

CAPE YORK

A Cape York Welfare Reform initiative

News

DECEMBER 2013

AURUKUN

COEN

HOPE VALE

MOSSMAN GORGE



We wish you a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

CYAAA Term 1 school starts back on Tuesday 28 January 2014.

Get ready. Work hard. Be good.

Future leaders graduate

Students and members of the Cape York Leaders Program celebrated their success and achievement at the bi-annual Graduation Ceremony and Gala Dinner, held 16 November 2013. The event acknowledged the tremendous efforts of all students and members across the four phases completing their senior certificate, undergraduate degree, accredited qualification and phase training in 2012 and 2013.

Inspiring speeches were given by members of the program. Academic Leaders Secondary graduate Courtney Minniecon shared her journey on the Leaders program. "My entire

high school journey is thanks to my community, my family, my school and the CYI program that saw my potential and helped me to achieve the best I could by giving me the opportunity to have the means to do everything I have" she said.

Double degree law and politics graduate, Marijke Bassani said "I stand before you today humbled by my experiences and the support that I have received from the Cape York Institute. I would strongly advise all Indigenous students fortunate enough to participate in this program to take the opportunity with both hands and make every post a winner, it is a journey and experience you will not regret."



2013 Academic Leaders Secondary graduates



A partnership between the Australian Government, Queensland Government, Cape York Institute and regional organisations



Aurukun women's sewing group



Aurukun renovation crew

Cape York Employment

At Cape York Employment we have over 450 jobseekers on our books. We proudly work in partnership with them in Aurukun and Coen to provide opportunities to learn and update skills and knowledge through a range of activities and training, to reach their goals and find employment.

We have a group of men learning valuable building and maintenance skills through renovating and painting.

The team has established a sewing area with machines, a cutting table and materials which are ready for our ladies to begin sewing. This will provide them with a range of work preparation skills, as well as numeracy and literacy skills and a sense of achievement when they finish their first garment. So far we have seen some very colourful and useful bags produced.

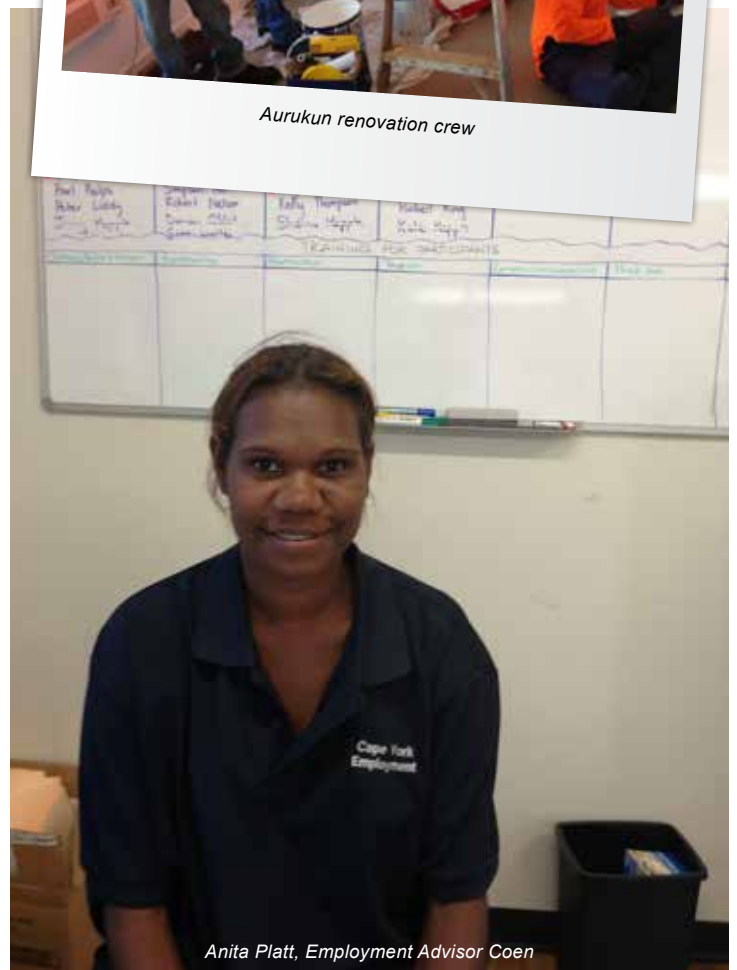
The hard work of our team means that we have successfully engaged and will continue to work in partnership with job seekers, employers, key community, government and non-government stakeholders.

