

Waaanta

NEWSLETTER

June 2019

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

c/- Post Office, Lockhart River Q 4892

Ph: 4060 7144 Fax: 4060 7139

PO Box 1037, Cairns Q 4870

Ph: 4031 0155 Fax: 4031 5720

Email: ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au

Web: <http://www.lockhart.qld.gov.au>



LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

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



**TC Trevor:
how we
survived!**



A word from...

Mayor Wayne Butcher

As a leader in our community my focus has been on our children and their education.

Our children are our great hope and our future, but we will have nothing if we end up with a community of people who can't read or write, or who aren't educated or motivated enough to take their own lives in hand and shape their own futures.

The Puuya Foundation plays an increasingly important role in helping our families work together with their children at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre.

In just three years since the Centre opened the school has reported improved attendance and performance rates of prep

and Year 1 students to the point where for the first time ever these years have topped the school – and we know those are the children who have come out of the early childhood centre.

Earlier this year Tim Fairfax, along with staff and members of his Family Foundation, came to Lockhart River and we had a really good couple of days just reflecting on the Puuya Foundation, where it came from and where it's going to head to.

We were all concerned about the numbers of children, parents and carers attending

the Centre, there is definitely room for improvement, although we believe there might be a kind of snowball effect.

We have a lot of work to do to make the community more aware of just what a great asset that Centre is to our future and our community's future.

Those age groups from 0–5–years–old are critical and we need more of households to understand why we need to get behind the centre, and the Montessori teaching methodology, sooner rather than later – we must lay that foundation for our future.



ABOVE: Local MP Cynthia Lui and Education Minister at the Driftwood Cafe at the school; LEFT with Mayor Wayne Butcher at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre. PAGE 3: Top: community meeting; Below: ILF Meeting.



In May we also had Minister for Education Grace Grace come in – the first Education Minister to visit us in well over a decade, thanks to the hard work of local MP Cynthia Lui.

We took her into the school where she had a chance to talk to staff and then we held an Education Learning Circle at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre.

Minister Grace said she really loved the community's focus on education, which was borne out at a public meeting we had about a week before she came.

The meeting was held outside of the store and went for about two hours, half of which was spent on education.

And we had a great turnout, more than 80 people turned up for some really great discussion and a lot of people got up and spoke.

There was mum Roxanne Hobson and Kuunchi Kakana Centre teacher Moira

Macumboy, both of whom stood up and spoke really passionately about how they've been taking their children there and the difference they can see at home.

We know there are more children out there who should be coming in and participating, so that was a highlight for me, and I hoped that hit home.

At the end of that discussion we challenged the community to improve on those attendance figures.

Other items on the agenda that day were the cyclone clean up after TC Trevor (*see pages 10-14 for more*), the new Justice Group Coordinator, who will be starting soon, and a general discussion on several issues including the Men's Centre, mental health, outstations, Blue Cards and progressing a community cultural centre idea.

Our Ministerial champion, Minister for Main Roads Mark

Bailey, has also been to visit our community.

Mark's work has helped us get the new airport terminal off the ground and he also topped up some money from Main Roads to make the new bridge on the airport road a reality.

It has been a busy year for meetings outside of the community with the Local Government of Queensland Association's (LGAQ's) Indigenous Leaders' Forum (ILF) taking place last month (*pictured below*), and two Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) meetings.

An important thing to come out of the TCICA forum was discussion around an annual Cape York/Torres Strait Regional Disaster Forum with all the main stakeholders including Telstra, Ergon, Queensland Police Service, SES and Rural Fires.





RIGHT: Cairns-based ABC journalists Brendan Mounter & Eric Barker with Mayor Wayne Butcher and Deputy Mayor Norman Bally



There is so much we can learn from each other as we experience natural disasters such as the flooding tides in the Torres Strait and, of course, tropical cyclones.

Planning before, during and after events, as we have learned ourselves this year, is critical and we have much to learn about how other communities may have done some things better.

At the Indigenous Leaders' Forum there was a big discussion around the State Government's thriving communities agenda with many of the Mayors, Councillors and CEOs around the room feeling this was yet another government idea, prompting many of us to ask: what about

driving a community agenda that the community wants?

The frustrating thing for me is you can see the amount of investment in health, for example, and yet our people still dying young from preventable illness.

That's the part that hurts, you know.

It just doesn't make sense. We could have saved a few lives if the investment went in the right direction and with the community's agenda and guidance too.

It's still paternalistic. Everyone out there thinks they know what's right for us when they don't.

Earlier this year I also had a chance to visit Palm Island and catch up with Mayor Alf Lacey.

It was a good visit and interesting to see an Orange Sky laundry truck there – they copied us! – as well as a fellow running his own coffee van outside the community store.

He had good big mob of customers too, so that was great.

When I was there they were also about to open their new community-managed health facility, similar to Yarrabah's. I like the idea of representation from the community at these centres, which are producing results well above state and national averages.

These communities are basically managing their own health, from checking blood pressure and sugar to everything else.



LEFT: At the ILF Meeting was Melinda Eades (TCICA), Mayor Wayne Butcher (Lockhart River), Cr Ken Loban (Torres Shire), Ilario Sabatino (CEO Napranum) with Crs Norman Bally & Darren Macumboy (Lockhart River)



I really enjoyed my trip to Lockhart River, which was an opportunity to get to know the community better and meet with Mayor Wayne Butcher and CEO Dave Clarke, Melinda Eades writes...

