

AN INITIATIVE OF CAPE YORK PARTNERSHIP

# CAPE

MAGAZINE

UNITY 2015



## *Dancing Proud*

**LOCKHART RIVER DANCERS**  
take home the shield

**Wik**  
*court battle*  
for right to decide

SPECIAL FEATURE:  
**LAURA**  
ALIVE WITH  
CULTURE  
*Festival 2015*

**Kids**  
*come first*  
for Keri Tamwoy

**NEW**  
BOARDING  
SCHOOL  
*for teen mothers  
and their babies*

COMMUNITIES | HEALTH | CULTURE | LIFESTYLE | NEWS | REFORM



When i  
grow up  
i want to  
be a...

Banana  
Farmer



**Our children are seeing a bright future in their community.**

**Local people are working together to ensure good education and job opportunities keep growing.**



CYWR001

UNITY 2015

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### Back Cover:

Beautiful little dancer from Injinoo puts her heart and hips into her dancing at the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival.

Photo by Kathi Gibson-Steffensen

# Editor's Welcome



The build up to the biannual Laura Dance Festival is so exciting that it's a bit sad when it's all over for another two years. It is always such a grounding and spiritual occasion that reminds us all how proud we are of our beautiful and unique culture.

As Wayne Butcher, Mayor of Lockhart River said, "Our culture unites us". And that it does. Our families of all generations come together to tell our stories, to sing, to dance and yarn.

A massive congratulations goes out to the Laura mob and event organisers for another spectacularly authentic event. It is important that it remains

an event first and foremost for the people of Cape York. And that is exactly what the Laura mob achieved—a genuine opportunity to celebrate our culture with all of our might.

I'd like to congratulate the Wik and Wik Waya people yet again on their courage and tenacity to stand up and fight for their right to make decisions for their people and country. Racist provisions in the Minerals Resources Act strip away rights from the Aurukun people preventing them from appealing government mining decisions on their country. These 'provisions' only affect Wik people and Wik land. The High Court has agreed to hear their case against the Queensland Government to have these 'provisions' removed. Over the past 40 years the Wik people have taken governments to court a dozen times and won. We wish them the strength needed to continue their fight to make decisions about their future. All of Cape York will be watching this case as it impacts on native title rights.

This edition of the Cape Magazine introduces Elder profiles. They are our greatest teachers and it's important that all of us take the time out of our busy lives to sit and talk with our old people—to hear their stories, their ideas, and their wisdom. Please contact us with Elders in your community you would like us to profile.

We are very excited to introduce a new and unique school, the Cape York Girl Academy, for teenage mothers and their babies. Having a baby at a young age is no longer the end of education. Girls can have it all. Don't miss the article on page 4.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their story in the Cape Magazine. Keep your stories coming.

Warm regards,

FIONA JOSE – EDITOR



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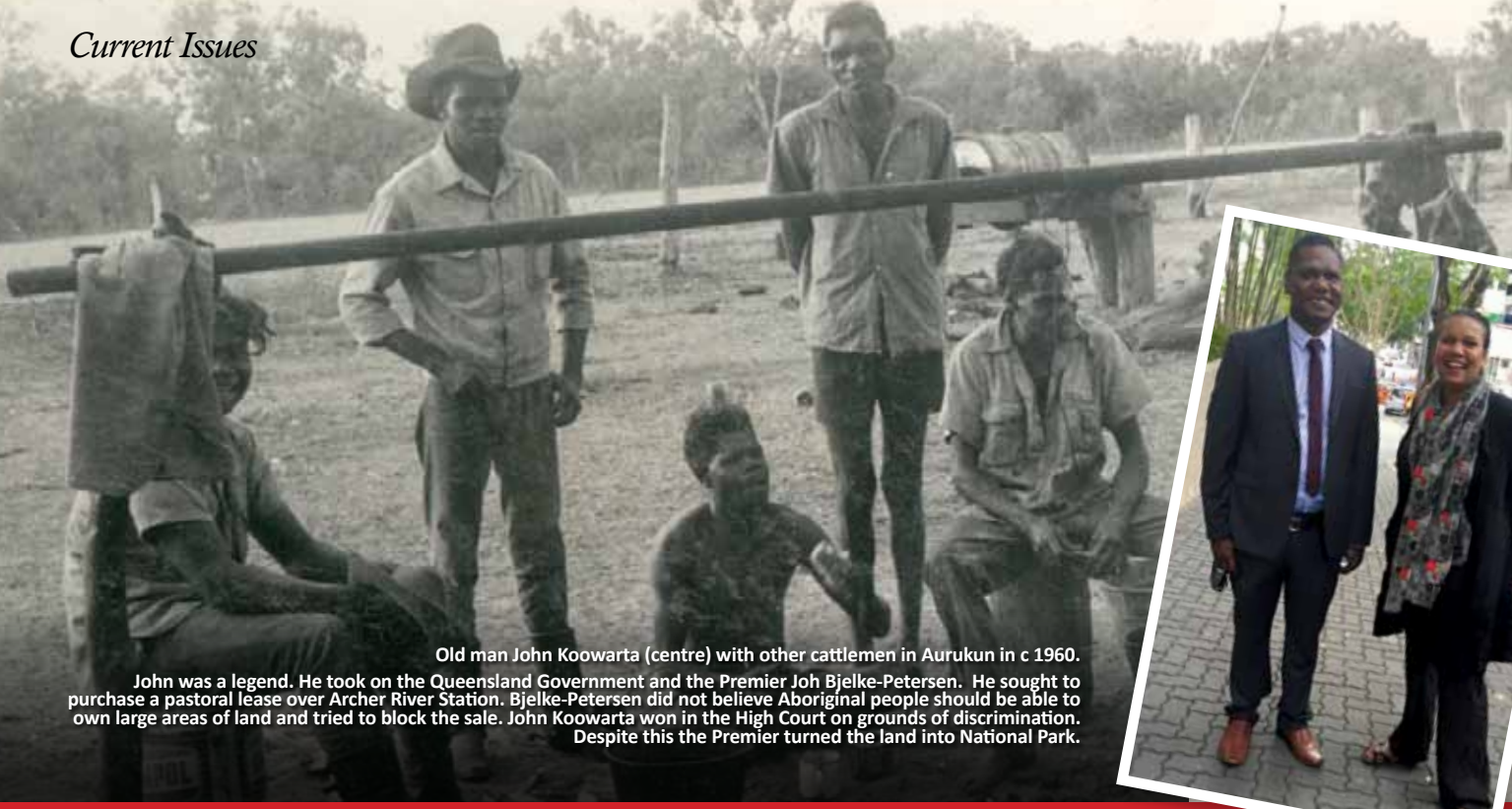
Front Cover:

Congratulations to the Lockhart River dancers on their spine tingling performances that claimed them the Laura Shield 2015. Josiah Omeenyo and Greta Pascoe are pictured.

Photo by Kathi Gibson-Steffensen







Old man John Koowarta (centre) with other cattlemen in Aurukun in c 1960.

John was a legend. He took on the Queensland Government and the Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen. He sought to purchase a pastoral lease over Archer River Station. Bjelke-Petersen did not believe Aboriginal people should be able to own large areas of land and tried to block the sale. John Koowarta won in the High Court on grounds of discrimination. Despite this the Premier turned the land into National Park.

# High Court Fight for Rights-again

## TODAY'S WIK LEADERS WALK IN THEIR ELDERS' FOOTSTEPS AS THEY TAKE ON THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT IN ANOTHER FIGHT TO PROTECT THEIR PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Wik and Wik Waya people's registered native title body, Ngan-Aak Kunch Aboriginal Corporation (NAK), recently achieved a significant first step in the High Court action to overturn racially discriminatory provisions from a piece of Queensland mining law.

NAK is seeking to have the racially discriminatory provisions called "The Aurukun Provisions" in the Mineral Resources Act struck down by the High Court. The full High Court has agreed to hear the case.

"The Aurukun Provisions" were inserted into the Mineral Resources Act in 2006 to fast track the mining of bauxite deposits in lease RA315, situated near Aurukun.

The Provisions strip the right to appeal or object to decisions made by the Queensland Government. The Wik people are the only landholders in Queensland affected by these special provisions.

NAK will argue before the High Court that the provisions

offend section 10 of the Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act.

Young Wik leaders, Lyle Kawangka and Gina Castelain travelled to Brisbane for the High Court

hearing and delivered a letter to the Premier and Deputy Premier's Office asking for their urgent re-consideration of the problem they face with a mining decision on their land.

"The Aurukun Provisions were introduced by the Premier's father Henry, the Minister for Mines in 2006, and we are hoping that the Premier will take a personal interest in the matter, that's why we made the personal plea," Gina said.

### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR WIK

The Wik native holder holders want to be shareholders in any mining on their land and are exasperated and saddened that the State Government has ignored an ILUA signed by native title holders with Aurukun Bauxite Development (ABD). ABD has pledged an Australia-first package of measures to benefit the community, including part-ownership through a 15 per cent undiluted equity share, seats on the Board and up to 300 local jobs.

"Our people have fought for decision making rights over our land for 40 years. We don't want to wait for royalties from a big



# wik legal history:

For 40 years, the Wik people have been forced to take governments to court to achieve justice.

- ✓ 1976 Peinkinna v Qld Director of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Advancement
- ✓ 1978 Peinkinna v Qld Director of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Advancement
- ✓ 1982 Koowarta v Bjelke-Petersen
- ✓ 1988 Koowarta v Bejelke-Petersen
- ✓ 1996 Wik People v State of Queensland (Pastoral Lease case)
- ✓ 2000 Ngallametta (obh of Wik and Wik Way Peoples) v State of Queensland (Native title Determination No.1)
- ✓ 2004 Wik Peoples v State of Queensland (Determination No. 2)
- ✓ 2004 Wik Peoples v State of Queensland (Determination No. 3)
- ✓ 2007 Malachi (obh of Strathgordon mob) v State of Queensland
- ✓ 2012 Wik and Wik Way Native Title Claim Group v State of Queensland (Determination No 4)
- ✓ 2014 Koowarta v State of Queensland (Wild Rivers)
- ✓ 2015 Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation v State of Queensland

mining company, which is just corporate welfare,” Llyle Kawangka, Registered Native Title holder and Director of NAK, said.

“What does native title mean if we don’t have a right to make decisions about our land?”

“We want to be mine owners. The Bjelke-Petersen Government didn’t want our people to own land, now this government doesn’t want us to own a mine.”

## WIK ILUA IGNORED

In a 24-hour tender process, the former Newman Government awarded Preferred Proponent status for the Aurukun bauxite mine to multinational Swiss-based consortium Glencore, against the wishes of NAK that had already had an ILUA in place. That process excluded other bidders except Glencore—and was carried out during the caretaker period.

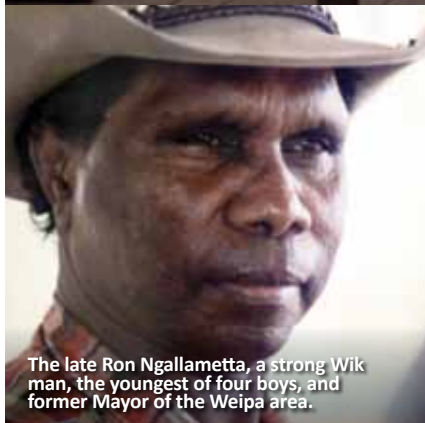
Members of NAK are deeply upset and frustrated that the Queensland Government is not prepared to work with the Wik people to set an exciting precedent in how miners and Indigenous land holders can work together, in all parts of Australia.

The Wik people have fought tenaciously for their rights through many court cases over the last 40 years, winning some of Australia’s biggest land rights battles that have turned the course of history.

**This small community sits in the list of the most disadvantaged in Queensland, but has produced some of Australia’s most heroic fighters for land rights justice, including John and Martha Koowarta.**



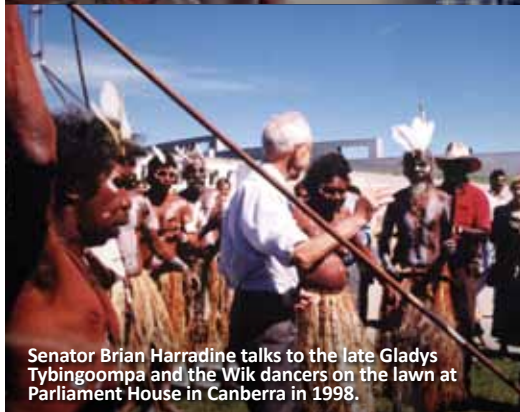
Wik dancers at the opening of the Cape York Land Council building named in honour of the late Stanley Ngakyunkwokka. The plaque was unveiled by the late Jacob and Joanne Wolmby (Stanley’s sister). Stanley was a founder of the CYLC.