A jobs vacancy board has been set up by local staff and is kept up to date with real jobs. It provides an opportunity for us to assist our employers in their efforts to employ locally.

Cape York Employment team members have a broad range of skills and experience in the employment and training sector and community knowledge is gained by the employment of local community members.

If you are a job seeker and require assistance with training or finding work, please come and see us.

We also invite employers with future training and employment opportunities, jobs or who require assistance with on the job support and mentoring, to contact our Aurukun or Coen office.



Anita Platt, Employment Advisor Coen

Hope Vale Child Safety initiatives - Damian Blunden, GCO Hope Vale

Improving Child Safety outcomes in Hope Vale has been a top priority in 2013. Through the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council (HVASC) and the Hope Vale Accord, actions were set to improve child safety in the community.

In April 2013, representatives from the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian visited Hope Vale and conducted blue card awareness training, to better inform community members about working with children safely and on gaining blue card accreditation.

In May 2013, the HVASC met with senior staff from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland Police Service and the former Department of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (now Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – PM&C) to improve delivery of Child Safety services in Hope Vale.

Following on from this important work, a Child Safety Information Session was held in August where approximately 20 key community stakeholders were joined to better plan child safety outcomes together.

Since then some great new initiatives have been delivered including:

- A Teddy Bears Picnic in October to connect organisations and their members with the community in a social setting that fostered a harmonious collaboration. The Queensland Police, HVASC, community and the Department of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs



(DATSIMA) all banded together to make this day a great success.

- A White Ribbon Day held in November to highlight the need to stamp out domestic violence.
- A two stage Child Safety Awareness Project commenced in July 2013 to raise community attitudes and awareness of child safety. This project is for the community to develop an effective community owned message around child safety and includes messages broadcast over the radio, posters, flyers, events and

art being developed with a local message around ensuring child safety.

- Members of the Hope Vale Community Safety Committee are currently developing the next six month deliverables which will aim to build the capacity of families to reduce and prevent children from being exposed to child abuse and family abuse.

The focus is now to build on these steps moving forward to improve and ensure all the kids in Hope Vale are happy, healthy and safe in 2014 and well into the future.

Aurukun to have new low aromatic fuel tank

DATSIMA signed an agreement with the Aurukun Shire Council on Friday 6 December 2013 to fund a new low aromatic fuel (Opal) tank in the community.

The CEO of the Council, Bernie McCarthy was very happy to see this funding being injected into improving community safety and health outcomes. He explained that the community is cut off during the wet season when the roads are closed and the old Opal tank did not have the capacity to last through the season.

The new tank can hold 68 kilolitres and this will increase the LAF capacity by 40 kilolitres and as such, alleviate the risk of regular unleaded fuel entering the community. This will have a significant positive impact on the community and is welcomed by all involved.

DATSIMA is providing the funding needed through its CYWR Service Procurement Fund so that the Council can purchase the tank, transport it to the community and install it at site...so all of the bases are covered including a new concrete pad!

The CEO said he was signing the order for delivery that Friday afternoon so the truck carrying the new tank would be on its way early the following week. This is great news as it means it will get there before the rains start and transport by road shuts down.

This is a fantastic outcome and a great example of the contribution DATSIMA is making in terms of supporting the aims of Cape York Welfare Reform.

Mossman Gorge harm prevention day

Don Elphick, Mossman Gorge Government Coordination Officer, Cairns ROC

On 30 October, a Community Harm Minimisation Day was held at the Mossman Gorge Sports Ground. The day aimed to provide community members with information on how to reduce harm to themselves and their families which was the idea of the Mossman Gorge Family Responsibilities Commissioners and the board of Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku (BBN).

People learned about the effects of smoking, the importance of good nutrition and drinking plenty of water, the effects of solvent abuse, the importance of immunising children, parenting skills, the role of the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) and also where to get support services for themselves and their family.