I work for the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA), which is an alliance of 14 Councils from across Cape York and the Torres Strait, so it is important for me to understand Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council's priorities for making Lockhart River a better place

for everyone to live, work and do business.

I am very impressed at how your Council is working with the community to develop new business opportunities and it was great to see the housing and road construction projects local businesses have delivered.

The best thing was hearing about how many local people have been employed on these projects, helping them to learn valuable new skills and gain qualifications.

All I can say is 'keep up the great work'!

More than 20 years ago I visited Lockhart River to visit my sister Marnie when she was teaching here.

I remember it as a beautiful community and was sad to see the cyclone damage to the trees and rainforest, although I know it will eventually grow back.

I hope you will welcome me back to Lockhart River soon, I am already very much looking forward to my next visit.



I was also interested in their focus on mental health.

On Palm Island, there were three different areas – their normal health clinic and hospital, but also their new Family Wellbeing Centre.

And they have mental health practitioners in all three of those areas, which is important because I know there is a real and increasing concern about mental health in our communities.

It is an area I would love to see more focus on in here in Lockhart River.

We all know – too well – that when you lose someone you don't expect to lose that family wellbeing can be hard to find.

Grief can interfere with everything from people going to work to hindering children going to school with all those emotional things happening on the inside ... it kills your Puuya.

We all need to remember we do have power, we do have resources, we do have infrastructure, we need to keep lobbying our governments, we need to be strong so we can take up these challenges and

we need to work together so we can be resilient.

I want to leave you with a quote from New Zealander Dame Whina Cooper:

*Take care of our children
Take care of what they hear
Take care of what they see
Take care of what they feel
For how the children grow
So will be the shape of Aotearoa
[Lockhart River!]*

Wayne Butcher





Catering on the menu as part of Iron Range Cabins expansion

Lockhart River and surrounds is one of the most beautiful parts of Australia new Manager of the Iron Range Cabins Hannah Brown says.

And, she says, she's planning on staying for a long time.

"I absolutely just love it," she said.

"I wanted to come back here for a reason, and that was to get the cabins up to running where they should be," she said.

"And I have no plans at all for being anywhere else."

Hannah was working for Cairns Marine doing maritime operations as the CEO's executive assistant before she arrived in Lockhart River in

January this year.

She said she was fortunate to have grown up in a small town called Dungay, near Murwillumbah in northern New South Wales.

"We were lucky to have a creek running out the back and cane fields on the other side – another beautiful part of the world," she said.

Hannah is excited about the work she has done so far with the cabins and looking forward to more big changes to come.

"Right now we've got 10

studios which are three two-bedrooms, three double rooms and a couple of other ensuite rooms," she said.

"We have funding to start construction on another four cabins which are in the final stages of the planning and layout.

"So, they will be larger studios, with a queen bed, a sofa bed, a larger bathroom and veranda, that can accommodate families of three or four."

She said there were lots of



ABOVE: The new airport terminal's final stages of preparation.



ABOVE: Iron Range Cabins Manager Hannah Brown, Housekeeper Patricia Hobson, Groundsman & Maintenance Bradley Gaii, Housekeeping Supervisor Samantha O'Brien, Housekeeper Narelle Bally, Front of House Admin Kimberley Rocky, Aerodrome Manager Bob Brown, Housekeeper Shekira Sandy and Airport Reporting Officer Gareth Hobson.

other things happening as well. “We have reinstated catering, along with in-house meals,” she said. “We are also in the process of getting a café up and running and we’re going to be updating and revamping the barbecue area. “Reception will also be revamped with some tourist

information and picnic tables in the breezeways, so you can actually sit and enjoy a coffee while you’re waiting for your plane. “We will also have a huge amount of local artwork and sculptures on display and on sale for tourists and visitors.” She said she and her staff were having a ball.

“They love to be here and they love coming out here,” she said. “They get picked up in the morning, it’s a good working environment, we have lunch together every day and they get dropped home. “We have a very open working relationship and communication has just been a phenomenal.”





A word from

CEO David Clarke...

Well its been an interesting first half of the year with a long and damp wet season highlighted by Cyclone Trevor.

He gave us a good flogging but we showed we are a tough mob and that we can work well together to get us back on our feet quickly.

Big shout out to our boys who went proper over mark pushing through until the job was done which took weeks.

I join with the Mayor, Council, and the rest of the Community in recognising your excellent work and saying thank you.

We have more on that in the following pages.

With the wet behind us its time to go hard on our building and roadworks.

TC Trevor busted up our roads



ABOVE: TCICA Coordinator Melinda Eades & CEO David Clarke

alright so this year's program will be bigger than ever to get them all repaired.

Both our Road gang, under Solly, and QRA gang of local contractors have started the

program so give them a shout out when you see them on the job.

One thing I want to talk about is our Social Club.

Soon you will see the renovations hitting top gear.

We are aiming to get the building completed by Christmas.

Council can't hold the license or run the new club so we are looking for people to put their



LEFT: Minister Craig Crawford (Minister for Fire & Emergency Services) and Commissioner Katarina Carroll with Mayor Wayne Butcher earlier this year.

hand up as a new Social Club committee is formed to help guide the way it is run.

