

Waadanta



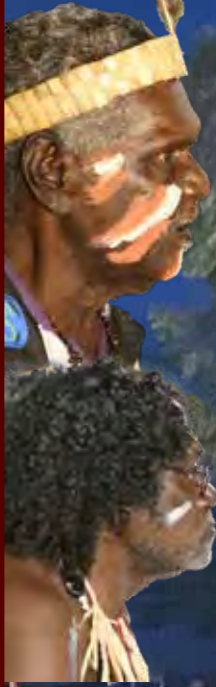
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December 2023

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

Paytham Malkari





A word from ...

Mayor Wayne Butcher



By far the highlight of the year was Paytham Malkari, as we remembered – and watched on film – a dance festival held 50 years ago, in 1973, in the same area along the beach front there, Wayne Butcher writes ...

It's one thing to watch such a film on YouTube, it's another thing to see it on the big screen, and in the very same spot it took place on what was a near perfect evening.

It was good to have Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk officially open the festival and refurbished grounds with Member of Cook Cynthia Lui and our government champions Minister Mark Bailey and Director-General Warwick Agnew.

The festival was something we have planned for years,

this return to the beach front at Lockhart River, and we were finally able to achieve it.

The outcome was great, the number of people who got involved for those three evenings, as well as working through the day, the community spirit was amazing.

It was great to drive around

the community and actually see houses with all the dancing skirts hanging off railings and people busy making headbands and preparing for the night.

The kids were shake-a-logging on the streets before and after the festival, even my kids in my house.

It just goes to show that if and when we can capitalise



RIGHT: Mayor Wayne Butcher, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and local MP Cynthia Lui watching the Junior Kawadji Wimpa dancers perform at the opening of Paytham Malkari.





ABOVE: Jasmine Accoom, Fr Brian Claudie, Minister Mark Bailey, Mayor Wayne Butcher, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and local MP Cynthia Lui cut the ribbon on the Paytham Malkari festival and dance grounds; BELOW: D-G and community champion Warwick Agnew with Anastacia and Cynthia at the Festival,

on one of our biggest strengths – and that’s our culture, and our dancing culture in particular – I think that is our platform into the future.

With the festival, we wanted

to start off small and see how we went with a couple of visiting communities.

Many thanks to the Yarrabah and Bamaga dancers for making the effort to come to Lockhart.

Our junior and senior Kawadji Wimpa dancers also performed and it was a great way to end the year.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk

Having the Premier here was also an opportunity for us to show her all the work we’ve been doing, particularly with our other highlight for the year, the opening of the Isaac ‘Chalpy’ Hobson Oval earlier in the month.

The Premier and her group were also interested in the social club – the opening of which was yet another highlight of the year!

Continues...





The visit was an opportunity to talk about the focus of the community in terms of educating our people about how to socialise with alcohol into the future.

The Premier has also been a great supporter for the Puuya Foundation as a fundraiser in Brisbane, and she said it was great to see where those funds end up and how they are used.

She was blown away with our community focus on early childhood and the facility, which she said made her day.

Overall her response to what we were doing was very positive, as was the tail-end of her visit, to the Puuya Foundation for lunch followed by a quick visit to the Art Centre.

She said after seeing the rock formations down at the beach front for herself, she could more clearly see where the inspiration of the Lockhart art had come from in her own collection of Lockhart River art.

It was great that she could come because her father, Henry Palaszczuk, been to Lockhart a few times as the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, and helped us put together Puchiwu Fishing Limited.

She was keen to stay the night, but unfortunately had to go back to Cairns.



The Premier's three-hour visit was non-stop, covering all of the best of our community.



**MORE
PICS
PAGES
41-47!**



Isaac 'Chalpy' Hobson Oval

The Isaac 'Chalpy' Jeffrey Hobson football oval was open in November, thanks to 'pool' funding from the Queensland Government, in what is best described as a 'cocktail' of sources, including the very important Sports & Rec, State Development and Work for Queensland, as well as Council's own money.

It looks a million dollars thanks to the hard work of John Pritchard and it was good to finally get that oval back up to good quality standard again, with lighting and re-sheeting of the turf. It's another great sporting facility, an asset for the community to work upon into the future with sports and recreational activities. For Paytham Malkari and the oval, there was also a lot of

'in-kind' contribution from the Council, made possible by the work we've done to keep our money in our community through our local contractors. Our Council Roadworks crew, led by Solly his team, have also made tremendous civil construction in-kind contributions to our cultural precinct and sports oval, which we are enormously grateful for.





Subdivision

The other thing is the subdivision, which is a new 25-lot subdivision on the Line Hill block.

It's a freehold block which will give more social housing to the community into the future.

It's also an opportunity for anyone in the community who wants to buy a block, to build their own house on it.

So, that has opened up a different avenue for home ownership in the community.

It will also spread our community out a bit, which is a good thing, not to mention

that it's a great location.

The subdivision will be named by the Traditional Owners soon, so watch this space.

Referendum

Over the year I put a lot of time and effort into the referendum, trying to get us recognition in the Australian Constitution, and get a Voice at a national level into the parliament.

I was bitterly disappointed with the outcome.

In particular in Queensland, who topped the votes in the No campaign against the Voice agenda, which hurt.

And then the coalition in Queensland followed with withdrawing their support for the pathway to treaty agenda in Queensland, so that hurt a bit more.

But every time we get knocked down, we just need to keep getting up and keep moving ahead.

It's painful, but I guess we just have to persevere and see where to next.