The day was a great success and community members enjoyed a barbeque dinner, sports games and a movie afterwards. It was great opportunity for community members to meet with service providers in a comfortable informal setting.

Displays were made by Apunipima, the FRC, Wellbeing Centre, ATODS, Opportunity Hub, Cairns Taipans and the Mossman Police. Many thanks goes out to these organisations and their staff for the support in organising this event.

As the sun set community members finished off the day with a game of rounders and enjoyed a movie by starlight. A great day was had by all.



“Humble but profound changes are taking place within families” NOEL PEARSON



MOSSMAN GORGE

Working together for a happy, healthy life

Reciprocity: sharing what you have with family and friends, is a cornerstone of Indigenous culture. Siblings Lenny and Mervina Henry are one example of how families across Cape York are enacting cultural reciprocity by ensuring family responsibilities are being met in a positive way.

Mervina Henry is a long-time MPower member and has been very involved in it. It takes a village to raise a child since she was referred to the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC). Mervina and her 13 year old daughter, Shayeema, had been constantly moving around among family member's homes, when all she wanted was stability and a home for her daughter. In order to help out the family, Lenny invited Mervina and Shayeema to live with him in his new home.

Lenny purchased a four bedroom home

after receiving a payout because of a car accident he was in as a child. With the support of MPower, Lenny has learnt to manage his finances, is saving for his future, and has created a stable household for him and his family.

Everyone works together to maintain a happy family home. Mervina and Shayeema are great company for Lenny, who prefers to have family around due to his disability, and they help with household chores. Mervina buys the groceries, cleans around the house, and does most of the cooking. This frees up Lenny's time to do the gardening, which he really enjoys. Lenny made sure to purchase, amongst many things he bought through Wise Buys, a new home lawnmower and whipper snipper. Maintaining his garden keeps Lenny occupied: 'I get bored if I don't get to do my own gardening.'

COEN

I'm giving my kids a better, brighter future

Cassandra Meeks now finds it a lot easier to find money to pay for school expenses thanks to the Student Education Trust (SET). Each of Cassandra's three children (Conrad, Shahara Ella Joyce Sharelle, and Latisha) have a SET and she is an active donor to all three accounts.

'It has been a lot easier to afford the children's education items. Now I don't have to pay for everything all at once, and I know that I have money [in their trust accounts] to buy the things they need.'

Making fortnightly contributions into their SET account makes paying for school supplies and educational games and toys more manageable. 'Because I have a family, SET makes it easier and helps me a lot, as it is affordable. Now I'm able to afford things for my kids.'

Cassandra uses the funds in their SET accounts to purchase education items through Wise Buys and at the Get SET for School Fairs. Cassandra has accessed the children's SET accounts to purchase shoes, lunch boxes, educational games and toys, and books. 'Now that I've found out that I can get educational toys online and from the brochure, I plan to buy more things for my kids.'

Cassandra is also an active MPower member who uses the iBank for unassisted internet banking and Centrelink.





MOSSMAN GORGE

My family are helping out a lot

Everyone is digging in and getting their hands dirty to complete Debbie Bamboo's Backyard Blitz.

'After seeing how nice everyone else's gardens are, I decided to join Pride of Place (POP) as well.'

Debbie's POP garden will include a pergola, barbeque and garden beds. Not only will the new garden give Debbie a place to spend more time with her kids when it's finished, but sweat equity is bringing them together as well. 'The best thing about doing this is watching the kids all help out too. My family is excited and are helping out a lot. We are spending a lot more time together.'

Debbie is eager to continue maintaining and improving on her Backyard Blitz when it's finished. 'I plan to buy some more plants for the garden.'

Debbie is also a long-time MPower member, signing up to the money management program over six years ago, and a Wise Buys member.



AURUKUN

My garden will be something to be proud of

Jasmine Mentha is excited to start work on her Pride of Place (POP) Backyard Blitz in the coming months. 'I like POP because it makes the community brighter. Doing a Blitz will give me a sense of achievement.'

As part of her Backyard Blitz design, Jasmine has decided to include a shade sail, sandpit, swingset, garden beds, barbeque, outdoor table setting, and bamboo screening.

