Worker Mark Sandy said the Council Store had changed significantly since he started working there nine years ago.

“We have everything in place,” Mark said.

“The doors lock and seal up the front, and we have put the roller door in.

“Everything is under cover and secure.

“It’s good here.

“We’re busiest on barge days.”



On this page: Working on getting to the roofing stage of the five new houses before the wet are Alister Bowie, Rod Kotzur & Les Zarro; Below them is Regis Edmond, checking out the neighbourhood; Below: one of the original houses in Lockhart River is being renovated by Cal Clarke for the Council – we look forward to showing you the “after” pics in our next Issue!





Community Development

Empowering the Community Development Services team to better deliver their services and programs will benefit the whole community, new Community Development Services Manager Margie Barnes writes...



I'm just new in the role so I've been focusing on getting to know the people who are working in our services and getting to know how those services operate.

We'll be looking at a bit of a review of all those services in the new year to see how we can grow them.

Our services include the Women's Shelter Services, the Men's Support Services, the Community Justice Group, the Indigenous Knowledge Centre, the radio, the youth program and the after-school hours care and some community health programs.

My aim coming into this role is to capacity build and empower the Community Development Services team in delivering their services and

programs to the community.

I will be based here in Lockhart, which is different because we haven't had that here for a few years.

My commitment is to support the team and mentor them, working in partnership with the Council, other services within the community, our funding agents and the stakeholders both here and outside.

It's important to establish those relationships and work together.

I want the team to have ownership of their services and programs.

I think giving ownership back to the team members in these specialised services will grow them as future role models and leaders in the community, and that will help grow a healthy

and strong community.

Those are my aims and aspirations coming into this role.

Our other focus at the moment has been on the Christmas holiday period.

We've got several end-of-year activities and our main focus is to get them happening for youth and children.

We're also looking at some other activities, such as the fishing competition, for the broader community.

Council will have a community Christmas party and a break-up, so all the children will get a Christmas present.

I'd like to wish everyone in the community a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



2018 is shaping up to be a very good year for the Men's Group, with new activities on offer, new programs in the pipeline and new equipment available.

"Everything is winding down now towards Christmas, but come early next year we'll be really busy," Men's Group Coordinator Greg Omeenyo (pictured) said. "We're going to have our hands full.

"Footy season has just finished and the boys have been utilising the Kup Murri Shed during training time and even after hours for the gym, helping prepare for the Kup Murri and things like that. "The boys have been really happy about using that facility. "We are now just waiting for the sails to come for this big shed, and we are going to be able to have more under-cover activities like carving and even the band plan to play out there."

He said the Men's Group was also keen to get some mentor training in place and was

planning on working with the Justice Group.

"It's been very quiet from the program side," he said. "Now that we're going towards Christmas time we've hardly had many boys up here, unless there's a bit of a problem at home, then they come up here to cool off, maybe stay for just a couple of nights and then go back home.

"What we are trying to do now is getting more done with mentor training where we can get people doing courses.

"Through the magistrate system we're trying to work with the Justice Group and trying to get programs set aside, especially between the Justice Group Supervisor, Mike Harte and myself.

"And there's been constant support from the Council, especially between myself and



Deputy Mayor Norman Bally. "We're trying to get things together, get things happening."

The Men's Group has recently been given a new barbecue and on top of that, Orange Sky has given them a new washing machine.

Mr Omeenyo, who attended a Men's Group Forum in Brisbane in October with other Men's Groups throughout the region, said the Men's Group's also want to focus more on youth.

"We've got one of the best Men's Group facilities in the Cape now," he said.

"We're trying to focus on the younger generation because they're going to be the next leaders.

"Lockhart is a very unique place, especially with all the families living together.

"We just need to look at other

ways where the community can sort things out for themselves, not so much the agencies, but the community.

"We need a collective where all the elders sit down with them and get them stepping up to the plate more."





The Women's Shelter has had a good year with plenty of events and activities worker Luka Getawan says.