I think that's why I enjoyed the opening of the footy oval and the festival grounds, they are the results of our perseverance, no matter what the outside factors.



The BIG picture... going to Garma was about getting some ideas around our festival here, but also about the big picture – it's a very political event and Cape York doesn't have anything like that.





In July this year Queensland Governor Dr Jeanette Young came to Lockhart, as was described in Koori Mail (left)

On the road to the Cape

Queensland Governor makes a trip to visit remote communities

By CHRISTINE HOWES

IT would be fair to say the majority of visitors to Cape York – especially the more high profile ones – fly in and fly out. But Queensland Governor, His Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC QC, recently travelled to several communities for a wide range of reasons. By taking Brian, Aurahun, Napanum, Mapoon and Lockhart River were all on her itinerary.

"It was just gorgeous," she told the Koori Mail.

"It's an absolutely perfect part of Queensland. It's amazing, the scenery going across to Lockhart River and then coming over that from Range. It's just spectacular, and the beaches."

"She said the drive was well worth it."

"You think it's much if you don't drive," she said.

"It takes time longer, but I had the time, that's good. And so I could see so much."

"I think it's amazing how people live in Lockhart River and their drive across to Weipa to do



HACC workers Bessie Hobson, Eleanor Short and Amelia Clarke with the Governor in Lockhart River.

their shopping.

"It's not the best of roads. But it's pretty well maintained and you can see the country, doing a bit of work there – it was a really good trip to do."

Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher said Dr Young officially opened the community's new secondary school premises



Queensland Governor Dr Jeanette Young and Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher.

"While at the school, she visited a few classes and read books to the students," he said.

"She then had lunch with the community at the social club where we spoke about the importance of investing in educating our community about sustainable drinking and building an environment to cater into the future."

"She also visited the new sub-station site and she expressed her interest in home ownership."

Dr Young said that next regularly with the premier and ministers of the state, and was able to pass on what she had found.

"I had to always try and come up with the ministers who are champions of the community. For instance, I spoke to Minister Grace about Napanum, she's been championing," she said.

She said she particularly enjoyed visiting the schools, art centres and health clinics, and meeting the Eilers and Larri and Sam Rangers.



More on the BIG picture

Leadership in our Indigenous shires is not about just leading inside our respective communities, you have to be aware of the bigger picture at few different levels.

You've got the regional level, with the Cape and Torres, then you've got state level, with Queensland, and then you've also got the national level as well.

So, a lot of those levels are where you can actually tackle those key issues such as health, and education, and housing, employment, business, the economy.

You've got to have your fingers on the pulse on all those levels.

But it's not just understanding the different levels of politics, it's being able to take Lockhart's agenda and language and ideas to those different levels.

We need to be able to speak the different languages of the different levels of governance, and we need to understand who we are dealing with.

Political parties, for example – what does the Liberal Party stand for? What are their core values?

What does Labour stand for? What about the National Party or the Greens?

And even the One Nation mob, and the Katter Party. There's a lot that happens in

politics that our community don't see, but it affects us in a big way.

Leadership is a balancing act between working effectively where it really matters – down here on the ground in our community and on a day-to-day basis – and being in a position to influence change for the better by lobbying at all those different levels in regional, state, and federal politics.

And that's quite a big juggling act.

We have been fortunate in Lockhart River to have been really strong with stable governance which has given us opportunity to take on a long-term focus.





Opportunities – and hard work

I've been on the policy executive of the Local Government Association of Queensland, so myself and the mayor of Hope Vale have represented the 17 Indigenous Shires at that executive board level. It's another a piece of the puzzle when we look at the local government community in Queensland, and how we lobby the government in some of the key policies around things like roads, rates and rubbish.

Having said that, housing has also been a big part of it this year because it has become a state and national issue, not just in Indigenous communities, but across the board.

I often say to governments, "we've been in this position for a very long time, and now the rest of the state and the country's caught up to us".

So, now they understand the pressure we have around overcrowding, a lack of good-quality housing, and good, environmentally safe housing.

There has also been a lot of talk around our shires about financial sustainability, so we have been working with the Queensland Treasury Corporation and the local government office through TCICA on ways that we

could look at how we could protect our Indigenous shires in

Queensland a bit more.

It's an issue because we're not rate-based shires, so we have to look at how we can get some quality control around maintaining our financial viability.

We need good quality governance and administration, and good quality staff who can take on upskilling opportunities as well – it's an ongoing challenge and discussion.

Advocacy

The other opportunity to advocate for our community was in health with the TORCH program, which is looking at health system reform in the Torres and Cape region.

Queensland was the first state to legislate with a focus on the issue, with the establishment of an independent regional healthcare commission.

What it means is we're looking at how it could be that nearly a half a billion dollars invested in health in the region still leaves our people dying young.

It's investment versus health outcomes – the investment is the big elephant on the scale and the health outcome is the mouse on the other end of the scale.

The commission will be looking at the investment and how we can better redirect that investment and create



better policies to reflect on focused area.

Some communities might have a lot of challenges around suicide, for example, others might not, so we've got to redirect the health agenda focus of those communities and, we hope therefore, their health outcomes.

Diabetes, cancer, all those things that are very challenging and affecting the lives of our people.

Solid foundations

Our Council leadership team over the past few years has really lifted the profile and status of the Lockhart River community.

And it hasn't been about making us famous, it's



been about building the foundations that will take our community well into the future – for our kids and our kids' kids.

I think the fact of the matter is when you look at a lot of the infrastructure in the community nowadays, is we built most of it all ourselves.