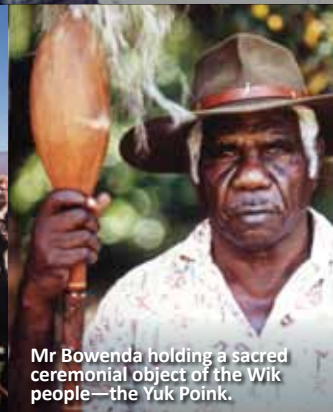
The late Ron Ngallametta, a strong Wik man, the youngest of four boys, and former Mayor of the Weipa area.



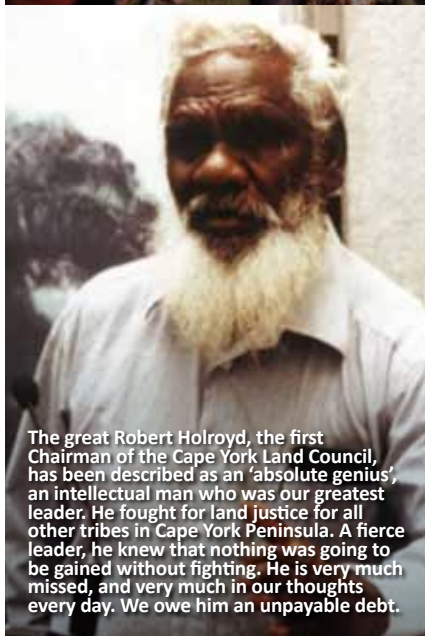
The late Gladys Tybingoomba frequently spoke with the media to get the Wik voice heard.



Senator Brian Harradine talks to the late Gladys Tybingoomba and the Wik dancers on the lawn at Parliament House in Canberra in 1998.



Mr Bowenda holding a sacred ceremonial object of the Wik people—the Yuk Poink.



The great Robert Holroyd, the first Chairman of the Cape York Land Council, has been described as an ‘absolute genius’, an intellectual man who was our greatest leader. He fought for land justice for all other tribes in Cape York Peninsula. A fierce leader, he knew that nothing was going to be gained without fighting. He is very much missed, and very much in our thoughts every day. We owe him an unpayable debt.



The late Denny Bowenda with a young Noel Pearson in an interview about the 10 point plan debate. Denny Bowenda fought for Wik country all his life.





# Aurukun Elders inspire next generation

## SILAS AND REBECCA WOLMBY, SAY YOUNG PEOPLE MUST STAY CONNECTED TO COUNTRY

**Q:** *How long have you been in Aurukun?*

**A:** **Silas:** I stayed here for a long time. I was around 13 or 14 when my mother brought me to Aurukun. My home really is Cape Keerweer.

**Rebecca:** I was here when (former Aurukun superintendent) Old MacKenzie (Reverend Bill MacKenzie) was here; when I was 12 years of age. We used to stay in the dormitory.

**Q:** *What was it like growing up here?*

**A:** **Silas:** I liked it, going hunting and fishing. My parents sent me out to the bush when I was 16, to Cape Keerweer. I stayed out there until I became an adult. That's the time they promised an arranged marriage.

**Rebecca:** I grew up here with only my father—my mother passed away in Palm Island. I was a teacher here at the school for 21 years. That's when I was single. He (Silas) was a stockman working on the other side of the river.

**Q:** *So how did you come to get married?*

**A:** **Rebecca:** His family and my family had a meeting. They gave him a choice who he wanted to marry—me or my (deceased) sister. He said: 'I want to marry Rebecca'.

**Q:** *What are the biggest changes you've seen in Aurukun?*

**A:** **Silas:** Back in my days the environment was more clean. These days it's not a clean environment for me.

**Rebecca:** There are a lot of houses here now. We used to stay in a bark house before. The first buildings are behind the shop.

**Q:** *Do young people appreciate what the Elders have done for the community? Are they as connected to the community?*

**A:** **Silas:** There's no respecting today. You've got to respect the old folks; the old man and the old woman.

**Rebecca:** We are telling our grandchildren about bush food, what to eat. All our children grew up really good children. They never did stuff like busting cars or stealing. I love our community but sometimes when we see things go wrong we feel sad. We always tell stories to our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. We've got seven children, 52 grandchildren and 49 great grandchildren and we are still strong.

“ I love our community but sometimes, when we see things go wrong, we feel sad.

REBECCA WOLMBY





# Hope Vale

## memories inspire future

### ELDER HERBERT MCLEAN REFLECTS ON HIS COMMUNITY AND HIS HOPES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

#### Why is Hope Vale a strong community?

Well I suppose it was passed down from our fathers ... of course not forgetting our mothers. There is a strong history to this place. But then again, when you come to look at it, it's starting to dwindle a bit. Everything is changing throughout the world, and we, the little people tagging along behind, we have to change to keep up with the time.

#### The biggest changes I have seen here in the last 60 years?

We've come a long way. It's been a short 60 years. Some of the wider communities have been there for hundreds of years and I've never seen development (in those communities) like in this place. I came back here as a 16 year-old boy and I'm 82 years old now and my goodness.

It's the strong back of the old people—what they've put into us we've tried to give that to our children and from there I hope our great grandchildren will see

that and feel the good work.

With as little education as mine ... whatever I did I became a master of it. I made sure I did it better than the next person and that's how I got my promotion in life. I worked here in

---

... everyone made an effort to make this place into what it is today.

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Hope Vale; I made a lot of contribution here. I worked up at Cape Flattery and I made my contributions there and became one of the supervisors up in the mines—you wouldn't believe it. They gave me a house and car and everything on the mine site.

It's much, much easier (for younger people now) with all the education around them, but it can be much,

much harder because there is a lot of competition out there.

#### Future of Hope Vale

I would like it (the future of Hope Vale) to look like that (housing) subdivision up there, Miller's Block. Where people can say: 'this is my house, this is my little block'. Today, I can't say that. I'm just a person who's just paying rent every week and that's all. I can't say: 'it's mine'.

You see the news and there's a lot of homeless people out there in our own country. This is supposed to be a wealthy country and they are sleeping out in the open between cardboard and newspapers and all that, just to keep warm. If they don't follow our footsteps (Elders) the Hope Vale community will crumble. This little community of Hope Vale ... I'm very very proud of it and I hope it doesn't go downhill from here because everyone made an effort to make this place into what it is today.



# Recognising Indigenous voices



**POLITICIANS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN VOICING THEIR VIEWS ON CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS. NOW IT IS TIME FOR US TO SPEAK, AND FOR THEM TO LISTEN.**

Indigenous leaders, including Noel Pearson and Pat Dodson, have called for a series of Indigenous conferences to be held throughout Australia to give us a voice in a national decision that will directly affect the future of our own people. These conferences would give us the opportunity to say which option we believe would most empower us—and future generations of Indigenous Australians—to attain better lives. This consultation process would be run by Indigenous people for Indigenous people and decide what kind of constitutional change

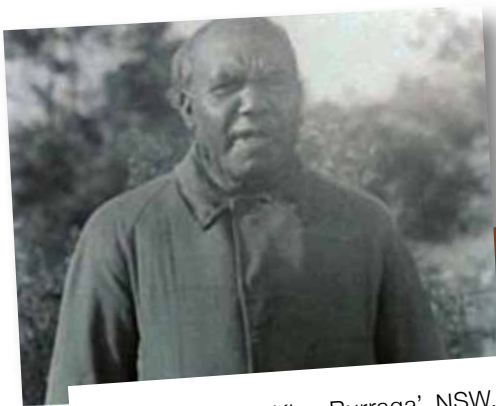
the majority of our people support and would like all Australians to vote upon in a referendum. The Cape York Institute believes the best constitutional reform option is to establish an Indigenous Representative Body, which all Australian governments would have to consult before making any decisions about laws and policies that affect Indigenous Australians. Once added to the Constitution, this would guarantee us a permanent voice in government decision-making.

## The long road to Recognition

Our people have long called for representation in the Constitution—more than just symbolism, we want genuine representation and a voice in our affairs.

**1933** Seeking Representation...

**1937** Petition...



Joe Anderson, 'King Burruga', NSW, 1933. Wanted to petition the King seeking Indigenous representation in Federal Parliament.



In 1937 William Cooper petitioned King George seeking Indigenous representation in Parliament.



## 1988 Barunga Statement



Barunga people called on the federal Government and all Australians to recognise Indigenous rights, including:

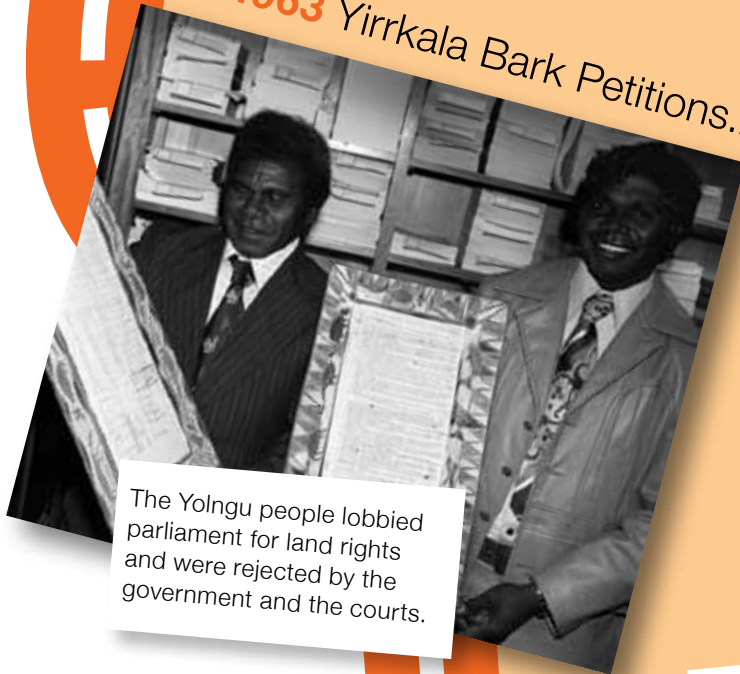
- Self-determination and self-management
- Land rights
- A national elected Aboriginal and Islander organisation
- Treaty

## 2008 Yolngu Petition



The united clans of East Arnhem land, petitioned for constitutional reform, seeking the recognition and protection of our full and complete rights, including property and economic rights, and for control of our lives and responsibility for our children's futures.

## 1963 Yirrkala Bark Petitions...



The Yolngu people lobbied parliament for land rights and were rejected by the government and the courts.

## 2011-2012 Expert Panel



The Expert Panel recommend a Racial Discrimination provision in the Constitution.

## 2015 Today...

Indigenous leaders call upon the Federal Government to fully consult Indigenous Australians about any proposed changes to the Constitution in relation to Indigenous Recognition.



Doug Nicholls in 1949 wrote to Prime Minister Ben Chifley and wanted Indigenous representation in Federal Parliament.

## 1949 Seeking Representation...





One Claim,

claims first victory



Richie Ah Mat and government officials at signing.

THE ONE CLAIM NATIVE TITLE APPLICATION ENSURES TRADITIONAL OWNERS ARE DRIVING PDR NEGOTIATIONS

The Cape York Land Council has signed an important agreement which paves the way for the start of construction on the Mein Deviation and other sections of the Peninsula Development Road, known as the PDR.

Under this agreement, the Queensland Government and Native Title Holders will now begin negotiations to settle an Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the whole of the PDR by the end of 2015. The registration of one of Australia's largest native title claims earlier in the year, over Cape York, which has become known

business opportunities, cultural heritage clearance processes and environmental considerations.

"On Cape York, where the Indigenous community is battling very high unemployment, high incarceration rates and alcohol and drug abuse, projects such as the PDR are critical in providing opportunity to our mob," said Mr Ahmat.

Under the agreement, a Traditional Owner steering committee has been established that will guide the settlement of the ILUA with the Queensland Government and ensure further discussions with Traditional Owners from along the road route.

Southern Kandju and negotiating committee member, Dion Creek, praised the agreement.

"For the first time, the State Labor Government, Cape York Land Council, and Traditional Owners have respectfully negotiated a single agreement covering the PDR," he said.

"There can be no longer be any excuse for our people to remain on the sidelines, when it comes to capitalising on investments for the PDR and other road networks throughout Cape York.

"We have a jobs crisis in Cape York," he said. "It is a priority we must address."

We have a jobs crisis in Cape York. It is a priority we must address.

