



# Waaanta

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**December 2021**

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

# Team spirit builds new oval ... more inside!





A word from ...

# Mayor Wayne Butcher



We're asking everyone who comes here to work – contractors, sub-contractors, all our different agencies, state and federal government workers – to ensure all their staff are fully vaccinated if they're visiting our community after our state borders open, Wayne Butcher writes...

Our approach is that humans carry the virus, so the more vaccinated – and the less unvaccinated – people coming through our community, the better.

There are two mobs we can't control – one is the tourists coming in and out of Cape York, and the other is our own unvaccinated people, who transit between community and Cairns.



*First in line, in August this year. For more about COVID-19 on pages 32-35.*

They are the high risk mob, and I don't mean high risk to themselves, I mean to the people they come into contact with including their own families and Elders.

The message is: think about others.

Don't be selfish.

While you might be young and fit and think you can handle COVID, you're going to come into contact with vulnerable people in the community who cannot and who may not survive COVID. To them, you are dangerous, and if you are unvaccinated you've got more chance of spreading the virus over someone who is vaccinated.

The other message the Council has for people in our community is it's not a matter of if COVID finds its way to us, it's when.

And people will panic, especially our Elders, when it does.

They've already approached

me and asked me how we can keep them safe.

We know the Health Service has a plan for every scenario they can think of, and you can read more about that in the pages of this newsletter, so our message is: don't panic.

The Health Service is ready for it, they've been working with Torres & Cape and Cairns & Hinterland Hospital and Health Services, and they're ready for it.

It's good to know our health services are ready to do whatever they have to do to keep as many of us as possible safe.

We've managed COVID so well since the outbreak, we need to make sure we as a community don't get complacent about it and that we don't believe or spread some of the misinformation I'm sure we're all aware of across social media which is confusing the situation.

The message is: don't panic.



The Queensland Government introduced Government Champions Director-General's (DG's) program in 2004 as a strategy for helping us to overcome the challenges of red tape in State Government. Lockhart Community has had the privilege to be represented by DGs Jim Varghese OA, Professor Paul Simhauser and Warrick Agnew (current).

They have created a direct pathway for us to work with every department, as we have needed to. In addition, Ministers have also been appointed to work directly with our Indigenous communities in Queensland.

Our Lockhart Minister for the past five years has been the current Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey.

Over the past nine years, in my experience, the Ministerial and Government Champion programs have been very effective in supporting, assisting and lobbying for us as a community.



**TCICA**

Overall COVID has been and still is a huge challenge for all our Indigenous communities and we're not the only community taking this approach.

The message from all of them is: get vaccinated, don't be selfish and don't panic. Mayors and Councillors across the board have worked tirelessly to encourage all their community members to get vaccinated, which was discussed at length at our Torres Cape Indigenous

Council Alliance (TCICA) forum early last month. Mayors, Councillors and CEOs from across the Torres Strait and Cape York region met in Cairns from 9 to 11 November for their 2021 Annual General Meeting. They also participated in a series of meetings and roundtables to address important matters such as community vaccination rates, local government financial sustainability, sly grogging, and major health system and service reforms.





I was a founding member of the earlier Cape Indigenous Mayor's Alliance and have been chair of TCICA for the past two years, and I was more than happy to step down to see Kowanyama Mayor Robbie Sands be elected, unopposed, as our new Chair. Mapoon's Deputy Mayor Cr Cameron Hudson was elected as his deputy and Cook Shire Council Mayor Cr Peter Scott was re-elected as Treasurer for the fifth year running.



*RIGHT: Kowanyama Mayor Robbie Sands at a TCICA meeting in August this year.*

I stepped down from the TCICA to try and refocus more on my community over the next couple of years and especially because we've got some really big projects on the hop, most of which you'll

read about in these pages. They include the social club, the redevelopment of the oval, the cultural grounds down at the beach front and a new subdivision we hope to build ourselves.



*The 125th Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference was held in Mackay in October, with hundreds of council delegates from across Queensland. The three day conference included a meeting of the Indigenous Leaders Forum.*



*The next LGAQ conference will be held in Cairns in October 2022.*



## Social Club

I think we're all looking forward the social club being a hub for people to socialise.



The rules will be anyone who already has alcohol in their system won't be allowed in and we will be allowed to have a certain number of midstrength drinks with each other which is counted by a card/membership system.

It is something that we will finally be able to legally drink in a social environment in our community again.

We all hope it will take away the binge drinking problem that we have right now in our community. It's not good for people's health because everybody's binge

drinking affects everybody.

It affects our kids going to school, it stops people from coming to work – there is a whole range of things that are affected including domestic violence rises overnight and people are drink driving around the community. It's dangerous.

We also hope it will also take away some of these people who are selling alcohol to our people to at such high prices.

And that's a challenge for us in the community, to try and counteract these people who sell large quantities

of alcohol over a night and disrupt the whole social fabric of our community.

We're hoping that the social club will give people a place where they can comfortably go have a beer, play a game of darts, play a game of pool, watch football on tv, and even watch a live band now and then.

I think we're investing in long-term, social change with these drinking changes.

Most of all, I think we all hope our next generation will be social drinkers, not binge drinkers.

**See page 10 for more.**



## Cultural Grounds

We have reached the point of design for our new cultural dance grounds being developed down at **Quintell Beach**.

We are working on the stage at the moment and we have also ordered our toilet, shower and laundry blocks for the two campgrounds.

Our own carpenter and road crews will be working on that so, as with the subdivision we are planning, we are building this for ourselves with our own staff and community people.

Please remember we are always looking for young workers, especially for our road crews who expect to be busy throughout the wet season working on driveways, especially now we have our own concrete truck and mobile batching plant.

**If you want work you can have it.**





## Kuuku Ya'u & Utaalnganu People celebrate native title rights

**Kuuku Ya'u elder Father Brian Claudie proudly played his clapsticks and sang to celebrate the first determination of Queensland's largest ever native title claim last month.**



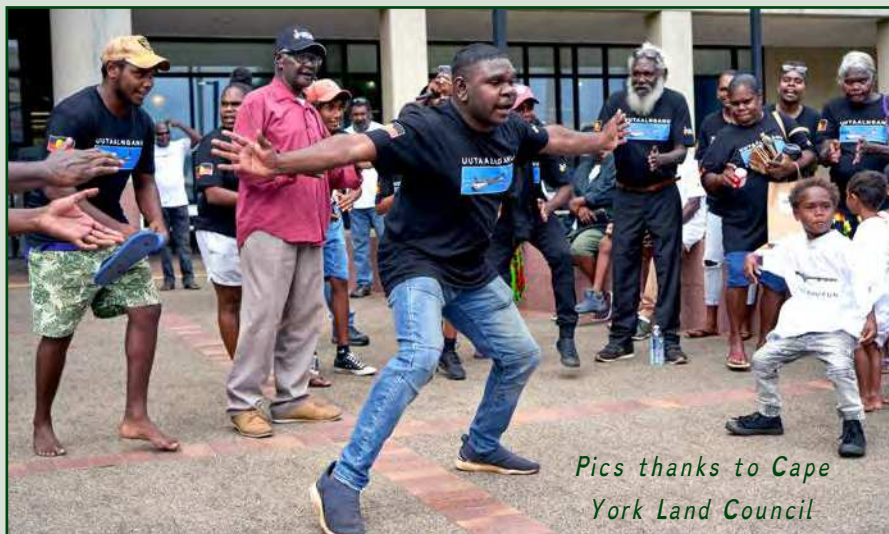
The Federal Court in Cairns recognised the Kuuku Ya'u and Utaalnganu People's native title rights to more than 210,000 hectares of land in Cape York. "I will get the clapsticks and I will sing," the 71-year-old elder of the Kanthanampu subgroup said. "In the back of my mind, I'm thinking about the old people and the culture they have passed on. "This claim is special for this generation.