And that's what a lot of communities don't do, and that's why we get the attention of some of the people who have visited us this year, like the Governor

of Queensland and leaders such as Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek.

We've managed to capture the investment into our community, restructure our organisation, and then create – and that's what attracts attention.

We've also got a business hub now in the community, that is there to support and assist the community.

It's a free service for any individual or groups that want to go into business.

So our small business

community is growing, and the only way you're going to build a local economy, you must capture the investments and then keep it in the community.

The more contracts we tender out is more money we're throwing out the window.

We've still got our challenges, to work with the next generation in upskilling them and ensure they grasp opportunities as they come up.



Thanks to Federal Minister for Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek and Queensland Minister for Environment, Science, Multicultural Affairs and the Great Barrier Reef Leanne Linard for their September visit to discuss the new World Heritage sites proposal.

And more opportunities

The subdivision, where we now need to build houses, is one such opportunity.

To build houses we need a work team, so straight away the chance to take up apprenticeship positions comes out of that.

We've got to get our young people to take up those opportunities, because we need apprentice electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and painters. That's why education is so important, we must get our children to school, and that has to be our first priority.

We've got to put the horse before the cart here, we've got to make sure that all our kids get well educated so we can transfer them on

to traineeships and apprenticeships so they can become tradies or professional people down the track. We need community to come on board with that agenda because it's great opportunity.

Consider this...

With five Prescribed Body Corporates now, and the One Native Title Claim nearly complete throughout Cape York, we've got a large land trust and a large shire. We need to talk about the different roles – the Shire's role, the PBC's roles with native title and land trusts and land tenure. There are so many different levels – how do we put them together for the best possible outcome for our Lockhart River community in the long run?





Finally

I'd like to acknowledge our CEO David Clarke, our Finance manager Stanley Mugwiria and our Council Administration team for another excellent Audit Outcome (Unmodified Audit).

Lobbying for funding is important, but administration and financial accounting for those funds are equally important – thank you all for what you do.

And lastly, but by no means least, I'd like to wish a Merry Christmas to the community, to all our families, friends and the whole community from our Council and staff.

I'd also like to send our best wishes to all the families who have lost loved ones throughout 2023.

We are all looking forward to 2024 and the new year.

Wayne

A leader by example: some of the many roles played by Mayor Wayne Butcher at the Paytham Malkari Festival last month... **MORE PICS PAGES 19 TO 30**



A word from ...

CEO

David Clarke



The story of the 2022 – 2023 year was one of further growth for our Council and community CEO David Clarke writes ...

This growth has been underpinned by strong and focused leadership from our Council and effective and efficient delivery from our executive and their teams.

A particular mention must be made of our Corporate Services team who bought in our fourteenth consecutive unmodified audit result.

A record civil program has again been delivered with forty-eight people involved in the civil works between our road gang, our new housing sub-division, and our contractor community, our civil program is proving an important employment and business driver for our town.

In addition, the highlights below speak to the commitment of our teams to consistently deliver, often with significant budget constraints and difficult delivery conditions.

They include:

- Opening our new Sporting facilities at the Isaac “Chalpy” Hobson Field;
- Completed our first trading year of our new Social Club;
- Completed our Paytham Malkari Festival Ngaachi cultural precinct and delivered our inaugural festival in November;
- Completed construction of our Pama Kamlmatha Wunampu Ngaachi Aa’inyaku camping grounds;
- Opening the doors to our Ngaachi Nyi’ilama (One Place) Business Hub – a unique life-long learning and local economic centre available to our community offering commercial start-up resources and administrative support.
- Airport cabins expansion with two new high-end, three bedroom, units coming online at Iron Range Cabins;
- Airport fencing and community infrastructure fencing delivered;
- Our new sub-division on the way to the beach is progressing well for a December/ January completion;
- Council reviewed and developed our Corporate Plan 2023–2028 capturing the hopes and aspirations of our Community.



A working partnership: CEO Dave and Mayor Wayne on stage during the Paytham Malkari Festival.

Continues...





Council's policy of investing in our people continues to pay dividends.

We have new apprentices signing up, and courses for traffic control, plant tickets, administration, dogman, security, safe food handling, and responsible service of alcohol delivered.

Council proudly welcomed our first home grown building contractor, AW Bowie Carpentry, to the Building Services delivery team.

It was a financially challenging year with a modest operational profit recorded, noting Council remains in a sound financial position.

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

Our new concreting team and bitumen truck minimise our need for outside contractors

and open the door to future small business opportunities.

Our social services continue to deliver quality services to our people through our Community Development Services.

We welcome our new Director, Jamie Love, to lead the team and manage our new challenges, such as NDIS delivery, as we continue to move forward.

Council has identified tourism as our next commercial challenge.

Our new camping ground and cultural precinct build on the existing Iron Range cabins as we work to establish base line tourism facilities as our first tentative steps into this market.

In the meantime, we've got a great school holiday program ready for our kids over the Christmas break and plenty of adult events as well.

Thank you everyone for your great work this year.

Enjoy your Christmas and family time together.

Respect and love to all and be kind to each other.

Dave



Dave at the back of the Mayor & Premier's entourage, touring the social club before the Paytham Malkari launch last month.



Airport Reporting Officer and Groundsman Noel Omeenyo has had his job for six months after visiting the Cape York Employment Office, where he was told it was his if he got his open license – so he did.

He said his main challenge was re-fuelling. “I got my first test of it, and I over-fuelled the plane,” he said.

