



# Waaanta

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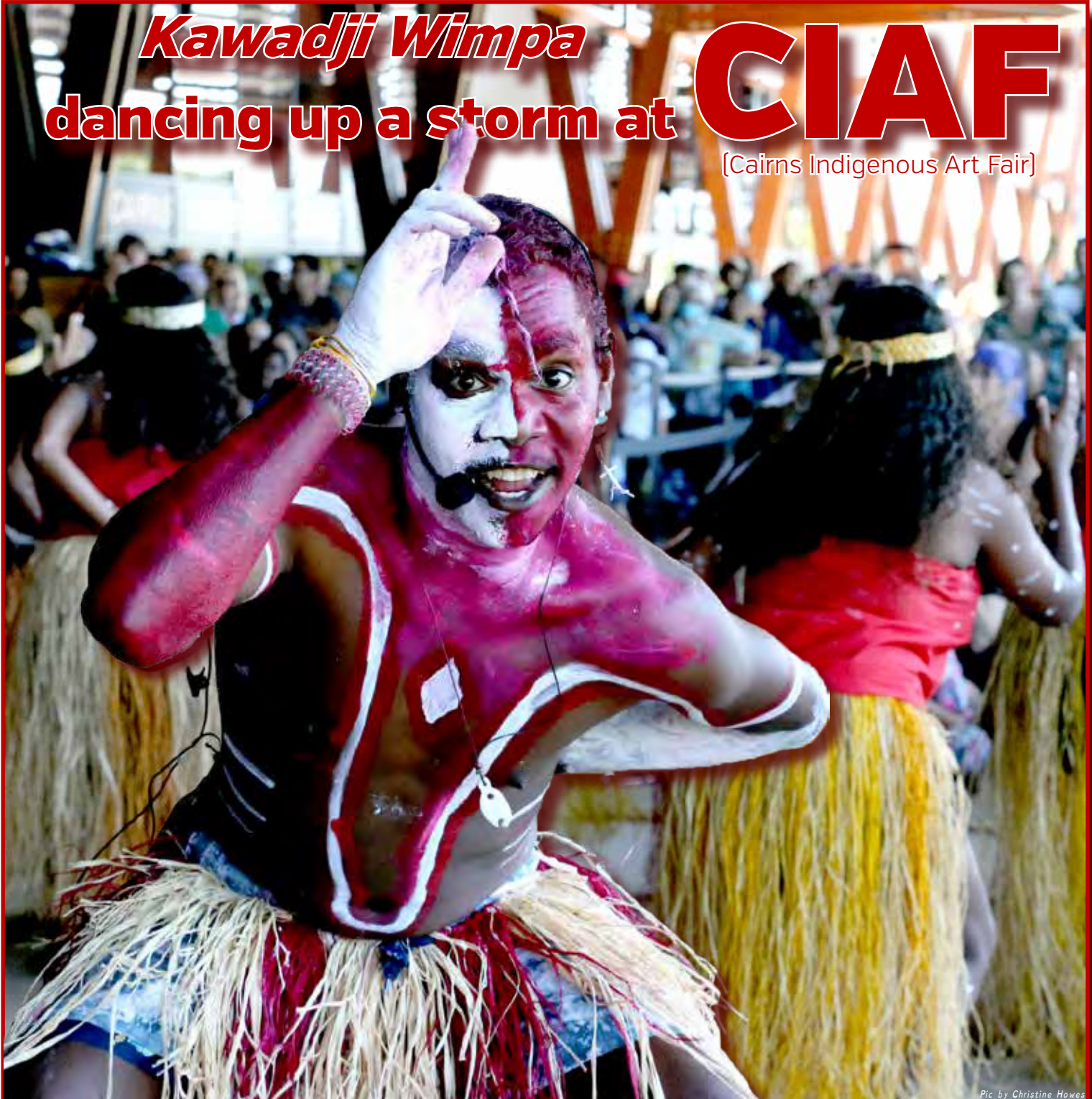
**July 2022**

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

***Kawadji Wimpa***  
**dancing up a storm at**

# CIAF

(Cairns Indigenous Art Fair)







# Mayor Wayne Butcher



Firstly I'd like to acknowledge our families – too many of them to name, I'm sorry to say – who are in and have been in sorry business over this year.

It has been a difficult time for many of us.

In the meantime I'm also sorry to say Telstra issues and connectivity issues continue to plague our

community and affecting our businesses.

Telstra has installed a new 4G network tower at Archer River, which is a great outcome for the Roadhouse

and passing customers but what about us?

Our 800 residents have struggled with a disgraceful 3G service for more than a decade now!



22nd National Local Government General Assembly 2022







*Our own Kawadji Wimpa Dancers enjoyed a huge presence at CIAF this year, supporting our artists and performing at the Cairns Convention Centre. I also got to speak at their Symposium. Inset pic at the Symposium thanks to Blueclick Photography, main pic Frontrow Foto and left spear-making for the dancers at home, Christine Howes.*

**MORE CIAF PICS Pages 16-19**

The 22nd National Local Government General Assembly 2022 was held in Canberra where I had the opportunity to speak at a Breakfast Forum focused on housing challenges.

It was a an opportunity to lobby the new Federal Labor Government, encouraging further investment into national housing in Indigenous, rural, remote and wider communities.

I particularly spoke about the importance of long term housing investment strategy

into remote Indigenous communities.

I said it was important to remember the Federal Government was committed to 'Closing the Gap' in health, education and social challenges and behind that was a critical need to invest in more new housing – without a good home (house) our challenges become harder. The foundation for anyone's daily life is a safe and happy environment but if you are not healthy you won't be able to go to work and if our children are not healthy they won't be able to go to school

too get their education!

Several newly elected Labor Party Ministers and members were there including the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management Senator Murray Watts.

It was also great to catch up with my neighbour first nations Local Government Mayor & CEO. TSIRC Mayor Phillemon Mosby, Yarrabah CEO Bala Leon Yeatman, Healing Foundation Sissy Ms Fiona Cornforth and Yarrabah Mayor Awa Ross Andrews.