'When my garden is complete I think I will spend more time at home and will have more things that I can do around the house. I will be able to sit back and enjoy my surroundings with my family and friends.'

Sweat equity is an integral part of POP, requiring partners and their families to dig in and get their hands dirty. Jasmine's brother has committed to sweat equity and will work alongside Jasmine to help create her dream garden. Our POP Enabler will guide and assist Jasmine and her brother in completing small projects in her Backyard Blitz.

Jasmine is determined to make her home a place that she and everyone else can be proud of.

'I know my family and friends will be very proud of my achievement and maybe they will want to do POP at their house too.'

'I am going to be really proud of myself because of what I am doing for myself and my family. We will have a better life and I'll be able to give my daughter a better future.'

With a growing sense of pride stemming from her upcoming Backyard Blitz, Jasmine is enthused to continue the transformation inside her home. Jasmine plans to continue improving her home with It takes a village to raise a child's Home Pride. 'I am really keen on doing a House Blitz to do up rooms in my house and I will buy new furniture through Wise Buys.' As part of a House Blitz, families commit to small scale DIY projects to decorate and personalise the inside of their home.



ATTENDANCE FOR TERM 4: Aurukun 62.2%, Hope Vale 77.8%, Coen 86.1%

CYAAA a finalist in the Australian Innovation Challenge

The Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy (CYAAA) was chosen as a finalist in the Australian Innovation Challenge. CYAAA was recognised for its unique approach to teaching traditional knowledge and language in the Culture Program.

CYAAA were represented at the awards in Canberra by Lillian Bowen, Guugu Yimidhurr language teacher, Karin Cally, Language Program Designer and Priyanka Shewpersad, Club and Culture Program Manager.

Even though CYAAA did not win the award, it was an excellent opportunity to promote the education model nationally and talk with other innovative organisations.

Academy Awards

The annual CYAAA Academy Awards are held in each community to commend students from Aurukun, Coen and Hope Vale schools. Students are awarded for school attendance, achievement in Class (numeracy and literacy) and participation in Club and Culture.

It is CYAAA's biggest event of the year, attracting over 800 community members in Aurukun alone. The event is also an opportunity for the schools to showcase students' work from throughout the year and speak with the parents about their child's progress.

The highlight of the evening is the culminating task of the Culture Program which is a performance by the students. This year, we enjoyed plays performed in Guugu Yimidhurr, the local language of Hope Vale, traditional stories of Aurukun and Coen, dances from other cultures as well as local Coroboree.

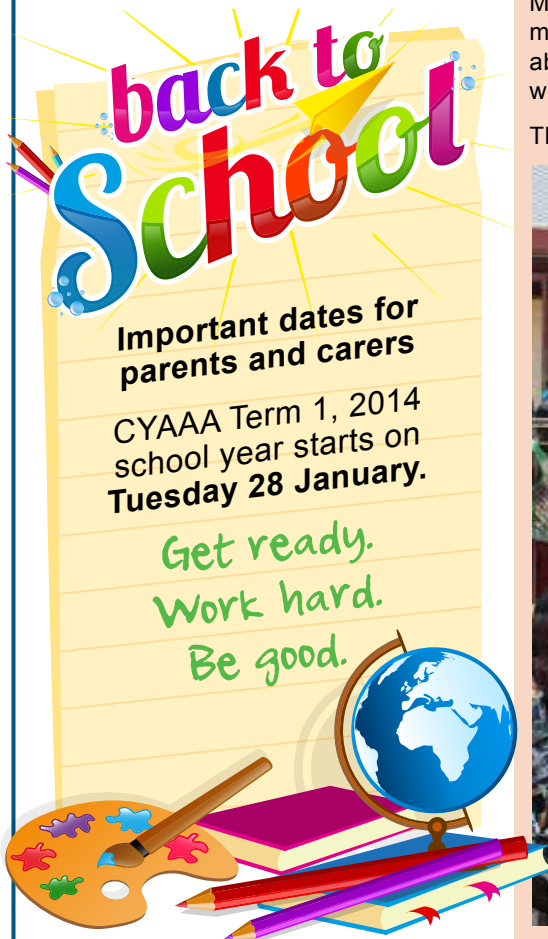
It is always an excellent event that is a celebration of the work of the CYAAA staff, students and wider community.

