



# Waaanta

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**July 2021**

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



**Cooktown 2021**

*Pics by Wayne Butcher*

# Mayor Wayne Butcher



The Lockhart River community's strong focus on culture and moving forward is featured in this issue of Waanta, Mayor Wayne Butcher writes...

We have had success inside and out with the development of our new social club, a new subdivision and cultural grounds down towards the beach, and our winning dance group Kawadji Wimpa, had enjoyed success all over the Cape.

## Anniversary Plane Crash

On the 11th of March this year, the CEO, a small crew of workers, and I took the opportunity to sadly acknowledge the anniversary of the Cessna 404 that tragically crashed on Claudie Beach.

Five people – the pilot and four QBuild workers – dedicated to working with Lockhart Community and the Lockhart State Primary School on a project to build additional infrastructure to our school, lost their lives.

To acknowledge this loss, Lockhart Community erected a memorial – a white cross – at the site and forwarded our prayers to the families.

Thanks to carpenters Phil Watts and Christopher Johnson, trade assistant Ronnie Getawan and Building Services Manager Regis

Edmond.





## TCICA March Meeting

I'm currently chairing the Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA).

Federal Government MP Warren Entsch and State MP Cynthia Lui came to our first meeting of the year, back in

March, to give our community leaders an opportunity to discuss issues and challenges facing our respective communities directly.

Queensland Health was also invited to provide an update on the COVID-19 vaccination roll out.

## The next Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) meeting will be on Wednesday 11 August, followed the next day with the Indigenous Local Government Disaster Resilience Forum.

A TCICA advocacy team went to Canberra in early June. Key outcomes of the visit included:

- Strong support for a review of the Financial Assistance Grants program – TCICA to propose a more appropriate allocation methodology
- Support for proposals by TCICA on a program to improve safety at remote airports and address maintenance and upgrade issues
- Support for a proposal by TCICA to remove the requirement for own source funds to match Roads to Recovery funding
- Support for a joint Commonwealth/State review of health and wellbeing services in TCICA communities
- An opportunity to propose a remote jobs program to Minister Ken Wyatt.
- A commitment by Linda Burney (pictured below right) to visit the region in September
- An invitation to TCICA to

participate in consultation and discussion on the development of a Northern Australia reinsurance pool

At state level, TCICA has been working with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to develop a protocol between the two organisations, aimed at strengthening their partnership. Mayors agreed that TCICA must continue to be the leading voice on matters of importance to its members and set its own advocacy agenda.

Regionally TCICA will seek a joint workshop between Local Thriving Communities and Empowered Communities for a shared understanding of these two models and how they would work together.

The Queensland Government's Local Thriving Communities reform agenda and the Empowered Communities / Pama Futures model has been supported by the Commonwealth Government.

Mayors have also briefly discussed a concept for a shared

### Torres, Cape and Gulf local government meet in Cairns



Story and Photos by CHRISTINE HOWES

SEVERAL MAYORS representing local government met in Cairns to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on their communities. The meeting was the first of its kind, with representatives from the Torres, Cape and Gulf regions joining together for the first time to discuss their shared challenges and opportunities.

Key regional priorities and outcomes discussed included:

- The importance of strengthening local government capacity to respond to future crises.
- The need for a coordinated approach to health and wellbeing services in remote communities.
- The importance of maintaining and enhancing local government services to support the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

The meeting was held in Cairns, Queensland, and was attended by representatives from the Torres, Cape and Gulf regions. The meeting was a success, with many key outcomes identified.

services hub arrangement to help drive cost efficiencies for councils by reducing the duplication of costs like office rental.





## COVID-19 Vaccinations

Vaccination roll outs throughout Cape York and Torres Straits are back on track with Lockhart River's turn coming on 11-13 August.

COVID-19 is a very real threat to our community and I'd encourage everyone to vaccinate to help keep us all safe.

Council has worked hard with our Health Services to make sure we stay healthy – there is nothing for us to fear from the vaccination, we are all doing it because it is the best way forward.

**COVID-19 VACCINE 2021** Information is current as of 26 February 2021

### Vaccination Information

#### COVID-19 vaccination

Having a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step to take to reduce the serious effects of COVID-19 in people who become infected with the virus. Current evidence shows that people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine have a much lower chance of developing more serious disease from COVID-19. This is compared to those who did not get the vaccine.

Even though the COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be very effective there is still a chance you may get COVID-19. No vaccine is 100 per cent effective.