He said that one part of the job was challenging, but overall he enjoyed working alongside Airport Manager Anthony Ryan and his team.

And while it was a big responsibility Anthony said he was confident Noel would soon be able to successfully fuel the plane. Both agree on one improvement they’d like to see at the airport – a line-painting refresh.

“I did one part by roller,” Noel said, adding more needed to be done.

Noel said he planned to continue working with the Airport team, and Anthony was happy about that.



“Noel is doing well,” he said. “Pat on the back for the man.”

And he even got to meet the Premier!

Ergon Energy crews have installed energy-efficient LED streetlights in Lockhart River as part of the Queensland Government’s Cost of Living package.

Local MP Cynthia Lui said the streetlight upgrade would lead to major savings.

“The new LED streetlights are longer lasting and much more energy-efficient, so we are helping Councils to significantly reduce their power bills and those savings can then be reinvested in other programs for the community,” she said. “The LED streetlights also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost community safety, so they come with a range of benefits.”

The Ergon crews completed work at Bamaga, Coen, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Umagico, Seisia, Thursday Island and Horn Island.

They hit the halfway mark in Lockhart River and were waiting fresh supplies of LED streetlights to finish the job before they moved on to the outer islands in the Torres Strait.





An exciting new language app was launched at the recent Paytham Malkari Dance Festival to promote keeping language and culture alive and well.



“Tonight, as part of the festival, we would like to launch the Kuuku Ngaachiku language app we’ve been working on for two years,” University of New South Wales (UNSW) School of Humanities and Languages linguistics lecturer Dr Clair Hill said. “This is very fitting because part of why language is strong is through the song and dance connected to the festival and the long tradition we are celebrating here.”

The easy-to-use app, available for Lockhart River families only, can be downloaded from Kuuku Ngaachiku, the App Store or Play Store.

“It has key information that helps you move from simple sentences to more complex sentences,” Dr Hill said.

“You can practise saying them. You can record yourself saying them and play it back.”

She said two years ago herself, Julie Warradoo and Reverend David Thompson put together a plan to make language accessible through an app – so it was in everyone’s pocket, so people could learn throughout the day, every day, if they wanted to.

“We had the Council supporting this,” Dr Hill said.

“Thank you, Dave and Wayne, for that. And we had help

from Josiah Omeenyo, Simon Butcher, Phyllis Hobson and Chantelle Warradoo.

“The app contains the voices of, and no mind I say their names, old girl Queenie Giblett, old girl Maria Butcher, old girl Susie Pascoe, Lucy Hobson, Lorraine Clarmont, old girl Dorothy Short, old girl Minnie Pascoe and Josiah Omeenyo. They would be so happy for you to hear their voices in the language app.

“This is why they recorded it, so you could continue to learn language and keep culture strong.”

Rev Thompson, who came to Lockhart in 1969 at the tail end of the old site mission days, said he believed the new app would help restore culture.

“It was a very different world then,” he said of his first visit in 1969.

“There were all government staff here, white manager, subject to Pat Killoran, the Director of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.



“So, it was a pretty controlled environment and the government policy at the time was assimilation, that people should give up, forget about their cultural ways and just look like everybody else in Australia.

“Of course, people reacted to that and the old people in particular decided to put on the Bora initiation ceremonies to show this is what we are about, this is our tradition, this is how we build up families and communities. It was time to demonstrate their identity and tradition here. And following that the dance festival happened in 1973, at the efforts of the Dance Foundation and anthropologist Dr Athol Chase. It was a tremendous occasion, and it is great to see again the stimulus coming from these events here today. Now we live in a very different world today. In a way we’re living in two worlds – the world here and the world outside, all the

modern influences that we’re subject to.

“So we live all bi-culturally, and it’s good to find new ways to live and to grow into, but at the same time it’s good to balance that with who we are, where we belong, what’s our identity, what things hold us together as a people – particularly the language. Language is one thing that’s been very closely associated with country and people and traditions, and we’ve made a good effort to prepare learning resource materials over the years.”

Dr Hill said the app was designed for easy use.

“It has a Creole line, which might help some people,” she said. “So, there is a sentence in Creole, you can just press the sound button, the play arrow in the centre, listen to it and look at the Creole, and that might help people that aren’t into big English or just want to listen to the audio and look at the illustration. When you



press on the information button, you can see all the words broken down with grammatical information about what word means what.

“It’s built to try to help people learn to speak more and add to the language they already know.”

Lockhart River families can get the app with a token they can pick up from Deanka Omeenyo at the Lockhart River Council office.

“You can get that token from there, or on the app when you try to install it, you can send a message requesting a token and we can get back to you,” Dr Hill said.

“We want to keep adding to it and there are plans to next year add illustrations of children and children’s voices to try to make it exciting to younger generations and kids that they can see themselves are on it.”

Training to use our Cultural Heritage Data Base will happen in the New Year. See Noleen Clark at the Council Office for more information.





The Queensland Police Protective Services Group were in Lockhart River to start community engagement and recruitment for their First Nations in Community Protective Services Officer (PSO) Program in early November.



They teamed up with Cape York Employment program for a cooked breakfast to explain the program to local people who attended.

This successful program started on Palm Island in 2020 where they have about 10 full time Protective Services Officers.

A recruit course was also undertaken for Protective Security Officers for Yarrabah, with five new officers graduating this month making a total of seven full time officers there.

The role of a Protective Services Officer is to provide security to state government buildings (mostly around schools and teachers residences).

Protective Services are looking to provide

eight Protective Services Officers into Lockhart River.