Darren Lockyer visits Aurukun

Yes! That's right - we couldn't believe our luck either when we were told that Darren Lockyer was coming to visit Aurukun... but he did and what a fabulous visit it was.

Mr Lockyer spent some time signing autographs and having many photos with community members and children who attended school that day. He left a very strong message about all children coming to school every single day so that they can learn to read and write and be ready for the big world!

Thank you Mr Lockyer for coming to see what the fantastic Aurukun children do at school.



Students take a cool splash from the summer heat



AURUKUN

Early November, Aurukun's Miss Peeler, Miss Gibb and Miss Shaddock, Victoria and Priyanka (from the Cairns office) accompanied 15 children to Weipa for a fun filled weekend of swimming.

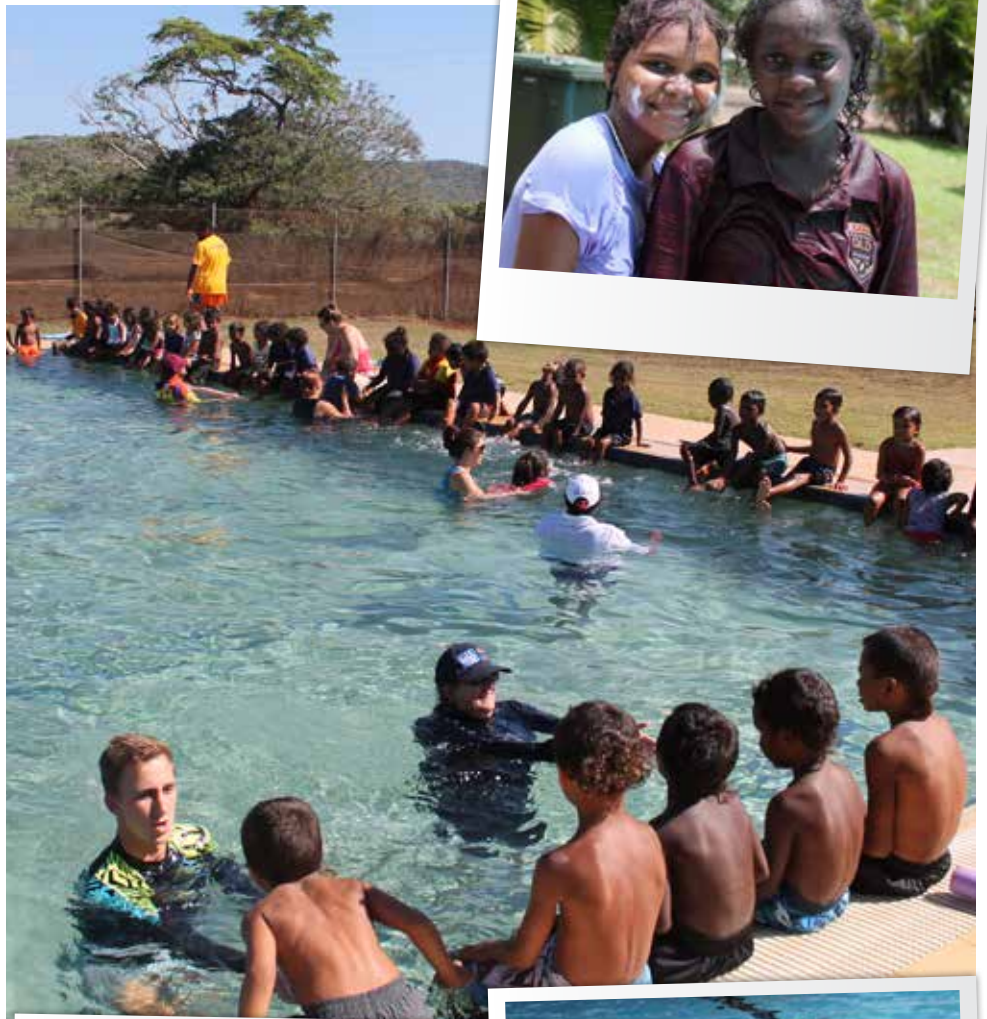
Students and teachers alike had a fantastic and educational time and we hope this becomes an annual event.