Indigenous Leaders' Forum (ILF) in April this year in Cairns





# A ten year reflection...

by Christine Howes with thanks to Koori Mail



## Ten years ago, in 2012 Lockhart River community was looking for leadership and, as a result, asked Wayne Butcher to run for Mayor – so he did.

"It was a long time between drinks, I did a three year term as a councillor when I was 18, back in 1989," he said.

He said that was back in the days of the Community Council.

"I was young and I wanted to try something that was challenging," he said.

By the mid-1990s he had become deputy CEO under current and then-CEO David Clarke (Clarky).

"I had worked for the Council in several roles from being a post office boy to unloading planes," he said. "Back in those days you had to be multi-skilled.

"I trained four years under Clarky, and then I became the CEO in 2004, when it was changed from Community Councils, under the Community Services Act, to a local government structure under the Local Government Act.

"I was the first CEO for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council.

"Current-Councillor Norman Bally was the last chair of the Community Council and Johnson Chippendale was the first elected Mayor in the history of the Shire.

"He did 2004-2008, then Rodney Accoom did 2008-2012, and I've been Mayor ever since then."

He said he was undecided about running again last time around.

"People encouraged me again, actually, some people got the wind of it and approached me

separately and just said, "Hey, you've got a bit of momentum going, I think you should go again," you know?

"That gave me the confidence I needed to finish off the projects that we started doing."

The list was long.

"All the cultural precinct, finishing off the housing and building a new subdivision, keep building local businesses, finishing off the football oval and then the social club.

"So yeah, just to watch it come to fruition, I guess."

With two years still to go in his current term, it looks like most, if not all of that list will be achieved.

"I think the next couple of years we should be finishing them all off,"

he said. "But the other thing I guess going back to when I started looking at the organisation, one thing I saw there was a lack of capacity amongst our own people inside the organisation.

"There was an old working workforce, which we need to replace and that's why we went on the youth strategy, we needed to build the capacity of our people.

"I always tell everyone, if you want to build a community, you've got to build the people first, the community will come after – that principle I've worked on all this time and I still do.

"I think there's still more room for improvement, upskilling people who are in the workforce, and also

keep on recruiting more young people into the workforce."

He said the other 'problem' he saw was an over-reliance on government funding which put his own experience in business into practice.

"The organisation was solely reliant on government funds, he said.

"There was no business model within it.

"Having that background in business, we restructured the organisation and lobbied the government very hard in those two large investments, housing and civil construction.

"We were missing out on those dollars, those dollars were delivered on our behalf by the department to outside contractors who were building, maintaining and upgrading our houses.

"We had to get in there and compete and by competing, we needed the ammunition, and the ammunition was our people.

"We had to skill our people, we had to offer them apprenticeships, traineeships, and then capture that investment, delivered in a way that suited our community, at the pace of the community.

"We had to use that strategy of crawl, walk, run.

"And we went from building one or two at the beginning of five years, by the time we got to the fourth and fifth year, we were building the whole five houses every year ourselves."

He said their other shining achievement was they now had 15 local businesses in the community.

"We've grown the local business community," he said.

He said an important part of their strategy was creating pathways and making sure there were opportunities for their kids coming out of school

"We lost some, but we got some wins, as well," he said.

"Carlson Accoom and Benedict McEvoy are running the Council store now, Alistair Bowie has his own business, Paddy Hobson is working in the concrete plant and Zali Hobson in the office in Cairns.

"Work experience during the school holidays was the beginning of it, then paid work experience came into play, and we funded that in-house.

"So simple."

He said they were also working with Bond University to transit some of their brighter kids into tertiary education.

"COVID really chilled the momentum of all our kids going to high school," he said.

"I went looking to build a relationship with Bond University and we have a scholarship, but COVID shut the uni down just after they started.

"We'll continue to build that relationship and hopefully eventually get some kids into finishing some tertiary education."





# Community visits to July '22



*Above: Thanks to Minister Craig Crawford MP and DG Dr Chris Sarra DSDATSIP for visiting Lockhart Community.*

*Showcasing our community to the Government is critical as is having the opportunity to lobby directly with Ministers and Director Generals.*

*Left: reps from the Local Government Association of Queensland also took the time to come up and see us.*

*Below: Petrina Vilafor is also a regular visitor to our community, she was here in June to promote business opportunities with Containers for Change.*





# Football is back!



ISAAC "CHALPY" HOBSON  
OVAL



On another note, this year it was actually great to finally get back into rugby league again, to get back into footy after missing two years.

I'm an accredited referee now, so I've enjoyed getting back onto the field – and there haven't been too many complaints – yet! I always thought it would be a challenge to rebuild momentum after such a long time but it's been good to have some of the experienced blokes, some of the older players

coming back into the team again.

And, of course, it has helped enormously to have the



new oval and lights up at the Isaac Jeffrey 'Chalpy' Hobson oval.

*See our Scorpions pic spreads on pages 34–36!*







**Come and join us!**  
**The Grand Opening of our new Social Club and refurbished Sports Oval will be on Saturday 19 November – we'll hope to see you there!!!**



There is still much to come in the second half of this year as we look forward to planning our first annual dance, band and arts and craft festival at our new Cultural Precinct down at the beach front, and I know we are all enjoying the recently opened Lockhart River Social Club.

There will be a grand opening for the Social Club and our refurbished Sports Field on Saturday 19 November – we'll hope to see you all there.

*Wayne B.*  
 LRASC Mayor

## Time to step up, for our community

The success of the Lockhart River community rests on everyone playing their part, and being prepared to take on some responsibility, Councillor Norman Bally says.

“We need to lead the young ones on, and prepare them for the important roles of the future,” he said.

“They'll eventually be our councillors, our builders and our mechanics, so it's on the adults of this community to

start teaching them now.

“And the best way to do that is to be a good role model.

“It took a lot of work to get what we've got now, but we'll lose it if we're not prepared to step up.

the young ones – give them something they can look up to, and so they'll know what's expected of them in the future.

“You look at the water park down there – Council built it up and people said, ‘ah, the waters park's gone’ – but nobody seems to realise that's because no one's putting their hand up to say, ‘we can run the water park’.

“Somebody has to do it. “We all need to work, for the benefit and betterment of the whole community.”