I think we all agree there are times when people are not drinking the right way so our new Club will have the chance to make a good place for everyone to sit down and enjoy a few drinks together in a good, safe, and fun way.

Meals will be available.

If you've been to Pormpuraaw we are looking to make something a bit like they got.

So step up good people and put your hand up and guide us on how it should run.

It is good to see so many of

the high school kids coming and asking to join our school holiday work experience program.

This is open to all year 10, 11, and 12 students who attend boarding school.

It gives them the chance to experience the workplace and earn some money so it takes a bit of pressure off parents for money.

Council self funds this program.

Another example of your Council helping build our future leaders.

We have some traineeships open in construction and

business management, so come in and yarn if you are interested.

We've got some celebrating to do with the opening of the new Lockhart River Phytham Airport terminal and the Morrison "Crazy" Claudie bridge coming up soon.

We're all looking forward to meeting the challenges of the dry season and know that Council's door is always open to good ideas so bring him come.

Look after each other and stay safe.

David Clarke



LEFT: Jyren Kyle and Richard Claudie installing new seating at our Splash Park



TC Trevor: how we survived!

Firstly we had Tropical Cyclone Penny come from the Gulf and it crossed at Mapoon at a Category 2 and we're glad it ran out of puff – by the time it got to us it was between a Category 1 and a low, so we got a bit of tail wind and a lot of rain out of it, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

Then we had the big one, Tropical Cyclone Trevor, and it hammered Lockhart.

You hear talk about cyclonic winds feeling like a freight train, just grinding over the top of you, and that's exactly what it was like.

In a sense it was good it crossed during the afternoon, while it was light, so we could actually see it in and prepare ourselves.

I have to say the community responded very well.

We had several Local Disaster Group Management meetings

in the days leading up to it as well as during and after the event which were well attended and helped us to cope as well as we did.

We were lucky there wasn't much major infrastructure damage, particularly to our water supply, sewerage, electricity or telecommunications.

Electricity went out, but none of our power poles went down, which was extraordinary given there's 10 kilometres of poles through the scrub between here and the airport.

That was a major concern but Telstra has been doing a pole replacement program over the past four years, which certainly paid off for us.

We have also had 40% of our housing stock re-roofed over probably the past three years, and a lot of major upgrades and refurbishment of housing.

The other thing we had in our favour too was our Roads and Civil Construction crews do an annual clean up after they finish all the major roadworks every year.

March 2018



June 2019



From Workshop Supervisor Alister White on TC Trevor:

It was chaotic. It was organised but it was very very busy. TC Trevor did do more damage than what outsiders or non-locals expected. A lot of trees, a lot of damage. A lot of roads were blocked and we couldn't even get around

the town for at least two weeks. And road gang worked very hard for the first two months, it kept us all busy, especially parks and gardens. We just kept running back and forth, and we have a big bonfire pile just outside of town of all

the fallen trees and branches. We even brought in another six chain saws, just to be able to keep up with the demand for tree lopping and cleaning up the streets, just so people could get to the shops or get to where they need to go.

Pics below thanks to Queensland Police and Mayor Wayne Butcher; Pics above by Christine Howes.



So they had already been around the community picking up old cars, boats, trailers and any other debris that looked like it could cause a problem during a cyclone. It's one thing to build a house to withstand Category 5 cyclone-rated winds, but objects flying around in the wind can have a big impact and cause a lot of damage too. On the flipside, 90% of our homes were inundated with water because of the pressure of the wind, which was a constant 100km per hour with the odd 200km per hour gust

coming along and just roaring through the place. The best of it was we had no casualties and no injuries, so that was definitely good. After the event our clean up went really well. Once again, our Roads and Civil Construction crews organised themselves and started cleaning up a lot of the big fig trees we lost around the place. Our Parks and Gardens crew and some of the My Pathway workers helped as well. We also had lots of help from outside the community with

the SES, Rural Fires and the Queensland Police Service coming in to give us a hand. We'd like to thank those three services for their assistance before, during and after the event, and our Regional Disaster Management Group as well. We had the heads of Telstra, Ergon and SES, Queensland Police Service and Rural Fires communicating with us from Cairns and the Premier as well, so thanks to all of them for their interest and concern.



"The best of it was we had no casualties and no injuries, so that was definitely good."



The Parks and Garden crew in particular said it made a really big difference to have those outsiders come in and help, it really lifted their spirits and inspired them to keep going, Wayne continues....

Between them and the road crew, I think they did a month straight without a break which was fantastic to see because it just had to be done and in the end it all came together pretty well.

Everyone was also worried about our neighbours,

especially those out at Portland Road so we assembled a crew to make their way out along the road with machineries and chain saws.

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service also came in and assisted but it still took several days to open up that road and then there was two days of flooding as well, so probably about six days all up to get to those residents.

And then, almost unbelievably, we actually had another low after that, with ex-Tropical Cyclone Anne when it bucketed

down raining for another four days straight without a break, so that dumped a lot of water on us as well.

The thing is, the next time we have a cyclone we're going to know what we'll be in for and that we'll be in trouble if we don't have this or that because of our experiences this time around.