"It's very important for the future children, generation to generation to generation."

Resources Minister Scott Stewart congratulated the Kuuku Ya'u People and Utaalnganu (Night Island) People on reaching the historic milestone.

"The Kuuku Ya'u and the Utaalnganu determinations reflect their connection and care for the land across many generations and for what I hope will be many more to come," Mr Stewart said.

"I congratulate the Kuuku Ya'u and Utaalnganu People, Cape York Land Council, other respondents and the Federal Court for the diligence and spirit of cooperation required to achieve a great outcome."



*Pics thanks to Cape York Land Council*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Craig Crawford said the determinations are the first in the 79,412 square kilometre Cape York United claim – the largest native title claim in Queensland history.

"Kuuku Ya'u and Utaalnganu elders have fought for their lands and waters for decades and this marks another step forward in their pursuit of justice," Mr Crawford said. "The Palaszczuk Government is committed to righting the wrongs of the past.

"We're proud to stand with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as we continue on the Path to Treaty, truth telling and reconciliation."

As part of the determinations, the Kuuku Ya'u People are recognised as the native title holders of 120,268 hectares of country around

Lockhart River.

This is the third successful Kuuku Ya'u native title claim.

The Utaalnganu People had their native title rights and interests recognised over 98,324 hectares of land south of Lockhart River.

Utaalnganu Traditional Owner and Mayor for Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Wayne Butcher said the determination was justice for his people.

"It's one of those processes that takes a lot of time, but I think it's done justice to a lot of old people who are no longer with us," Mr Butcher said.

"We will get to live healthily and more happily once we get back on Country again.

"To get back there with Native Title recognition, it's so important spiritually and mentally.

"We will feel more at home now."





## Subdivision

Our motto in Lockhart has always been that we build things ourselves, so then we own that.

This same thing applies to a 25-lot subdivision we're hoping to establish, on the way to the beach on the left, or northern side.

It will have ocean views.

So it will be in demand, of course, but it will also be social housing, so everyone will have a chance.

We expect that over next four to five years it will create multiple employment opportunities and, as always, we're looking out



for young apprentices, carpenters, plumbers, painters and electricians.

Creating these opportunities is what this is all about, and building it ourselves, at our own pace means we can have continuity in work and

upskilling from year to year.

I think that's the beauty of it and, for the first time, we're having a go at building something for ourselves, literally from the ground up, which is something we're looking forward to and can't wait to see.



*New Sub division plans starting to take shape: 25 lot Sub Division built towards the beach, in 2022. Lockhart Council will build the subdivision in house (ourselves), the in-house strategy will create Local Business and Employment Opportunities.*





*Cr Karen Koko has been awarded the RFDS "local hero" award, for services to the community and support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Lockhart River Health Services Director of Nursing Josh Stafford said: "We all think this is a well deserved accolade and echo the sentiments that embody the award. Karen works tirelessly to ensure better health outcomes for Lockhart River."*

## Volunteers & Christmas/New Year

There have been several volunteers and workers who have multitasked – gone above and beyond – to see our oval redevelopment through in recent months, and I'd like to finish here by thanking them for stepping up for us.

I'd also like to thank those who have volunteered to be on the board of our new social club, who have taken on a great responsibility.

And finally, to everyone in our community and to everyone who has worked with and for the Council over the past few months, I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

I think we can all do with a bit of a recharge and I look forward to working with you all again over the next 12 months as our challenges continue to land and be overcome.

The best to you all.

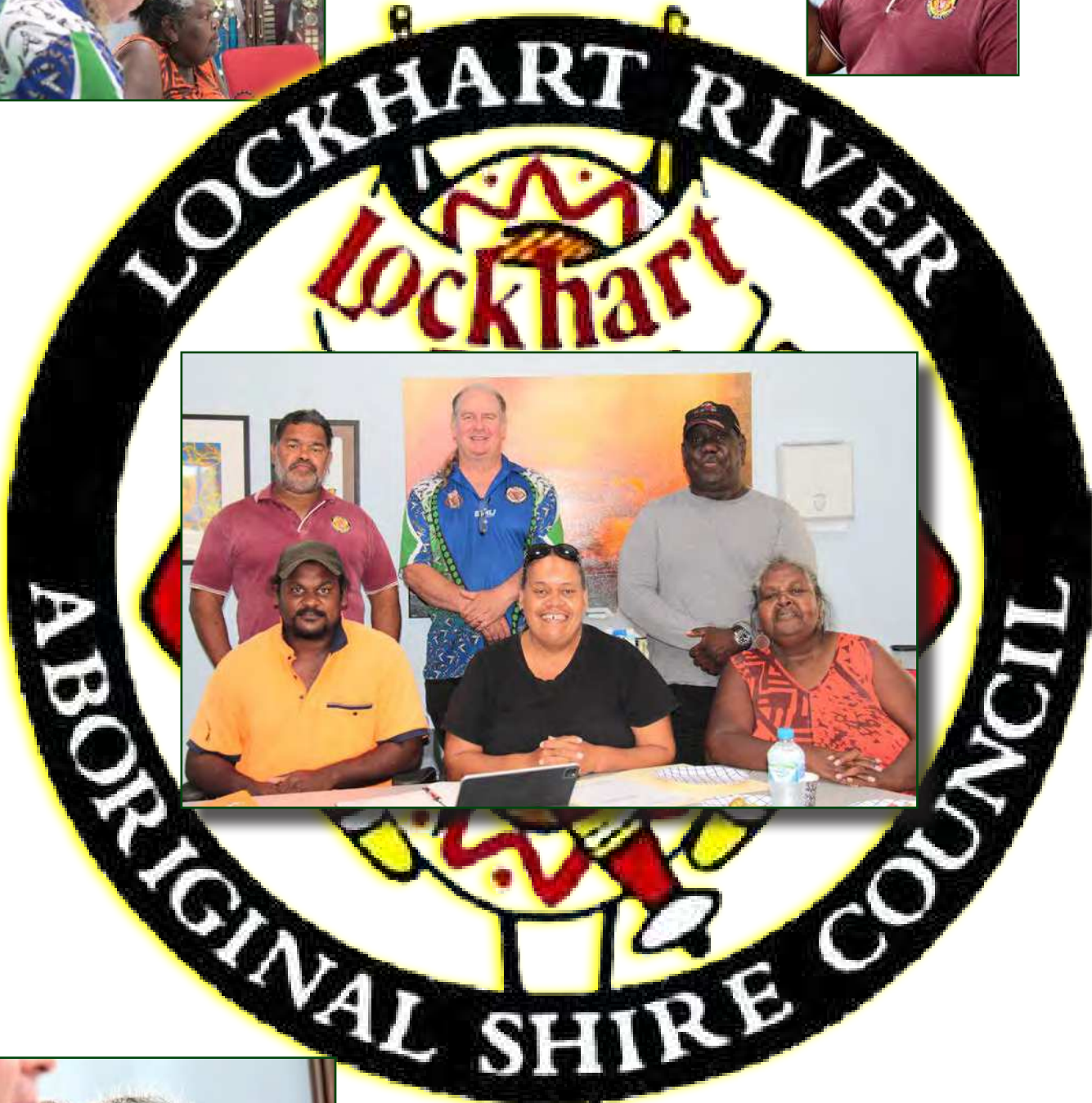
*Wayne B.*  
LRASC Mayor



*The last stages of the oval's rebuild – for more see page 15*









# Social club on track

Lockhart River's new social club board has seven members (and looking for more) who are meeting regularly and working hard to pull together final details in time to open, hopefully in February next year.