"We had loads of good activities this year," she said.

"We had a Women's Day pamper session, doing make-up and fingernail polish, things like that.

"Afterwards we had a meal which everyone enjoyed.

"We even gave out presents to the ladies."

Luka said the Women's Shelter was also hosting dance practice, and she was hopeful they could get some material and make island dresses for the participants.

"We will also make curtains for the new houses and sell them," Luka added.

"Everything is going good here."

Coordinator Ethel Singleton (*pictured top right*) said all the women in the community were welcome to drop into the Shelter.

"This is our place and our space," she said. "If you just want a cuppa or a yarn, come on in."



The Community Justice Group (CJG) is helping community members deal with a number of criminal legal matters, but needs more community support Coordinator Mike Harte says.

"The actual Justice Group itself is functioning reasonably well, but we're having trouble recruiting younger people," Mike said.

"It's just not happening, unfortunately, they don't seem to be interested."

The CJG works collaboratively with the courts, police, and staff from other government agencies to help Lockhart residents address criminal

behaviour and provide support to victims of crime.

"There's one young fellow who we'll help get his community service completed very quickly," he said.

He said alcohol still played a big part in the legal issues in Lockhart.

"Unfortunately there's too much grog in the community," he said.

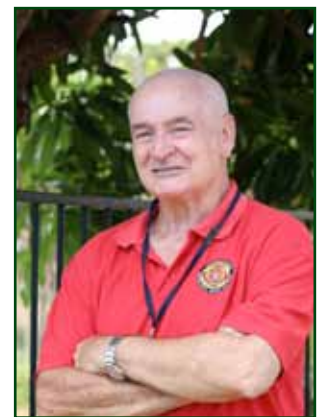
"They complain bitterly

about the police taking the grog off them, but what do they expect?

"It's the law.

"It's one of those things that's going

to be a bugbear for the community until we can find a different way to manage alcohol here."



Youth workers Krystal Dean and Steven Bally are expecting a busy lead-up to Christmas and an even busier new year.

“In the lead up to Christmas I started off a girls’ empowerment group, so every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm we’ve been having all-girls’ sessions,” Krystal said.

“Once a week we have different people come in and talk about anything to do with empowering the girls.

“For example we could get Karen from the clinic to come down and yarn about looking after yourself, and keeping yourself healthy and all that stuff.

“Just knowing about how we can support each other is crucial.”

The duo said they were looking forward to having the old Kid’s Club building as their ground control, with the new basketball court next door.

“Now we’ve got the basketball court, we’re going to start running basketball comps as well as volleyball,” Krystal said.

“We’re just going to have different teams, probably five on five, so we’ll be staying fit and healthy, and keeping everybody active.”

Steven said touch footy and spear-making was on the boys’ agenda for the holidays.

“There’s heaps of stuff coming up,” he said. “We’re looking forward to our new space so our youth can have space away from the younger ones.

“So it’s all really, really good.”

The duo said they particularly wanted to thank school principal Siobhan Jackson for letting them use the new basketball courts over the holidays.





HACC Coordinator Noella Clarke with her staff Beverley Hobson, Cheryl Perazim, Bessie Hobson & Leila Clermont with TAFE supervisor Cheryl Reid

The National Disability Insurance Scheme, or NDIS, will be rolled out in Lockhart River in June 2018, Home and Community Care (HACC) coordinator Noella Clarke says.

“This only applies to those under the age of 65,” she said. “Elderly people are covered by aged care.

“Basically, what it means is, where funding has always gone to a service provider, such as HACC, or Blue Care, or Anglicare, now the funding is now allocated to an individual.

“That doesn’t mean it goes into their bank account, it means the money goes directly to the service provider they choose to nominate.

“You don’t suddenly find that it would be like a Centrelink payment or

anything like that.

“What it means is if I want help with day-to-day things and I also want to do other things, then the government will finance me to do that, and they will allocate me a certain amount of money to do those things.