A spokesperson for the program said they were keen.

“We are very keen to employ locals from within their own communities,” they said.

“Not only do they know the environment, they know their mob and that is a very big part of why the program has been successful and continues to grow.

“We are very keen to introduce this into Lockhart River.”

Protective Services are part of the Queensland Police but PSOs are not Police Officers or Police Liaison Officers.

The roles are specific to the security of government buildings and the people who work in them.

PSOs are paid to undertake a five week training program and are supplied with all the equipment they need to do their job.

If you are interested, please register with Cape York Employment.

If you want to know more about the opportunity find the page for First Nations on our website at www.protectiveservices@qld.gov.au



Corporate Services



LEFT: Deanka Omeenyo and members of her team in the Lockhart River office.

ABOVE: Stanley Mugwiria and members of his team with Mayor Wayne Butcher in the Cairns Office.

BUSINESS IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Ngaachi Nyi'ilama (One Place) BUSINESS HUB
Meeting Room & Office 7

The Ngaachi Nyi'ilama (One Place) Business Hub for: Digital Health Checks, Workforce Skills and Development, Specialised Training in Numeracy and Literacy, Support Services and Learning Activities to Improve Work Placement and Participation.

The Ngaachi Nyi'ilama Business Hub is co-funded by the Council and the government under the Indigenous Workforce Skills and Development program to support and train people in community, and to improve transition from training to employment and workplace participation.

Our long term goal is to bring ongoing commitment to supporting individuals, community groups and local business community to improve their education, training and employment outcomes. Our services are free to community members (check eligibility). Please note, the Business Hub will be closed from Friday 15 December 2023 and re-open on Tuesday 2 January 2024.





Municipal Services



LEFT: Mark Getawan & Dennis Namok outside of the Women's Shelter.

BELOW: Environmental Health Workers Michael Leslie and Harley Nathan, often seen around town in their right-hand drive buggy



BELOW: Parks & Gardens stalwart Alan Warradoo and his gardens outside of the community store and business hub.



Welcome to Paytham Malkari

Dance Festival



November 2023
- Thursday 23 -
- Friday 24 -
- Saturday 25 -



"I think it's just wonderful that you have your signature Dance Festival on today and 50 years in the making. And I think that this is the type of experience that we need to not just showcase to people on the Cape, but welcome people from around the world to see our unique First Nations history and cultural experiences." Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk,





The Paytham Malkari logo (left) was designed by Krystal Dean for the LRASC.



"It's a privilege and a blessing to be in the community, to celebrate with the rest of the community. We're very happy to be here." Cape York Employment team leader Maria Zaro



"I was surprised and grateful for the numbers of volunteers who came forward during the event, a big thank you to them and also to our staff who worked above and beyond to make it happen." Mayor Wayne Butcher







paytham malkari

Festival success for Lockhart River

By CHRISTINE HENRIE

LOCKHART RIVER - It was a joy to see these young people of the community at the Lockhart River Festival last month. It was a joy to see the young people of the community at the Lockhart River Festival last month. It was a joy to see the young people of the community at the Lockhart River Festival last month.

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The Cape York Weekly and the Koori Mail (above) both did big colour spreads of the festival.













“To be here to commemorate 50 years of cultural survival representing 150,000 years of all of us – we think back. We think of all them old people, 50 years ago. We don't forget, we think of all the old people who kept it going, kept hopes high, no matter what they were put up against. We do it for the children of tomorrow, in hope that this will lead by healing. All we've got is love that comes from the heart for all our people.”
Yarrabah Dance Group Leader Errol Mala Neal.



Naygayiw Gigi Dance Group



Yarrabah Dance Group









Building Services

As we are coming towards Christmas, we are in the process of getting all the work that we have started completed before the wet, Building Services Manager Regis Edmond writes...

Obviously, we still have a volume of work there.

That includes our normal maintenance work, which the community has been good to report so we can get them sorted and tidied up, as well as some of the major renovations to those houses.

There have been some vacant houses we have been working on, and we have had great support from the community in regard to getting these houses sorted so they can move back in there, and some of the Council houses need repairs done.

We also have some work coming up, and we are looking for workers to join the team.

The subdivision work is underway and we were going to start building soon, but as we are coming into the wet now, it looks like it's going to be next year.

If there is anyone in the community who wants to be



The new subdivision in July this year (above) and early November (below).



trained to come and see us and put heir name down.

We are looking for carpenters or plumbers or any trade. Once we start on the subdivision, the training will be there for them.

There are also some Council staff houses we have secured land to build on, and we're just waiting for the machines to come in and start clearing so we can move forward.





Above: Ray Namok, Shane Smythe, Jay Walsh & Dwayne Walsh working on renovating the Women's Shelter.

Right: Working on Paytham Malkari festival grounds were painters Thomas Abraham, James Macumboy, trainees and contractors.





General road workers and cleaner-uppers Leonard and Neil McMahon working on the new campsite and beach front.



Rod working with a contractor at the new camping ground facilities.

This past year we have been down at the beach front getting all that work done for the community, for the festival and the camping ground.

They are beautiful buildings, and we hope the community will look after them after all the effort we have put into them. They are a good thing for the community.

We will be having some other work coming up for the community including the football oval's shelter and the community hall.

There has been an application for us to get some changing rooms for the

footy field, so we're just waiting for that to come on board so we can actually start it.

As always, we want to thank both the Council and the

community for the support they continue to give to us.