It is important to understand that the COVID-19 vaccines will not infect you with the COVID-19 virus, because the vaccines do not contain live COVID-19 virus.

**Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service will have the AstraZeneca vaccine available, which has been provisionally approved by the TGA.**

#### How is the COVID-19 vaccine given?

The vaccine is given via an injection into your upper arm by a health professional who has been trained in giving the COVID-19 vaccine.

You must remain in the vaccination clinic for observation for at least 15 minutes after vaccination. Depending on your medical history, you may be asked to wait in the clinic for 30 minutes.

**To get the full benefit of the vaccine you will need two injections, several weeks apart.**

#### Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

**The AstraZeneca vaccine is suitable for people aged 18 years and older.**

#### Who should not get the vaccine?

**You must not get a COVID-19 vaccine if you have had any of the following:**

- Anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) to a previous dose of the same COVID-19 vaccine.
- Anaphylaxis after exposure to any ingredients of the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have recently had any other vaccine (e.g. flu vaccine) you should wait at least 14 days to have the COVID-19 vaccine. Make sure you book your appointments with enough time between them.

Stay informed at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and [www.qld.gov.au/covid19vaccine](http://www.qld.gov.au/covid19vaccine)

Queensland Government

In recent months, former Men's Group Coordinator Greg Omeenyo has taken on a role as Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Cultural Advisor, a role which he says involves liaising between visitors to our community and locals.

"My role is to give an introduction to the cultural side of our community to visitors, including tradespeople and contractors, police, teachers and so on," he said.

"It's about making people more aware of our cultural sensitivities.

"I also help the school with things such as who they should be talking to, whether it's the council or Traditional



Owners in terms of different activities."

He said he was keen to see more community-driven activities around the town.

"I think there's a lack of that, and I think it needs to be more community-driven and there needs to be a lot more interest in agencies such as the Men's and Women's Groups who are all about empowering themselves to be better parents and good community people."



## Football Oval Upgrade

LRASC has attracted funds to renovate our rugby league oval, collating several sources of funds to cover the upgrade, to establish a first-class facility to cater for sports in general.

Our oval was named after the late Isaac Jeffrey ‘Chalpy’ Hobson in 1999, and it will once again carry his legacy as the embedded home of the mighty ‘Lockhart Scorpions’!

The upgrade will ensure the community can hold sports carnivals in the future and help us bring the Cape Cluster to Lockhart.



## Cape York Regional Education Forum (CYREF)

CYREF attendees included Mayors, Councillors, CEOs, community Principals, Regional Directors and staff.

The one-day forum was a continuation of an ongoing dialogue between community leaders, schools and the department with a focus on education in our communities and regional relationship building.

We have worked hard on designing shared responsibility arrangements between ourselves and the government.



*Progress on our oval upgrade means bringing more footy to our community!*





**COOKTOWN**

# *Kawadji Wimpa!*



**RUCHOOK FESTIVAL  
NAPRANUM**

**MORE KAWADJI WIMPA PICS ON PAGES 24-25!**





*In May First Nations Advisor to the Queensland Government Mick Gooda came to Lockhart River to yarn about housing investment, state and federal, into Lockhart River for our new subdivision, all of which will be built by our own crews! The meeting was held at our beautiful beach front!*



**Dancers**

Competition was very strong at the Laura Dance & Cultural Festival 2021, but the Lockhart Community Youth Dancers did our community proud.

The outcome came down to the final dance off on the Sunday and the ‘Kawadji Wimpa’ Lockhart Dance team produced a deadly performance which took out the competition!

The strength of our culture amongst our young people gives us the confidence in the future.

We also took a young dance team to perform at the ‘RUCHOOK” Napranum bi-annual dance festival, a team mainly made up of Primary and Secondary School students.

The ‘Kawadji Wimpa’ dancers entertained the crowd and also got the crowd involved in dancing to finish the show.



It’s important to have depth in our dance groups from across the community, the last few dance festivals have given us a great boost and confidence in who we are and what we can achieve. There should be more of it!

*Wayne B.*  
LRASC Mayor





A word from ...

# CEO David Clarke



Isn't the year just racing by with the dry season finally just about 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 okay 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.

## Social Club

Our Social Club Committee has been active and the building is slowly coming together.