“There are a lot of people in this community who know how far we've come, but they need to set an example for







More than 100 people in Lockhart River are likely to have been impacted by the collapse of ACBF (Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund, or Youpla) funeral funds, Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN) Operations Manager Jillian Williams says...



“That amounts to more than \$289,895 which has been paid to the fund by known policy holders in Lockhart River to date,” she said.

ICAN is one of 130 member organisations of the ‘Save Sorry Business Coalition’ (SSBC) who were working together to find a resolution for families affected by the collapse of the business.

In July the Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney and Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services Stephen Jones said they would make funeral benefit payments to the eligible beneficiaries of Youpla Group policy holders who had an active policy on 1 April 2020 (the date the Youpla Group ceased issuing new policies).

“The Government intends making payments to meet unpaid Youpla Group funeral fund claims until 30 November 2023,” they said.

“It is intended these payments be commensurate with the cover eligible policy holders took out in good faith prior to Youpla Group’s collapse, typically worth around \$8,000.” They said they anticipated up to 500 beneficiaries would be eligible for payment before the program expired.

“These are interim

### Major Updates on Save Sorry Business Campaign!

- If you have a family member who has passed away who had an active policy with Youpla/ACBF, their funeral costs may be covered under a government program just announced.
- The Government has announced it will pay claims if a loved one passes as long as they were still paying ACBF/Youpla up to 1 April 2020.
- This support will be available until 30 November 2023.
- We will send through details and updates about making a claim as soon as we get them.
- This is only a first step. We continue to fight for everyone who has been harmed by this company.

#SAVESORRY  
BUSINESS

arrangements the Government intends to establish while it investigates what further steps are required to bring resolution in relation to the Youpla Group collapse,” they said.

“The Government will continue consulting widely on those further steps while these interim arrangements are in place.

“But our first priority today is simply to limit the immediate cultural damage and community grief Youpla Group’s liquidation has precipitated.

“Please register on the Treasury website to receive updates on the intended program.”

Ms Williams said it meant if you had a family member who passed away with an active

policy they should be covered.

“If you have a family member who has passed away who had an active policy with Youpla/ACBF, their funeral costs may be covered,” she said.

“The government will pay claims if a loved one passes as long as they were still paying Youpla/ACBF up to 1 April 2020.

“This support will be available until 30 November 2023.”

The SSBC said they looked forward to working with this Government to develop an enduring resolution for the remaining policy holders over the next 18 months.

For more information see: <https://treasury.gov.au/youpla>

For assistance see: <https://ican.org.au/>







# TCICA Meeting Communiqué – July 2022

The Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance held its third meeting for 2022 on 12 and 13 July in Cairns, representing one of the largest regional gatherings of Mayors, Councillors and Chief Executives of Indigenous local governments in the country, and nearly 20% of all local governments in Queensland, with the welcome addition of Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council.



TCICA was joined by several guests throughout the two-day meeting, including Ann Leahy MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, Fiona Simpson MP, Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation and Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government, Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor Paul Antonio, and Chief Executive of the Local Government Association of Northern Territory Sean Holden, who was accompanied by Senior Policy Advisor Mary Watson. Key project partners and senior government officials also participated in the meeting, along with representatives of the Local Government Association of Queensland.

## National Indigenous Australians Agency

Marnie Wettenhall of the NIAA updated TCICA on the progress of key Commonwealth initiatives following the change of government.

Several communities are working with the department and Pama Futures under the Empowered Communities initiative to establish local decision-making partnerships, in alignment with Local Thriving Communities.

Members noted that Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council has a good model which can be replicated in other communities.

New Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney has flagged her intention to abolish the Community

Development Program, although current contracts will remain in place until they expire.

A new program to be developed is intended to give communities control over how services are delivered, and who delivers them.

Members resolved to write to Minister Burney and her department to ensure TCICA has a seat at the table during the CDP redesign process.

Members noted that Senator Pat Dodson in his role as Special Envoy for Reconciliation and the Implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart will soon be in the region to talk to stakeholders about the Voice to Parliament process.







### Health system reform project (TORCH)

Mayors noted the role Councils play in addressing public health issues through the provision of services such as water supply, waste management, housing, and environmental health, but that much greater financial support is needed to ensure councils are properly funded to meet their obligations.

### State School Indigenous Education

Mayors Keri Tamwoy and Bradley Creek updated TCICA on their work on the project board co-designing local community education bodies. Schools in the TCICA region involved in the pilot are Aurukun and Western Cape College.

Members spoke of the need to ensure the education curriculum includes a strong cultural curriculum and truth-telling to empower students to learn and understand their cultural history.

Aurukun school is a great example of a school which embraces cultural learning, with Wik-Mungkan language, cultural and traditions taught

by community Elders. Members noted that one of the biggest issues for remote schools is the lack of continuity of school principals and other school leaders.

### Other Business – Tourism Impact Management

Members discussed the ever-increasing numbers of tourists travelling to the Cape region and the lack of coordination to address tourism impact management issues such as trespass on land, environmental damage, breach of cultural protocols, and overburdening limited community resources such as water and food supply.

There is no one authority taking responsibility for managing these issues, leaving it to communities to deal with the consequences.

TCICA will look to establish a working group to determine a way forward and put in place strategies to ensure tourism delivers only positive economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Management plans, restricted access to cultural sites, and increased visitor

fees to help support new tourism infrastructure may be considered as ways to address the issues.

### Staff Housing

Members discussed the need for support for council staff housing in communities, and the need for government agencies to provide more housing for their staff to free up housing for local people. The financial position of councils limits their options to finance new housing themselves yet there remains a critical need to provide more housing to attract and appropriately house staff. Advocacy on this matter will continue.

### Future Meetings

TCICA's next meeting is scheduled for 14 & 15 of September in the Weipa, Napranum and Mapoon region.



*Torres Shire Deputy Mayor Gabriel Bani with Mayor Wayne Butcher*







A word from ...

# CEO

# David Clarke



Isn't the year just racing by with the dry season well with us, CEO David Clarke writes...

Dry season means we crank up our construction activities which also means we crank up the business opportunities for our people. We did ok last year working together but this year promises to provide more opportunities as local business slowly but surely takes control of our economy. Remember Council is here to help you bring your business dreams alive.