To date board members are: Paul Piva, Shamona Walsh, Rex Cannon, Simon Butcher, Ethel Singleton, Nikia Graham and Susan Booth.

General Manager of the club will be Richard Stafford, who managed Kowanyama's pub for 25 years and was due to start in the role last month.

He will pick up much of the work Council's Business Development & Support Officer Jermaine Thomas and Training & Administration Office Noleen Clark have done to set up the social club as a viable business.

Board member Paul Piva said

there was still a way to go.

"At the moment we're just sorting out the final details but we're pretty much on track," he said.

"We're not going to rush it, but we're hoping it will be during the wet season, to get people socialising, and with a few beers as well."

He said there was a lot of opportunity at several levels.

"We're still looking for three more board members," he said.

"We also need people to come and put their name down for security, we'd much rather use local people than outsiders, but we need people

who want to work.

"Security is hard because people want to socialise as well, but it's a full time job.

"So we really hope a local security firm will step up."

Mr Piva said between the bar, the café and security, there would be work for people, hopefully all of them locals.

"Come and see anyone of us on the board if you're interested in running your own business out of the club," he said.

"We can't wait to see families to come in and just enjoy themselves with their kids and their friends.

"It's been exciting to see the oval redevelopment happening at the same time, so it's going to be a one-stop precinct where everyone can just go down and socialise and enjoy themselves."





Lockhart River's Community Justice Group coordinator Ross Norman said they had high hopes for the Social Club, due to open in about February next year.

"We're hoping it will help people understand you can drink steady steady," he said. "At the moment when grog comes in it has a huge impact because they've got to drink it all – they can't leave it in the fridge or elsewhere because someone will steal it or drink it on them.

"That's created a binge mentality and we're hoping the social club will help to break that.

"In the wet season that will be the case, and we hope what will happen then is people will realise how much cheaper the alcohol might be, and that it's a lot better to

be there talking to people and maybe watching some tv. "There will be nowhere else to drink during the wet and we hope that will help to instil in them that the pub will be there for a long time – every day – and you don't have to wipe yourself out every time you drink."

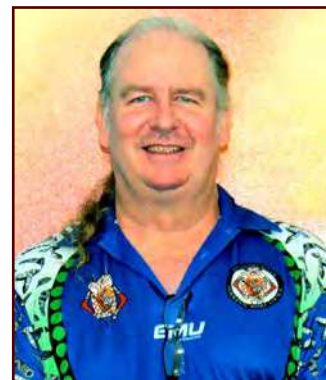
**In preparation to opening the club, we need youpla to come down on Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th of January 2022 to pick up your membership cards. Youpla need to bring valid proof of 18+ ID with you. Remember to download the Queensland Check-In app to show youpla proof of your double COVID-19 vaccination status. It is very important that you have proof of your second COVID-19 jab or we can't let you into the club!**





A word from ...

# CEO David Clarke



The story of the 2021 year has been one of further growth for our Council, with a record civil program delivered CEO Dave Clarke writes...

Thirty-eight people were involved in the roadworks between our road gang and our contractor community.

Putting in two new bores has secured our township water needs well into the future.

A new sewerage management system has been installed, our sewerage ponds renovated, a new water pipeline to the beach, our Cultural Precinct has been started at the beach, our footy field and social club are coming together well, our airport cabins expansion is on track to expand our tourism offer, airport fencing is being installed and more in our community, and preparation for our new housing subdivision is proceeding.

Council's policy of 'investing in our people' continues to pay off, with more apprentices signed up, traffic control, plant tickets, administration, dogman tickets, security licences, safe food handling, and responsible service of

alcohol all delivered.

Our hard working community development team continue to provide high quality services to our people right across the age brackets. Thank you for your work.

We have had our challenges but we have maintained our sound financial position.

The year featured controlled and strategic capital investments that provide downstream employment and business opportunities for our township.

Our concreting team is doing really well, our bitumen truck will minimise our need for outside contractors and open the door to future small business opportunities.

It was great to see our first home grown building contractor, *AW Bowie Carpentry*, join the delivery team.

We look forward to seeing more of our people come forward with business ideas.

Council continues to fund Jermaine, our Business

Support and Development Officer so come tell us your ideas and we will do what we can to help make them happen.

I want to thank everyone for their work throughout the year but I want to pay a special tribute to our Council.

In a year of COVID-19 threat, they have remained steady at the wheel and ferocious in their protection of our community.

Our vaccination rates are very high which is the result of everyone focused and working together.

Great leadership and great work.

For more on COVID see page 32.

I wish everyone a relaxed and happy Christmas break as we look forward to family time before the challenges of next year.

Look after one another and stay safe.

*Dave Clarke*  
LRASC CEO



Setting up the new Lockhart River social club is, in effect, setting up a business, Business Development & Support Officer Jermaine Thomas says.



“In the first instance we had to register the club with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC),” he said.

“We had to do that as part of applying for a liquor permit.

“And to get that permit we have to make sure we are ready with trained security staff and people with their Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) qualifications.

“To run the business itself there are general things like maintaining cash flow,

bookkeeping, setting up a structure that runs well and meets all their compliance requirements.”

He said it was the kind of work he was also doing with the Council’s subcontractors.

“Time sheets, tax, GST – it’s important to make sure all of those things are kept up with, it makes busy people busier, but it has to be done,” he said.

He said he was available for anyone who wanted to get into contracting work or run their own business.

Council Store Manager Benny Macumboy is keen to remind Lockhart River residents that anyone is welcome to come and buy their supplies through them.

“We’re not just for Council and Council employees,” he said.

“Myself, Paul Getawan and Carlson Accoom, who just started, are all on our team.

“I want to study Warehousing and Logistics at TAFE next year and Carl will probably do that too.

“It would be good if I get that.”

He said he had worked at the Store for a little while in 2016



TOP: Business Development & Support Officer Jermaine Thomas at the Social Club ABOVE: Council Store Manager Benny Macumboy

but came back in 2019 as a full time worker.

“We’ve got everything here from garden tools to toilet paper,” he said.

“Plumbing, carpentry,

electrical, office stationary, cleaning supplies, toilet paper – whatever the Council needs, we have it here, and the community can buy here too.”





*ABOVE: Iron Range Cabins manager Hannah Brown & Aerodrome manager Peter Wells seated with housekeepers Elaine Brown & Elizabeth Warradoo*

## The past 12 months have remained challenging due to border restrictions for aircraft charters and movements Aerodrome Manager Peter Wells says.