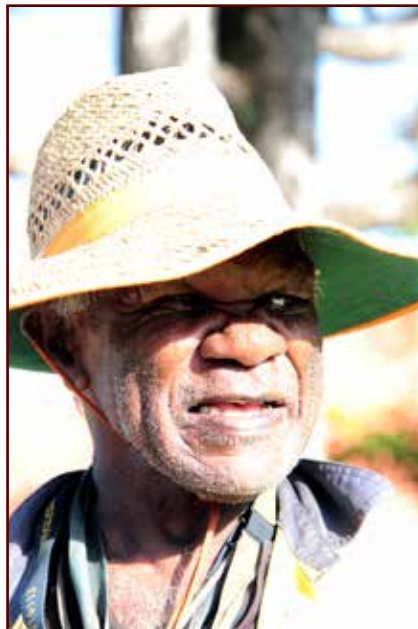
I really like the doors done by our own Geoffrey James Warradoo.

It will be really good to have a 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 so far.

They have just appointed a Manager who will be joining us soon.

Everyone is looking forward to opening day.



*ABOVE: Crocs are often closer than you think! Croc tracks on the beach should be a wake-up call to all - these were photographed in July. Report sightings to 1300 130 372.*

*LEFT: Parks & Gardens workers Alan Warradoo and RIGHT: down at the beach were Billy Sandy, Kenny Warradoo, Raymond Young & Supervisor Chris Bally (CB) Missing James, Stanley, Reuben & Michael*





## Doing Business

We have been busy doing training across our business units. First Aid, Plant Operator tickets, Traffic Control, and plenty more.

Congratulations to Tristan and Gennis as the first Lockhart people to get their dogman's ticket.

This means they can supervise heavy lifting machinery.

We are now calling for people who want to do Security, Responsible Service of Alcohol, and Safe Food Handling training. We will need these skilled people to work at the Social Club.

## DYI water

Isn't it great to see the water pipeline to the beach finally going in.

I'm even happier knowing that every person on that job is a Lockhart man.

Proving again that we have the talent to do skilled work to the right standard ourselves.

Well done Woodie, Dwayne, and Morgan.

Our champion road gang are getting stuck into the Cultural Grounds down at the beach and doing well.

There is not much they can't do.

The footie field is next, then out on the roads.

*The work these two do is important to our community: garbage engineers Mark Getawan & Zach Claudie at the beach*



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## Support for families

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.





## Opportunities

Let's get prepared for another big dry season loaded with opportunities including some new ones like our concreting team.

I urge everyone to take advantage of them.

Stay safe and look after one another.

*Dave Clarke*

LRASC CEO



*Back Trainee Airport Reporting Officer Josh Neale, Admin Officer Jem Benoy and Housekeepers Patricia Hobson & Elaine Brown; Front Groundsman Bradley Paii, ARO Trainee Zane Butcher, Iron Range Cabins Manager Hannah Brown & Aerodrome Manager Peter Wells*

2020 was a year of mystery and tough goings for tourist and travel-related staff and industry alike, seeing many adaptations to keep the business running – we are remaining positive that 2021–22 will be a much better year, Lockhart River Aerodrome Manager Peter Wells says.

“We welcomed two new starters, Zane Butcher and Josh Neale, as Trainee Airport Reporting Officers with us in February,” he said.

“Both have shown great enthusiasm in learning their new skill sets with planned ARO courses for their certification to work air side.

“With this extra help to assist with the operational running of the aerodrome,

we have had time to start planning the redevelopment of the old airport terminal into an information area of Lockhart River and airport history.

“There are further plans to extend the parking area and reseal the access road around the airport terminal in the future.

“The replacement of the aerodrome security boundary fence is also taking shape;

even with the wet season rain causing a slowdown, the lads are making headway.

“We are hopeful we won't have any further setbacks from COVID-19 and look forward to a busy dry season.

“As of 12th April, Skytrans will increase their current schedule with two services a day on Monday and Friday, allowing for increased travel for community and visitors alike.”





*The new cultural precinct, under construction will be another way to draw tourists in.*

**MEANWHILE** Iron Range Cabin’s manager Hannah Brown said they were fortunate to be looking forward to an ‘extremely strong’ tourist dry season.

“We have got a lot of tour operators wishing to come into the area, along with just individual travellers who are planning all their trips of a lifetime up to Cape York because they cannot do international travel,” she said.

“We were also looking at expanding our operations, and we’re currently in talks with community members to use the cabins as a platform for local tour operators to develop their own businesses to be able to service those travellers.”

She said they had also been working hard to develop eco-compliance.