DION CREEK

as "One Claim", has ensured the State Government includes Traditional Owners in the development project. They will now need to recognise the Native Title and cultural interests of Traditional Owners and maintain respectful ongoing relationships throughout PDR work.

Chairman of the Cape York Land Council, Mr Richie Ah Mat, said there has been a mammoth effort by the Queensland Government and the Cape York Land Council to settle outstanding matters. The agreement addresses Indigenous employment, training and



For further information about the PDR negotiations or opportunities contact Terry Piper at Balkanu on 0407144067.





# Saluting Private Amber

## PAMELA AMBER HAS FOUGHT TO ACHIEVE A NEW TITLE – PRIVATE AMBER

Former Djarragun College student, Pamela Amber, used all her grit to launch a career in the Australian Defence Force.

“I’ve always wanted to join the Army, since I was small, to challenge myself,” said Pamela.

She graduated from Year 12 at Djarragun College in 2012, then used her sporting talents to complete a TAFE Certificate II in Community Activities, which focuses on sport and recreation. But a military career still beckoned.

“I was always still thinking about the Army,” said Pamela. “I’d see the ads on TV and say to myself: ‘I want to do that.’”

She finally summoned the courage to travel from her home in Cairns to Wagga Wagga, in New South Wales, where she undertook a six-week Indigenous Pre-Recruitment Course.

The course covered six areas of endeavour: language, literacy and numeracy, military skills, including weapon training, physical fitness, vocational education and training, leadership and character development, and cultural appreciation.

### BATTLING HOMESICKNESS

It was a challenging time for Pamela, who was homesick.

“It was my first time being away, especially from Mum,” she recalled.

“It was hard, especially being in another state. But it only went for six weeks, so I thought I might as well stay and get through this. I thought, I really want to be in that uniform one day.”

Pamela credits her two cousins, Debra Toby and Susan Luffman, who were also completing the course, with helping her get through.

She then tackled the Army Recruit Course (ARC) at the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka, 10km south-west of Wagga Wagga. This included physical training and drills, first aid, military and weapons combat training, and navigation training.

“It was challenging and all about the determination, but I just took it day by day,” said Pamela.

She recalls a particularly tough training day—“Bayo Day”—which included bayonet assault training.

“It was about learning controlled aggression and thinking about what the folks have gone through before us. We had to push ourselves,” she said.

### GRADUATION

In May this year, Pamela’s mother, Maria, watched her daughter participate in the “March Out Parade”. She became the first person in her family to earn a military rank, “Private Amber”.

Former Djarragun College, Deputy Principal, Francesca Shankaran, said the school was “extremely proud” of Pamela.

“It is gratifying to see that she has continued to set goals and achieve them,” Francesca said.

“Each year, Djarragun College has students who apply to join the Indigenous Australian Defence Force. These students are motivated, focused and a real asset to the Defence Force.”

Pamela likens some of the challenges she faced in achieving her army rank to starting school at Djarragun College in Year 8.

“When I first went there in Year 8 there were so many people and I only knew a few,” she recalls. “Then I met new friends and they helped me through.”

Now she hopes other young Indigenous people will find the courage to overcome challenges to achieve their goals.

“My advice, especially to young Indigenous people, is...

... whatever opportunity comes your way just take it ... you never know, it may only come once in a lifetime.





# Map of the human heart

Larissa Hale, surrounded by images of her country, in the Kuku Bulkaway Gallery which also houses her office.

## TRADITIONAL OWNER, LARISSA HALE, IS WORKING HARD TO PROTECT ARCHER POINT

### LARISSA HALE KEEPS PROMISES.

Eight years ago, she made a promise to her grandfather, Jack Doughboy. "He asked me not to give up on Archer Point," said Larissa. "I told him I wouldn't." Larissa, then aged 26, had just been appointed secretary of the Yuku-Baja-Muliku Land Trust and was also weeks away from giving birth to her third child. Her grandfather died a short time later. After her younger daughter was born, Larissa left her job as a Centrelink Indigenous Customer Service Officer in Mareeba and returned to her country at Archer Point, on Cape York.

Family, community and country have always had a strong hold on her heart, even though her family left Archer Point before she was born.

### CAPE FLATTERY CHILDHOOD

One of four children, her first memories are of life in Mareeba, where her father, John Bowyer, had found work. When she was seven, the family moved north, after her father obtained a job at the Cape Flattery Silica Mines.

Larissa loved her new home in the tiny community, which contained just 11 houses.

"It was the best childhood anyone could have," she said. "We didn't have a lot of money, but Cape Flattery was one of those communities ... it was a family, everyone looked after each other.

"As children, we went oystering, learned how to make our own spears, caught crabs and crayfish on the reef, played soccer on the beach."

It was enabling people to return to country and take pride in country.

### ROAD TO MATURITY

At the age of 12, Larissa was sent to boarding school in Charters Towers. She made new friends and enjoyed school life, but there were some things that she missed.

"I missed the freedom," she said. "We were not allowed to speak our own language, if we did, we got detention. I lost a lot of language during those years."

When she graduated from high school, Larissa, a keen artist, was offered a scholarship to study Visual Arts at James

Cook University in Cairns. But by this time, her father, then aged 53, had lost his eyesight to diabetes and been forced to leave his job. The family was now living back in Mareeba.

Larissa spent time at home helping to care for her father, then returned to Cape Flattery to take up an administrative traineeship at the mine site where her father had worked and where she still had some family.

Working at the mine was lucrative. Larissa was just 19 when she bought a house in Mareeba. In 2001, she met Mick Hale, a Cairns locksmith, at the Mareeba Rodeo. They married one year later.

Larissa obtained a job as an Indigenous Customer Service Officer with Centrelink in Cairns and later transferred to the Mareeba office. She spent a total of five years with the agency, encouraging young clients not to give up on themselves and their future.

### KEEPING HER PROMISE

When she returned to country after her grandfather's death, she worked as an employment services officer with Jobfind in Cooktown and Hope Vale, before taking up a position as a co-ordinator with Balkanu in 2010.



Pictured with their mother, Larissa Hale's children (from left) Mariska, Leilani and Kynan, were founding members of the Yuku-Baja-Muliku Junior Rangers.

As secretary of the Yuku-Baja-Muliku Land Trust, she had already recruited two local men to form the foundation stones of a Traditional Owner ranger program in 2007. Three years later, additional funding from the Federal Government allowed her to employ another four rangers.

Since then, the Yuku-Baja-Muliku Rangers have become a highly successful role model in Cape York. Their territory spans 22,000 hectares of land alone, and includes portions of two World Heritage-listed areas: the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef. But for Larissa, it was never just about having a crack ranger team. "It was enabling people to return to country and take pride in country," she said.

#### TOTEM ANIMAL IN CRISIS

Pride in country is closely bound to care of country, including native animals woven into the cultural fabric of the Yuku-Baja-Muliku people over thousands of years.

In 2011, sick and dying turtles began washing ashore in the wake of Cyclone Yasi, which had destroyed much of the seagrass beds where they feed in the coastal waters of Cape York.

Larissa and Mick used their own money to purchase three 1000-litre tanks for rescued turtles, which they housed within a greenhouse built by Mick in their own back yard in Cooktown.

"We decided to make a start. It needed to be done," said Larissa.

The couple usually had three Green or Hawksbill turtles in residence at any

one time. Feeding the turtles and cleaning/maintaining their tanks kept them busy from six in the morning until almost midnight—seven days a week.

The turtles consumed around seventy dollars' worth of prawns and squid per day and the couple's water bill skyrocketed.

But Larissa and Mick "never throw in a job".

#### TURTLE CENTRE LAUNCHED

They spent two years caring for turtles at their home until Larissa had obtained sufficient funding from

the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to build the Archer Point Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation

He asked me not to give up on Archer Point, I told him I wouldn't.

Centre, which opened in early 2014.

Funding for the centre remains a major issue. It's a labour-intensive operation requiring the efforts of six rangers including Mick, (with Larissa pitching in as well), to care for the turtles. The weekly food bill is up to \$500—and there is not much money left over for anything else.

Mick is currently studying for a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing to help reduce the Centre's veterinary bills.

#### FIGHTING IGNORANCE

Public misconceptions and grudges are another battlefield.

"There are some non-Indigenous people who believe that all Indigenous people want to slaughter turtles," said Larissa, "as well as Indigenous people—who are not Traditional Owners—that resent us for preventing them from hunting turtles in our country."

Larissa and the ranger team fight ignorance

with education. Three years ago, they established a junior ranger program for children aged four to 12 years. Her children, Leilani, 11, Kynan, 10, and Mariska, eight, were founding members. The program runs weekly after-school sessions on a range of subjects, including environmental education and cultural knowledge. There are now 43 junior rangers enrolled—they include both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children. "We wanted to break down barriers—and it has worked a treat," said Larissa.

#### FAMILY STRENGTH

Now the managing director of Yuku-Baja-Muliku Landowners and Reserves, Larissa continues to work flat-out: dividing her time between the Turtle Centre and her office in Cooktown, where she liaises with the Cape York Land Council and represents her people in negotiations with both the state and federal governments. She is also a voluntary fire fighter.

There is little time left to personally enjoy the simple pleasures of living on her country: fishing and gathering oysters along the glorious, windswept beaches; digging her toes into the sand to unearth the pipis on the banks of the Annan River. She is driven by her promise to her grandfather, but also sustained by the unwavering support of her family—and the knowledge that her work will benefit future generations of her family.

"Without my Mum, my husband and children, and other members of my family, this would still be just a dream," she said.

"It is their support that has kept me going."



The Yuku Baja Muliku Rangers received an Australia Day Service to the Community Award in January this year. There to celebrate the occasion were (from left): Wayne Sycamore, Clive Henderson, Leilani Hale, Joyce Henderson, Michael Hale, Kynan Hale, Larissa Hale, Mariska Hale, Irene Bowyer (Larissa's mother), Lauren Bowyer (Larissa's sister), Coral Hale and Stephen Doughboy Jr. Photo courtesy of Sarah Martin.



# Lifeline for turtles

**AT ARCHER POINT, TRADITIONAL OWNERS ARE WORKING HARD TO SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE OF THREATENED TURTLE SPECIES**



"Hurtle", the Hawksbill turtle, has been at the Turtle Centre for two years. He was rescued after developing floaters disease.



"Hurtle" the turtle is in safe hands with the Yuku-Baja-Muliku Rangers (from left): Wayne Sycamore, Gauai Wallace, Clive Henderson, Mike Hale, Joyce Henderson and Larissa Hale.



"Mika Olivia", a Green turtle, was suffering from floater's disease when she arrived at the centre.



"Princess Charlotte" is the centre's oldest resident: she is believed to be between 80 and 100 years old.

Archer Point, on Cape York, is a crucial marine cross road for vulnerable and threatened turtle species, such as the Hawksbill, and Green turtles travelling to and from their Raine Island nesting grounds—the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere.

To the north, the remote Cape coastline fosters healthy turtle populations, while to the south, pollution, erosion, declining seagrass beds and increasing boat traffic are causing turtle numbers to dwindle.

Established in early 2014 by Traditional Owners and the Yuku-Baja-Muliku people, the Archer Point Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre now rescues and cares for sick and injured turtles from throughout the Cape region.

Many of the turtles brought to the Centre are suffering from "floaters disease", a gut blockage which causes a build-up of gases in their intestinal tracts. This makes them incapable of diving for food—or avoiding predators.

Turtles develop "floaters disease" when they are forced to eat unsuitable food such as algae, because their normal food source—seagrass beds—have been damaged by cyclones and/or the ongoing effects of man-made pollution.

Discarded fish hooks, fishing line and plastic bags are also a menace for hungry turtles.

## "FULL HOUSE" AT TURTLE CENTRE

The Archer Point Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre is equipped with six 7500-litre saltwater tanks to individually house rescued turtles. There is never a shortage of occupants. Many turtles spend over 18 months at the Centre undergoing treatment and rehabilitation.

One of the Centre's current residents, a Green turtle affectionately named "Princess Charlotte, is believed to be between 80 and 100 years old. She was brought to the Centre eight months ago, where she is still recovering from the combined impact of "floaters disease", boat strike and a crocodile attack.

Six Yuku-Baja-Muliku rangers tend the turtles, which consume six kilos of prawns and five kilos of squid per day. The rangers spend four to five hours daily cleaning and refilling the tanks with fresh sea water.

The Turtle Centre is a vital part of the Yuku-Baja-Muliku turtle conservation program, which includes the effective management of Archer Point catchments to ensure clean water for their habitat; seagrass monitoring and management; and a current moratorium on traditional hunting, in order to assess turtle numbers.