“Regular passenger numbers have remained constant and now private charters are slowly increasing as COVID restrictions ease across the country,” he said.

“We are looking forward to an increase in aircraft movements and passengers into 2022, along with Skytrans to re-introduce two flights per day for wet season on Mondays and Fridays recommencing 3 Jan 2022.

“Zane Butcher’s work has been progressing well over the past six months and he is looking to be a strong Airport Reporting Officer.

“He has just broken his collar bone, which is unfortunate and will be returning just before or after New Year, with many new work projects waiting for him.

“We’re currently looking for a second experienced ARO to join the team for planned work developments and assist Zane.”

He said in other news the aerodrome fence was progressing reasonably well after a late end to wet season and the runway was in the process of being re-painted.

“The terminal carpark and driveways are planned for bitumen resurfacing in 2022,” he said.

“Work has just commenced to reshape the water drains either side of the runway from soil build-up and erosion or rutting.

“They have held up well since being developed in 2016.

“We would like to thank all those that have transited through the Airport this year abiding to COVID and airport rules.

“Also to all the workers and contractors who have once again gone above and beyond to assist as in providing a safe and professional environment.

“2022 is looking to be a promising year for the Aerodrome.”



Against all the COVID odds, Iron Range Cabins has been fortunate to enjoy a 60–70 per cent occupancy rate over this year’s dry season manager Hannah Brown says.

“And we are really fortunate to be looking forward to an absolute bumper December–January coming up, with tourists making the most of seeing Australia before they can head overseas,” she said. “We are catering all the time now too, and we’re so busy we’re booked up to mid–December and most of Jan 2022 – gotta get in

early to order any catering!” She said there had been some staff changes. “We’ve had some staff turnovers in the past six months, we’ve got Fabian in reception doing a lot of our sales as well as helping me in the kitchen,” she said. “We have also progressed



be able to open them. “And over the wet season we will also be refitting the front and back of our reception building, so those upgrades will be happening as well along with mini renos on our existing studios. “Please contact Cape York Employment if you’re interested in working at the Cabins, new positions will be coming online in February next year when our four new deluxe, two- and three-bedroom cabins come online.”





# Lockhart River's new Isaac Jeffrey 'Chalpy' Hobson Oval



*If there's one thing most of Lockhart River community loves, it's footy! And never was that more in evidence than with the team effort showed by our Council workers - from Parks & Gardens to Building Services and through to Engineering - pulling together to get the job done - a fantastic effort from everyone!!!*





# Municipal Services

Visiting vet Duncan along with his wife and pilot Kate, and student daughter Harri (not to forget Pops and Ruffy) have been circuit visiting communities such as the NPA for decades.

“I’m the pilot, Duncan’s the vet,” Kate says.

“I fly the plane, we couldn’t get into these places if we didn’t fly in and we can’t go commercial because we bring too much stuff – and we bring guns and drugs.”

She said they had vaccinations – especially for parvo – with them every trip.

“So if people want the pups vaccinated for parvo, which is a problem, we have those available,” she said.

“For a puppy to be vaccinated it’s \$50, which is just a bit more than cost.

“De-sexing and other treatments are free.

“We are still doing house to house visits, treating every dog, if owners want their dog treated.

“We do an environmental health program for fleas ticks, slice, keeping the animals clean and keeping everyone healthy.”



## Football oval’s new turf an all-in effort





# Engineering Services

For all of the rest of the Council's progress and development over the year, one of the biggest projects they have taken on has been the amount of road works being done 'in-house', Roads Inspector Wayne Lavender says.



"We started the year setting up the oval and the dance precinct, and the main water line," he said.

"After finishing there, we had to go out and start works on the main road, that we do every year, and there was four culverts, earthworks, including the concreting, and ditch works to complete by the end of this year.

"It's been a one of the biggest or major projects Council has taken on as a Council, with the help of only a few contractors.

"The rest of it was done in house, within the council."

He said it had been a big learning year.

"It's been a very big learning year for the roads and the different ways of

getting things done," he said.

"It's also been a very productive year, and a very rewarding year for all our road workers who have been learning new skills and developing their ability to do major works – not just in the community, but in the mainstream."

He said they were definitely on a par with Main Roads work.

"I can only see it getting better in the future, expanding as we have this year," he said.

"We've had the backing of the council, and with machinery and upgrading of machinery, which will continue on through the years."

He said having their own mobile batching plant had made an enormous difference.

"We are building the road," he said.

"And the culverts.

"And finishing off jobs has been really good, it's created employment.

"This year has been outstanding with out control of the main road works, how it's been done and the guidance.

"We're also looking at buying GPS equipment to do our own levels, like a survey.

"If can do our own surveying with our own gear, we don't have to employ a someone from outside – that's a big jump to what we were doing.

"And the ability of our workers is just getting better and better, and as it goes, as it progresses.

"It's been a really good and rewarding year."



A crew of up to six has been working together batching concrete on the side of the road for works between Brown Creek and the Pascoe River since early November supervisor Nicholas Lindsay says.

“We have come out to batch, supply, form and pour concrete,” he said.

“The concrete goes into the culverts, the causeways and the causeway extensions.

“We’ve done four culverts so far and we’ve done two pipe culverts a bit further out heading to Wenlock river.

“We’ve also done an extension on the Pascoe Causeway and we just did another a hundred cube on the Pascoe Farm Road.

“So we’ve done two causeways there.”

He said his team was learning.

“I would like to train them up,” he said. “They’re learning how to batch concrete, run machinery and look after the maintenance.

“They’re also learning how to form place, reinforce and finish concrete which means boxing up, reinforcing the steel, and placing concrete, all to

TMR main road standards.

“From there it’s about landing their culverts and building their head walls, wing walls and completion.

“It’s not just putting concrete in the ground, it’s more structural, and because we’re working to TMR standards, everything has to be pretty precise.”

He said it was a seven-day-a-week job.

“The wet season will slow us down,” he said.

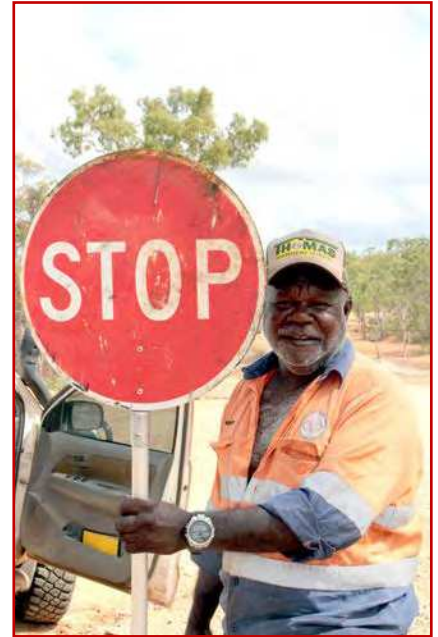


ABOVE:  
Ethan  
Pascoe,  
Paddy  
Hobson  
& Nick  
Lindsay





# Our road gangs







## Its been a very busy short season for us Project Manager Mark 'Casper' Spencer says.

"The crews started on the QRA Funded works early in August," he said.

"We worked Pascoe Farm first up and then went out to Chuulangun for a couple of weeks.

"A nice change and most of the crew stayed out for peace, quiet and three hours less driving everyday.