Congratulations to our Social Club Committee for finally getting the club doors open. I really like the doors done by our own Geoffrey James Warradoo. It is a great place where families can go for a feed, have some fun and drink good way in a happy, friendly place. Thank you to the Committee for your work and all others who have made it possible. Thanks also to the building team particularly Shane and Ray who have been with the project from the beginning. It's times like this we also pay our respects to the people who built the original one. People like Danny Accoom snr, Lawrence Omeeny, and Alec Sandy. Council is planning a big opening festival for the Social Club and Footie field in October. Stay tuned for dates. There will be bands, food, plenty of events for the kids and exhibition footie games.

Everyone would have seen the Festival Grounds taking shape down at the beach. I'm proud of the work Solly, John, Nick and their teams have put into bringing it together. Soon you will see the new market sheds, toilets, lighting and stage go up down there.

We also have a mobile kitchen and first aid room we can use for events down there. There is the real possibility of a small cruise ship coming into the beach in October. They will be looking to do tours of the Art Centre and other cultural activities that make us in Lockhart stand out from everyone else. It will be a great opportunity for us to show off our culture, ngaachi, and art.

Council is looking to do another intake of apprentices and are very keen to try some of our young ones over 15. If you have a family member interested, come and see Noleen in the office and we will have a good yarn about the opportunities we can offer. The start of the year has been a sad one for us hasn't it. Sometimes the tears never seem to end. Sharing our sorry and supporting one another when we most need it is very important and something we do as a town very well. Knowing that the love and support is there keeps us strong and allows us to start the journey down the long healing road. We will never forget those we lose and thank them for the time they were with us.

Let's get prepared for another big dry season loaded with opportunities including some new ones like our Festival Grounds and Social Club. I urge everyone to take advantage of them. Stay safe and look after one another.

*Dave Clarke*  
LRASC CEO





# Got a business idea? Take it to the hub!



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“If you have an idea, we can turn it into an actual, real thing, from lawn mowing to pest management, baking, hairdressing, road gangs – you name it – we can help,” Council’s Business Development and Support Officer, Jermaine Thomas says...



“We can advise on marketing, advertising and even organising events.

“Our knowledge and resource centre will help people develop business plans, get support with book-keeping and tax obligations, and even help to access government funding – whatever is needed to turn your idea into a viable business.”

A pet project of Councillor Norman Bally, the new Business Hub will give local start-ups access to office space, hot-desk computers, internet, and – most importantly – a direct line to business resources and one-on-one support.

“The base principle is that everyone should understand what business is,” Jermaine said.

“The school, the clinic, the police, the council, the social club – they’re all businesses at the end of the day.

“We want to help people understand what it takes to run a business, and then have the confidence to start their own. You don’t have to feel like you’re alone – the hub is in a really central location, and we’ll all be working together to make things happen!”

Jermaine currently supports local artists, including carver Vincent Temple and painter Thelma Hobson, but is keen to see people from across the community take the plunge into their own business.

“It’s almost endless, the possibilities of what you can do in business,” he said.

“And now, you won’t have to do it from home – you’ll have access to a space that is provided by council with all the resources and support you need.”

For Cr Norman Bally, the hub is an important step forward for the Lockhart River community.

“What I want people to do, is step up and start taking on important roles around the community,” he said.

“We need to keep striving for the betterment of our community – working together, helping each other, communicating and engaging as a community.

“At the moment, everyone’s in their little corner and no one’s talking to each other.

“We need to engage with each other as a community, so that we have a shared vision.

“That also means more elders stepping up to take on important roles in the community – teaching young people the customs and laws they need to know.”

“Lockhart River is building capacity and empowering our people which will allow us to work together as a community with that shared vision, sharing responsibility.

“It’s our future, we are the ones who need to take it and shape it for ourselves.”

To find out more and get involved in the new Business Hub, call in for a chat with Jermaine in his new office, just near the store!







# Corporate Services

Everything has been going to plan, Corporate Services Director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

We've already been able to get our 2022/23 budget on time and that is tracking very well so far and now we are very much into preparing the end of year financial statements for the audit.

Our accounting software, implemented three years ago, is going okay and things seems to have settled down.

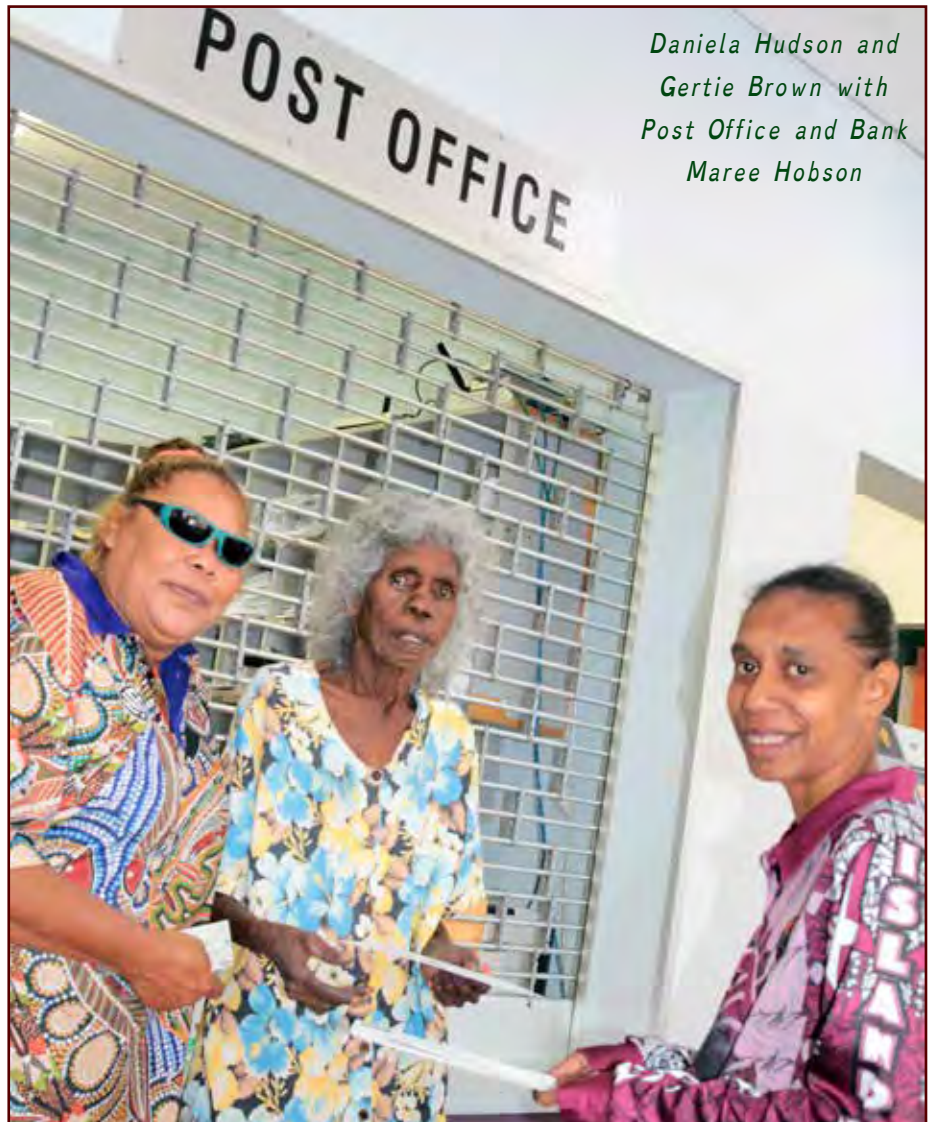
So we are getting back to our best levels of efficiency and getting things done on time.