However, funding limitations make it a constant battle to maintain the Centre, let alone grow the facility to accommodate more stricken turtles, play an active role in turtle research, or build upon the centre's already successful public education initiatives, such as the junior ranger program.



To support the Archer Point Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, visit [www.archerpoint.com.au](http://www.archerpoint.com.au) or contact Mike Winer on 0448 923 885.





Bama Services carpentry apprentice, Kyle Schuh, busy assembling one of the innovative toilet blocks.



The flat-pack toilet block assembles into an impressive look with a view.



The toilet block contains a "Nature Loo", environmentally-friendly composting system toilet.

# Flat pack "thrones"

## WHEN "NATURE CALLS" AND YOU'RE IN A REMOTE LOCATION ... BAMA SERVICES HAS THE SOLUTION

The team at Bama Services has designed an innovative home for an environmentally-friendly toilet, as well as a shower block for installation in remote locations.

The toilet structure, which houses a solar-powered, composting system toilet developed by manufacturer, "Nature Loo", was originally built as a convenience for people travelling the first 20-kilometre stage of the Dreaming Track, recently launched on the north shore of Cooktown.

"We soon saw the potential for it to be used in other remote locations, as it is very easy to assemble and transport," said Bama Services Executive General Manager, Adam Dunn.

"It's a convenient and environmentally-friendly sewage solution that runs on solar energy generated from a single panel on the roof.

"The waste from the toilet is broken down to a powder-like substance, which can be safely discarded into the scrub as a fertilizer," he added.

Both the toilet and shower block can be flat-packed and transported to site by ute, ready for installation.

The shower block proved popular at the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival, held in June. "There's nothing like a shower after a big day in the bush," observed Adam.

The block of three showers needs only a nearby water tank or body of water.

Bama Services plans to produce the toilet and shower block on a commercial basis, within a matter of months. Clients will be able to choose the colour and other structural specifications (timber or alloy/steel flooring and stairs) of their remote "thrones".

It is very easy to assemble and transport.





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The fantastic five ... Bama Services construction crew members (from left): Les Davis, Nathan Vanderpluym, John Peci, Kyle Schuh and Ashley Pearson.



Mossman Gorge residents (from left) Denelle Bloomfield, Donald Solomon, Anthony Bloomfield and Craig Spyder, appreciate the results of Bama's home renovation efforts.



Full steam ahead during Mossman Gorge upgrade project.

# Bama nails project

## A BAMA TEAM RECENTLY SPENT TWO MONTHS WORKING—AND LIVING TOGETHER—ON SITE AT MOSSMAN GORGE

Children were keen to “cement” their working relationship with members of the Bama Services Construction crew during a recent major housing maintenance and upgrade project at Mossman Gorge.

The youngsters were particularly determined to assist in the laying of the concrete slabs for half a dozen new driveways, project manager, John Peci recalled.

“They drew in the wet cement with their fingers. They didn’t miss a single one.” he grinned.

“They wrote their own names—even their dogs’ names.”

The construction crew had plenty of time to get to know the children’s names by heart. The project, which involved the repair and revamp of three houses and a set of three units in the Indigenous community, took two months to complete.

Queensland Government, Building and Asset Services awarded Bama Services the contract for the major upgrade project in February this year. It came with an impressive “to do” list, including full internal and external paint jobs, the installation of

driveways, carports, patios and fencing, plus internal maintenance work.

In order to meet the tight project deadlines, the Bama Construction crew—including Les Davis (supervisor), Nathan Vanderpluym, Monty Noble-Swan, Ashley Pearson and Kyle Shuh—lived onsite and recruited the assistance of local plant operator, Adam Doctor, and Indigenous-owned Cleal Austral-Ombiga Painting and Decorating.

### LIFE ON SITE

Living on site had its rewards.

“At lunchtime, we could go swimming in Mossman Gorge to cool off,” said Monty.

Les praised the crew. “It was a great team. We were all like brothers,” he said.

Residents too were quick to compliment the workers. “They’d come up and say we were doing a really good job—which motivated the boys to work even harder,” observed Les.

“One guy even gave us a photo of himself—which we put on our trailer,” he added with a grin.

The crew completed the project in June, but haven’t had much time to rest on their laurels. Thanks to their impressive workmanship at Mossman Gorge, Bama Services has been awarded a \$250,000 contract to upgrade homes in the Yarrabah community.



Have tools, will travel. Bama Services construction crew members on the job in Mossman Gorge (from left): Monty Noble-Swan, Nathan Vanderpluym and Les Davis, (project supervisor).

“It was a great team.  
We were all like brothers.”  
LES DAVIS, PROJECT SUPERVISOR



# The

# Ripe stuff

Great Cape gardening tips  
from seasonal planting to eye-catching ornaments

## What to plant now?

Get planting now before the wet season.

- Cucumber
- Cabbage
- Tomato
- Ginger
- Lettuce
- Snake beans
- Basil
- Sweet potato
- Spinach
- Zucchini
- Carrot
- Watermelon

## Ready, set, GROW.

Several members of the Mossman Gorge POP garden club recently tackled the necessary ground work to produce what will hopefully be a bumper crop of salad vegies later this year.

Kim Missionary, Irene Johnstone (pictured) and Janice Ransom spent a busy day weeding the four vegie beds in the community garden.

They removed old plants from last year's crops and replaced them with a variety of new seedlings, including tomatoes, chives, cucumber, rocket salad, lettuce—and strawberries, as well.

Winter is the prime time to plant crops on the Cape. In a few months' time, these dedicated gardeners will be harvesting the rewards: plenty of fresh vegies ideal for summer salads.



## DIY

## masterpiece

Canny craftsman, Richard Wilson, recently created a great garden sculpture—based on a picture that was found in Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

Richard and Pride of Place team leader, Barry Preston, came across the design while flicking through the magazine at the Mossman Gorge O-Hub. They took just 24 hours to whip up a replica, made from Merbau timber.

Timber slats were cut to various sizes to create the fan design, then stained. The slats were then simply bolted together with a piece of threaded dowel and a couple of nuts/washers, and fixed to a timber support.

The sculpture is now displayed in the garden at the local playground.



### Did you know:

Merbau is a rainforest timber from south-east Asia and Papua New Guinea, which is commonly used for decking.





# Turfwork

**Adam Creek and Bryson Cannon are a formidable green team.**

It took them just one morning to lay 300 square metres of turf across the Mossman Gorge playground.

A voluntary community project, the turf task was tackled with the support of Cape York Partnership, local community organisation Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku, and local landscaping supplier, Raw and More.

**Adam and Bryson contributed the sweat.**

## HOW TO *decorate pots*

If you have any old, cracked bowls gathering dust at the back of the kitchen cupboard, why not give them a new lease of life as pretty plant pots?

### ALL YOU NEED IS:

- an old bowl
- Plaster of Paris (from your local hardware store)
- some colourful beads to decorate
- soil to fill the bowl
- a small plant

**HINT:** Live near a beach? Then why not use shells to "dress up" your bowl?





# Best Garden in the Village

★ AWARDS ★

# Get up & grow!

Grab your tools,  
rally your family and  
get involved!



**Heaps of great gardening equipment to be won!**

- **Best Garden in the Village**  
The tidiest and best cared for family space
- **Best Edible Garden**  
The best variety of fruit or vegetables
- **Most Interesting Garden**  
The most colourful space with creative ideas

**Don't miss out, open to everyone.**

**Coen**

**14 OCT**

**Hope Vale**

**20 OCT**

**Aurukun**

**4 NOV**

**Mossman Gorge**

**11 NOV**



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# Celebrating Family Day in Aurukun

Strong Families staff and other members of the O-Hub team organised a jam-packed, fun-filled day of activities for Aurukun youngsters and their families on Celebrating Family Day.

Sporting brightly painted faces, the children bounced around the jumping castle, tested their spear throwing skills and enjoyed ball games, as well as old-fashioned favourites such as the treasure hunt and tug-o-war.

The day included a family session about easy games and activities that can be enjoyed at home, such as ball and spoon races, and making figurines out of fruit. What a "grape" idea.





# Snapshot



## HOPE VALE CELEBRATING FAMILY DAY AND NAIDOC BABY COMPETITION

O-Hub Strong Families staff provided the face art—the children provided the smiles—when Hope Vale families got together for Celebrating Family Day.

Infants showcased their talents in the Baby Competition, while older children enjoyed sport, games and spear throwing.





## MOSSMAN GORGE CELEBRATING FAMILY DAY AND NAIDOC BABY COMPETITION



The NAIDOC Deadly Baby Competition was hotly contested by 20 gorgeous infants during Celebrating Family Day in Mossman Gorge.

CYP Strong Families staff snapped baby photos and distributed awards to proud parents and grandparents, while older children enjoyed the story telling tent, sport, face-painting, bubble-blowing and even karaoke.





# Family room

Caring for Cape families—maintain your home and have fun with the kids



## Family FUN

## at Laura Festival

As far as the younger Laura Festival attendees were concerned, it was all about the face. Children queued to have their faces painted by O-Hub Strong Families staff, who were happy to exhibit their creative skills.

In the Family Tent, which was well-stocked with paper and colouring pencils, youngsters got the chance to demonstrate their own artistic talents to their parents and other family members, while parents with babies appreciated the change tables and shady seating area.



RIGHT: Amelia Gordon, Marilyn Kepple and Josephine Kulla with there creations



## CREATE A...

## Crayon

Add a splash of colour to your crayon's onto canvas. Get the

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- crayons
- canvas
- glue
- hairdryer

STEP 1: Glue crayon  
Let the glue dry

STEP 2: Place your  
melted wax with

STEP 3: Turn the  
and blow-dry

STEP 4: Once





# Kitchen cleaning

## Remove odours in your fridge

- Place a small dish of vanilla essence and a small dish of bicarb inside the fridge to absorb smells.



## Clean your kitchen bench tops



- Mix equal quantities of white vinegar and water in a spray bottle
- Spray bench top with mixture and wipe.

## Remove rust stains from pots and pans

- Cut a potato in half and dip the cut surface in some bicarb soda
- Rub the potato over the rust spot and then rinse
- Repeat if necessary.



Did you know?

# school corner

Your child probably has a test at school every week or two.

Get to know your child's teacher, support them with their schoolwork:

- Ask what your child is learning about and what they're struggling with
- Find out when tests are and how you can help kids prepare
- Dedicate time every evening to spend with your child helping with their school work.



### TOP TIP

Even if they don't have homework, read a book with them or help them count out.

# canvas

...r home by melting  
...e kids to help too.

...yons onto the top of your canvas.

...our canvas against a wall so the  
...ll drip downwards.  
...airdryer onto it's highest setting,  
...the crayons.  
...dry, hang up your masterpiece.



Craft with children at Coen Campus for art lessons taken with Marilyn Kepple, Wellbeing Centre and assisted by Selina Bowen, O-Hub. TOP LEFT: Bryon Pratt and Genai Fa'aoso. TOP RIGHT: Micky Thompson.

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# Cape Characters

## PROUD

## Mayor



Mayor of Lockhart River, Wayne Butcher could not be more proud of the 60-strong dance troop that brought home the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival shield for 2015.

"I'm very proud. Our strength in culture brings families together. I could feel the vibrations in the atmosphere especially when we were warming the shield. We dedicated the performance to two elders who have left us—they were our mentors and teachers in language and dance. Lawrence "Lefty" Omeeny and Abraham "Blade" Omeeny. They are a great loss to us." "The importance of cultural survival and respect are our big values. Dancing brings every one together of all ages. It is where our elders teach culture and the value of respect. This is also where our elders earn their respect by teaching the young ones our cultural stories, our language and dances as they are growing up."

"Culture creates unity."

## Hollywood BOUND

This dynamic duo say they are on the road to stardom and are making plans to take their act to Hollywood.

Hope Vale is used to these crazy antics from Esmae Bowen who is always planning comedy skits. "She has no shame", "She's the life and colour of Hope Vale" some say.

While George Dick is definitely a local character, no one had seen his "Georgette" before. This debut class act performed an ol' favourite "She'll be comin' 'round the mountain" to a toe tapping and clapping audience of families. She says she loves to show the kids that you can have a lot of fun and laughs without alcohol.

"She's the life and colour of Hope Vale"





# Tomboy told to

# paint.

**For a girl who ‘doesn’t paint’, Lauren Bowyer is turning out some impressive works.**

She wasn’t expecting to find passion in art and painting. Lauren says growing up she was a tomboy, following her dad around on the mine and jumping on the loader.