"Then a bit on Old Mission Road and we worked on the football field get all the levels sorted and helping out with the turf.

"Amazing to see how quickly the grass got its roots in and grew.

"We had another nice change of scenery clearing and re-establishing the big drains adjacent to the airport

runway – looks great.

"Finishing off we have been working in with the new concreting crew putting down two causeways on Pascoe Farm Road."

He said it was important to remember the hard work that went in to what they do.

"We have a great crew, and if you think you work hard, think about these guys out in the steamy heat getting stuck in," he said.

"There are a lot of people behind us as well.

"The Council executive work hard lobbying and getting funding applications in, and networking with many individuals and groups to give us these road working opportunities.

"Dave particularly has a lot to consider on the roadworks program – many thanks for that.

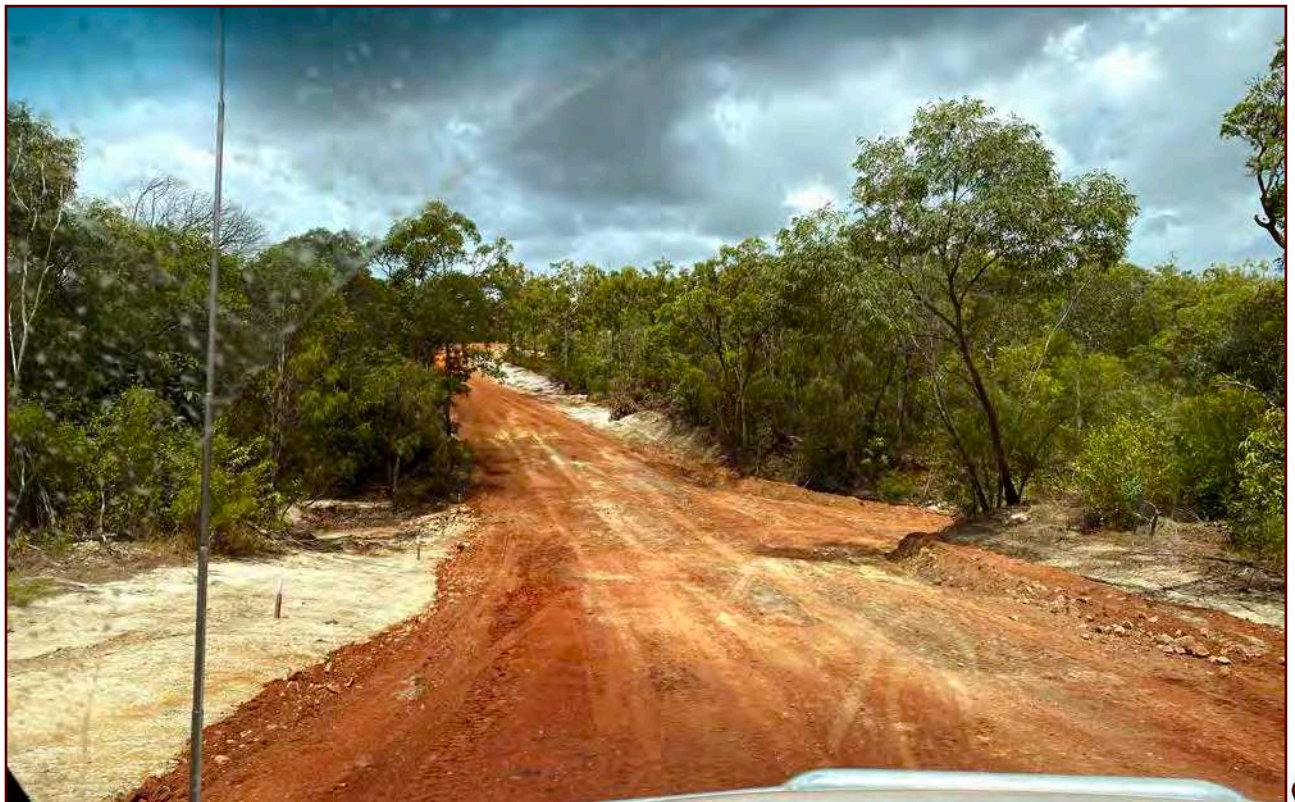
"Our contractors have kept things going this year, which is always a challenge when you have engines and wheels.

"Particular thanks to Paul for just doing lots and lots – and for his support to everyone.

"The local boys really stood up, with no rain days they didn't get much rest and turned up every day – well done.

"Final thanks to Noleen for her enduring support for our administrative effort and occasionally giving me a free pen.

"Merry Christmas to all."



# Building Services



It's been another tough year of working with COVID with shortages of material on the market and prices have gone up, Building Services Director Regis Edmond – who is about to go into his tenth year with the Council – writes...

All our apprentices are qualified now, one of them is running his own business and doing some of our bigger jobs, such as fencing and full house upgrades.

We have other work in town too, quite a bit of maintenance work.

I have been looking for a maintenance carpenter to pick up some of that work – if anyone reading this is good at maintenance, please don't hesitate to call me.

We need someone for those smaller jobs, such as changing locks or fixing windows – we have a large volume of them.

Alistair has taken on some

of the bigger upgrade works, and I still have Chris and Ronnie.

Stage one of the new airport cabins are completed and stage two is 80 per cent complete.

The airport fencing is actually in progress and still moving forward, and we're about to start a large project fencing around the school and residences, so that will take us into the wet.

We have another subdivision on the way shortly – that will create enough work for everyone.

Hopefully some young, strong local boys (or girls!)

will come and put in an application once we start building.

If you're ready to be trained, we'll get you an apprenticeship and once you're committed and qualified, there will be work here for you, in the community.

We're trying to keep all the work in the community and it's been fantastic to work with everyone here, let's create more work for everyone and keep all this going forward.

*Pictured above is Regis with painters James Macumboy & Thomas Abraham.*



# Community Development

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council underwent a site assessment for the Human Services Quality Standards on 2 and 3 September 2021 as part of our funding agreements. Community Development consultant Margaret Barnes writes...

The programs included in the assessment were the Pytham Women's Shelter, Men's Healing Services, Youth Support Services and the Queensland Community Support Scheme.

The assessment resulted in a number of non conformities however the process has been a valuable exercise which will allow Council the opportunity to formalise and improve a number of standards across all services.

A big thank you to the all staff and clients who participated in the assessment.

YETI – Youth Empowered Towards Independence – partnered with Council to arrange for our youth workers, Krystal and Steven, to receive some hands-on training in the Youth Support System.

The training was conducted by YETI staff over a couple of days in early October in



*Assessors Peter and Bernadette, who conducted the site visit for the Human Services Quality review*

Cairns and was very well received.

YETI also extended an invitation to Krystal and Steven, and Rex, our Men's Services Coordinator to attend the Shared Stories 3 workshop in Cairns on 3 and 4 November 2021.

The topic of the workshop was Staying Connected – Learning from each other about youth, alcohol and drug work in North Queensland.

The staff found the event very informative with some good ideas and inspiration to bring back to their programs, and great networking with others working in the same space.

Thank you to YETI (special mention to Mandy and Maria) for hosting and supporting our team.

Have a safe and happy Christmas everyone.