## Staff

This time of the year, the finance team had to make sacrifices putting extra time to cope with end of year workload. I wish to them for their commitment and dedication for working through this period under pressure and got things done on time.

We extend warm welcome to a new staff member, Joan Kithinji, who is on board as our new Project and Assets Accounting Officer. She will be very resourceful in Council projects and assets reporting.

She joined us three months ago and has settled down very well. An extra resource added to the team.



*Daniela Hudson and  
Gertie Brown with  
Post Office and Bank  
Maree Hobson*

Through our students programs, we congratulates Zali Hobson and Celeste Accoom who joined Cairns Office team.

They have been with us for almost 12 months now.

Zali has already achieved a qualification in Certificate III in Business Administration from TAFE and we recognise her good achievement.

She has set a very good example to the other young

people from the community.

Whenever anyone from the community wants to pursue their interest in finance and accounting, we are here to help and support them.

Overall, we are working as a great team and wish to express our sincere thanks to the Mayor and CEO for giving us some really, really good support that makes a difference in what we do here. We appreciate it.







*ABOVE: Auditor and Grant Thornton Associate Bijay Raj Puri with Training Manager Noleen Clark  
BELOW: Office Manager Deanka Omeeny*







Blueclick Photography



**CIAF** CAIRNS  
INDIGENOUS  
ART FAIR  
AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER INDIGENOUS ART FAIR



Frontrow Foto







Frontrow Foto



Christine Howes







# Engineering Services



*Council crew: Marco Accoom, Ben Peter, Gareth Hobson, Solomon Hobson, Michael Short, Darren Macumboy, Stephen Gibley, Harrison Tabuai & Chris Johnson (missing John Hansen).*

## 2022 got off to a slow start with heavy rainfalls, Black & More Director Greg O'Brien writes...

Rectification of damaged parts of Portland delaying the civil works and rectification of Portland Road, necessary for the delivery of raw materials for the Dance Precinct and completion of the access to the Iron Range Cabins, have contributed to that.

John Hansen joined the team and the Council crew has been busy completing the drainage and civil works on the Dance Precinct Site and Visitors

Camp Ground sites.

These works are nearing completion and the building works will start as soon as materials can be delivered to site. With the rainfall and lack of access to Portland Road restoration of the town streets has also progressed.

On completion of the civil works for the Dance Precinct, the Council team is looking to move out of town and allow the building team to start building works

at the Dance Precinct and tourist camp grounds

The Council Civil team will then get out of town and start work on the restoration of Portland Road South and Portland Road North, after undertaking the necessary works to enable access for visitors and raw materials to the Community.

The restoration works required this year have been substantial and include a Betterment Works







*TOP: Work on the Old Site; Above Left: Contract Reps discussing upcoming work included Black & More's John Liggett; Mark 'Casper' Spencer and Shane Corby. Above Right: Black & More's Robert Cameron*

component to Portland Road North.

There is a lot of work involved in these projects

and Council is in the process of forming a second team to expedite them. The work is expected

to take until Christmas to be complete, by the two Council Civil Works teams.







# Restoration works in full swing

Works are also progressing on completion of the Wattle Hill Road restoration works by the Council Subcontract team, before they commence works on the 2022 Cape York Restoration Project.

The 2022 CYRP project is approximately 1.2km on the town side of the works undertaken last year and includes four large culverts

and upgrade works.

These works are underway and are to be sealed early November and include the sealing of the upgrade works undertaken by Council in 2021.

A second subcontractor team will progress the restoration for the full length of Lockhart River Mission Road.

These works are expected

to be completed, prior to Christmas.

Council have also called tenders for restoration and upgrade works to Kuttini Street and Puulman Streets and the Maathuray Street Drainage Upgrade works which were expected to be awarded in August for completion this year.

A very busy Construction year for Council.

## Workers in training while rain delays road projects

Crews were rained out of Wattle Hill Road works earlier this month, but Mark 'Casper' Spencer said they were all keen to get back into it.

"We're spending a couple of days in town doing some safety training and should be back into it," he said.

"We've got a huge season coming up and the boys are in a really good form.

"We've already got 15 plus on board, mostly local.

"Our next move will be an opening grade on the main access road from the outside of the Shire, Chuulangan, through to Pascoe Farms Road."



*Progressing the Cultural Precinct under clearer skies*





# All hands-on-deck as Road Gang expands



With some big programs of work ahead, the Council's Road Gang is recruiting for Operators and labourers – all you need is an open driving licence... and for the rain to stop!

Road Gang Supervisor Solomon Hobson said despite already having a 10-strong team, they were on the lookout for six new workers so they could split into two Council road-contracting crews to tackle all the work ahead.