“Mum taught my sister Larissa (Hale) to paint. My grandmother would say ‘this one doesn’t paint’. But one day she just flatly told me to sit and paint. We don’t argue with her when she rattles off in Kuku Yalanji. I need to thank her because I love it, it’s quite relaxing.”

Lauren helped her mob design their TUMRA and is the TUMRA coordinator. Her next project is the Yuka Baja Mulika Gallery. “I think I’ve found my niche with the gallery.”

Lauren is holding her “Goorialla”—Rainbow Serpent—a mosaic of triple coloured dots, painstakingly perfect, creating an exquisite effect.

**“I love it.”**



## Women of **Justice**



**Doreen Ball and Lilly Yougie are proud to be described by many as ‘the best Justice Group members’ in their rainforest community of Wujal Wujal.**

They say they are both founding members of the Justice group established in 2000, and their door is always open even after 15 years lending a hand to their people.

“Our door is open every minute. It’s true, we are always there for our people. We work with the police. The one big thing is grog—we want to stop it. We are a dry community but people are sneaking it in sometimes. There’s gambling seven days a week. It’s one of our biggest problems.”

“We would like to see our children speaking our language, the little ones don’t know language. We had adult classes but it’s no longer funded. Every Monday we would go over to the Rossville Hall to teach the kids, with Peter Wallace and Francis Walker. It was also taught in the school for nine years, and all of a sudden it stopped. It is really important for them to learn that we were born with language. It’s up to the parents to teach them from the beginning.

Lilly, a Wyungkul woman, wrote a blue tongue lizard story and is looking forward to it being featured soon on NITV.

**“Our door is open every minute.”**







It's never  
too early to

# GET SET



### Plan early for their education:

- Buy toys for muscle control and hand-eye coordination
- Develop reading and learning skills
- Budget for day care and kindy
- Buy school uniforms and books

### Why sign up when they're little?

- The sooner you start, the sooner your child will benefit
- Your money is there when you need it

**"I want  
to see my kids  
with a good  
education and a  
better future."**

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## Volcanic Eggs MAKES 4

- 4 eggs, separated**
- 4 slices wholemeal bread, crusts removed**
- 1 cup grated cheese**

Preheat the oven to 180°. In a bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Place the bread on the baking tray. Spoon a mound of egg white onto each slice, then make a little dip in the very top and gently place the egg yolk in it. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 8 to 12 minutes, until the egg white is firm, the cheese melted, and the egg yolk runny when you cut into it.



## Easy Fish Cakes MAKES 8

- 1 cup cooked, flaked fish**
- 1 cup mashed potato**
- ½ cup frozen peas**
- 1 egg**

Simply mix altogether, add salt and pepper to taste, and roll into balls. Chill in fridge for 30 minutes. Heat a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Cook for 3 minutes one side, then flip and cook for the same on the other side.

You can add a variety of herbs and veggies into these, including: grated carrot, finely chopped spring onions, a little lemon zest, chopped parsley and corn.



## Tomato Drummies SERVES 4

- 1kg chicken drumsticks**
- 420g can condensed tomato soup**
- 1 packet onion soup**

Preheat the oven to 180°. Place the chicken legs in an ovenproof dish. Stir together the tomato soup, onion soup mix, and ½ cup of water and pour over the chicken legs. Bake for 1 hour or until the chicken is cooked through.

Serve with mashed potatoes or cauliflower and steamed beans and zucchini.



## Frozen Choc Nanas SERVES 4

- 2 bananas, cut in half**
- 200g chocolate**
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil**
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts, coconut or sprinkles**

Insert a paddle pop stick into each banana half and place them on a lined baking tray and freeze for 15 minutes. Melt the chocolate with the oil in the microwave (check it every 30 seconds). Roll each banana in the chocolate, then quickly sprinkle with chopped nuts, coconut or sprinkles. Freeze until the chocolate sets and serve.



Some of these great recipe ideas came from the **4 Ingredients Kids** cookbook. RRP \$25

## Got an even tastier recipe?

Send through to [capemag@cyp.org.au](mailto:capemag@cyp.org.au).





**Bernard Foote**  
PORMPURAAW DANCER



# A Moving Celebration

**THE BIENNIAL LAURA DANCE FESTIVAL IS BOTH A CELEBRATION AND A RE-AFFIRMATION OF THE NEED TO KEEP OUR CULTURE ALIVE IN CAPE YORK COMMUNITIES**

**“People said the culture was so raw and they’d never seen dancing like that.”**

**TRACEY LUDWICK**

**T**raditional Owner, Michael Ross, who has been to each and every one of the 34 Laura Dance Festivals held to date, said the occasion always stirred strong memories. “It really means a lot to me: it brings back memories of old people passing messages over to the young ones through their dance,” he said.

The 2015 Laura Dance Festival, staged in July, drew 500 dancers and other artists from 20 Cape York communities, as well visitors from around Australia and overseas. A total of 5000 people gathered at the Bora ground in Laura to watch 40,000 years of culture unfold over three days of dance, song, art and other performances.

## **International profile**

Festival organiser, Tracey Ludwick, said the event attracted a record number of international guests and media this year.

“We had people from as far as France, Belgium, Japan and Hawaii,” she said. “There was a Hawaiian film crew, a Japanese magazine and National Geographic Magazine.”

The Laura Dance Festival showcases Indigenous culture in a sacred Indigenous setting, providing guests with a unique—and authentic—glimpse into age-old traditions, far removed from tourism centres.

“It’s good that when people fly into this country that they don’t just go as far as Sydney and see Aboriginal people painted up and dressed in lap-laps, but they come to this sacred meeting place,” said Tracey. “People said the culture was

so raw and they’d never seen dancing like that in Australia.”

Aurukun artist, Nathan Ampeybegan, said he was “really enjoying” his first festival and the opportunity to present his culture to the wider world.

“All the Indigenous people represent Laura Festival ground and we are here to show the European people that everyone is welcome,” he said.

## **Winning performances**

The Lockhart River dancers defended their 2013 festival title, once again taking out the Festival Shield. Bamaga won the visual section and Yarrabah State School won the school section.

The crowd was treated to a recreation of the Quinkan story, by Sacred Creations the first time ever at Laura. It was a fitting performance to be staged in a dance ground surrounded by some of the oldest and most spectacular rock art in the world.

While the spotlight was on performers, Tracey paid tribute to the people who worked hard, behind-the-scenes, to bring the festival together—including Indigenous, Cairns-based construction and landscaping company, Bama Services. “The crew from Bama Services did a magnificent job,” she said. “They worked all night when the water broke

down. It was fixed so quickly people hardly noticed.”

About 40 local people were also employed for the event, filling a range of positions, from security guards and caterers to stage hands and the MC role.

## **The future for Laura**

Tracey revealed that she had been approached by a “huge, international sponsor” wishing to support the next Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival in 2017. However, no matter how big the Laura Festival grew, it would continue to maintain its cultural integrity.

“The festival is about identity, passing on culture, passing on the language,” said Tracey. “It’s all about the way we are still carrying on our culture for our children.”

**“It brings back memories of old people passing messages over to the young ones through their dance.”**

**MICHAEL ROSS**





# SnapShot

**Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival**  
The celebration of the world's oldest living culture.  
— Laura, Cape York



500 artists



“Without culture we are nothing: we can have all the educated souls in the world, but it means nothing without culture ... that’s what Laura gives us. We are very, very proud.”

QUEENSLAND LAND COUNCIL CHAIR  
AND YARRABAH MAYOR  
MALA (ERROL) NEAL



20 Cape York communities



**Dr Tommy George**  
KUUKU TAIPAN ELDER







Close to 5,000 visitors



Bruce Bell and Nathan Ampeybegan travelled from Aurukun for their first Laura Dance Festival

## Festival first-timers

Aurukun artists Nathan Ampeybegan and Bruce Bell enjoyed their first Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival.

"I'm loving it here, meeting different people. It's very good dancing—I've really enjoyed it. All the Indigenous people represent Laura Festival ground and we are here to show the European people that everyone is welcome." - Nathan  
"I am seeing a lot of different painting styles and different art. I've met different artists and have been able to see their work and their stories. They are very nice." - Bruce



Janette Lowdown at Laura helps sell locally-made arts and crafts.



The Wik and Kugu Arts and Crafts Centre in Aurukun shows off its work at the festival

## Arts and craft on show

Janette Lowdown was enjoying the atmosphere while selling locally made arts and crafts.

"I'm from Laura and I'm enjoying the festival. We are selling locally-made arts and crafts from different communities. There's jewellery, small Aboriginal bags, reversible bags and cushions. It's been going good. We've had a few buyers."



A trademark dog sculpture from Aurukun.



# Dance stirs memories

**Traditional Owner, Michael Ross, explains why it's more than just a festival.**



Traditional owner Michael Ross says the festival means a lot to him.

### *How many Laura festivals have you been to?*

Everyone, since day one. I've lost count; from the one that started in Cooktown, to Hope Vale, right through.

### *What does this festival mean to you? Why is it important?*

This is the oldest festival in Australia, held on the oldest 'Laura sandstone painting' in the world. It's not just a festival; it's more than that. This festival, in the earlier stages, brought all the traditional people back to show their dance. This has been happening a very long time, before the festival started, where you could see different tribes or people, costumes, groups, song and paint. It really means a lot to me: it brings back memories of old people passing messages over to the young ones through their dance. In the years I've been going I've seen many old people come here, then they die. You lose them but the dance still goes on.

### *So young people learn the stories of the dances?*

They know the (dance) moves and later on they will understand the story behind the dance and the songs and how to pass the story down. That's how I see this festival.

### *And non-Indigenous people are able to learn about traditional dance too?*

It's very rare for the broad public to witness (traditional dance). They witness something they're not supposed to see really—it used to be only the tribal people see it. They will see it but we will understand it.

### *Did you ever dance?*

I used to dance when I was younger. You don't forget the dance and I can understand what they are talking about. Every dance I see I get meaning out of it. My tribe is the Olkola people. We have never put our dancers in (the festival).

### *Do you think the Olkola people will one day dance here?*

Maybe. The Olkola people received all their land back on 10th December last year. We are just taking our young people home now so it's time to find our old Elders to bring their dance out.



The CYE team were on hand to feed the hungry festival crowd.

One of the "hottest" acts at Laura was the Cape York Employment catering van, which sold almost 4000 take-away servings of mouth-watering dishes such as coconut curry chicken, Thai green curry, marinated pork and chicken vermicelli—in the space of 48 hours. The CYE staff were ably assisted by Coen job seekers who recently completed a food handling course.

## From Lockhart River to Laura

**Daphney Claimont of the Kuuku-Ya'u people comes to Laura every year.**

### *Have you been to the festival before?*

We always come to Laura for the festival. On the first day we did some smoke ceremony to open the field.

### *How many dancers are with you?*

We have about 30 in the dance. We have our Rangers from Lockhart, our Mayor and Deputy Mayor and singers here too.

### *What do you enjoy about the festival aside from the dancing?*

We meet some families from the Stolen Generation in one place. We see different people every year. The main protocol is cultural awareness for everyone.

### *Why is it important for the younger people to dance?*

"To carry on our culture and traditional dance. It's sharing and learning."



Daphney Claimont came to the festival with Lockhart River dancers.







Djarragun College student Johnathan Toby began dancing when he was in Grade 5.

# Djarragun dancers

**Johnathan Toby, 17, was one of nine dancers from Djarragun College to perform at the festival.**

***How long have you been dancing?***

Since I was in Grade 5, when I was at the Malu Kiai Mura Buai (dance troupe). I started practising after school and we had to train hard, before we went to Thursday Island for the culture festival. We won there and we had to go to Melbourne to dance. I stopped dancing for a while and then started dancing again in school last year.

***So you also learn the meaning of the dance?***

We are taught the meaning of the dances when we are young. We learn more and more dances and some we use for special occasions.

***Do you get nervous when you have to perform?***

I'm shaking, but somehow we have to step up and be confident. I tell the younger ones to go out and be proud.

# Take a bow, Bama Services

**The show must go on—and Bama Services made sure it did.**

Some of the stars of the Laura Dance Festival never performed on centre stage—they built it!

Cairns-based Indigenous construction and landscaping business, Bama Services, played a crucial role in preparing the site beforehand and making sure things ran smoothly behind the scenes throughout the three-day event.

“We helped set up for the Festival and had maintenance responsibilities,” said Bama Services carpenter, Nathan Vanderpluym. “We got the ground ready, landscaping and mowing the grass, and we fixed up the stage. We also did some plumbing work for the showers and we kept the toilets and showers clean.”