## DECEMBER YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM PLANNER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
19	20 Xmas Card Making  Yarn Around Fire	21 Chilli Beach Day	22 Arts & Craft  Movie Night	23 Pool & Dart Comp.  Swimming	24 Christmas Eve  Disco	25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day	27 Public Holiday	28 Chilli Beach Day	29 Arts & Craft  Movie Night	30 Pool & Dart Comp.  Swimming	31 Activities @ Youth Centre Disco	

• All programs are split into two programs per day (morning and evening)







Lockhart's Home and Community Care (HACC) is as busy as it has ever been with more than 25 meals going out every day of the week plus their very busy and popular accommodation.

“We are busier than we’ve ever been, we’ve got much more clients,” Manager Noella Clarke says.

“We now look after young or disabled NDIS clients, as well as our Elders, which means we’re working from three different streams of funding because we are the only service provider.

“We are limited to what we can do, which is meals, transport and laundry, and some social support – trips to the beach, bbqs, Christmas dinners and things like that.”

She said they had additional help from Sonya Butcher, who is their NDIS Remote Community Connector.

“We needed someone who

could articulate and interpret our way through request forms and things like that,” she said. “And for NDIS, we need more help generally, we just don’t have the staff or the resources, which means we don’t have the opportunities for people to be able to access all the services they would like.”

## DECEMBER YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM PLANNER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Years Day
2	3 Arts & Crafts Cooking	4 Out On Country	5 Activities @ Youth Centre Movie Night	6 Swimming Yarn Around Fire	7 Beach Day Disco	8
9	10 Arts & Crafts Cooking	11 Out On Country	12 Activities @ Youth Centre Movie Night	13 Swimming Yarn Around Fire	14 Beach Day Disco	15
16	17 Arts & Crafts Cooking	18 Out On Country	19 Activities @ Youth Centre Movie Night	20 Swimming Yarn Around Fire	21 Beach Day Disco	22





## Lockhart River's Community Justice Group (CJG) has expanded their membership over the past six months, coordinator Ross Norman says.

"We've been operating with only the two members for a long time," he said.

"Now we've increased to five and we're still looking to recruit more, especially some younger members in the community, the future leaders.

"We're just trying to get a broader cross section of the community, so we're not all old, but there's some younger people, some middle aged.

"At the moment I think the oldest person on the committee would be 84 and the youngest in his 20s – we're keen to have a diverse range of members on the CJG to reflect different groups in the community.

"A young person dealing with a justice issue to

another young person, with that broader base of knowledge of what's involved than the wider justice group has, is important to have."

He said they had also been working closely with the Council's Men's Services.

"We've had Probation and Parole here talking to men and women about domestic violence and we've had one of the counsellors from the RFDS working here," he said.

"So we're working more collaboratively towards dealing with some of the issues, whether that be sly grogging or domestic issues.

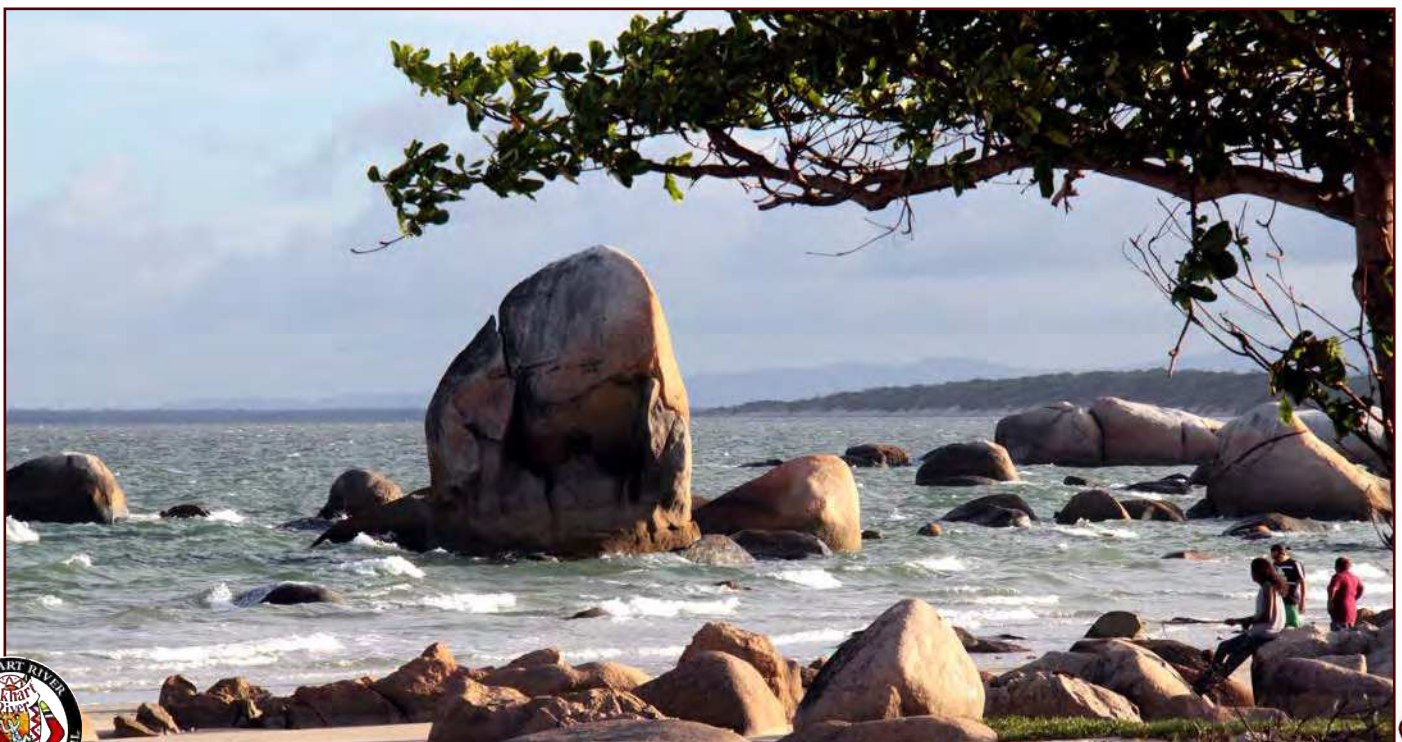
"We also have funds for on Country activities and early



*ABOVE: Ross Norman & CJG member Ethel Singleton*

next year we'll be hoping to start doing that on a monthly or fortnightly basis."

He said they were also hoping to have male and female DV Support Officers on board very shortly.





*LEFT: Women's Shelter workers  
Luka Getawan & welcome to Barbara Bally who has commenced work at the Shelter. Barbara transferred from the IKC to the Shelter.*

Upgrades to our radio station mean service may be interrupted for up to the next four months coordinator and Umpila clan group representative for the Ngana Malngkanichi Pama Cultural Heritage Archive Johanne Omeenyo says.

She said in the meantime all the community clan groups were welcome to come in and see what they can find on their database at the Archive.

“We’d love the community to come in and utilise our material more,” she said.

“That’s what it’s here for, it is for everyone.”



*The Com Dev team welcomes Kim Omeenyo to the role of IKC Coordinator. Kim will work with Johanne so come in and say hello and have a look at the facility. Everyone is welcome and we encourage you all to access the library and computers. Kim is pictured here with Peter & Natasha Accoom and Mick Omeenyo*





Working with Cook Shire Council on an installation at the new Cape York Gateway project gave the Men's Group good focus over the past six months, Men's Service coordinator Rex Cannon says.