A lot of people might say we should have a big shelter but what we think we really need is a smaller centre to actually





manage the event from. During this event the leaders of the town were between the police station and in their own homes, which was fine until we lost communications. We needed to be able to manage the event from an allocated site and we needed to know people were safe. Before this event we encouraged people to stay inside and, where possible, to go to the block homes. There was also a small group of elders and mothers with young babies we needed to

accommodate in the HACC building, just so we knew they were safe. And there was one person in palliative care, old fellow Jim, but I went down and spoke to him and he said, "No, no, my boy, I'm not going nowhere, I want to wait for the cyclone I've waited for all my life". There was that sense of humour, and he laughed, you know, he'd give you that big smile. So all in all we made it, but I think there is room next time for us to do even better.



Pics thanks to Queensland Police; Christine Howes & Mayor Wayne Butcher



Mayor & family took hard road to safety

Ironically I was concerned about all the roofs getting torn off all the old housing stocks in the town, not knowing at the time that the ridge cap on my own house was peeling, Wayne Butcher writes...

The wind was coming from the west and took the face wall out, letting water into the ceiling, and then I had water in my house coming through the windows because of the pressure of the wind, so rain was seeping through the windows as well as coming out of the ceiling.

I moved the family downstairs but before long the upstairs floors were flooded and the water started coming through underneath as well.

The three kids, even the one-year-old, were having a ball, they thought it was great but by 10pm it was pretty well raining inside, so my partner and I knew we had to try to move.

It was a tough decision to make but in the end we knew we had to get to a safer place.

At least we knew there wouldn't be as much debris flying as there might have been earlier in the night – the trees were already down by then, we'd watched them go down ourselves earlier that afternoon.

I still wouldn't recommend it to anyone.

The house we wanted to get to was only about 150m away but it was dangerous, within the five metre walk to the car we were all soaking wet because the rain was coming in horizontally, not vertically.

The wind was so strong it was shaking, moving my car side to side, and we couldn't see ahead, we only could see about a metre in front of us with the spotlight on.

We didn't even know if the road was still there, there was so much water on the road and in the air.

Then there was a big tree was across the garden of the house we wanted to get in to, so we had to go around it to get in from the other side.

Once we got into the brick home, it

was much safer, we couldn't feel the wind like we could in my timber house which was moving at times, and there was no water coming in, so it was much better.

The winds didn't drop until 2am the next morning, it was a long night and what we did very high-risk, I'm just glad we were safe, it's not something I'll forget in a big hurry, that's for sure.



Sonia Butcher, Noah Accoom & Greg Omeeny with the Mayor's house in the background behind them; Wayne and his partner above



LEFT: The DATSIP Community Recovery Team with Veronica Piva and Elizabeth 'Queenie' Giblet

How have we helped

Lockhart River following Tropical Cyclone Trevor



Community Recovery teams visited Lockhart River to provide Personal Hardship Assistance as a result of TC Trevor



285 Emergency Hardship Assistance Grant applications were received benefitting 478 people



Strong support from Lockhart River Council and Puuya Foundation to identify vulnerable community members



The Lockhart River Pop-up Hub kindly hosted by Puuya Foundation, operated for 10 days on the 22 - 31 March 2019. 314 people visited the hub to access assistance



94 Essential Household Contents Grant applications received benefitting 185 people



132 Lockhart River community members assisted during outreach visits

A big thank you to Lockhart River Council and residents for your hospitality during our stay!



Engineering Services

Cyclone Trevor broke open some roller doors and decimated the mechanics' work space Workshop Supervisor Alister White says.

"We're currently in busy times coming out of the TC Trevor clean up and into the dry season," he said.

"I've got a couple of apprentices away at TAFE at the moment, and the workshop is still just getting repaired from Trevor.

"We've only just got one new roller door up and we're still waiting to utilise the hoist and a couple of other things in the workshop.

"Trevor blew three of our four roller doors to the workshop and scattered a lot of our items and tools all around,

damaging some of them with the wind and water.

"And the hoist has just been unable to be utilised due to the roller doors being screwed shut for three months plus.

"So while we were juggling repairs and maintenance of chain saws and everything else that was going along with Trevor, it took us about at least a month to get back on our feet properly.

"And even then, we're still doing field work really, because it was a hotbox in this workshop with no breeze.

"So we were outside most of

the time doing repair work, job by job."

He said with their apprentices away at block training, they were always on the lookout for new staff.

"Diesel fitters go for a month, they're the longest blocks of all the apprentices, so that leaves us pretty busy here being down two workers," he said. "So we are looking for trade qualified workers and if anyone does want to come forward, they can drop their resume into me at the workshop or down at the office with Dave or Noleen."



ABOVE: In the workshop was Napoleon Short, Alister White & Teddy Sandy



The Council Road gang is all fired up and ready to go, Supervisor Solomon Hobson says.

The only problem was: it kept raining.

“We’ve been doing some cyclone clean-up,” he said.

“We’ve only just started opening up the roads, three

months later, and it’s still a bit messy.

“Hopefully we’ll be getting into some roadworks soon, but there was a lot to be cleared.

“So the fuel trucks and such

have only just started coming in now.

“We will have a busy year, the cyclone has created a lot of work. We’re just looking forward to getting back into it.”