From maintaining the plumbing and power supply through to keeping the toilets well stocked with loo paper, no job was too big or too small for the Bama team.

Bama Services also ran a stall at the festival to promote their business and spread the word about job opportunities for Indigenous workers.

“It’s the first time we’ve had a stall at the festival and it went well,” said Bama Services Administration/Support and Wellbeing assistant, Kayla Mallie. “It’s great to be here. People have been interested and asking questions about what we do.”



Kayla Mallie and Nathan Vanderpluym at the Bama Services stall.





# Colouring her world

**MOSSMAN GORGE FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSIONER, KAREN GIBSON, WEARS MANY HATS AND IS A WOMEN OF MANY TALENTS**

**T**here is a constant tug-of-war between Karen’s urge to paint the stories of her family—and her social commitment to help paint a brighter future for the Mossman Gorge community.

Both endeavours have brought her recognition. Earlier this year, she received the Order of Australia honour for her work as a Family Responsibilities Commissioner, while her art is nationally acclaimed and has attracted buyers from interstate and overseas.

“I am wearing too many hats at the moment,” she admits with a laugh. Art is her calling. “God gifted me with

being an artist when I was born,” she said. “I just have to use it and express it more ... the question is when and how?”

**“God gifted me with being an artist when I was born. I just have to use it and express it more... the question is when and how?”**

With connection to both Kuku Yalanji and Kuku Ngunkal peoples, she is dedicated to community. “Being part of

people’s journeys, helping to influence positive changes in their wellbeing,” she said.

Apart from her FRC responsibilities, she is also the acting chairperson of Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Inc. and a board member of the Cape York Land Council. “I could be a glutton for punishment,” she chuckles.

### **Born artist**

Karen, who grew up in Mialo, just north of Mossman, can’t remember a time when she didn’t love art.

“I had a really serious relationship with pens and paper—almost an obsession,”





culture until I was 21,” she said. “That’s when I finally got to really know my grandfather. It’s just a matter of opening the door and asking questions. I was fascinated.”

### Respect for women

Karen’s cultural heritage began to spring to life through her art.

“She’s got her great-grandfather running through her,” her mother, Isobella Ross-Kelly said. She is also a story-teller and source of inspiration for her daughter’s art. Or as Karen’s son, Hadlee, put it: “Grandma is a story-teller. Mum tells those stories through her painting.”

Many of Karen’s best-known works to date, such as *Women’s Business*, highlight the important role of women in traditional Indigenous societies: gathering wild berries and fruits, digging yams, and collecting clams and mussels.

These paintings capture a vibrant sense of dignity—which Karen also strives to inspire through her FRC role. She and the other two commissioners at Mossman Gorge (both women) have worked hard to build self-respect surrounding women’s issues.

“Some people are not frightened anymore to pick up the phone and call the police,” she said. “They realise they don’t have to put up with abuse. They have just as much rights as anyone else.

“Although with some people, we are still working to change their mind frame.”

### Emotional inspiration

Karen, a widow, cherishes her own family time. The mother of three adult sons, she currently lives with Hadlee and his two young sons, aged five and two—“plus a six-year-old boy I claimed”.

“At home, I’m a different person. I am a mum and a grandma. There is that respect for me from my sons,” she said.

Karen doesn’t have an art studio at home. And she doesn’t like to “label” her art, she paints with diverse style.

“My art reflects my moods, how I feel at the time,” she said simply.

When Princess Diana died in 1997, the Mossman Gorge artist did a painting “out of sadness”.

“I did it just for her family,” she said. “I didn’t even take a photograph of it. I felt I could express what I felt and put it on canvas to get some sort of release on an artistic level.”

When an English friend returned to Britain, he contacted Diana’s ancestral



**“My art reflects my mood, how I feel at the time.”**

home, Althorp, in Northamptonshire, to deliver the painting.

Weeks later, Karen received a letter of thanks from Earl Spencer, Diana’s brother. Global or personal, “there are still some sad times I wish to address on canvas,” Karen said.

### Political art

Then there are her “political” works, painted to the sounds of “an occasional dose of political music”.

“My sons have sometimes had to explain to their mates that it’s their mum playing heavy metal in our house,” she said, “but that rarely happens now. Thank goodness for earphones!

“Why does this music make me want to paint? The theory would have to be the political statement that this sort of music expresses: it encourages an energy to release what I feel inside.

“But my political side is a secret between me, *Rage against the Machine* and *Midnight Oil*,” she added with a smile.

Some years ago, Karen and a group of her people were invited to “go walkabout in the forest” with the environment-conscious lead singer of *Midnight Oil*, Peter Garrett, then share a take-away meal in Cape Tribulation.

“He was sitting just two metres away,” recalls Karen. “My niece was saying to me, ‘Tell him’, but I didn’t.

“Although, I managed to smile at him while I was chewing my burger,” she recalled with a chuckle.

Karen may not have caught the rock singer’s attention, but others—including strangers—are instinctively drawn to this magnetic artist. She not only “paints from the heart”, but also colours the world around her.

she said. “I got into trouble at school at times, because I was always drawing in my books.”

She enjoyed a close relationship with her grandfather, George Kulka Senior.

“He had a lot of time for me,” she said. “We used to try help out with his gardening, he had chickens and ducks where he lived.”

But it wasn’t until Karen reached adulthood that she began to question her grandfather about her cultural heritage, as a member of the Kuku Yalanji people.

“I really didn’t appreciate much about my



# Sacred site, women's challenge

## MORE WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO PROTECT A SITE SACRED TO THEM

In the Annan River area south of Cooktown, lies a remote lagoon where water lilies emerge from the water and stand as sentinels.

Pooles Lagoon, as it is known today, is a site sacred to the women of the Yuku-Baja-Muliku people, the Traditional Owners of the land.

The site is such a closely guarded secret that even Larissa Hale, a Traditional Owner and managing director of Yuku-Baja-Muliku Landowners and Reserves, was unaware of its significance until

area from feral animals and invasive weed species.

"My aunt and grandmother were visiting me at the time. They told me that the men should not be there," said Larissa.

Since then, the site has been tended by a sole female ranger, Joyce Henderson with Larissa's assistance.

"For workplace health and safety reasons, there needs to be two women working on site at any one time," said Larissa.

Joyce has received conservation and land management training, including how to identify and spray weeds inside the perimeters of the one-kilometre fenced site, but they face an uphill battle to hold the fort against feral pigs and deer, as well as the relentless encroachment of a variety of weeds, including sicklepod, hymenachne and lantana.

**"We need to build pride in women that they can do it just as well as the men."**

local rangers began to construct a fence around the lagoon in 2010 to protect the



Joyce Henderson—ranger



### MORE WOMEN NEEDED

The group wishes to recruit more female rangers, both to protect the sacred site and re-ignite the pride of the women who are the cultural heirs to this special place.

"The ranger program is seen as 'men's jobs'," said Larissa. "But women look at things differently out in the field. They are attuned to seeking out and tending bush foods and other traditional plants.

"We need to build pride in women, they can do it just as well as the men."

The future of the lagoon—and other women's sacred sites in the area—depend upon it.

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**CAPE** MAGAZINE



# **Snapshot** *Aurukun*



Camp Dog by Bevan Namponan – BEFORE



Camp Dog by Bevan Namponan – AFTER



Camp Dog by Leigh Namponan – BEFORE



Camp Dog by Leigh Namponan – AFTER

## DOG SHOW, WOOLLOONGABBA ART GALLERY IN BRISBANE

Dog Show was held at Woolloongabba Art Gallery in Brisbane and featured Camp Dog sculptures by Aurukun artists Bevan Namponan and Leigh Namponan. The sculptures by both artists were sold on opening night of the Dog Show on 8 May 2015.

## SHOOTING STARS



The young basketballers hit the court most afternoons after school.

Five-year-old Althea showed her basketball skills and managed to sink some hoops despite her small size.

Asked why she loves playing basketball she said: "Because I want to learn how to do teamwork".



## WIK VISIT BORROLOOLA MINE



Wik native title holders were invited by senior Traditional Owners of Borroloola to hear first hand about problems with Swiss mining giant Glencore. The Wik people want the right to decide and are worried about Glencore coming onto their country.







# A unique, new boarding school

**YOUNG MOTHERS ARE SAYING A SCHOOL LIKE THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN STARTED YEARS AGO AND ARE EXCITED TO SEE THE GIRL ACADEMY OPEN IN 2016 AT WANGETTI**

A group of young Cape York mothers spent a day at the new Girl Academy at Wangetti to learn more about the school and to provide valuable input into how the school can best cater for teen mothers.

Over the years much focus has been on young men in need of support to get their education and life skills on track. Strong women of Cape York have been calling for solutions for our girls who are finding themselves out of education and out of work.

Fiona Jose, General Manager of Cape York Partnership said that when Cape York Indigenous girls fall pregnant while still going to school, it usually means an end to their education. "This has such serious, ongoing negative impact throughout life and onto their children's lives that something must be done."

"The Girl Academy is especially for girls and their babies to live and learn together.

"While Grandmothers and Aunties are over the moon about the school, we are working with young women to make sure that everything young mothers need to succeed is in place for the start of school in 2016," Ms Jose said.

## YOUNG WOMEN VISIT

Anastasia Sagaukaz, 23 of Bamaga, now living with her partner and 10 month old son in Mossman said if young mothers can finish their

education they will be able to get a job and support their family.

"They will be able to find good jobs and make a good lifestyle to raise their children and their children's children.

"It is in the best location beside the beach, lots of fresh air, good environment, good atmosphere, only short way, 20 minutes to the city and Mossman.

"I would recommend it to a lot of young girls. I would come here if I were school age.

**This is a good opportunity to set their goal and career here and start a new life with their bubba.**

**ANASTASIA SAGAUKAZ**

"I reckon this is a good place for young mothers a good opportunity for them to set their goal and career here and to start a new life with their bubba."

## STARTS 2016

In the first year, the Girl Academy will cater for 20 young girls and their babies aged 0-2 years. It is hoped the school

will then expand in later years to cater for young women who have dropped out of school for other reasons.

Grandmother Kathi Gibson-Steffensen said she thinks it should have been done years ago, "We have a lot of girls who have had babies when they were young and I guess being in the community, once you have a baby, that's it for us, our job as women is to look after that child."

"Our young mothers in the community have a chance to shine with this new Girl Academy. This is a second chance for them."





Education

Swimming pool for relaxation and lessons



Family can visit and stay at the school.



The girls can make this school their 'home-away-from-home'.



Young mums complete their education and training. Pictured: Anastasia Sagaukaz.



Library facilities



Teen mums learn to care for themselves and their babies. Pictured: Shaneen Cannon with Anastasia's baby Ernie.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE**

Shaneen Cannon, of Hope Vale said that the early childhood centre on site makes the school unique. "They will have their children right there while they are studying, that's the beautiful thing." "Girls can be girls and can not only finish their high school certificate but they can achieve certificates in Child Care and in Business. "The facilities are amazing. Mothers and babies will have their own room. It's away from everything—you are able to concentrate here. "You are here in this beautiful place and able to learn to do your schooling and be a better mum as well. "It's in a good spot—it has lots of open space, kids love space, young ones love to run—you can take your kids down to the beachside for a walk or fishing."

**FAMILY VISITS**

"Grandmothers and aunties can come and stay. There is a basketball court, a library, a swimming pool to enjoy and to have swimming lessons. I think it's good from a cultural perspective. Just being around other women and women staff will be good," Anastasia added. While the girls are doing class work their babies will be in the early childhood centre with the other mums. Then they rotate and look after the children while the other mums are doing class work. The girls will be learning to care for babies and achieving their childcare certificate.

**The Girl Academy is recruiting teenage mothers now for the opening of the boarding school in January 2016.**



**GIRL ACADEMY**

**Recruiting NOW FOR 2016**

**For more information contact:  
Hayley Williams 0438 610 671  
hwilliams@cyp.org.au**





# All aboard!

## CHILDREN IN PORMPURAAW AND COEN DOVE RIGHT INTO THE SUPKIDS WATER SAFETY PROGRAM

The SUPKids team generated waves of enthusiasm when they visited Pormpuraaw and Coen recently to teach stand up paddle boarding and water safety skills to local children.

SUPKids is an educational program designed to provide children living in remote communities with an opportunity to develop water skills that could save lives, as well as introduce the youngsters to an exciting new recreational activity.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service helped to launch the program across Cape York last year and has once again partnered with the SUPKids team to promote water safety in the region this year.

The students from Pormpuraaw State School were certainly keen to make a splash during their SUPKids session.

“They didn’t want it to end,” observed SUPKids heach coach, Linzi Wilson.