*LEFT: Men's Services Coordinator Rex Cannon – always with lots of ideas going on!*

Men's group Projects/Activities	Justice	Health/Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wood Carving</li> <li>- Leather work</li> <li>- Arts &amp; craft - painting</li> <li>- Pallet timber furniture making</li> <li>- Small engine maintenance/repairs</li> <li>- Contribute to events with members</li> <li>- Beautification projects Parks, shops, lady field - (Planting trees)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Service hours</li> <li>- Drug &amp; Alcohol program</li> <li>- Domestic Violence program</li> <li>- Substance abuse program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health checks</li> <li>- All types of services relating to community</li> <li>- Get the health clinic to dental / Physio / Dentist, foot doctor, Dietitians etc...</li> </ul>

Gateway to Cape York is an iconic "gateway" sculpture installation in Lakeland, on the Mulligan Highway.

It is a purpose-built traveller information centre, a rest stop area and an interactive park that showcases communities from Cape York.

"They came up and had a yarn with us and we consulted around the community around the artwork they wanted to put there," Rex said.

"The men got back to him and that's been a great focus the group has been able to work on together.

"On a weekly basis

about 15-20 men are using the centre here, especially over the past month or two with the band.

"We've also been talking about some planting or beautification projects just down the road here.

"We'd like to see some trees and down the track maybe a seating area or a little parking bay.

"We've also got a pressure cleaner, so we've been looking at maybe playgrounds and giving them a clean.

"Our members can also get involved in some of the other gardening projects we have, and we've got some leather gear here too, some of the

youth have been interested in that, especially the young boys who ride horses."

He said any men in the community were welcome to come and join them, no questions asked.

"I'd urge men to come up and just come up and see us," he said.

"There's all sorts of activities we can offer and they don't have to say why they're here, they can do their own thing.

"They don't have to come here and say they're stressed, or whatever it is, they just come here and say, "I want do something" and we'll find it for them."





TOP & RIGHT: A yarn, a drawing and the outcome. Artist Greg Omeeny, Dave Walsh, Creative director Dev Lengjel and artist and councillor Norman Bally from Lockhart River at Lakeland.  
BELOW: Great to see Bala Aaron Fa'Aoso in Lockhart





# Corporate Services

This year the finance team delivered Council's annual audit within record time Corporate Services Director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

The audit opinion was 'Unmodified', meaning the audit findings on Council and Aerodrome Company books of accounts were good.

The team also achieved two internal audit reports that were completed and delivered to the Audit Committee to ensure our compliance with legislative requirements of internal audit function.

The 2020/21 Annual Report

was completed before due date of 13 November 2021 and free copies are available from Council's website and Council's Admin offices in Cairns and Lockhart River.

The 2021/22 Annual Budget was completed and approved by Council on 14 July 2021, within legislative requirement of the due dates.

The approved Operational budgeted revenue was

\$11,285,503 and expenditure was \$14,012,337 while the capital expenditure was estimated to be \$13,205,924 funded by new grant revenue \$12,519,124 and balance funded from carryover capital grant revenue.

This was a balanced budget though, without funding depreciation charges.

Our Cairns office team welcomed Jordan Harding who joined the team for the School holiday period.

The team is happy sharing their skills and experience with the young Jordan, who is very excited about serving her community.

Some service points that will be open on selected days during the Christmas Break to ensure the Community can access those services are: Centerlink, Australia Post and ATM services.

The services will be available 9am – Midday from December 20 – 24 and 29 – 31 December 2021.

Our Cairns office will be closed from 20 December until 4 January 2022.



*ABOVE: Zali Hobson at TAFE on her 2nd block Cert III in Business and working in Cairns Office as part of her training earlier this year.*





*LEFT: Governance & Training Coordinator Noleen Clark helping Peter Giblet apply for his White Card (Safety). BELOW: the LRASC corporate team based in Lockhart River: Centrelink Agent Greta Accoom; Noleen Clark; Office Manager Deanka Omeeny; Admin/Cleaner Chantel Hobson & Bank and Post Office worker Maree Hobson.*



Looking at how time runs fast, the Christmas break and long festive season is here with us again. This year the Cairns office team had good catchup with both Council and senior management over dinner. The team felt deeply appreciated for the efforts

they put into the Lockhart River community through providing financial services. To Corporate Services Staff, thank you so much, for what you have achieved during the year to make the Council and Lockhart River community so successful. I express thanks and sincere

appreciation for your hard work, determination and dedication. For this festive season, I wish you good health, happiness, peace and prosperity. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS = MERRY XMAS + HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Stanley*





# COVID is coming Lockhart River

1. Don't panic.
2. Vaccinate!
3. Social distance.
4. Wash hands.
5. If you're worried, wear a mask.



Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the best defence against COVID-19 and we're really pleased the community is tracking towards better than 80% vaccination rates, Lockhart River Health Services Director of Nursing Josh Stafford says.

"Our biggest concern is the small number of people who haven't vaccinated," he said.

"Even though it's a small number, those people do have access to vulnerable people in our community and even though those people are immunised, even a minor illness would be enough to send some of them to hospital.

"Think of it as an old person who gets the flu, who would likely be hospitalised – if they get COVID, especially from one of those people who haven't been vaccinated, they would be in big danger."

## Vax v no-vax

He said while both vaccinated and unvaccinated people could carry the disease the 'load', or number of germs an unvaccinated person carried, was greater and therefore posed a bigger threat.

"There's been no adverse events from vaccinations reported in the Cape and there's been no deaths," he said.

"Reports on social media are unhelpful and scaremongering,

if you've got concerns or questions about the vaccine, come and talk to us, we'll be honest and truthful.

"We won't tell lies, we won't sugarcoat anything and we'll be honest.

"I care about each and every one of the people in Lockhart and I hope they will take all our advice so we can protect them, and not just them, but the rest of the community."

*RIGHT: Josh briefing the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council at their November meeting.*





## When, not if

He said COVID coming into the town was a 'when', not an 'if'.

"We want to assure the community than when that does happen, we have plans in place to cope," he said.

"If anyone has symptoms we need them to come straight to the clinic to be tested.

"If they test positive to coronavirus, we're going to send them home, we're going to lock their yard and say, 'everyone who lives in this house has to stay there for a week'.

"They will get phone calls from us and from Cairns to check on them every day, but the plan is to manage them in the home and in the community.

"If the person is feeling unwell or sick, we'll probably – if Cairns Base has the capacity – send them south.

"We don't have the capacity to manage people on oxygen in the community, so that's why they'll be sent down.



*Our vax team:  
Nurses Lisa Smith (Team Leader); Iman-Ebru Hashim & Jules Samuels.*

"The modelling for the region at this stage, with the immunisation rates tracking as they are, suggests they'll be able to manage."

## Testing

He said they needed to know early if people were sick.

"The message is if COVID is in the Cape, they need people to come in and get tested early," he said.

"Get tested early, don't be frightened.

"It's better to know earlier than to sit at home and be sick and then spread it around to everyone else.

"We're not going to shame people.

"It's because we want to

know early so we can treat people early – the earlier the better.

"So don't be shamed, we've got a rapid testing machine up here and we can get people tested pretty quickly."