“But that money doesn’t come into my bank account; it goes into the service provider’s bank account.”

She said it was complicated.

“We do have disabled people; people who are sight impaired and hearing impaired, and we do have people who are physically impaired through stroke or other

things here in Lockhart,” she said.

“That means we have to find a provider who is going to take this on, which could be HACC or it could be somebody else.

“Whoever it is, they would be the ones dealing with the money, which is actually very complicated.

“One of the good things about it is, if you are disabled and you have a carer, then that carer doesn’t have to be on a carer’s pension, they can be paid an actual wage.”

HACC staff are agreed: they have had a very busy year.

Looking after a full houses of guest on a regular basis, cooking and delivering for 20 or more people around the community for most of the year, and keeping up their TAFE studies have all kept staff on their toes.

Workers Leila Clarmont, Bessie and Beverly Hobson have been the team behind HACC for several years now, and put a solid effort into 2017.

This year they also welcomed Father Brian as their driver.

“It has been a very busy year,” the trio said.

“We had a lot of TAFE studies going on.

“Alongside our studies we had



22 clients to manage for most of the year, although now that number is decreasing.

“We have Cheryl from TAFE who has been keeping us busy as well.

“Cheryl comes up every month.

“And this year for all our clients we made Melbourne Cup an event.

“We provided a barbeque and lucky door prizes, which were enjoyed by all even though there was no bingo!”





My Pathway activities raising attendance

It has been a successful and productive year for My Pathway, Regional Manager Les Robinson says.

He said trainer Josh Roach has been helping the guys from the farm finish off their Certificate II in Foundation Skills, which is language, literacy and numeracy and basic work skills, and has moved them into their Certificate III in Agriculture.

“Josh is a landscaper, a horticulturalist, and a plant operator,” Les said.

“He has done all sorts of things and is a really handy young fella to have around.

“And because he likes the place so much, he gets in and helps them run the farm.”

Les said there were 88 participants on the Work for Dole scheme, and a total of 160 in their caseload.

“One of the things with our activities is the focus on the skills the guys and girls learn are all related to opportunities in the community, whether it’s to work in an organisation or to actually go out and get a job,” he said.

“So it’s not just an activity because you’ve got something to actually do.”

Les said the landscaping team was the best team they had, their attendance was great and the team loved their work.

“Supervisor Aaron Bally is going to be really busy during the wet season, keeping on top of all the grass,” he said. “The team also look after the cemetery, and the block between the church and here, and across the road in that fenced area between childcare and the shop.”

Mr Bally said it was a good thing to do.

“It keeps us going,” he said.

“The boys turn up every day and they’re always ready to do what they are told – there’s some pride there.

“Hopefully next year we’ll have a bit more work to do.”

Les said Welding Supervisor Chris Dean and his welding team was also going really well.

“Some really good welders are coming out of that now, and we’d like to thank the Council for donating the material to make a big assembly table, which we can move out to the farm, and then Chris will start making the tables,” he said. “We’re also doing our slabs for the cemetery, that’s our wet season work.

“One of our newer ideas is to pick up one of the big shade houses at the farm and get it up here, so the ladies can start growing flowers and plants around the community.

“And our ladies are also focussing on nutrition for our work team.



“We make sure they have a smoko, which is normally a piece of fruit and just something light.

“And we give them a healthy lunch, which can be a roast or a barbecue.”

He said they were still doing the cleaning at the school.

“We pay the girls two hours a day to do the cleaning,” he said.

“And we’re going to start developing a house cleaning business as well.

“A café is still on the boil, and we are looking at doing a ‘Café in a Container’.

“Every second Wednesday the ladies have a cultural day down at the beach, until they get their own vehicle, then they can go wherever they want.

“And finally, we’ve put on three new recruits in the office here – Dotty, Ivy and Bree.

“Dotty has come on board as the liaison person between our participants who want to start their own business and the people we have contracts with.

“Her role is to make things happen smoothly.” Les said while it has been a hard year, it was starting to turn around, and he hoped 2018 would be a better year.