“It was wonderful watching the children have so much fun while learning vital water safety skills. And seeing them gain

confidence as they discovered they could learn stand up paddle boarding in one day was inspiring.”

Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation, Acting CEO and Child Care Director, Erin Kendall, was also pleased.

“For me, a water safety program like the SUPKids program is an absolute priority,” she said.

“Kids here are in contact with the water all the time, yet have next to no water safety knowledge that may help when it counts.”

### River safety

Coen youngsters also took to the SUPKids program like ducks to water. They may not be beach babies, but they spend a lot of time around local waterways, including The Bend, where the SUPKids team conducted their session.

Before diving in for a stand up paddle boarding lesson, they spent time on the riverbank learning about safe use of waterways, caring for the environment, and how to identify water hazards.





**“These kind of activities increase confidence in and out of the water.”**

**TAHNEE CREEK**

They also had enjoyed practising “rope rescues”. Like the children in Pormpuraaw, the Coen kids had little or no knowledge of water safety skills before the SUPKids team arrived, according to Coen Kindergarten Association spokeswoman, Tahnee Creek.

“These kinds of activities increase confidence in and out of the water,” she added.

SUPKids co-founder, Kate Wilcomes, is happy that the program has been embraced so warmly by Cape communities.

“We had a great day at The Bend and are leaving with the knowledge that these kids have learnt basic water safety skills and water awareness,” she said.

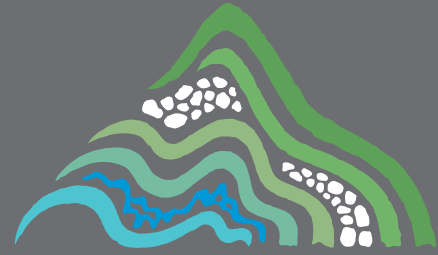


**For further information** about the SUPKids program, please visit: [www.sup-kids.com](http://www.sup-kids.com)





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# Coming “home” to Djarragun

## NAOMI WARRINER EMBRACES HER NEW ROLE AT DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

The new Deputy Principal of Djarragun College, Naomi Warriner, is right where she wants to be.

Naomi has been a distant—admirer of the college for several years prior to her recent appointment. Her teaching experience at Perth’s Wesley College, which has a program for Indigenous boarders, inspired her to pursue Indigenous education.

As a consultant with the Cape York Academy (CYA) Naomi has provided advice on how to implement the Australian Curriculum. “I became very aware of Noel Pearson as a game changer in education in the Cape York Welfare Reform communities of Aurukun, Coen and Hope Vale.”

“The penny dropped! That’s where I knew I wanted to be—using my skills to make a contribution.”

Soon after, she moved her family from Western Australia to Cairns. She first took up a position as Head of Humanities at Trinity Anglican School, but jumped at the chance to join Djarragun College just over two years later.

“It’s exactly the role I wanted,” she said.

“It’s challenging, but also incredibly rewarding. There is so much potential at Djarragun College. I see a great future for the students and the staff.”

“There is a fantastic group of teachers here,” she said. Canadian-born Naomi, who has spent 25 years teaching in regional



“The culture at Djarragun College is very vibrant, very supportive and very proud.”

communities in Canada and Australia, says she is finally “home”. “My husband and I have built a house here in Cairns,” she said. “We are committed to this community and its future... and the future of Djarragun College.

“I have always had a feeling that the future is something that teachers can make a mark upon and a great contribution towards. You want to leave the world a better place,” she said.

### WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING AT DJARRAGUN?



On 4 September, 11 Djarragun College Year 12 students joined other local high school students to check out Central Queensland University’s new lecture rooms and study spaces here in Cairns.



All present! Djarragun College primary students proudly display the certificates they received in recognition of their 100 percent attendance records in week six of the third term.



Lower primary students recently got the opportunity to undertake some scientific experiments, with the assistance of Year 9 students.



At the end of term two, Djarragun College farewelled Deputy Principal Wellbeing, Francesca Shankaran, fondly known to many of the students as “Mama Shanks”.



# facebook Highlights



## Cape York Leaders Program

573 Likes



Sharon Phineasa with Urina getting their yearly sports shoes for school.



Smiles all around for a great informative day at QUT.



Our Deadly Academic Leaders from Marist College Ashgrove.



Jari spoke Wik to a young boy who has been playing up. The little lad was very engaged.



Jari and Deshawn speak at their old school assembly in Aurukun about their experiences in boarding school.



Brisbane-based Academic Leaders participated in the annual 'Michael Long' Walk to the GABBA.



How Deadly are our students representing and celebrating culture at Coen's NAIDOC celebrations.



Senior Boys rehearsing their dance routine for the Talent Night at the Leadership Camp at Sunshine Coast.



Tamara sending Schasle and Jasmine off to get a taste of uni life with 'Murrup Barak Experience Camp'.



Jump on our facebook page to see more from Cape York Leaders Program. Support us by liking our page and sharing our news [facebook.com/CYLeadersProgram](https://facebook.com/CYLeadersProgram).



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## EXCELLING LEADERS INVESTIGATE HOW THE HUMAN BRAIN INFLUENCES TEAM WORK

**G**ood teachers not only teach—they also continue to learn. In late July, Melissa Browne graduated from the Excelling Leaders program, along with seven fellow students from Aurukun, Hope Vale and Coen. Melissa is now the training and development co-ordinator. The program is designed to enhance the ability of Indigenous leaders to build strong, cohesive teams under their leadership, through greater understanding of how the human brain

works and how that—in turn—influences the way people work together. Based on neuroscience, (the study of the brain and nervous system), this field of training is globally recognised and utilised by the corporate sector in Australia. However, CYLP is the only Indigenous organisation in this country to deliver such training. The Excelling Leaders participants have completed four intensive, block training sessions in Cairns over the past 12 months.

“We have been learning the framework of neuroscience: learning what the brain needs to help a team member develop a strong sense of belonging and perform to the best of their ability,” said Melissa. “There are six social needs that influence the brain in this area: relatedness, expression, leading the pack, interpersonal connection, seeing the facts, and hope for the future. “We use the acronym, RELISH,” Melissa added with a smile.

## How has the program benefited you and what have

It’s taught me how to tolerate different people a lot more, but also looking at myself and my own behaviours so people don’t have to tolerate me.

– Tamara Hunting

Understanding who you are as an individual, where you come from, your triggers, understanding others and how you react and respond to them. I think it’s the best thing that ever happened to me —I started believing in myself.

– Audrey Deemal

Understanding the process of going from point A to point B. Sometimes people have to know the in-betweens to help others.

– Gerald Tamwoy

Meeting and getting to know everyone. RELISH—for me, personally and in my work, would be how to apply it. Because I know there will be benefits once applied—really good outcomes. In my new role as Mediation Coordinator with Aurukun Justice Group, I’ll be using what I’ve learnt here and working closely with the school.

– Keri Tamwoy





Melissa's fellow Excelling Leaders study group: Shaneen Cannon, Lenore Casey, Gerald Tamwoy, Keri Tamwoy, Tamara Hunting, Audrey Deemal, Harold Ludwick

CYLP is the only Indigenous organisation in this country to deliver such training.

“Basically, it comes down to building a team where people feel safe, a sense of cohesion and belonging that enables them to express how they feel and contribute fully to the team.”

She is looking forward to utilising her new-found knowledge in her professional role as CYLP training and development coordinator, as well as in community—and even at home. “I am already using RELISH to assist my five year-old son, when he is feeling really frustrated,” she said with a grin.

## you got out of it?

Learning the RELISH model—that’s a framework that we do and in there is all the steps. Once you have a good understanding of it, it helps bring out a better version of yourself. It’s helping me to be a better person at work and at home.

—Shaneen Cannon



# Getting down to Business

## YOUTH LEADERS HONE THEIR BUSINESS SKILLS

The latest four students to graduate with a Certificate II in Business under the Youth Cape York Leadership Program, received an additional “A” for effort from CYLP training and development co-ordinator, Melissa Browne. “They were really good students and truly applied themselves to their studies,” she said.

Since October last year, the students, aged 18 to 24, have travelled from their home towns in Bamaga, Mapoon and Coen three times to undertake four-day training sessions with Skill360 in Cairns.

Prior to beginning their business studies with the training provider, the students first got together in Cairns in May 2014 to start developing their leadership and communication skills, as well as identify personal goals for the future.

It has been the perfect combination for me as a youth—being taught about leadership and business as well. **CYLP YOUTH LEADER, VALERIE WILLIAMS**

“They have improved so much since I first met them,” said Melissa. “They were all very quiet at the beginning. Now they are confident to get up and speak, and their computer skills have grown.”

The students completed 12 units of study for their Certificate II in Business, including subjects such as finance, cultural sensitivity and workplace behaviour. They also explored the ins and outs of establishing a micro-business (a business which operates with five or less employees).

“Some had already identified potential businesses they would consider starting in the future, including reef diving, online shopping, tutoring and a family tourism venture,” said Melissa.

With a Certificate II in Business under their belt, they are already better equipped to obtain employment and/or make progress in their workplace. And they have the right attitude to succeed.

“They are now confident young people, who have a vision for their future,” said Melissa.



# Investing in the future

KERI TAMWOY TALKS ABOUT INVESTING IN HER CHILDREN AND HER COMMUNITY

Along with a successful business in Aurukun, Keri Tamwoy and her husband, Gerald, are building a new generation of high-achievers.

"I personally believe and know that education begins at home," said Keri. "We, the parents, are the first teachers of our children." Keri and Gerald's six children are demonstrating just how much the next generation can achieve with strong parental support for their education. Their eldest daughter, Olive, graduated from the Navy last year; second daughter, Stephanie, is working for Rio Tinto in Weipa; and eldest son, Kemuel, is in his second year of justice studies at QUT.

The three younger boys are no slouches either. Elisha is in Year 12 at Brisbane Boy's College and contemplating a career as an architect, while the athletic Imani attends Stuartholme School in Toowong. The baby of the family—eight-year-old Gerald Jr—is in Year 3, but has bumped up to Year 6 level for some of his classes.

"All my kids were high achievers here at school and at Bamaga (where Gerald Senior is from)," said Keri.

"I personally believe and know that education begins at home."

She developed firm ideas about parenting long before her own children came along. Keri's mother, Alison Woolla, was Aurukun's first female mayor, a single mum. Keri had to care for her four younger siblings while her mother was away on work trips.

"My mother had rules and taught me how to take care of the house when I was young," she said.

## ON PARENTING

"Parenting is very hard. Children, especially teenage girls, tend to break your heart more."

She believes in setting boundaries for her children, but also treating them with respect.

"Always discipline them and make sure there are consequences for doing the wrong thing," she said. "But I am always respecting my child as an individual and respecting their space is one of the main things too."

"We, the parents, are the first teachers of our children."

Keri's grandfather came from Kendall River, her grandmother from the Love River area and she also has a connection to the north through her great-grandmother.

She and Gerald have built a successful trucking business over the last eight years, servicing Aurukun and other parts of the Cape like Bamaga.

## LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

They are passionate to see other local businesses succeed in Aurukun as well.

"Indigenous-owned businesses mean the money spins around here in Aurukun," said Keri. "We shop at the local shop, get fuel from here ... with outside contractors, the money doesn't stay here."

"It would be preferable and so much more sustainable if these contractors joint-ventured, or joint-partnered with local businesses. It keeps the money here and it keeps people employed."

Keri is strongly aware of the link between education and local employment opportunities. Young people in the community were being helped by training courses, she observed, but it was critical that there be a job at the end of it.

"These are our next leaders and next lot of people that are going to be something in this community," she said.

Keri and Gerald are keen to see members of the next generation step up to the mark.

"As a family we can only do so much, so the next step has to be the individual, in how they see themselves," said Keri. "It only takes one person's influence (to make change) and then it's up to the next person."



# Targeting Military Careers

## DJARRAGUN STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT LIFE IN THE MILITARY

Australian Defence Force officers painted an exciting picture of military career options for Djarragun students during a recent visit.

Sergeant Annie Dufficy, an administration clerk, said her job involved a lot more than processing people's pay, leave and travel.

"Even if you are an admin clerk, you are a sailor or a soldier first," she said. "You get a lot of free flights on helicopters if you are working for aviation. You can work with the artillery unit and blow stuff up."

Sergeant Dufficy told the Years 10, 11 and 12 students that a fight in Year 9 led her to a job in the ADF.

"I was given the choice of either being expelled from school or joining the army cadets," she said.

The Federal Government wants three percent of Indigenous representation in the ADF by 2017. Flight Sergeant Donald Taylor said this was currently tracking at about 2.7 percent, providing a "big opportunity" for Indigenous people to find a defence job.