*TOP: Solomon Hobson, Gennis Gible, Tristan Elu, Stephen Gible & Dennis Claudie; BELOW: Back row: Stephen Gible, CEO David Clarke, Mark ‘Caspar’ Spencer, Gennis Gible and Contractor Ryan Accoom
Front row: Rodney Accoom, Tristan Elu, Solomon Hobson, Donovan Moses & Dennis Claudie.*



The Airport Bridge replacement construction project was jointly funded by the Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) through the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Works for Queensland.

The Contract was awarded to NS Contracting Pty Ltd.

Demolition of the existing bridge commenced in August 2018 and the new bridge was constructed using box culverts and a new sealed road connecting up with the existing road. The bridge was open to local traffic in December 2018.

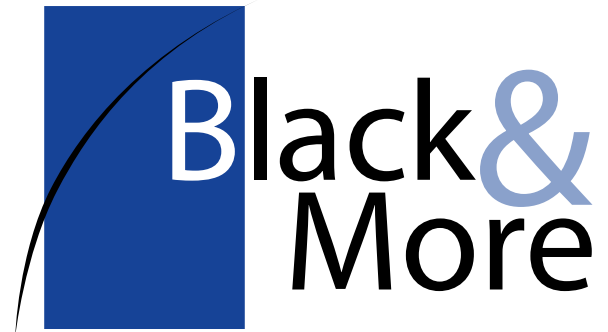
Council also undertook works to upgrade a section of Portland Road about 26km from the Pascoe River.

These works were jointly funded by TCICA and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) through the National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP).

Three culverts were installed at separate sites to improve flood resistance, a new 750m section of road was built and sealed. The road was open to traffic in December 2018.

QRA also funded the restoration of Council roads after Severe TC Nora in March 2018.

Council lodged submissions with QRA for funding to repair the damaged roads and local sub-contractors were engaged to complete the works on Old Site Road, Chuulangan Road and Pascoe Farms Road in 2018 and Kingdom Come Road in 2019.



Management | Engineering | Excellence
A Member of The Partners Group Australia

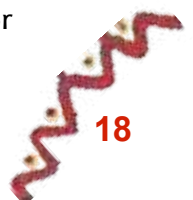


Two further disaster events hit Lockhart River in 2019, the Monsoon in January and then TC Trevor in March 2019.

QRA provided funding for the clean-up of debris after each event and are funding further repairs to Council roads.

Council crews will be working around town to repair the roads and signage and local sub-contractors are engaged for roadworks out of the town.

Council is preparing further submissions for repair works on Portland Roads and will also be making submissions for improvements to some sections of road which have significant damage from flooding.





SCORPIONS
Weipa June, 2019



More pics
pages
34 & 35!



Municipal Services

Lockhart River is slowly, but very surely getting on top of dog health, CEO David Clarke says.

He said anyone wanting worm tablets for their pets should go and see Morgan and his team behind the Council Store.

Meanwhile visiting vet Dr Graham Lauridsen says de-sexing dogs in Lockhart River was his highest priority.

“De-sexing is my number one thing because the best way to chop the population is to stop them from breeding,” he said.

“And then there’s any sort

of welfare issues, sick dogs, many dogs, we also try to focus on.”

He said he usually worked from Tully but had been visiting Indigenous communities on the Cape every few months. “This is my second visit here, it’s just two days,” he said.

“This time we’ve done 12 de-sexes so far, and we did about eight last time, so those numbers are looking better.

“It’s a bit different from my usual vet work, it’s actually something I see as hopefully making a difference to the whole community.

“And it’s a beautiful place too, beautiful scenery and a beautiful beach.”

Mr Clarke said anyone was welcome to put their name down for the next vet visit if they were needing to use the service.



LEFT: POSITION Peter Giblet & Vet Dr Graham Lauridsen;

BELOW: Animal Control Officer Cecil aka ‘Sledge’ Macumboy and Dump Manager Brian Macumboy.





ABOVE: Lockhart River has had some lucky breaks with three extra water bores now in the process of being drilled around town. At least two of those sites have been found to have good quality and plenty of water. Plumber Paul Jensen was back in town for a short visit to help with the development of the new bores pumps, and pipe work as the drilling got underway in early June.

BELOW: Our hard working Parks & Gardens workers – all of whom worked above and beyond during the community's cyclone recovery – are Raymond Young, Stanley Butcher, Chris Bally & Billy Sandy. Alan Warradoo is in the inset and missing that day was Johnny & Andy Butcher and James Bally.





Building Services

The end of the financial year marks the closure of several programs for the 2018-9 period and the launch of several new ones for 2019-20, Building Services Director Regis Edmond says.

We do have a bit going on for the new financial year, we have quite a few full-house renovations to be done, maintenance work orders have increased due to the cyclone, and we're still trying to tidy up around the town.

They are all actually in the system but haven't been completed.

Apart from renovations, there's a bit of painting to be

done around town as well.

Some new floor coverings are going to be coming in, some kitchen and bathrooms renovations, and we did find out those houses that are having drainage problems, they will also be looked at in this new financial year as well.

Also in the new financial year's programme we have some re-roofing of five of our houses.

Some of this work is a result of the cyclone, even though no houses were actually damaged.

We're quite fortunate we didn't lose any houses.