“All those small things that we’re doing in regard to changing our products to items such as plant-based bean bags, providing calico shopping bags and looking at products like 100% sustainable bamboo toilet paper.

“I’m looking at all the different ways that we

can preserve this beautiful area that we have up here, even down to ensuring the chemicals we use are Australian and safe for the environment.”

She said the staff were ready to go!

“At the moment, we have two housekeepers, Patty and Elaine, who have been fantastic, and another two lined up for the dry season,” she said.

“Jemma has also joined the team and brings a wealth of knowledge in tourism and social media to our ranks.

“Her ideas will assist Council Business Development and Support Officer Jermaine Thomas and myself in connecting our local community members to the tourism field and boosting our online presence to create additional bookings and a broader market.

“And last, but by no means least, we have a fantastic maintenance and groundsman in Bradley Paii, and we’ll

be looking at developing his skills in conjunction with the aerodrome.”

She said it had been a year of challenges.

“COVID last year presented a lot of challenges and a lot of difficulties,” she said.

“We were only able to partly open the café last year, and we look forward to being able to do so again once we have some training on board and the tour operation side of things underway as well.

“We’re really looking forward to some of the things that we’ll be able to carry out as far as catering goes.

“And of course, one of the main things is just how excited we are in regard to bringing on these wonderful new cabins – four deluxe studio cabins, and with the two and three bedrooms, we will be able to offer a range of different products to new, maybe even higher-end markets.”





Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council's Store is in the midst of a re-creation, new manager Malcolm Connolly says.

"We want to make it more efficient," he said.

"We're looking at the layout and service to the community – it's all about the community, isn't it?"

"Making it easy for them and easy for us!"

"So we have a fair bit to do in the future, but we are on top of it."

He said there would be some noticeable and some not-so-noticeable changes.

"The way we serve on the counter will change; we'll be

using more of the computers as backup instead of hard copy," he said.

"And behind the scenes, it will be more efficient for us to find what we need, to purchase and bring goods in."

*How many workers are in this pic?!!*

*ABOVE: (Inset) Store Supervisor Malcolm Connolly, Senior Storeman Benny Macumboy & driving the forklift is Storeman Paul Getawan*





Join Tangaroa Blue and the community of Lockhart River to celebrate our 10th year of removing marine debris from the beautiful Chilli Beach, in Kutini-Payamu National Park!

Whilst Chilli Beach and the surrounding area is a beautiful paradise with incredible cultural significance, unfortunately, the area

is also a hotspot for marine debris, which has been deposited by ocean currents from locations far and wide.

A community event

# Chilli Beach 10th Anniversary Clean-up

## 1st-5th August 2021

*Please join us in celebrating ten years of working with communities in Cape York to remove and prevent marine debris.*

To get involved email:  
[reefclean@tangaroablue.org](mailto:reefclean@tangaroablue.org)  
 or visit: [www.reefclean.org](http://www.reefclean.org)



**ReefClean**  
Educate • Reduce • Prevent

ReefClean is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust




Ever since 2011, the Tangaroa Blue Foundation has run an annual beach clean-up here, where volunteers head up the cape to clean-up the beach over 5 days each time. Over the past decade, a whopping 601,270 items, weighing 35 tonne, have been picked up from this beach and recorded into the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI) Database. The team will be heading up there again in August, and are once again looking for some passionate volunteers to help them out! This year will be a massive celebration of the dedication of volunteers, Kuuku Ya'u Land Trust Rangers, Lockhart River School students, QPWS Rangers, and community members over the years. **Volunteers are welcome to join us at any point throughout the week! Please email [reefclean@tangaroablue.org](mailto:reefclean@tangaroablue.org) for more information.**





# Corporate Services

We started the year refreshed and full of energy and we have plenty ahead of us in this new financial year Corporate Services Director Stanley Mugwiria writes...

Over the past six months we have completed:

- internal audit visits in February/March
- interim external audit visit in May
- operational planning and budgeting in May/June
- end of year in June.

The finance team was booked out.

Since then we resumed training on the remaining SynergySoft modules and that, combined with the final external audit visit next month and into September, will once again bring an increased workload.

## Staff changes

Bye, bye, Elvie!

Sadly Elvira Marticio, the former Accounts Payable Officer, left Council employment in March due to family commitments.

She was a good team member who will be missed by the Council community.

We all wish her the very best in everything she undertakes, and she promised to be waving hello when convenient.