“I hope everyone has a very merry Christmas and happy new year.”





Puuya

Foundation

The Puuya Foundation has had another busy year with many visitors to the Centre this year who have all contributed to our Kuunchi Kakana (families together) program in many ways.

Our work for 2017 was very much focused on education, leadership, health and culture, all vital elements in a self-sustaining and self-determining community.

Our programs included:

- **Girls from Oz** – travel to remote communities to help make a difference in young lives through dancing and singing.
- **Bubs n Pups Program** – healthy dogs program in community – showing the children how they can care and look after an animal
- **Montessori Centre, South Australia** – Ainsley Roscow visited to learn about our program, so that she might implement a program in the APY Lands in South Australia
- **Government Champion** – Paul Simshauser, Director-General, Department of Energy and Water Supply, has been very supportive to the Puuya Foundation through an art auction, as well as supporting the foundation through other initiatives in the community
- **Deaf Services Queensland** – Sue Frank and Garry Moran have started some work with the foundation around hearing impairment, and will be back again in 2018.

We are very fortunate to have built such a great network of friends and supporters who have been walking with us on our journey.





Sincere thanks must go to the people and organisations below, without their support, we would not be able to operate. They are:

Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Murphy Family Foundation, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, Department of Education and Training, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Governor of Queensland, Community Enterprise Queensland, Lockhart River State School, My Pathways, Epic Good Foundation, Myer Foundation, Skytrans, Seaswift, Parents and Learning, Montessori Children’s Foundation, Full-n-Frank, Bach Pty Ltd, Systems in Action, ESW Constructions, Queensland Health Clinic, Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care, Apunipima Cape York Health Council, McCullough Robertson, PKF Hacketts Audit, Community Gambling Fund, Westpac Foundation, Lockhart River Art Centre, Women of the World Festival, and many other individuals, and of course the Lockhart River community.

On behalf of the Puuya Foundation board and staff – Dottie, Jim, Denise, Wayne, Veronica, Cathy, Pat, Tanya, Moira and David, we would like to wish the community a safe and happy Christmas.





Lockhart River Art Gang Puuuya Kuntha - Strong Heart

Lockhart River Arts Centre's artists have reaped the rewards of the huge increase in exhibitions this year Arts Centre Manager Enoch Perazim says.

"Our 2017 program has doubled from the previous year, and it's primarily because of more exhibitions and more market engagement," he said.

"We've had a very good year so far, despite a slowdown in visitor numbers."

Enoch and his team have been busy marketing and promoting The Centre's artwork on the domestic and international stage.

"We currently have an exhibition in Houston, USA, which opened in October and runs until the end of January 2018," he said.

"Our next exhibition is in January in Hobart, at Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Arts Gallery.

"This exhibition will feature our women artists."

Enoch said this year has seen a focus on group exhibitions with a small number of solo exhibitions.

"For 2018 we're focusing on our women artists, and then for the following year we'll feature our male artists," he added.

"After that we will consolidate with a change of format."





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**FROM THE STAR OF
ABC'S BLACK COMEDY,
STEVEN OLIVER**

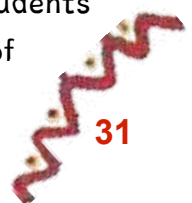
**TOURING FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND
AUGUST TO NOVEMBER**



Steven Oliver's 'Proppa Solid' brought a funny story, brimming with Aboriginal jargon and optimism, to 10 locations in regional and remote Far North Queensland in October this year.

Proppa Solid was a riotous comedy that told the story of Australia's first Aboriginal president as he inadvertently travelled back through time from 2067 to the present day, to be confronted by a different Australia, and some very funny ancestors who teach him a thing or two about his roots.

The all-Aboriginal touring team spent three to four days in each community, firstly performing for and working with students to write and rehearse their own aspirational stories of success, and then inviting the entire community to gather together and see a free performance of Proppa Solid.



LOCKHART RIVER LIFE...