I want to wish everyone in Lockhart River a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Regis



Lockhart River-based PJ Electrical contractors Brodie Baxter, James Sunthon & Jason Christiansen.





Left: Council Store workers Benny Macumboy, Mawella and colleagues work hard every week to unload the barge.



Community Development



There are a lot of benefits and positives within the Lockhart community, new Director of Community Development Services Jamie Love writes...

The work in Lockhart is unique.

I hope to bring some of my experiences and my knowledge and from where I've worked elsewhere to the role. Lockhart is a good community doing some amazing things such as the subdivisions and camping grounds.

Being able to draw in that kind of money is extremely impressive work from the Council. Although I've only been here a few months, the Community Development team seems to be moving in the right direction.

I think our service delivery will get better as we fill positions we've had vacant for periods of time now, quite rapidly. I've been in



Jamie Love

discussions with Black Star Radio in regard to myself and a couple others going for training with them in the near future.

And then, with that nucleus, we should be able to start operating the radio station.

The library is a great set up now with Lorraine Warradoo coordinating.

We've tweaked the hours so that it opens in the afternoon, which is appropriate for the kids to get off school and the young ones can go directly to the library.

We will expand the hours over the Christmas period. The Kids Club are in the library as well in the late afternoon, so that's a good synergy between those two,

where the other kids can go to the new services and the younger ones have the library to go to with activities as well.

Emily Pascoe and Irene Clarmont run the Kids Club, and we'll probably increase their numbers over the Christmas period as well.

The Men's Shed is also up and operating with Greg Omeenyo, who is once again doing a very good job.

We have Doug Williams doing Justice, and we have filled the female Justice Officer's position with Elaine Williams who is doing well in that role.

We have had people applying for the Sport and Rec Officer job, so I hope to get that up and operating before Christmas.



*Men's Group coordinator
Greg Omeenyo*



*Women's Shelter worker
Luka Getawan*





In community care we've got Natalie coordinating for the HACC, or our Community Aged Care services, transitioning over from Noella.

Krystal and Stephen are doing very well with the Youth.

Stephen has been away

doing civil works, which is the nature of the dry season, but Krystal is very capable, and working with Esme and there are a couple others helping her as well.

I take my hat off to the Shire Council, the Mayor, the CEO and the rest

of the team here, it's impressive to see the kind of work that's been done in this very remote community and it's a beautiful location too.

I'm very happy to be here.

Jamie



Jamie said Paytham Malkari wasn't his first festival, but it was his first gig as a roadie/sound tech - and we reckon he did good!

Jamie was born in Brisbane.

"My mother was part of the Stolen Generation, placed in the Aboriginal girls training home in New South Wales," he said.

"But most of my traditional guidance and learning has been with the Yankunytjatjara, in far north western South Australia, and I spent quite a number of years in the central deserts in South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory."

He said he had worked across a variety of jobs.

"I started off in the Army," he said.

"I followed my father's path and was a commissioned Officer after graduating from the Royal Military College in December 1992.

"After that I joined the Australian Federal Police and worked in drug operations in Sydney.

"Since then I've moved around all over the place - I've been a regional manager four times, with Centrelink, Save The Children, Western Aboriginal Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service and with Maari Ma Aboriginal Corporation."

Jamie holds a law degree and was most recently a lawyer in Darwin. He recently completed a Masters of Research based on youth diversion.

"I've worked and lived in lots of other communities for 30 years, so I hope some of that will help me work with this community, and with the team, to effectively deliver services and what's needed to make this place happy and functioning, as it well deserves to be," he said.



HACC coordinator Natalie Green says she is more than happy to roll up her sleeves and pitch in to help her “amazing” team deliver HACC, NDIS, accommodation and other support services.

“I have three people on my team, they are Bella Hobson, Bessie Hobson and Eleanor Short,” she said.

“And they’re my three who come to work every day, cook all the meals and clean all the rooms and do an amazing job.

“I love the job, the people.

“I have good fun with the oldies, they’re just good value.

“You learn a lot and it’s variety.

“So, you’re in the office, out of the office.

“You do everything from cleaning the toilet to doing all the reporting to making a bed, just pitching wherever you can really.

“It’s all part of community.”



HACC currently has 23 clients, including NDIS clients.

“We don’t do any of the NDIS planning – the planners do that,” Natalie said. “But they’ll get us to drive the clients to their appointments or pick them up or do social work with them as in making sure that they get out there into the community and that sort of stuff.

“Whether it’s taking them down to the beach for an hour, or even just taking someone to the shop where they like to socialise every morning for a couple of hours.

“We just organise that sort of stuff for them – it’s great.”

She said the accommodation also kept them busy. “The accommodation is full on at the moment,” she said.

“It will quieten down again soon, which we’ll all be grateful for because then we can do a bit of an overhaul in the bedrooms, which we’d like to do desperately.”

Natalie says she and her team wanted to make a number of improvements to the rooms.

“I’d like to put new beds in and fridges and things like that into rooms.

“We’d like to put in one double bed into the bigger rooms with the two singles.”

In terms of study, Natalie was about to finish her Advanced Diploma in Community Services to add to her experience.

“This is what I’ve always wanted to do – work in Community Services – whether it be in age care or something to do with helping the community, that’s what I want to do, it’s what I’m good at – just always helping and doing whatever needs to be done.”





New Justice Officer

Elaine Williams is keen to offer more support around youth, women and children as well as helping all members of the community.

“It all comes down to helping as much as you can for the community,” she said.

“And, hopefully, end up bringing more opportunities within the courts to support Indigenous people and help to be part of closing the gap.