He said one of the most exciting jobs on their agenda was the new Cultural Grounds being built down at the beach-front.

Joining the Road Gang could be a great starting point for anyone in search for new opportunities he said.

“Even if you don't have tickets, you can start as a labourer and then work your way up,” he said.

“All you need is a current driver's licence and we could have work for you.

“We have a lot of work to get finished, and it hasn't been easy – that rain, it

keeps on coming.”

The rain experienced in recent months has made life difficult but, he said, they were determined.

“The Cultural Grounds matter to all of us, and will make a difference to the younger generation,” he said.

“This is something important for the young dancers coming up, and for the whole community.

“It's a place that will have meaning, so it's really important we get the work done.

“When that's finished we'll be back out on the road again, with heaps of jobs to do between Pascoe and Wenlock.

“We're flat out this year but, so far, we haven't been able to get trucks in, so there's a lot to do.”



Roadworks contractors at training: Casper; Timothy Pablo; Leonard McMahon; Norman Bally; Peter Giblet; (at back) Alan Piva; (front) Scotty Baira; Dwayne Walsh; Zane Butcher; Neil McMahon; Mickey Macumboy; Robbie Wilson; Herbert Pitt; Chris Bally; Steven Ropeyarn & Wayne Butcher.







## Delays likely as workshop demand grows

Workshop supervisor Anthony Macri has warned private clients that delays are likely, as the team enters peak season with a rapidly growing workload.



*Workshop team: Bradley Pail; Anthony Macri; Tony Pascoe & Jeff Hoswell.*

“We’re starting to get busy – we’ve already had some people waiting a few weeks,” he said.

“If your vehicle is safe, we can do an inspection, but for any big jobs we’d say to expect delays.

“Or, if you’re in a hurry, you might have to think about going to Weipa instead.”

The team will be working hard over the coming weeks and months to keep the road team’s downtime to a minimum, prioritising repairs to their machinery throughout the dry season.

Supervisor Anthony joined the workshop around 18 months ago, overseeing a wide range of

work for Council, as well as private owners in the community and visitors to the region.

Ravenshoe born and bred, he completed his apprenticeship there before moving to Mount Garnett to run a workshop, and then taking a contract at Lockhart River.

“It’s nice here,” he said.

“I spent most of my time last year out on the roads.

“I’d be in the shed to get parts or make hoses, and then back out on the road.

“The road crew come in here if there’s a breakdown and they say, ‘we need something fixed,’ and then I’ll just go out and fix it. That keeps me nice and busy.”

Tyre guru Napoleon Short and Tony Pascoe have been joined by new recruit, Bradley Hoswell to manage breakdowns around the town itself, as well as maintaining the entire Council fleet – from roadworks to gardening equipment.

They are ably assisted by Richard Piva, the team’s first-year apprentice, and Alec Omeenyo a third-year apprentice who hopes to be signed-off in October.

To keep the road gang working, particularly during the dry season, some priority has to be given to essential plant and machinery, such as tipper trucks, backhoes, graders, dozers and tractors.





# Municipal Services



*Parks and Gardens crew at the beach: Stanley Butcher, Billy Sandy & Kenny Warradoo, left is Alan Warradoo (still working hard!).*







# Building Services

More apprentices are needed to help meet demand for construction and maintenance and there is no better time to get started, as preparations get underway for our new subdivision project, Building Services Director Regis Edmond writes...

There are some very good, very talented young adult in Lockhart that can come forward and show interest.

That is why we are looking for people to start putting their names down for traineeship/apprenticeships, so that, hopefully, by the end of the subdivision project, they will be a qualified tradesman, as a carpenter, plumber or whichever the chosen trade suits their

lifestyle. It would of course be great to have some electricians in there too, as that has always been a difficult role for us to fill, so we'd encourage people to look into it.

We have completed a fair bit of work this season, although it's been challenging. Due to COVID, road freight and other issues such like shortage of materials, increased prices, and even

problems finding workers but, even so, most of the QBuild work were completed.

Tradesmen have been very, very hard to get throughout this period, which is another reason we would encourage local people to consider an apprenticeship.

However, it is not just tradesmen – there has also been a high demand for labourers to help us get this work completed.



*Building Services Director Regis Edmond (on the ground in front) with ESW Carpenters Bill and Tisha with Kevin from PJ Electrical.*







*From left to right: Ethan Pascoe, Sean Spencer, Alfred Johnson, Nick Lindsay*

Through the wet season we've encountered house leaks, as well as the usual demand for carports and renovations.

But it was a QBuild audit that added significant pressure, with the identification of a lot of maintenance needs that hadn't been reported by tenants.

We'd encourage everyone to

be vigilant for problems and report maintenance issues as they arise, because with an audit everything lands at once, leaving us with a huge volume of repairs and no capacity to manage them in a timely way.

I want to emphasise that nobody gets into trouble for reporting maintenance needs – routine upkeep is essential for every property.

To lodge a report, tenants need to go to the blue phone at the shop, and ring the housing head office in Brisbane.

Your call will be picked

up straight away, and you can report any maintenance needs. The quicker you report it, the quicker we can fix it.

Moving forward, our projects will also include the festival ground and the camping ground toilet blocks and five market shelters.

Lastly, I'd just like to thank everyone that's been working with us this year – all our contractors, suppliers, Council, and especially the community.

It's been great working with everyone, and hopefully we'll have a productive new financial year.



*Painters Ordie Abraham and James Macumboy*







# Community Development

Community Development Services has been progressing and delivering services within the community Consultant Margie Barnes writes...

However, it is fair to say that, like many other services, the impacts of COVID-19 have affected the staff and programs.

Some of the programs have had to reduce their contact time whilst other programs have had increased demands on their service.

Our staffing levels and attendances have also been impacted, which in turn puts pressure onto our individual teams.

Throughout it all the "Com Dev" team have continued and done a mighty job, and I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts and support to the community.

As the wheels of government turn, there have been and will, no doubt continue to be, many changes to our funding and reporting.

This always increases our workload to keep up with the changes, understand the new reporting requirements and to manage them – especially with Lockhart River's ongoing connectivity issues.

A lot of this happens behind the scenes

but it is a big part of our programs delivered to the community.