"I was a country kid coming from the bush, who entered the Australian Defence Force," he said. "I'm now trying to encourage all the young ones to consider the ADF as a place of employment."

Sergeant Taylor told the students he was unsure about his career path after school. "I see my face in every single one of you," he said. "Think about where you want to be in five years' time and start setting your targets toward that."

Djarragun College Deputy Principal, said the students were "very intrigued" to hear about the benefits of a career in the army, navy or air force.

"It strengthened the resolve of a few Year



Warrant Officer Class One Ken Nelliman, Flight Sergeant Donald Taylor and Army Artilleryman John Murphy with year 12 students Stanton Waia and Nathan Parker. RIGHT: Army Artilleryman John Murphy challenges students to a push-up challenge as Sergeant Annie Dufficy watches on.

12's to pursue a defence career, after follow-up discussions with the Canberra-based Recruitment Team," she said.

Djarragun Year 12 students, Stanton Waia and Nathan Parker, have already filled out their application forms.

Stanton said joining the ADF and becoming a vehicle mechanic or metalsmith would fulfil a lifelong dream and continue a family tradition.

“My dream is to be alongside my brother in the Army.”

NATHAN PARKER

"My grandfather and my great-grandfather fought in World War II," Stanton said. "My great-grandfather is still alive—he is 98 this year."

Nathan said his brother, who also attended Djarragun College, inspired his decision to apply.

"I'm following my brother's path. He's a Private in the Infantry and he's 19. My dream is to be alongside my brother in the army," he said.

Students heard about the various job options, starting salaries and entry requirements for the ADF. They discovered that there are more



than 200 jobs in the ADF across trades, management, engineering, communications and IT, aviation, combat security, logistics, hospitality and support, healthcare and science, and business and administration.

The visitors even put some of the students through a push-up challenge to demonstrate the minimum fitness requirements needed to join the ADF.

Sergeant Dufficy said soldiers, sailors and airmen were looked after by the ADF, something she experienced when she broke her front teeth and hurt her shoulder playing rugby.

"I was given top dental and medical care free of charge," she said. "I ended up in the same hospital as Jonathan Thurston!"

She added that ANZAC Day was now more meaningful to her.

"It means a lot more on ANZAC Day, when you see Indigenous people in uniform," she said.





# Binnier thurrbil

## HOPE VALE IS STRONG

### MEN'S SHED IS BUILDING STRONG MEN FROM THE RED DIRT THROUGH TRUST AND SUPPORT

At first glance, the shed on Flierl Street in Hope Vale looks like most other work sheds.

Inside there is a large table, some tools and a skilled craftsman has made a timber seat. Yet, for the last six years, every Tuesday at 5.30pm, more than woodwork has been happening here.

Up to 20 men—some as young as 14, others as young as 70—gather around the big table. “This is a place where young fellas can come to connect with the older men. It’s a place where they can speak their mind.”

So says John Riley, the QLD Royal Flying Doctor Service Community Counsellor and Development Officer, who participates in the Men’s Group and drives the men to fishing expeditions, to collect timber for Nulla Nulla’s, boomerangs, bull roarers and spears or to re-connect with country. As well as a place for dinner and a yarn, the Men’s Shed has become a place where men can find support to help deal with loss, family or legal problems.

They know that what’s said in the shed stays in the shed. For Gavin Creek, the group is about friendship and trust: “We trust each other, tell our men’s secrets and it doesn’t get out. We keep it confidential,” he said.

Silas Gordon agrees: “We come with no agenda. We sit down and yarn. “Some

**“We trust each other, tell our men’s secrets and it doesn’t get out.”**

**GAVIN CREEK**

(younger men) have been in the prison and we say to them, ‘no don’t take that track, keep away from drugs.’ People will listen to us because they know we’re experienced.” Apunipima Cape York Health Council Men’s Health worker, David Nicholls, says the men share information and knowledge from their respective networks.

“We all come from other networks like

Apunipima and the school to be part of the group. It’s a good information sharing session.

“The men know I work in the clinic so they come down, get their health checks done at the clinic. Men’s health issues come up in the discussion too.”

Sometimes visitors such as a local doctor or policeman attend meetings. Representatives from the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service in Townsville along with men from Mornington Island, have also attended to see how the Men’s Group works. The Men’s Group has also hosted visiting men from other communities in Cape York such as from Aurukun.

Importantly, the Men’s Group enables young men to connect with Elders who pass on traditional knowledge.

Last December, the group organised the first Yungee on Country Healing Camp for Men, with the support of Culture is Life, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Hope



Vale Wellbeing Centre (Wawu Dabaar Bayan). This Camp had 10 participants with youngest being 14 years-old and the oldest, 68. The group has also been behind community events such as a 20km-plus Walkathon where more than 100 people walked from Hope Vale to Elim Beach. Harold Ludwick, from Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, said the support group provided an opportunity for men to take responsibility and leadership in their affairs. “The Men’s Shed gives us a voice that helps change the paradigm from invisible to visible,” he said. “Our 40,000 year Aboriginal structure—the structure that had been fractured along with our spirit—must be recognised and respected.” According to John Riley the Men’s Group

**The Men’s Shed gives us a voice that helps change the paradigm from invisible to visible.**  
**HAROLD LUDWICK**

“turned a corner” in the last 18 months and the meetings have become less about “yarning” and more about prioritising for the future.

“Men want to move it forward,” he said.

“We want to create an economic arm to the Men’s Group as a way of reducing dependency on welfare and providing business opportunities for men in Hope Vale.”

The men are keen to source funding for a part-time coordinator to run the group and to pay for a dedicated vehicle.

Uncle Trevor Bambie says both would enable the group to become more independent and to earn some money to fund the group’s activities.

“We need a vehicle urgently to help get the load off John (driving us around),” Trevor said.

“We can use it to go out fishing, on camping trips, to get firewood to sell. We can take young men out to country.” The men are yet to find financial support but they aren’t giving up.

“Having a vehicle and part-time coordinator job for a local man would help create an economic arm to the Men’s Group,” John Riley said. “This is a way of trying to reduce dependency on welfare and to provide business opportunities for men in Hope Vale.”



More than a typical work space.



David Nicholls, Trent Grayson, John Riley, Silas Gordon, Trevor Bambie, Gavin Creek and Phillip Missionary.



John Riley, David Nicholls and Trent Grayson.



A timber seat made by the men.



# Money Sense



Handy hints to make your money go further!

## Keeping COOL

### in tough times

**"It's my goal to be independent and not rely on family."**

**Leah Kerr's MPower journey is both extraordinary and inspirational.**

When her fridge broke down she had no way of storing her lifesaving insulin, or food and bottles for her two year old. Unable to afford a new fridge, she resorted to using the freezer and removed insulin and bottles before they started to freeze.

"I was stressed and worried where the next fridge would come from because I didn't want to go through high-finance rent to buy options.

"Being a single mother, it's hard to save, financially difficult to save at times.

MPower Coach-Consultant Zeila Wallace heard of Leah's situation and introduced

her to NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme).

"I was overjoyed because I could buy food to store. I no longer had to store things in the freezer and remove them throughout the day.

"Through MPower I learned that there are other advances, and ways of getting items, without paying back a high payment with no excess fees or extra costs.

"And you don't have to worry about the money coming out of your account. It's done automatically and will stop when the fridge is paid off.

"I am so proud to own a brand new stainless steel fridge. I found the payments affordable. I found the



With the support of MPower, Leah has a new fridge to store her life-saving medication.

application process good. Everything was accessible online."

Her quote to live by: "Believe in yourself and you can achieve your goals."

**COOL**  
*ideas*  
to save money



# HELP with my money worry



Junju Warra Elder Mrs Ella Woibo was 'restless' stressing about paying off a water pump for the farm house and came to MPower for advice.

"My husband and I are on a pension and were worried about paying off the water pump. I thought about MPower and that I might get help, so I did."

"I was so excited that I got help to make the payment. I didn't need to worry about the payments coming out, I could just sit back happy knowing the payments were coming out of my account each fortnight (via direct debit)"

"I feel good, proud and happy now that I have no more bills and the payments are all done so I have money for myself to spend. I was able to budget around the payments. Me and my husband managed fine on the money we had.

"I learned that I could stick to my payments and now I want to buy items for my house for after the renovation. I'm looking forward to having my house renovated and decorating it with new items."

## HINTS & TIPS

### Shop around online

Visit a range of store websites, so you can compare prices and make sure you get the best deal.



If you need insurance for your home, car, contents or health, **visit a website that can help you find the most suitable insurance policy** for your needs. For example: [www.comparethemarket.com](http://www.comparethemarket.com) or [www.iselect.com.au](http://www.iselect.com.au)

**Check how much each store charges for freight** or postage, as this can turn a great buy into a not-so-great buy.



#### Clean your fridge seals

If your fridge or freezer is not working properly, it will use more electricity and that will cost you more money. A simple tip is to keep the seals clean so that the doors close properly.



#### Clean the air-con filter

If it is dirty, the air conditioner has to work harder to cool the air—and that means it will use more electricity and cost you more money.

#### Been meaning to replacing that old freezer?

Now is the time to think about it! Think of all the food you could bulk buy and store in a chest freezer.



# “Without MPower, I wouldn't have my beast.”

“More of our people should go to MPower and fulfil their stories and dreams.”

**MPower**

Roy Gibson of Mossman Gorge worked closely with MPower to achieve his goal of buying this “beast”—his car. His next goal is home ownership.



**O-HUB**

CAPE YORK PARTNERSHIP  
*Responsibility • Opportunity • Freedom*

**Start your MPower journey today**

*Aurukun • Coen • Hope Vale • Mossman Gorge*



# A rescue Mission

Wuwaa.

## THE HOPE VALE COMMUNITY BUILT THEIR CHURCH WITH THEIR BARE HANDS AND IS DETERMINED TO ENSURE IT LIVES ON

Pastoral services reach far from Hope Vale to Wujal Wujal and Coen, but the future of this country parish is under threat with funding sources drying up.

The Church Elders and community leaders have rallied to save the Church and its spiritual support, launching a campaign that they hope will see the Church flourish for a long time to come.

"We sing our hymns in our language, we celebrate the birth of our children, our marriages, and farewell our old people here," a church Elder said.

Chair of the Church Council June Pearson said, "The Church is more than a building, it is the people that make our Church."

"Together we can save our Church. If every Wujal, Coen and Hope Vale person signs on to this appeal we will achieve a great thing for our future and our old people."

### A PLACE OF HISTORY AND HOPE

Herman Bambie, a Church and community Elder helped build the St John's Church where he would later marry his sweetheart Myrtle.

**Herman Bambie, Church Elder:** "To me, why Hope Vale is a strong community, is because of the Elders of this community. Many of them have passed on their faith that was strong and it's been passed down to us and we passed it down to our children. The Church is the centre of the community. I was in my twenties then when we started cutting timber out (to build the Church). There was no chainsaw, it was a cross saw and there was no dozer. When the Church was finished they wanted a steward to run the Church and I was picked as a young man. I see Pastors come and go but even on my retirement I still do Church work. Our old people aren't here with us, they have passed on. But they've left this behind for us to carry on. I hope that won't die out, for the young people to keep it going. The Church was important to them."

**Myrtle Bambie, Church Elder:** "We were married on 2nd June, 54 years ago. We were married in the Hope Vale Church. It was a happy day. There was no motor cars—we had to walk from home up to the church and back home. We packed out every seat in the Church. In those days the Church was full. For myself, I went to Wontulp training to be an Elder and I passed it and I help our Pastor today in the Church. We were taught when we were still young and we thank them for teaching us to live in the Christian way. We've got four girls and one boy. We want them to have a happy future."

Support the church, join our Facebook page



[www.facebook.com/  
stjohnslutheranchurch](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranchurch)



Hope Vale community launches the Wuwaa campaign to save their Church.



Herman Bambie helped to build the Church then married his sweetheart Myrtle there.



The Congress of Clans and the Hope Vale Shire Council kick-started the appeal by donating funds and committing to an annual contribution. Pictured Mayor Greg McLean, Pastor David Spanagel and Deputy Mayor June Pearson



A young girl with her hair in a bun is captured in a traditional Aboriginal dance performance. She wears a black halter-neck top and a long, flowing skirt made of dried grass or reeds. Her hands are extended in a graceful pose. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with colorful banners.

*Amazing images  
that celebrate  
the beauty, the  
people, places  
and stories  
of the world around us.*

*Laura Aboriginal Dance  
Festival 2015*