HOPE VALE

Hope Vale's Term 4 started off with Swimming QLD attending the school to run swimming workshops with our students in the afternoons at our very own Hope Vale Pool. The students had a wonderful time improving their swimming techniques, with some students excelling in stroke and breathing development. Swimming was continued every afternoon for the Term. A whole school Swimming Carnival was held at the pool on Thursday 5 December.

Thank you to Wendy Ross and Peter Tonkin (an ex Olympic Games Medallist) from Swimming Australia and Swimming Queensland for taking the time to teach our kids some new techniques in the pool, including lots of safety skills around the water.



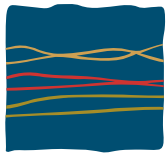
Dance moves



Coen's Club and Culture program has been a great success all year and continuing in Term 4. The students learnt aspects of traditional dances from different cultures around the world, including New Zealand, Japan, Africa and Native America.

The students looked forward to performing these dances to family and friends at the end of year presentation night.





Cape York Leaders Program celebrates its 2012 and 2013 graduates

CYLP held its bi-annual Graduation Ceremony and Gala Dinner at the Pacific International Ballroom in Cairns on 16 November 2013. The event celebrated students and members from all four phases completing their senior certificate, undergraduate degree, accredited qualification and phase training.



CYLP Graduation group photo

Academic Leaders Secondary

The graduation ceremony celebrated the great achievement of our Academic Leaders Secondary students. Nine students from 2012 and 12 students from 2013 were recognised for their achievement in graduating from secondary school. Students have worked extremely hard in their senior years and we wish them every success in the future. Courtney Minniecon and Trey Kemp gave inspiring speeches on their journeys with the Leaders Program.



2012-13 Academic Leaders Secondary graduates



James Fa'Aoso with Trey Kemp

“Being on the Cape York Leaders Program has been a privilege and is something I am truly grateful for. It has given me the best resources and opportunity to excel through my schooling years not only with my education but also with my sports. Providing support and pushing me to achieve the best I can in all areas.”

ALS graduate Trey Kemp

Cape York Leaders through reaching their goals, are creating a legacy of success for Indigenous people within their communities and across the nation.



James Fa'Aoso and Courtney Minniecon

Academic Leaders Tertiary

Four Tertiary students were recognised for their achievement for graduating in 2012 and 2013. Students graduated with degrees in Business, Law and Politics, Film and Media, and Nursing.

Excerpts from Tanika's speech:

"The last three years of university have been a huge step for me, as a woman and also as an Indigenous leader. The Cape York Leaders Program has helped me grow and develop into a mature member of my community, and it also gave me the skills and conviction to lead and become the leader I want to be.

My dream is to either build a medical centre back home in Hope Vale or enhance many of the facilities to promote healthy living amongst communities and promote better choices and healthier living options. In the long term I hope to be able to drive these initiatives and schemes in similar communities throughout the world."

Tanika Deemal-Parker



James Fa'Aoso with Law and Politics graduate Marijke Bassani



James Fa'Aoso and Nursing graduate Tanika Deemal-Parker

My entire high school journey is thanks to my community, my family, my school and the CYI program that saw my potential and helped me to achieve the best I could by giving me the opportunity to have the means to do everything I have.

ALS graduate Courtney Minniecon

Excelling Leaders

Excelling Leaders successfully completed their Executive Leadership Program in Neuro Power Learning and Development with Managing Director, Shelley Evans-Wild. All the members felt that they had come a long way in terms of their personality, thinking, and how the Neuro Power Learning and Development Framework had an impact on them.

All members reflected on their journey since commencing some 18 months ago and how far they have advanced. Most of the members thanked Shelley for how she helped them deal with their own personal learning development.

Members also reflected on each other's progress and noted that each of them has grown and come out of their shells and embraced the training workshops. Overall members also felt privileged and honoured to have participated in the Neuro Power Learning Development Framework.



Rick Phinsea, Harold Ludwick, Doreen Hart, Audrey Deemal, Juanita Davic, Moira Bosen and Leicille Blanco



Skilling Leaders

All 46 Skilling Leaders received certificates of achievement as part of their training and development.