Obviously the new houses we have built met all the requirements and there's a lot of fallen trees too, but again we're very lucky that none of the house were damaged.

Over the past few years we have completed quite a lot of





work and I'd like to thank the people who have worked with us to make that happen.

We've done a good job and I'm sure the town is satisfied with what we have done, having come through the events of this year as intact as we have.

In other news, we also have tenders out at the moment for new driveways renovating some of the council residences.

We also have some money to build new rooms out at the Iron Range Cabins, next to the airport.

And I can confirm we have been having problems trying to get any concrete into the community, although now the rain seems to have finally eased up, that issue should be resolved, and we should be able to finalise the airport terminal.

We're in June now and it's still

raining, but hopefully within the next few weeks we will be able to move on and decide what we will do with the old terminal.

And finally, all of our young apprentices have pretty much completed their time and have qualified.

Alistair Bowie is doing very very well and is now living in a house he helped to build, which is fantastic for him and his family.



PAGE 22; Contractor Phil Watt & Plumber Neil Bookall with Building Services Director Regis Edmond; Painters Ross Mackay and James Macumboy; TOP LEFT: Recently graduated carpenter Dominique Macumboy, who says it was good to have a trade under his belt;

TOP RIGHT: ABC journalist Brendan Mounter yarning with homeowner/builder Alistair Bowie; and LEFT Acting Bunnings Proprietors Hayden Emery & Wayne Barnes.



Community Development

Community Development has had a busy first six months of 2019 with all programs planning their year ahead, Director Margie Barnes writes...

Of course TC Trevor had a big impact on our community and like all staff and services within the community our teams were kept very busy during and after the event.

The HACC centre and Women's Shelter were used as a place of shelter for those who needed assistance and support.

A special thanks to all the staff for their hard work before, during and after the event.

A number of positions have currently been recruited to our team with new members due to commence their roles in the coming months.

I look forward to welcoming them on board – watch this space in the next *Waanta* for their introductions.

Recently a number of our staff completed Mental Health First Aid training which was



delivered in Lockhart River by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

A big thank you to trainer Teresa Gibson who delivered both sessions.

Her work was very well received and all staff agreed it had been very interesting, rewarding and beneficial for them, both in the workplace and within their families and the community.

Teresa will be delivering another session in the near future for our few remaining staff who could not attend the previous sessions as well as those about to join us.

I would like to acknowledge and thank My Pathway for their work on the Youth Camp at Chili Beach earlier this year.

It was a great opportunity for the Council and our Youth team (Krystal and Steven) to

partner with and support such an event.

Preston Campbell's presence, with the support of his Foundation, was a huge hit with our young people...and some of the older people as well!

A group of Elders joined the youth midweek for the day and really enjoyed the outing.

For some of them it had been some time since they had travelled out that way and many yarns about earlier times were told, bringing back lots of memories.

Great effort and a great job, well done to all.

With the cyclone season over and the rains finally ceasing, it is nice to be able to get out and about in the cooler season, and we are looking forward to the coming months.



*Women's Shelter worker and scone queen (if you're lucky!)
Luka Getawan.*

"It was a pleasure visiting Lockhart and spending time with the youth and community," Preston Campbell said.

"We learnt a lot about the local area and had an amazing time with those involved in the youth camp.

"We hope the participants enjoyed their time with us and have taken something away from the activities and yarns to use in their daily lives.

"We wish the Lockhart mob all the very best and we look forward to visiting again soon."





YOUTH ACTIVITIES - WALKING, POOL, MOVIE NIGHTS & VACATION CARE



Pics thanks to Krystal & Steven



Lockhart River's local radio station was out for the count due to several dishes being taken by Tropical Cyclone Trevor in March this year.

Coordinator Johanne Omeeny said they didn't have a signal for quite some time.

"Now it's back on and everyone's happy," she said.

"I've also been trying to balance the library side of things too, after Greita left a few months ago to go onto doing other things."

Internet Use

"We've had a lot of people coming in to utilise our internet facilities for their internet banking, online services with Studylink, people paying off their car registration online so people are becoming more aware of what you can actually do online now," she said.

She said the Library was developing into a family hub. "It's been an ideal place where families tend to come and sit, read books, and also to sort of catch up," she said.

"Some come and sit on the veranda and have a bit of a lunch and coffee which is good to see.

"We also have lots of kids come through after school as somewhere they can read and relax.



"It's really good to see the community starting to utilise the building and coming in and getting interested in some of the things we do here."

Keeping History

She said one of her pet projects was as a volunteer digital archivist for the community.

"I've got photographs from as far back as 1935," she said.

"So we're looking at forming a committee to make decisions around the archival material we have because there's a lot that has been collected.

"And we want to see that retained by the community and go back to each original owner.

"I've had some elders who were quite interested, so when they come through I tend to try to encourage them to actually use the computer so

they get a bit of skill."

She said she hoped the right person would come along to take up the role of Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) coordinator.

"We'll need someone to fill in that area, there are things like I think it would be good to start up some program with the kids as well," she said.

"Because we're trying to build some cultural activities within the library area too, so the community can come in and feel part of something and take some ownership of it, especially with the archiving project.

"We want the community to see this is important material which is why it needs to have a plan around it - where or how do they want to see it in years to come?"



*Men's Group
walkers on
Quintell Beach*





HACC worker Bessie Hobson has been doing her job for seven years now.