We are welcoming Rhonda Soerge



*Administration trainees Zali Hobson & Celeste Accoom with Mayor Wayne Butcher in the Cairns office*

to the finance team, who is filling the gap left by Elvira's departure in the position of Accounts Payable Officer.

## New young talent on board

We have also welcomed Zali and Celeste to our Cairns office team and applaud them for making such a wise decision to join and learn from us with their particular interest in business accounting skills.

They have settled well into the team and are making good use of every opportunity to learn and practice.

The long-term plan is to enrol them into a TAFE business course to develop their skills as they grow practical experience.

We are very proud of these young ones who have made the commitment to work with us as a progression of the council's school kids work experience program.

Learning is a long process that requires patience and discipline, and these two girls have already demonstrated those traits.

Congratulations Zali and Celeste: The sky is the limit in your learning journey.



*CEO David Clark with Lockhart River office receptionist Faye Hobson*





*ABOVE: The Lockhart Administration team stylin' up; clockwise from left: Chantelle Hobson (Cleaner/Traffic Control), Maree Hobson (Bank Agent), Simone Accoom (Administration trainee), Greta Accoom (Centrelink Agent), Deanka Omeenyo (Office Manager) and Noleen Clark (Training and Administration Officer)*

*BELOW: Our wonderful Corporate Services team who support all our work so well. Left to Right we have Maureen (HR/IR/et al), Celeste (Admin trainee), Anja (Assistant Accountant), Rhonda (Accounts Payable), Rose (Purchasing Officer), Zali (Admin trainee and corporate travel), and Captain Stanley (Director/Accountant).*





It's great to see so many people from our road gang taking a greater interest in growing their business, Business Development and Support Officer Jermaine Thomas writes ...



I am here to support and develop business ideas and support you in running your business.

Lately, I've been working with Paul Piva and Lorraine Warradoo to grow their business ideas in roadworks contracting and Indigenous Tourism.

I've also been lucky enough to have a yarn with Geoffrey Warradoo, who shared the stories of the totems he was painting on the new doors to our very first Social Club.

I have also developed a new interest in bird-watching and, from that, creating micro-

tour operator business ideas for local guided tours in Land, Culture and People.

If you might be interested in developing something like this, make sure you come and see me!

In the short time I've been here, so far my most memorable moments were at the family fun day on Quintell Beach earlier this year.

I was lucky enough to have a shake-a-leg performance, and from there, we went on to a movie night at the Community Hall.

All that was missing was

the popcorn. Na Gamin, Not Gamin.

My new 'office' home is a desk in the corner at the Puuya Centre – it's still a venue hire place, but when there's nothing on there, that's where you'll find me.

Anyone interested in writing grants, business ideas, bookkeeping or creating jobs should come and see me; I'm happy to help if I can.

Steady—steady for now. Progress takes time, and with the right attitude and planning in place, I believe our Lockhart River community can flourish.

Training has been high on this year's Council agenda, Governance Training Coordinator Noleen Clark says.

"Council would like to complete as much of the training as possible within the first six months of this year," she said.

"Suggestion lists have gone to staff so they can see what is available or add anything else they might need.

"Several courses have already been organised including Airport

Reporting, First Aid, Engineering, Traffic Control, Civil Construction Maintenance (bitumen), Warehousing, and there are a variety of qualifications needed around staffing for the new Social Club.

"Please let Council know what you need as quickly as possible."





# Building Services

Several projects are at the point of finalisation – weather permitting – at this time, Building Services Manager Regis Edmond writes ...

The first stage of the airport cabins is 95% completed, and we've started the second stage, which is about 40% completed.

We're hoping to have them over the line by 30th June, and then we'll move to other projects.

Our carport project is also nearly completed and progressing well with renovation work.

We still have some council work that needs to be done and some government-funded work we're ready to get started.

And of course, we have the usual QBuild maintenance work, which we are up to date.

Some of our work has been delayed a little because of the amount of rain we've been having lately, but we've pushed forward to get things back on track, which is a credit to our teams.



*Regis Edmond & Carpenter Phil Watts*

We have our painters, fencers and plumbing team, and we also have a maintenance carpenter, Phil, and two trainees on board at the moment.

So we have a full team. The boys have been very good at getting the work completed, and it's been good to have the council's support as well.