“The positives of my job are that I can take clients out to country with healing and also have elders, women and children jump in the bus and come out to country.

“And I help people set-up their bills and pay their



fines. “I also work with Doug with people who need support around parole, juvenile justice and keeping contact between the courts and police.”

She said she was born and raised in Townsville but had spend most of her working life in Melbourne.

She also said she had strong connections to Lockhart River.

“My mother’s people are the Kaanju mob, so that’s what ties me here as there’s

other Kaanju people that live here,” she said.

“I worked in Victoria doing a lot of community development work down there.

“I ended up getting a lot of things up running in Melbourne for not only Indigenous people but mainstream in the disability area through schools and bus transport and putting a lot of cultural and disability stuff into the schools as well.”

Kids Club worker Emily Pascoe says it’s great news that the Kids Club is up and running again and is being held in the library.

“It’s good to be in the library,” she said.

“The kids can play computer games and watch videos. “We’re also doing some arts and crafts and also reading books after school hours.”

The Kids Club is for children ages five to 12 and is held every afternoon after school five days a week at the library. Emily and Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) Lorraine Warradoo also prepare afternoon tea for the children. IKC’s coordinator Lorraine

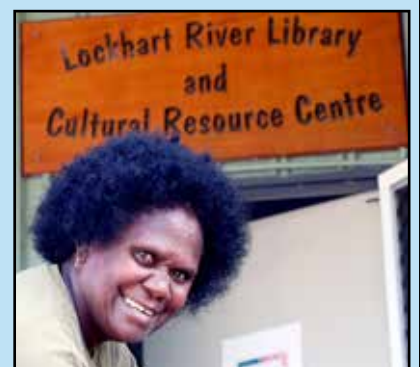
Warradoo said she thought the library was perfect for the Kids Club.

“They come here in the air con and use



the computer, watch movies and read some books,” she said. She said the library’s free computer and internet access was also available for all members of the community.

The library also has a lounge with television and DVD facilities.





Above: the community BBQ;
 Below: Community clean-up and
 Doug helping on the oval.

The Community Justice Group is still working hard to help the community, coordinator Douglas Williams says.

“We’re still helping people with their court appearances, doing submissions for court, helping with Justice of the Peace (JP) services and other correspondence and government issues that people have trouble understanding. We’re also still trying to recruit more members.

“I have our new female support worker in place, Elaine Williams, and we’re still looking

for a male support worker.”

He said they had organised a clean-up of the community in the lead-up to Paytham Malkari, and they had done some work with youth support.

He said they also had held a couple of BBQs to try and attract members.

“The BBQs have been outside the store at lunch time, Lachy, Elaine, Bessie and myself were the workers and we’ve had some good attendance,” he said. “Attracting members is our biggest priority.”





WATER PARK

December Operating Hours:

Date	Times
Thursday 7 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday 8 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am
Monday 11 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Tuesday 12 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday 13 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 14 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday 15 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am
Monday 18 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Tuesday 19 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday 20 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 21 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday 22 December 23	8.00am – 10.00am

FISHING COMPETITION

DATE: 29 DECEMBER 2023

FISHING COMPETITION 5.00AM TO 5.00PM

PRIZES FOR:

- BIGGEST FISH – SENIORS MALE (1ST PICK PRIZES – ONE ITEM)
- BIGGEST FISH – SENIORS FEMALE (2ND PICK PRIZES – ONE ITEM)
- BIGGEST FISH – JUNIOR MALE (3RD PICK PRIZES – ONE ITEM)
- BIGGEST FISH – JUNIOR FEMALE (4TH PICK PRIZES – ONE ITEM)
- MOST FISH – SENIORS MALE (5TH PICK PRIZES – TWO ITEMS)
- MOST FISH – SENIORS FEMALE (6TH PICK PRIZES – TWO ITEMS)
- MOST FISH – JUNIOR MALE (7TH PICK PRIZES – TWO ITEMS)
- MOST FISH – JUNIOR FEMALE (8TH PICK PRIZES – TWO ITEMS)

PRIZES

- SPEAR GUNS AND PRONGED SPEARS (ADULTS ONLY)
- BAIT NETS
- SNORKEL, MASK AND FLIPPER SETS
- SWAGS

RULES

- MUST BE CAUGHT ON HANDLINE OR ROD MUST BE FROM BEACH OR RIVER (NO BOATS)
- MUST BE CAUGHT SOMETIME BETWEEN 5.00AM – 5.00PM
- FISH TO BE WEIGH IN AT OFFICIALS MARQUE (QUINTEL BEACH) – ANYTIME FROM 10.00AM – 5.00PM (GUTS AND GILLS REMOVED)
- COMPETITION CLOSSES AT 5.00PM.
- WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT 5.15PM.