And she said they had been busy this year with guests coming in every week and cooking about 30 meals daily for their 18 regular clients.

“It’s been pretty busy here with all the washing, cleaning and cooking,” she said.

“We haven’t done any more studies this year, but we’d like to, we are up to our Cert IV.

“It’s just Beverley and I now, taking turns in cooking and cleaning, we’re waiting on a new worker to come on board.

“We’ve had a bit of tragedy this year, with some sorry business and TC Trevor.”

She said they looked after nine of their clients in the HACC building while TC Trevor passed through the community.

“Father Brian helped me collect all the people,” she said.

“Beverley was in Cairns but Ivy was here with her Mum which was a big help for me.

“Ivy helped me prepare the cooking to feed them all, the wind was blowing terrible, it was coming very strong then.

“That’s when the branch from that tree up there, flew over and smashed the window.

“Old man John was sitting there and he got up just a minute before it happened.



HACC workers Beverley & Bessie Hobson

“We were all scared but after that we just slept until the early hours of the morning.

They were worried about going home to see if their houses were alright but they all went home nice and safely.

“The main thing is we all got through it, we were safe and sound and no one got hurt.”

The wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youths was the central theme to the 3rd National Indigenous Social & Emotional Wellbeing Forum held in Cairns earlier this year and attended by Women’s Shelter Coordinator Ethel Singleton.

Community and industry leaders and workers from capital cities to remote communities attended the conference including The Enemy Within founder Joe Williams, Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku



*Joyce Dimer (Bunbury, WA), Esther Illin (Townsville, Qld) and Ethel Singleton (Lockhart River, Cape York, Qld)
Pic by Christine Howes with thanks to Koori Mail.*

Aboriginal Corporation (ANTAC) CEO Dr Francesca Panzironi and Yarrabah-based Youth Bail Support practitioner David Baird.



The After School Care program is delivered at the Community Hall each week from Monday to Friday from 3–5pm by Emily Pascoe and Margie Hobson.

There are a number of activities the children like to decide between and plan to do for themselves.

“We have a daily board that we use with the kids and they put 3 – 4 activities on the board for what they want to do” Emily said.

“The activities include arts and crafts, storytelling, play acting and play dough.”

Margie said, “play dough is very popular and the kids love painting”.

Afternoon tea is also prepared for the children.

During the school holidays Angela and Nikki come on board to work with the team and plan out activities for the holiday break.

“Last school holidays were over Easter and the kids had lots

of fun making masks and paper baskets for a Easter egg hunt,” Nikki said.

Angela said, “we also had fresh hot cross buns with the egg hunt and all the kids really enjoyed themselves”.

“Lots of masks were made and the kids were very excited finding the chocolate eggs,” Emily said.



Corporate Services



End of year and upcoming audit

The finance team has been preoccupied with end of year procedures involving the closure of 2018/19 and opening of new 2019/20 financial year.

Congratulations to the finance team that worked tirelessly to sail through this transition period without disrupting financial services.

Our interim audit visit was completed in May and we obtained a good audit report. Now we are preparing for the final audit visit scheduled for September and there is nothing within vicinity to hinder achieving the target of finalizing the audit by end of October as per current audit time frame.

The Council received two internal audit reports for the year in accordance with the requirement of Local Government Regulation 2012.

Budgeting and operational planning

Annual operational planning and budgeting season is here again and we request suggestions for new capital investments around the community. Such proposals or suggestions can be communicated via elected members or the CEO. We take proposals and assess them for affordability and prioritisation before committing to them. Your ideas are valuable.

Although the Council is due to finalize this process by end of July, suggestions after that date may still be considered. Please remember this is your community and Council finances are your resources to fund sustainable services for all community members.

The focus of this budget is on capital investment that can create local employment and self-employment in Lockhart River.



*LEFT: In the Cairns Office, Finance Director Stanley Mugwiria;
ABOVE: L-R Human Resources Officer Maureen Semei; Assistant Accountant Anja Culleton; Finance & Admin Officer Joan Kithinji; Accounts Payable Officer Rosemary Hall & Project Data Officer Elvira Marticio*

New accounting software

With excitement and relief, we can report that our new accounting software is up and running after a trial period of four months. The finance team is now using the SynergySoft that offers more functionality than the previous PCS.

However, as you know with any new system there is a lot to learn and we will seek to get better as we gain more experience. We are grateful to the elected members for providing us with the much needed extra resources. We can mark the implementation of this project as a success.

The old software has been shut down for transaction processing but we will still keep it for 2018/19 financial reporting and audit and afterwards archive it historical data retrieval only.

It's been a busy year for graduations Lockhart River's Government Training Coordinator Noleen Clark says.

"Four carpenters have completed their apprenticeship and we now have two mechanical apprentices and a plumbing apprentice," she said.

"Six people have completed this year's Health and Safety in the workplace, and another six have done their Traffic Control.

"And looking forward to the new financial year, we hope to have heavy trailer training, rigid truck driving, we have one person interested in Civil Construction and there are several smaller courses such as forklift training coming up as well."

She said anyone looking to expand their qualifications should come and see her in the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council offices.



Noleen is pictured on the right with Maree & Faye Hobson.