*Painter James Macumboy*





*TOP: Fencers Les Zaro & Kyjuan Accoom;  
ABOVE: Labourer Dwayne Walsh & Plumber  
Neale Bookall; LEFT: Building Contractor  
Alistair Bowie with Smithy Bally*



*RIGHT: Carpenters Chris Johnson,  
Rod Kozner & Ronald Getawan*



# Engineering Services



It's plain to anyone who has been to Lockhart River in the past six months that the roadworks crew has had some big work to do, Roads Inspector Wayne Lavender says.



TOP: LRASC road gang: Solomon Hobson, Stephen Giblet, Tristan Elu, Rodney Accoom & Wayne Lavender

He said organising permanent fixes to some pretty major damage took some time.

“We had to wait for photos to go through with the government to claim for the activation – which was Tropical Cyclone Nilan – this year, so until we could get all that, we couldn't do those permanent fixes,” he said.

“We can repair a lot, but we still have to program it all in, and the final works probably won't happen till next year.”

He said the wet season's permanent crew of four was kept busy.

“We've worked on the oval extension, which includes new lights and goal posts,” he said.

“The oval was classed as

being too small for local teams in the Cape Cluster, so we've extending it now to NRL standards.

“We've also helped to set up some irrigation.

“So our reconstructed football field is looking great with the good work of road crew and Tristen Elu doing a great job on grader.”





“It was good to see the road crew and the local plumbing crew working together on the pipe line to beach in another great effort by local work force. “Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council road crew have also cleared cultural precinct area and put compacted fill in ready for the sand for community dance ground. “The new development at the beach also needed grading and a new water

main, which we’ll be digging out with our new 14-tonne excavator. “That will also be a big help with the four new culverts we have under the Cape York Regional Package (CYRP) work we have to do. “Solomon Hobson has done some great work on the dozer already, completing all detours and placing materials near the works in the laydown areas, ready for

redirection of traffic. “And finally, we have completed training this year with 10 new traffic controllers, five new excavator licences, six bobcat licences, four water truck licences and, for the first time in Lockhart River, two dogger crane licences. “So we’re fairly busy and with a full agenda for the rest of the year, we’re going to be flat out.”



*Training in levels, grades and areas relating to road works (laser level training)*





*ABOVE: work on the pipeline to the beach was a team effort;  
BELOW LEFT: Richie Piva signing up for his diesel fitting apprenticeship,  
witnessed by Government Champion Warwick Agnew and Ministerial Champion  
Mark Bailey, and Governance Training  
Coordinator Noleen Clark;  
BELOW: Workshoppers AJ White & Napoleon Short;  
and Richard Omeeny & Richard Piva*





# Community Development

A wide cross-section of community members have applied for membership of the Community Justice Group, which is about to embark on two new and exciting programs, coordinator Ross Norman says.



“A membership drive has resulted in some potential applicants, and we may have up to ten members locked in,” he said.

“That includes a number of younger people, as well as some older residents, just to make it a bit more diverse than in the past.

“We have meetings once a month at the present moment

until we’ve lifted our profile, and we’re confident in what we’re doing.”

He said there were two new projects ‘in the pipeline’.

“One of those is a domestic and family violence program, which is looking at providing a couple of family support officers.

“The other program is community-specific, aimed at

getting people on Country.

“Some camping equipment has been purchased, and I understand the Men’s Group is also purchasing camping equipment, so they can also take people out on Country and give them a break from the stresses of community life.

“So watch this space for more information on both those programs.”



## MOVIE NIGHTS IN LOCKHART RIVER



New Men's Group Coordinator Rex Cannon (pictured previous page with Ross Norman) says he definitely feels he has something to offer the Men's Group as he slowly gets to know the community.

“From previous men's yarns and gatherings, I feel I'll be able to contribute with my experiences regarding a wide range of activities,” he said. “Health and wellbeing of the men in our community is important to me, it has been an area of interest for a while, and I will be

working with service providers to run their programs.”

The CEO said he was pleased to welcome Rex into his new role.

“I am pleased that the way the community is throwing their full support behind him, as well as the initiative and leadership he is showing in this role,” he said.

**Rex was born in Brisbane but says Hopevale was where he grew up and calls home.**

**Previous Work:** I have worked in many areas, including mining, construction, waste management, and in schools.

**Why Lockhart River?**

My partner Jodie is a teacher, so we've moved around a bit, and it's been good to see familiar faces in our travels.



It's time to get busy again, Women's Shelter coordinator Ethel Singleton says – not that getting busy in her line of work is a good thing.