BBO AND COOL DRINKS FROM 12 NOON AVAILABLE AT QUINTEL BEACH

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE SPEAK TO JAMIE LOVE 0407512899

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – (Library) 10am -3pm	5 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – Beach 12noon – 5pm (bus leave from front library)	6 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – (Library) Movie Night 5pm-8pm.	7 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – Beach 12noon – 5pm (bus leave from front library)	8 Girls youth camp – 9-11 Dec (youth services)
11 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – (Library) 10am -3pm	12 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm YOUTH DISCO – 6.00PM TO 8.00PM SOCIAL CLUB	13 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Youth Centre Canvas painting and baking cookies 1pm – 6 pm - 10 years and over Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – Beach 12noon – 5pm (bus leave from front library)	14 Library 12 noon – 5pm Youth Centre Xmas Arts and Craft and Bingo 1pm – 6pm Sport Activities – Sports Oval 5.00pm 0 6.30pm (softball and touch).	15 Dec Youth centre - Morning Tea Yarning Circle 10-12 NOON Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – (Library) Movie Night 5pm-8pm. Library 12 noon – 5pm
18 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Youth Centre - Xmas Arts & Craft and Word search 1–3pm (10 years and over) YOUTH DISCO – 6.00PM TO 8.00PM SOCIAL CLUB	19 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Youth Centre- Secret Santa and Baking Muffins 1pm-3pm - 10 years and over Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – Beach 12noon – 5pm (bus leave from front library) SPORT ACTIVITIES – SPORTS OVAL 5.00PM (SOFTBALL AND TOUCH)	20 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Youth Centre Culture Day – 10 years and over. Start 1pm-6pm Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – (Library) Movie Night 5pm-8pm.	21 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Youth Centre - Make xmas cards and Bottle Flip 1- 3pm Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – Beach 12noon – 5pm (bus leave from front library) SPORT ACTIVITIES – SPORTS OVAL 5.00PM (SOFTBALL AND TOUCH)	22 Dec SANTA ARRIVES
25 Dec PUBLIC HOLIDAY	26 Dec PUBLIC HOLIDAY	27 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Kids Club – 0 -9 year olds – Beach 12noon – 5pm (bus leave from front library)	28 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Kids Club – 0-9 year olds – (Library) Movie Night 5pm-8pm.	29 Dec Library 12 noon – 5pm Kids Club – 0-9 year olds – Beach 12noon – 5pm (bus leave from front library)



SANTA ARRIVES

FRIDAY - 22 DECEMBER 23
SOCIAL CLUB 10.30AM

0-12 YEARS OLDS WILL
RECEIVE A PRESENT!



Engineering Services



LRASC's road gang has more than a few workers on deck at the moment as they race to finish what needs to be done before the wet season Supervisor Solomon Hobson says...

He said those on board range from water trucks to graders to traffic control. "We're working on the main road, re-sheeting gravel and lifting it up about 100mm," he said. "We're doing to do some more work on Canoe and Galloway, and the Old Barge Road too."

"The boat used to go up Claudie River, but now it's another fishing place for the old people. You can drive down there now, but it's a bit rough. "When the rain starts we'll come back into town and do some work on the potholes." Next year will be Solly's

20th year working for the Council, so he's keen for some well-earned long service leave. "My mother is from Badu Island in the Torres Strait, I'd like to go an look more into that side," he said. "All my brother's kids went up there, so if I get a chance I'll head up there."





Roads Inspector John Mansbridge says their biggest job – a massive culvert on the main road in – is not likely to be completed before the wet season.

He said it was 50 kilometres out from the

town and was probably started too late. “But there are Queensland Reconstruction Authority works which are mostly completed on Old Site Road, Portland Road, Waddle Hill Road and Pascoe Farm Road,” he said.



On the Council crew are Tristan Elu, Faye Hobson, Solly Hobson, Stephen Giblet, Brandon Accoom, Jermaine Bally, Harrison Tabua and others. Champions.





Council contract workers on the Old Site Road include: Owen Eva, Devon Bally, Malcolm Macumboy, Gordon Bally, CB, Steven Giblet, Paddy Hobson, Alex Rosendale, Eric Pablo, Joey Pedro, Peter Gilbert, Efram Dagami, Delwyn Bally, Peter Giblet Norman Bally and Smithy Bally. Champions.





Pictured are Kayleen Pratt with Dylan Macri, Paul Getawan, Napo, Conrad Giblet, Alex Omeenyo, Dion Accoom, Michael Macumboy and Jarrod Muller.





The Isaac 'Chalpy' Hobson Oval was officially opened in November 2023 with a junior footy, softball and senior footy competition. A huge community crowd attended, including Mr Hobson's family. Mr Hobson, amongst many other things, designed the LRASC logo. We hope we have done him proud.





Council received
Queensland

Government funding
under Round Seven of
the **Get Playing Places
and Spaces** initiative,
enabling the transformation
of the existing football
field into a versatile multi-
sport facility, providing the
community with a better
space for recreational
activities.

The project involved removing and
relocating four existing lighting
towers, which were subsequently
replaced with new footings and
reconfigured to accommodate a
range of sports.

The vision was to create a dynamic
space that could be utilised for
various activities, encouraging
community engagement and
promoting a healthy, active lifestyle.

After four years of hard work and
dedication, practical completion
of the project was successfully
achieved on 30 June 2022, marking a
significant milestone for the state-
of-the-art sports facility, designed
to meet the diverse needs of the
Lockhart River community.

The official opening of the revamped
multi-sport facility was celebrated
on 10 November 2023, as the local
community, stakeholders, and special
guests gathered to celebrate the
fruition of this remarkable project.

The facility's success goes beyond
providing a space for sports; it's a
place for the community to come
together, socialise and create
lasting memories.







**Our Councillors & Staff
wish all our families,
friends and colleagues a
safe and Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**



Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council will re-open for business on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Council's Australia Post, EFTPOS, Bank and Centrelink services will open from 9am will open from 9am to midday each day for the week starting Monday 18 December to Friday 22 December; from Wednesday 27 December to Friday 29 December and back to normal hours from Tuesday hours on Tuesday 2 January.

All essential services will be available by contacting the CEO on 0488 759 431 or Building Services on 0427 579 494.