Congratulations to everyone on their achievements!

Aurukun women's sewing group set up shop

The Aurukun Women's Shop was established in July 2013 by the Balkanu Cape York Development Business Unit Women's Business Facilitator, Tracey Ludwick and Unit Manager, Greg Bowman. The shop is situated in the Sam Kerindun Business Precinct and employs two local staff members, Jeanette Woolla and Aileen Pamtoonda as Retail Assistants. The initiative was developed in order to cater as a front-end retail outlet in which the Aurukun Women's Sewing Group could sell their wares.

The shop sells locally made clothes and soft furnishings as well as some stock brought up from Cairns. There is a sewing machine set up in the shop that Jeanette can be found on most days at the sewing table happily making curtains or other items. The ladies are so proud of their achievements! On most weeks they manage the shop themselves, which includes using cash register/Eftpos facilities, professional displaying of items and customer service.

Lorna Greenfield is the Sewing Teacher currently facilitating Certificate I in

Clothing with five women completing the training. Jeanette Woolla graduated with a Certificate II in Clothing. Lorna operates out of the Cape York Employment building using industrial machines.

The ultimate goal of the Aurukun Women's Sewing Group is to produce mass product for the Women's Shop in an enterprise capacity and eventually employ local women as machinists



Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation P/L



Cape York Institute
For Policy & Leadership

Environment and Natural Resource Management

The Environment and Natural Resource Management stream has been busy with policy and projects that intend to empower Indigenous people with on country employment opportunities.

Significant progress has been made with engaging the Commonwealth Government on the Direct Action for Climate Change. The outcome of this work will be important for those traditional owner groups whom have engaged or were planning to engage with the previous government's Carbon Farming Initiative, especially savannah burning and feral animal control.

There has also been a significant amount of progress on research and stakeholder engagement regarding profitable pig by-products obtained from feral pig control programs in the Cape York. We have been investigating the viability of producing products such as jewellery from tusks, leather and fertiliser from carcasses that are currently left to rot.

On 7 November 2013, the Cape York Institute and Balkanu hosted a biodiversity offset meeting where representatives from Cape York ranger groups, academics, scientists, Bush Heritage and Rio Tinto collaborated to brainstorm ideas on how sustainable jobs can be created by engaging buyers from the corporate sector and the public who wish to offset their biodiversity conversation requirements in Cape York.

TAKE THE CYI QUIZ ON AUSTRALIA'S CONSTITUTION

(answers on the back page)

- Q1. What is the Constitution?
- Q2. When was the Constitution written?
- Q3. Why was it written?
- Q4. Did Indigenous people have a say in the drafting of the Constitution?
- Q5. How many racially discriminatory clauses did the Constitution contain when it came into force?
- Q6. What were they? (bonus points if you know this!)
- Q7. Why was the Race Power inserted into the Constitution?
- Q8. The 1967 referendum made two changes to the Constitution. What were they?
- Q9. Does the Constitution contain any racially discriminatory clauses now? What are they?
- Q10. Does the Constitution now mention Indigenous people at all?

Understanding Income Management



The focus of the Family Responsibilities Commission is primarily on the wellbeing of children, early intervention, raising local authority and assisting CYWR community members to make positive decisions to change their lives for the better. To achieve these objectives, the Commission holds conferences with those community members who have been referred to the Commission. The main objective of a conference is to reach an agreement with the client on the way to go forward with their lives. Income management is utilised sparingly as one of the tools to effect a positive outcome for the client.

When a Conditional Income Management (CIM) order is issued, Centrelink enacts the notice and meets with the client to discuss their priority needs and financial obligations such as rent and bills, and allocates the remainder of funds to a BasicsCard for the purchase of food and other consumables. The client receives the remaining funds as discretionary spending. CIM Orders are reviewed by the Commission at the six and nine month point of the order. Some clients request an extension of the CIM order due to the positive impacts they have experienced, or request a decrease of the percentage managed. Clients also may seek that the CIM Order is ended by demonstrating that ending the order is not likely to be detrimental to the interests, rights and wellbeing of the client and/or their family.