He said above all else, if it is here: don't panic.

"Be sensible, get vaccinated, get tested early and often if you have any symptoms," he said.

"And if you've got an outstation, go to the outstation, if you have a camp, go out to that camp – COVID loves close contact and indoor spaces, so spread out – that might be our best protection when the time comes."



*LEFT: THEY STEPPED UP!  
L-R: Grant Omeeny;  
Renie Hobson & Paul Getawan*





# PREVENTION



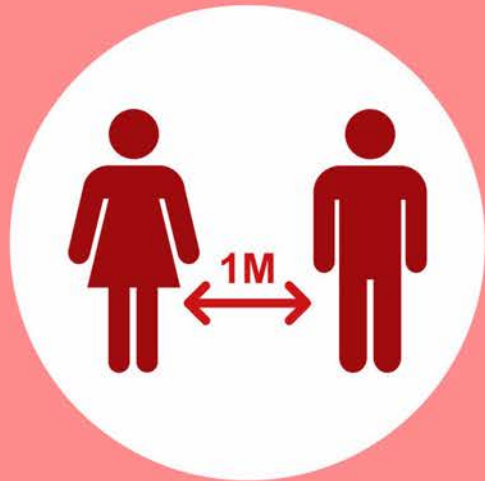
Wearing Mask



Wash Your Hand



Stay it Home



Social Distance

## Coronavirus Covid-2019



FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



makethechoice.com.au

# MAKE the CHOICE

Get vaccinated against COVID-19, for you and your community.

Visit [www.makethechoice.com.au](http://www.makethechoice.com.au).



## Long-term lockdown midwife moves on



Welcome to Jen Hobson farewell to Marlene

Lockhart River Health Services would like to offer a very big, thank you to Marlene Jones, who was our midwife.

Marlene came to us just before COVID and she stayed in community when the lockdown happened – and not every community got to have live-in midwife and child health nurse at that time, so it was amazing. Marlene dedicated much time and effort into getting better outcomes for pregnant women and their children here in Lockhart River and we wish her all the very best for the future.

In the meantime Dr Mike will be looking after all our antenatal patients until a new midwife is found.





# School enjoys a busy year - with more to come!

Lockhart River highlights for 2021 range from the successful development of a series of transition camps through to the building of a new senior precinct, improvements in attendance and academic results, Principal Bradley Hurrell writes.

We worked really hard this year to make sure we were equipping our students for boarding school this year and that meant getting students out for transitions camps.

We'd organised, through our regional office, local employment and community partnerships to help support transition camps outside on homelands and also, potential boarding schools.

One big thing that we've been working with the Mayor and our Council, is trying to establish how we value education.

For me that's about looking at the interactions between

parents and their children – how do we support parents to have a teacher's lens during the interactions between their children?

And how do we re-create those interactions between parents and students, teaching and learning, in the classroom?

Seeing parents as the first teachers and facilitating space where we can engage with parents and the child, and create learning environments or learning intentions from those interactions is where we need to look.

So how do we teach on the beach? How do we teach when we're on homelands?

That's been a big question of mine with my little boy – how am I teaching as a father, as an educator, when I'm at the beach fishing, and how do our parents intentionally

teach when they're down fishing as well?

These are the questions we have explored this year and it is exciting to look at teaching and learning in a new way.

I encourage parents to have further conversations with me about how they teach their children as first educators.

Our other big news is the significant gains we have had in attendance for our primary cohort.

At the beginning of term 4, we had a week's worth of 90% attendance, which is in line with the state's benchmark, it means that students are valuing what they are learning in the

classroom and parents are supporting their children to improve in their education. Lockhart has really stepped up in our attendance and that has had a direct correlation in student's academic results.

There has been a big shift in student assessment and reports this year, with more students receiving 'C's, 'B's



PICTURED: Dinners, dancers, camps and Book Week!



and 'A's than any other year over the past 5 years. Parents should be very proud.

A lot of that has been about building our local employment and having local people here on the ground working alongside our teachers and encouraging community consolation and engagement.

That general integration between community and the school has been a huge turning point for us.

We started with some community consultation meetings at the beginning of this year, there was six attendees and five of them were from the school....

Towards the end of this year, we were able to engage with between 45 to 60 local members during a women's night to support the development of our Strong, Healthy, Proud curriculum. The success of this night came from the initiative of our local teacher aides.

At the beginning of next year, we will have a new building – which should be ready by term 1 – to cater for our secondary students.



Currently we've got about 34 students in the secondary space and about 87 to 90 students in the primary space. We are applying to our region for an alternative learning plan so the school can offer more meaningful subjects that will improve senior engagement.

We look forward to seeing the smiling faces of our

students next year and work towards improving on our strong direction for the school and community into 2022. On behalf of the staff I thank all the support from local employment, parents and community partnerships. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Bradley*





Pics with thanks to Jaz Ford, a TI teacher who was at this year's Laura Dance & Cultural Festival.





# Olympic inspiration

Lockhart River Primary School hosted Olympic royalty last month, with Taliqua Clancy (beach volleyball) and Brad Hore (boxing) on site to deliver inspirational messages to students as part of their Olympics Unleashed program.

Presented in an interactive and engaging way, the athletes shared how they set goals, overcame challenges and demonstrated resilience throughout their athletic journey as part of the free program aimed at Years 4–6. Brad (Dunghutti, NSW) said seeing this year’s grade sixes

graduate was good to see. “They’re going off to boarding school, so we just spoke to them about just hanging in there,” he said. “Both of us, myself and Taliqua, had to leave home for our training, what we’ve achieved, so we had to step outside the box.

“So we know it’s going to be tough, but hopefully they’ll just take a little bit of our advice and just hang in there so they can have a good future in their lives.”

Taliqua (Wulli Wulli, Qld) said it they had some special memories from their visit.

“Seeing all the graduating class was really special,” she said.

“We got to go and visit all the classes and spend the whole day there, which was even more special.

“It was nice to spend the whole day, to get to know the whole community.”

They both said they enjoyed the curry.



*Pics by Matthew Barnard.*



# Utilities program helping Dominic chase his dream

Dominic Macumboy always dreamed of playing rugby league at the elite level.

In 2020 a company called Utilita joined forces with Ipswich Jets coach Keiron Lander to provide employment opportunities for Indigenous players recruited to the club from regional and remote communities.

Dominic has benefited from the program after signing with the Ipswich Jets for the 2021 season, where he developed new skills on and off the field.

His role as a Civil Worker with Utilita is diverse, completing a range of maintenance activities on Urban Utilities' assets.

"I'm learning something new every day, as the work is always different," Dominic said in April this year.

"I've also had opportunities to start teaching others how to do some of the work, which I've really enjoyed.

"The move to Ipswich was a big deal for me. Life in the city is so different – it's busy and there are so many people.

"With all the changes, Keiron and Utilita have been a good support for me and I'm glad that I made the move down here.

"I'd like to be a positive role model for young people from my community, which would really make my family proud."

*Pics thanks to Bruce Clayton Photography  
Story edited from: <http://downernews.downergroup.com/article/utilities-program-helping-young-athletes-chase-their-dreams/?fbclid=IwARonLQkuRADd8Hdfv2Uc5d3SYWjvO2ZKfAbDv4r1oHaFtpCGmszRxHX9ly8>*