“COVID-19 slowed us up a little in terms of activities and events,” she said.

“But we have a few programs in development, including activities coming up for DV Awareness.

“In the meantime, we just want everyone to stay safe, look after and support each other.

“There are good things coming up, so watch this space.”





This year's Indigenous Knowledge Centre Workshop was held in Cairns in March and was pretty exciting, Library Coordinator Barbara Bally says.

She and former-Community Development Director Dominic Stower attended the four-day event with twenty or more IKC coordinators from Woorabinda and Cherbourg right up to the Torres Strait.

Daily themes included: 'Immersing in Indigenous Knowledge – the original storytellers and influencing future generations', 'Building Resilient IKCs – using planning and technology to preserve and share Indigenous knowledge'



and 'IKC Collections and Library Spaces'.

"It was good," Barbara said.

"The best was seeing the girls from Bamaga showing how they decorated their library.

"I remember listening to what they were saying and thinking, 'I wish we could do that for our library!'

"It was inspiring to have that chance to see the bigger picture."

All the IKC supervisors were invited to attend the workshop.

Lockhart River sees the IKC playing a critical role in preserving and sharing our stories, so it was very important that we had that opportunity to attend and network with our respective peers.

"It's a service to our whole community that we can't do without."



TOP: Laumea (5) & Paton (3) Piva with Barbara Bally;  
LEFT: Joanne & Evelyn Omeeny





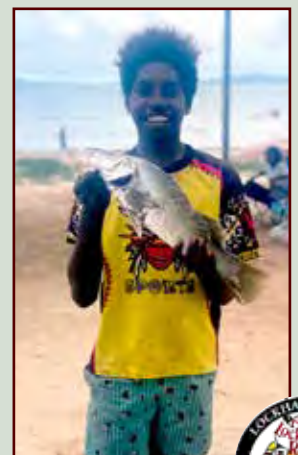


**Accommodation at the Home and Community Care (HACC) building is back up and running to full strength, worker Bessie Hobson says.**

She said some new rules were now in place for their guests. “We are giving preference to people who are doing council-related work, and we’re asking them to make sure they respect our other guests and workers by doing things like cleaning up properly after they cook,” she said. She said one of the best things they had done over the past months was the

26th January activities. “We were all down at the beach with a sausage sizzle and beach games, and everyone was there,” she said. “We have some new staff. National Disabilities Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Remote Community Connector Sonia Butcher is a good cook, and she’s helping us out here, as is casual worker Noella Clarke, who

is back on to help us set up our new government reporting processes. “At the moment, we’re cooking for 24 every day, and we have an allergy board now so that we can look after everyone.” The CEO said the HACC staff were doing a great job and provide a valuable service to our community members who qualify for our services.



**Family Fun DOGIT Day  
29 October 2020**





Kawadji Wimpa Lockhart River dancers pictured at the Laura Quinkan Dance Festival, held outside of the township of Laura on Cape York Peninsula in July 2020.

Dancers include Bronson Giblet, Lorenzo Claudie, Electra Butcher, Smithy Omeenyo and Daniel Claudie.

Many thanks to Cairns Post photographer Brendan Radke for sharing these beautiful pics with us.







# Puuya

foundation

## The Puuya Foundation welcomed a new Executive team in 2021.

Kirsty Davis commenced as the Chief Executive Officer in January. Kirsty joins the team after working 23 years in the native title sector, formerly as the Acting CEO of Cape York Land Council.

Kirsty is no stranger to working in Lockhart River, as the former co-owner of HC Building and Construction who constructed homes in Lockhart River in 2015 as part of the NPARIH program. Sandra Roberts commenced in March as the Executive Officer.

And previously worked in the health arena, leading the Wuchopperen Clinical Health team.

Both Kirsty and Sandra are based in Cairns, but Kirsty will be a regular presence in Lockhart River regularly, engaging with the community and building the centre's work with the team.

The priority for this year is collaboration across the community and continuing the growth of support programs to families to build the future generation of leaders in the community.

Attendance has been strong, and the Centre is now a busy hub offering Early Years Parenting Program, Youth Club (after school on Monday and



Wednesday), Women's Yarn and Craft sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and family support activities in collaboration with local organisations.

With average numbers of early years learners at 11 children per day, plus parents and carers, we have the opportunity to host regular 'yarn sessions' with parents and carers.