A new program commencing this financial year is the Deadly Active Sport and Recreation Program, which will be funded directly to the Council by the Queensland Government through the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (Sport and Recreation).

The funding is for a three-year program and we look forward to developing the Program Plan in consultation with community members.

This funding coupled with the newly developed sport and social precinct will give opportunities to develop a great program.

The Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) in Lockhart River celebrated its 20 year anniversary on the in April this year.

It was the first IKC to open and now as we are 20 Years Strong the service continues to provide a great resource for the community.

Thanks goes out to the State Library Queensland

for co funding the program with Council and providing great support to our staff and community.

The Council have been busy recruiting to some Com Dev roles and hopefully in the near future there will be further updates to be shared.

Also if you are interested in working with the Com Dev team please let us know – being a holder of a current Blue Card is essential prior to commencing work but assistance can be given to those if needed.



*Margie Barnes freezing in Melbourne. Pic supplied(!).*







*IKC Coordinator, Esme Butcher with State Library of Queensland (SLQ) Program Officer Lauren Erickson, updating the library stocks at the IKC. Pic supplied.*

## Everyone welcome to use Library facilities

New IKC coordinator Esme Butcher has been working hard to compliment youth coordinators Steven and Krystal's work with the younger people in our community.

"We've had a few movie nights, discos and we'll play some sports with the kids too," she said.

"I've been doing some training with the State Library of Queensland here in

the Library, which has been good. "I just want people to know they can come and do their internet business here, they can sit down and have a yarn, and use the computers – everyone is welcome."



*Enjoying some July holiday activities at the IKC were Twitherrun, Leroy, Lateisha, Mario, Thomas and IKC Coordinator Esme Butcher.*







## Help at hand, or just a yarn, at Women's Shelter

Whether you need help to get away from your domestic situation, or just take a break while your partner calms down, the team at the Women's Shelter can help.

"If you're having problems at home, come in and sit down for a couple of hours – just come in and talk to a staff member and have a cup of tea," Coordinator Ethel Singleton said.

"You can go back home whenever you're ready, that's fine. We're just here to touch base with you and listen to whatever's happening in your life."

During normal business hours, you can call the Women's Shelter team on 07 4060 7382 or come directly to

the front gate. Alternatively, get a referral through an organisation such as the Queensland Police Service or the Health Service.

However, after 5pm the Shelter can only be accessed by referral.

"If you need help outside business hours, you'll need to go through the process of contacting the police or the clinic to come into the shelter," Ethel said.

"The police will get in touch with the worker on-call, myself, or the coordinator a staff member and we'll arrange access to the shelter.

"That's because, after hours, we're inside ensuring the women already accessing the service are safe, have company and feel supported."

If you want to stay overnight a number of family rooms are available and meals are provided by staff.

Whatever your situation, whether you need to get away indefinitely or take a short break and get some support, the Women's Shelter is always available for help and advice.

And while you're there, you'll have the opportunity to engage in some diversionary activities which might include sewing, basket weaving or – as the women did this year – helping to create beautiful dance costumes for the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

For more information on how to access the Women's Shelter call

Ethel and the team on 07 4060 7382 or 0409 847 803, or drop in during business hours.



*Women's Shelter workers Barbara Bally & Luka Getawan with Coordinator Ethel Singleton*







*Jordyn & Alinnah  
with Justice  
Group Coordinator  
Ross Norman*

# New support for families

A new Domestic and Family Violence Program is set to launch, with a team of newly recruited support workers Justice Group Coordinator Ross Norman says.

“The program is designed around spending time out on country, working with elders to deliver support and advice to partners and families,” he said.

He said the program would be rolled out over the next few weeks and months.

“We’ve also recently purchased equipment we hope will be really useful,” he said.

“We’ve got a whole heap of camping equipment as well as fishing lines, and things like that, which will allow us to go out on country and have these conversations in an informal and supportive way.”

“We purchased another four-wheel-drive, and another trailer, so we can take our swags and tents – all that sort of thing.”

“It’s a way to head out of the community, to yarn about different things, and have elders present to talk about the old times.”

“The goal is just to generally relax and give people an opportunity to talk to others in a similar situation – to talk about how they handle lows without resorting, again, to violence.”

“It won’t always be on country.”

“We will probably take a trip over to Mapoon

or go down to Wujal, and interact with other Community Justice Groups, or other men’s or women’s groups. There will definitely be workshops and sessions involving professionals, but the majority of the work done by the team will be on country.”

With support worker roles recently advertised, Ross said he was keen to get the program up and running.

“We’ve been recruiting male and female support workers, attached to the Justice Group, whose role will be to help the community understand a bit more about family relationships, and how to handle situations in a domestic scene without resorting to violence,” he said. “It’s early days but we’ll be working together to understand the best way to deliver the program, so we can get those important messages out there.”

“It’s hoped that the female worker will work closely with the Women’s Shelter, and perhaps form a women’s group, because the women don’t really have one.”

“In fact, they don’t have anything, except the Women’s Shelter – they need a place to get together too, a group where they can talk about the big issues they’re facing.”

“As ever, we’ll also continue to attend court and hold mediations where there’s been a dispute amongst parties.”





# Serious side to fun at Youth Centre



These school holidays saw Youth Coordinators Krystal Dean and Youth Worker Steven Bally hard at work keeping the under-25s in our community engaged and entertained.

“Unfortunately, with the weather, we haven’t been able to get out with vehicles, but there’s still been plenty going on in the Youth Centre building,” Krystal says.

“We’ve been playing games, pool and doing tie-dye, football training and really just catching up with everyone – especially seeing how the boarding school students, who’re coming back in community, have been getting on.”

But that’s not where the team’s work ends.

“We just want them to know that we’re always here for them,” she said.

“And if any of them need anything, just to

come down to the centre or, if they know where we stay, just come around and see us.

“This week I was asking a few of the boys if they’ve got a licence, or if they need any support in going to apply for their licence – instead of driving around and getting fines and building up a bad record. Or if they want help with jobs and training and stuff like that; whatever it is, come and see us.”

Steven agreed.