CEQ graduate celebrates

Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) worker Shannyn Fyfe celebrated achieving her Certificate III in Retail Operations in May along with several other remote store workers from Doomadgee to Thursday Island.

The nationally-recognised qualification provides a pathway to work in a diverse range of retail settings including supermarkets, speciality retailers, department stores, and quick service restaurants.

CEQ Chief Executive Officer Ian Copeland said they were thrilled.

"All nine students are an absolute credit to CEQ, themselves, their families, and their communities in general," he said.

"To undergo their retail traineeship, they've had to show outstanding dedication and expertise in their work.



Shannyn Fyfe, who achieved her Cert III

"We're all thrilled at their achievements, and are proud to call them CEQ employees."





The first five months of this year have been challenging Lockhart River Art Indigenous Corporation Manager Enoch Perazim says...

But we're coming out of that now and we're now concentrating on what's ahead of us.

On 20 to 23 June, Bala Patrick Butcher Jnr and myself were in Rutherglen Victoria to open our exhibition at Aboriginal Exhibitions Gallery at the Cellar Door at De Bortoli Family Wine Estate.

Bala Patrick opened the exhibition on Friday 21 June, marking our first business expansion into the Victorian Market which will include Corowa and Albury in New South Wales.

The expansion will be through the business model of our new Victorian representative gallery, the Aboriginal Exhibitions Gallery.

We have the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair scheduled for the second week of July 2019 , then we'll have the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair in the second week of August 2019 .

The Chengdu Exhibition was scheduled for October 2019 but we have rescheduled that with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian Consul General and the Deputy Consul General in Chengdu to the

22nd of March, 2020.

We are excited to say there will be four artists travelling to that, along with myself.

Every artist within our membership will have the opportunity to participate, although at least two would have to be from the original art gang era.

We have other European exhibitions coming up next year but we will release details of those as the dates become finalised.

Closer to home, one of the key areas that hasn't been on our radar before now is the mental health of our team.

Of course we also have to be careful not to tread over mental health in the sense that we are not professionally trained or qualified in this aspect.

But what we have done is remodelled the Corporation's Policy and Procedure Operating Manual to make provisions for recognising anyone who may be experiencing mental health issues and looking at what

Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Cooperation



Puuya Kuntha Strong Heart



TOP: Enoch Perazim; ABOVE: Patrick Butcher & Enoch in Rutherglen, Victoria

sort of support that we might provide in the first instance as part of an overall plan to refer them to professional help.

Mental health is a subject we've never really talked about, there are cultural and personal sensitivities but we wanted to make sure there was a pathway there for people to take if they needed it.

We want to do our best to help, we have information from a number of agencies who have also put some energy into working on mental health within the art industry space.





Puuya foundation

Kuunchi Kakana Learning Circle

May 2019 saw numerous visitors to the Kuunchi Kakana Centre, including Tim and Gina Fairfax and Samantha Jorgensen from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation. The Tim Fairfax Family Foundation has been a strong supporter of the Puuya Foundation for many years and they have visited several times to see our progress.

During their most recent visit a Learning Circle was held where issues/roadblocks were discussed and possible solutions identified.

It was a very robust discussion where community members and others acknowledged many of the solutions reside in the community to be actioned.

This was a great start and the first of the actions took place where a public meeting was held to discuss education, engagement and participation at the Kuunchi Kakana early years program and school.

Thanks to the Art Centre, Clinic and School for hosting informative and enjoyable visits.

Puuya Foundation Patron, Dame Quentin Bryce and the Australian Women's Weekly

Dame Quentin Bryce AC DVO and Australian Women's Weekly Editor Juliet Rieden visited the Puuya Foundation recently and met with many community members at the early years program.

Dame Bryce has been the Patron of the Foundation for over ten years and has continued to support us in many ways over this time. Her enduring leadership empowers us to build an inclusive community with the capacity to change their lives for the better.

Keep your eyes open for the Australian Women's Weekly article to be published soon.

Community gathering

Several community members were privileged to have time to speak with Transport and Main Roads Minister, and Ministerial Champion for Lockhart River, Mark Bailey together with Member for Cook Cynthia Lui in May.

There was discussion, sharing their stories and a chance to raise issues of importance to the community at a dinner hosted by the Puuya Foundation at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre.



TOP: Tim and Gina Fairfax and Samantha Jorgensen with artists Silas Hobson & Evelyn Omeeny at the Art Centre; ABOVE: Chair Dottie Hobson, our Patron Dame Quentin Bryce and Elder Lucy Hobson during Australian Women's Weekly visit; BELOW: Community members, Puuya Foundation Board members, staff, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Minister Mark Bailey, and Member for Cook Cynthia Lui at the community dinner.





SCORPIONS

WEIPA JUNE 2019





More pics at www.chowes.com.au



Popular school cafe connecting community



Lockhart River State School's Driftwood Coffee Café is keen to continue as a weekly 'event' in the community, Principal Belinda Everett says.

"At the moment it probably doesn't quite happen once a week, but they are keen, especially to get the community involved and have them coming down and being a part of it," she said.

"And it's important, it's all about developing life and customer service

skills.

"Our junior secondaries have made all of the equipment and the students here are learning maths and budgeting, so it's all about connecting all the things they're doing in school into one."

The popular cafe is open most Fridays.