Changes to CIM

Under the Family Responsibilities Commission Act (2008) the amount of income which could be managed through a CIM Order was 60 or 75 per cent. Effective from 1 January 2014, the Australian Government has approved an additional income management setting of 90 percent. This additional setting will provide greater leverage with families and individuals who have thus far failed to make personal efforts to comply with case plans, and have resisted engagement with support services to:

- enrol their children in school or increase their children's attendance at school;
- comply with tenancy obligations;
- ensure the safety for their children; or
- deal with their offending behaviour.

Local Commissioners report that the majority of conference sittings with an income managed client are positive and productive in addressing the concerns that have brought the client before the Commission. Continuing income management ensures that clients attend and engage actively in conferences and receive the support they require in order to complete their case plans. Positive outcomes reported are:

- The reduction of financial stress
- Capacity building through financial management support services
- The ability to purchase basic necessities for families
- An increase in child safety and wellbeing
- The creation of a support network to focus on an individual's skills gaps (social and economical)

CYI's Constitutional Reform Quiz

- Q1.** The Constitution is the highest source of law and highest legal authority in Australia. The Constitution sets up the way government runs. It is also the nation's founding document.
- Q2.** It was drafted in two constitutional conventions during the 1800's and came into force in 1901.
- Q3.** It was written to bring the separate colonies together into a unified federation – so it essentially created the nation of Australia.
- Q4.** No. Indigenous people were not allowed to vote at the time, and they did not get to vote to elect representatives for the constitutional conventions. They were not included in the process and had no say in the drafting of the Constitution.
- Q5.** When the Constitution was drafted it contained three racially discriminatory clauses.
- Q6.** S 127 – said that Aboriginal people could not be counted in the Census.
S 51(xxvi) – 'the Race Power' gave Commonwealth parliament the power to pass special laws for different so-called 'races', but NOT laws for Aboriginal people
S 25 – talked about banning 'races' from voting.
- Q7.** The drafters wanted to be able to 'control and exclude' the 'inferior and coloured' races.
- Q8.** The 1967 referendum deleted S 127, so that Aboriginal people could be counted in the Census. It also removed the exclusion of Aboriginal people from s 51(xxvi), 'the Race Power'.
- Q9.** Yes. It still contains S 25, which talks about banning races from voting.
And we still have the Race Power, S 51 (xxvi), which can be used to make positive race-based laws, but probably also adverse race-based laws. It gives the Australian Commonwealth Government the power to pass racially discriminatory laws against Australian citizens.
- Q10.** No. Ironically, after the 1967 referendum changes, the Constitution makes no mention of Indigenous people at all. It does not recognise that Indigenous people were here long before colonisation and federation. There is no mention of the Indigenous part of Australia's history and heritage.

Hope Vale Youth Summit

The Cairns Regional Operations Centre (ROC) with the support of the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council and Hope Vale Congress Aboriginal Corporation hosted a Youth Summit in Hope Vale on 25 September 2013.

The local Indigenous Engagement Officer, Laverne Hookey, was overwhelmed by the number of young people who turned up to participate. A total of 42 youth attended the forum to have their say and be heard.

"Participants provided input on a range of different areas, including education, employment, health and leadership" said Laverne.

"They were really passionate about the future of our community and the role they can play in shaping Hope Vale in the future."

The issues raised by local youth will inform the Hope Vale Youth Engagement Strategy, providing a clear direction for better coordinated services, a targeted approach to youth service delivery and a role for youth participation.

Cheryl Cannon, a former Indigenous teacher, spoke about her experience of education and how university studies helped her to become a teacher in Queensland. Cheryl's real life example helped the local youth to see real possibilities and opportunities to successfully achieve their own goals.

The Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services Brian Gleeson also attended the summit and presented his experiences and spoke about the importance of education and hard work. The input from Brian and the local facilitator Robbie Deemal around these messages were an important part of the day.

At the end of the youth summit, 14 young people were nominated and elected to be on the Hope Vale Youth Council. The Youth Council will provide direction on youth issues to the local council and service providers.

To close the successful summit a BBQ, sponsored by the Hope Vale Wellbeing Centre (RFDS), was held to celebrate the Youth Summit with entertainment including local community band and choir.



Hope Vale youth share their ideas