“All we want is the youths to be safe and good, looked after, and be loved and cared for,” he said. “I’ve been doing a lot of hunting and that with the boys, and I’ve been talking to them out there about relationships and setting up their future. What do they want to do in five years from now, or 10 years from now?”

“Most of them don’t even know what they want to do next year, or the year after that.

“It feels like most don’t even have dreams. They want things, but they want them right there and then.

“They don’t realise that getting what you want takes time, and it can be hard. We want to support them to find and achieve their dreams.”

Steven said their efforts to spend more time out in country, meeting young people and their families had made a huge difference.

“There’s things that were going on that we didn’t even know until we actually got out of the office and started cruising around, and then we started seeing things too, as well,” he said. “We work with a lot of at-risk youth, and that can be really intense.

“Whatever’s going on in your life, whether you’re smoking ganja or drinking, having relationship problems or mental health issues, we’re here to help.”





# Sharing skills and building relationships at the Men's Group



For Men's Coordinator Rex Cannon, the Men's Shed is a social hub and so much more.

A place to share skills, relax, learn and stay connected with the community.

But, he said, for it to succeed, it needs to be well supported.

"We've got leather work, wood carving, arts and craft, even basic woodwork and joinery and all the equipment you need to give it a go," he said.

"Or, you can just come along and yarn.

"The club hub gives you the chance to get the news from around town – a bit of an update on everything that's happening.

"But the most important thing is that people use the facility – get involved and get whatever you want from the opportunity."

Welcoming all suggestions and feedback, Rex said he was keen to understand what information and activities it might be useful to bring in.

"We'd like to get information sessions there regarding justice and the police – that type of stuff, but we also need to know what people are interested in," he said.

Practicality aside, he said the Club Hub serves another important purpose.

"We know it can be difficult to talk about problems, but having a yarn while you're working on something can make it easier to talk a bit and get some support," he said.

"Equally, if you do just do want to learn a new skill or enjoy some company, then that's what we're here for too.

"You don't have to come and talk, you can just enjoy being around other people.

"There's nights there where we'll just cook up, have a bit of a feed or dinner that night,



*Men's Group Coordinator Rex Cannon*

and we just encourage everyone, anyone to come.

"Sometimes we have the men come up there with their son, nephew, or whoever and just enjoy the company.

"And that's important too, because we need to be better role models and leaders.

"When we look at our kids, especially the boys, they look up to us and no one else is going to teach them the right way – no-one else is going to guide them.

"And that's what we've got to do there as men; guide our young down that right path.

Recently a group of four of the men attended a domestic violence workshop, and in August the club hub is looking forward to a Cape York Employment workshop – a chance for jobseekers to improve their work readiness and find opportunities.

For Rex, it's all about understanding what the men of the community need, and putting the information and supports in place to help.

For now, he said, keep an eye on the noticeboard for upcoming events, and speak to him directly to find out what's on at Men's Club Shed and when.







# It's all happening at Kuunchi Kakana!

There are big changes ahead at Kuunchi Kakana, with plans to have the centre assessed for suitability as a licensed day care, as well as our families being given access to Puuya's brand new clothing store.

As a family centre supporting the building of everyday leaders from cradle to grave, Kuunchi Kakana supports parents, grandparents and other family members to learn and build capability alongside their children.

Centre Director, Emma Schuh said a day care facility would complement the existing Early Years Learning and Parenting Program (EYLPP).

"That process could take a year or two, but we know it's something the community wants and needs," Emma said.

"If we're successful it would be an additional service to our EYLPP, which is designed to help parents of children up to the age of three and a

half engage with their child, to set the foundation for their early learning journey.

"So we help them with things like walking feet, gentle hands, listening ears, inside voices – things that prepare them for the formal learning environment of kindy and school, and help keep them safe.

"If a parent comes to us experiencing some difficulties at home, or they might be frustrated that their child is experiencing behavioural issues, our family support services team can break that down a bit and work with the family to understand the behaviour and if they need additional help.

"Or, if they have a two-year-old that's not walking,

or jumping or using those normal developmental skills, we can direct them to the right services.

"We've got Apunipima and Queensland Health based here, so if we see or are spoken to about something else, we can help to signpost parents to support.

"Our staff are knowledgeable about the types of services that are in Lockhart, and are able to refer and direct that person into the right space."

With around seven children preparing to begin kindy next year, the team was busy supporting parents and kids to make the transition.

"We've started to help the parents, making sure they've got the birth certificate, making sure they've got the





# Puuya



## foundation



immunisation records, helping them with the enrolment forms – all of that,” she said.

“Then, on Fridays in term three and four, we will be opening a small program for the three-and-a-half year olds, to have a look at the kindy environment and help with the transition.

“This support is vital to building capable families that recognise the importance of children learning from an early age, and homes having strong routines that support education.”

New clothing store

As an added incentive

to attend the EYLPP at Kuunchi Kakana, The Puuya Foundation is offering ‘Puuya Bucks’ credits for attendance at Centre programs.

The credits can then be spent on new clothing provided by fashion charity, Thread Together.

To gain ‘Puuya’ credits, community members can attend the following offerings at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre:

- Early Years Parenting Program at least three times in a week to earn \$30, four times to earn \$40
- Women’s Yarn and Craft

activities twice per week to earn \$40

- Youth Club twice per week and earn \$40.
- Family support services around household routines, budgeting, financial and literacy awareness will also earn \$20 per session.

The store has already received two deliveries and has about 900 items of clothing, underwear, thongs, boots, shoes, hats and belts ready to go once they are set up – but, don’t forget: they can only be purchased with Puuya Bucks. The store will open two afternoons a week.



*PREVIOUS PAGE: Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation representatives were hosted by the Puuya Foundation to share learnings and build opportunities together.*

*ABOVE: Children and parents/ carers enjoying lunch at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre.*

*LEFT: The Kuunchi Kakana Centre team – Emma Palethorpe, Rebecca Elu, Emma Schuh, Susan Booth, Sophie Elara.*







# Lockhart River Scorpions

Weipa, 2 July 2022



Pics: Christine Howes







Weipa, 2 July 2022



Pics: Christine Howes





Lockhart River's own

# Scorpions!



Pics: Christine Howes



Weipa, 2 July 2022