These yarns provided direction to the executive team as community sets its priorities and co-design programs to build strong families. The vision is for the Puuya Foundation, via the Kuunchi Kakana Centre, to provide the one space where families come together to learn and access support

to grow strong.

Mayor Wayne Butcher and Kirsty travelled to Canberra in March to meet with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Ken Wyatt, NIAA Deputy CEO, Letitia Hope and Group Manager Rob Willmet.

The visit was an opportunity to discuss the priorities of the community and promote the Foundation's work.

We look forward to welcoming the Minister to the community later this year.

We are working to grow partnerships with Apunipima Cape York Health Service, Qld Health Perinatal, Child and Adolescent Social and Emotional Well-being





team and Happy Hearing. All of whom will work with our team offering support to families in the centre.

This collaboration and co-design will see the Puuya Foundation extend its support to include:

- Growth of our local team to support the increased numbers at the centre;
- development clinic for 0-5 years children at the centre to ensure all milestones for development are on track and facilitate support as needed;
- educational workshops for health and social and emotional well being, working in Partnership with Apunipima;

- Creation of Art activities to build a social enterprise opportunity;
- Continued activities to empower individuals of all ages, families and the community;
- Working closely with the school to create innovative opportunities to build school readiness and educational opportunities for youth; and,
- Building our culture and language program with families in partnership with the Indigenous Knowledge Centre.

We know, and research shows, that up to 90% of a child's brain development happens in the first 5 years.

Lockhart River children need to

have the best opportunities in life and they can have this through regular attendance, where they learn from the most important people around them – their families.

The Puuya Foundation looks forward to sharing more exciting programs with you in the coming months with collaboration across the community.

We encourage you to like the Puuya Foundation Facebook page to keep informed of our work and future events.

If you would like to join our network of support, please email [Kirsty Davis at ceo@puuyafoundation.com.au](mailto:Kirsty.Davis@puuyafoundation.com.au)





# Reni plays rugby with heart



Spending a Saturday afternoon in Brisbane watching a young woman from Lockhart River playing rugby union for an Irish club sounds and seems an unlikely combination of circumstance.

However 27-year-old Reniat Sandy spends a good part of her week training, and playing every Saturday (even if occasionally for the other team if they are short), and from now until September.

Born and bred in Lockhart River, Reniat has otherwise played rugby league since she was 11, but her home was – and still is – all about the Lockhart River Scorpions – a green and white rugby league obsession for the small north-eastern Cape York town, which, with her cousin Dominic Macumboy currently

playing for the Ipswich Jets, is kicking well above their weight in terms of southern representation.

Against even more odds – an unexplained paralysis which took her out of sport altogether for four years – Reniat has been dubbed one of the strongest in the team. “I’m actually making my way up and get better at union

and understanding the rules,” she said.

“It’s good because there are other girls who have experience in union and when I play they always give me a good feedback.

“I wanted to play union because I wanted to try a different sport and it IS different.”

*Words & Pics by Christine Howes  
with thanks to Koori Mail*



# Covid jabs underway!



UPDATE: Lockhart River residents turned out in force for the first week of COVID-19 Pfizer vaccinations, with more than half of the community receiving their first Pfizer dose! Our amazing team is pictured below, see you for the second round!



*Pics thanks to Josh Stafford  
MORE NEXT PAGE!*

Much of Lockhart River, including our frontline health workers COVID-19, has had their first Pfizer vaccination, Director of Nursing Josh Stafford says.

“I got it along with Noella, Sherrie, Corey, Ron, Roadie Matt and Shay,” he said.

“Everyone felt fine the day after, aside from a bit of a sore arm, but nothing Panadol didn’t fix.

“We had our second dose on the 19th of July.

“In the meantime I’ve been working with Mayor Wayne Butcher and Councillor Karen Koko on the best way to roll it out here as soon as possible.

“The vaccination will be administered behind the clinic

under marquees. We’ll have a milkshake stand and sausage sizzle.

“CEQ has donated a raffle prize every day for people who are vaccinated.

“Community consultations – going out to talk to community, answering any questions and alleviating any fears anyone might have about the vaccination, which is completely safe – are underway now.

“The vaccine itself has been through all the approval processes and all

the safety assessments all vaccines need to go through, the government has spent a lot of money to get that done within a tight time frame, and as far as we’re concerned it is completely safe.

“We encourage everyone to remember that with everything that is happening in the country at the moment, maintaining good hygiene practices and getting an early test are the best weapons we have right now.”





Well done  
Lockhart River!

