

Coffs Harbour & District

Local Aboriginal Land Council

The Members Newsletter

Issue 11: December 2017





Dear Members,

As we move into the festive season, Coffs Harbour and District LALC and



I would like to wish everyone a safe and merry time. I know as a parent I sometimes wished that school went all year, but as a kid, I couldn't wait for the Christmas holidays to start and never ever wanted them to finish.

Reflecting on the short time that I have been here, I firstly want to thank our Board for the effort that they have put in and for having the courage to make some of the big decisions that were in front of them. I would also like to congratulate and thank our staff who have done a great job. I would like to thank our members, our tenants, our community organisations and community members for their support and contribution to the improvement of Coffs Harbour and District LALC during 2017.

Personally, the challenges to both the organisation and myself that have revealed themselves over the course of the year were demanding and sometimes deflating. However, during the moments when we achieved and satisfied the requirements these challenges



brought, it was exhilarating. In addressing the challenges, the best interests of Coffs Harbour and district LALC and our broader community were foremost in my thinking and actions. We took every challenge head on, repaired or developed relationships and currently things are looking better than ever for Coffs Harbour and District LALC.

Again, I wish all our community the best for the upcoming festive season and hope you get to celebrate and enjoy all that makes you happy.

Regards

Greg Douglas

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Upcoming Meetings

Next Board Meeting:

To be Advised

Next Members Meeting:

Tuesday 12th December 2018

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Good News Section

August 2017 – Koori Comedy Night

Big Congratulations to our Lachlan Skinner. For organising a night that many won't forget! The first "Koori Comedy Night" that Coffs Harbour has ever seen. 3 of Australia's Biggest Aboriginal Celebrities on one Saturday Night. Black Comedy Superstar Steven Oliver, Whiteblackatcha's Andy Saunders and the #1 Female Aboriginal Comedian Shiralee Hood touch down in Coffs Harbour on the 26th August 2017 for a night they never expected. An audience with visitors from as far as Kempsey and Grafton with all 3 of the comedians having us in stitches all night long. Not forgetting about the incredible job that our very own Lachlan Skinner did hosting the night. He also was cracking the jokes alongside the Comedians and it was a deadly night for all involved.



September 2017 – NSWALC 40 Years Strong Gala Dinner.

On Friday 29th September 2017, mob from all around came together to celebrate the strength and achievements of the Land Rights network at the NSW Aboriginal Land Council's 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner at the International Convention Centre Sydney - ICC Sydney.

Board Members Yvette Pacey, Jenny Skinner and Fileisha Laurie with Staff Member Lachlan Skinner attended this beautiful occasion. From the Deadly food, friends, music and fun. We honored the Warriors who

fought for Land Rights and established NSWALC in 1977. Music performances included NAISDA Dance College, the beautiful Emma Donovan, X Factor Winner 2016 Isaiah Firebrace and Legendary Rock Band Coloured Stone.

It was truly a deadly night. CHDLALC Representative was thrilled to attend this event and will always be a night to remember.



November 2017 – Absolutely Fabulous Workplace Role Models

Well what are year for our absolutely fabulous staff members Lachlan Skinner and Michelle Flanders.

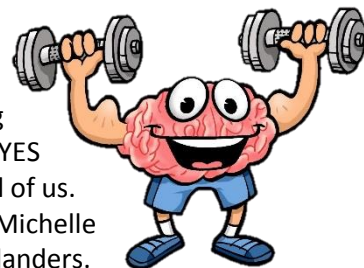
These two staff, have managed to break their bonds and achieve greatness. Lachlan Skinner embarked upon a get healthy and lose weight program in August 2017 and has lost a massive 20kilos – YES 20 KILOS, go Lachlan you are a real role model for our younger community showing us all that it is possible if you are committed to it.

Michelle Flanders, after being diagnosed with Diabetes in September 2016, embarked on a lose weight and manage this disease self-help program and lost a massive 10Kilos.

Then in October 2017 Michelle took the final step in leading a healthy life and after 47 years finally quit smoking – YES

Michelle has QUIT smoking, you go girl you are an inspiration to all of us.

Congratulations to both of our absolutely fabulous healthy staff – Lachlan Skinner & Michelle Flanders.



As for the rest of us, well we will be following their lead and engaging in a quit smoking program for staff at the LALC. Are you Ready Mob as we need the extra help to Quit for Life in the New Year.

Program Updates

Culture & Heritage

Well what an exciting year it has been. Our team has been busy with site work from our southern LALC boundary up to our northern LALC boundary and everywhere else in between. Site work has been steady since the Pacific Highway upgrade work has dropped off our LALC radar and we eagerly await the Coffs Harbour By-pass work to begin. Our LALC has already been engaged in the initial surveys for the by-pass and we have submitted the team's credentials for this work.

During the year we were also able to get a small site work contract through the Coffs Harbour City Council (CHCC) where upon our site work team undertook cultural landscape mapping in the Boambee & Bonville Valleys.

We also partnered in a contract for the cultural landscape mapping of the whole Coffs Harbour Local Government Area (LGA). The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), CHCC, Ian Fox & Associates, and our LALC jointly engaged in this exciting project which will culminate in the development of Cultural Landscape maps for the whole LGA. These maps will be utilised by the CHCC to better inform their planning department prior to making development decisions. The project will be completed in the New Year and we are looking forward to negotiating the appropriate use of the maps with the CHCC prior to their official release.

We are currently working on a small job for Dorrigo LALC contracting out the skills of our Senior Site Officer, Ian Brown, to assist Dorrigo LALC with assessing Travelling Stock Routes in the Dorrigo Plateau area. Ian is also mentoring one of our Bush Regen team members on this job, Aj Perkins, to skill him up for future site work.

Another important issue the team has been working on is the NSW Government's Culture and Heritage Law reform. Members of the team attended an information session in September to look at the proposed new legislation. At this workshop it was noted that there was a lack of community involvement so the LALC ran a workshop for members of the LALC in early November. We will be running another workshop in late January 2018 and the team strongly encourages our LALC members to attend and have input into how Gumbaynggirr culture and heritage is managed in the future (flyer for the event is enclosed) and we look forward to seeing you here.

The Site Work Team, Uncle Mark Flanders, Uncle Ian Brown, Luana Ferguson, Leo Mercy and Michelle Flanders (Team Co-ordinator) would like to wish you all a very safe and fun-filled family Christmas.



Housing

Property Management Inspections

Sixteen Property Asset Management Inspections have been conducted. The Property Asset Management Inspections are designed to assist CH & D LALC to make a 15-year plan for repairs and maintenance for each property. Minor repairs such as leaking taps, replacing gauze or power points and lights switches will still be fixed within a reasonable timeframe. During the inspection Lachlan will take photos of your home and make a list of minor repairs. I will complete the inspection form and ask questions regarding your home. For example: do you have keys for window locks?



Thank you to the tenants for welcoming Lachlan and I into your home. There are still a lot of Asset Management Inspections to be completed. For any reason you are unable to be home for your scheduled property inspection please contact the office. The office will try and negotiate a time that is convenient for you and CH & D LALC. I would like to say thank you to Lachlan for his support in conducting Asset Management Inspections.

Smoke Alarms - Please do not remove your smoke alarm that CH & D LALC has installed. Smoke alarms may save your life and the life of your loved ones. If you are having trouble with your smoke alarm, please contact the office.

Closure over the Christmas Period - A letter will be sent to tenants explaining the procedure for emergency repairs.

Green Team (Darrunda Wajaarr)

The Darrunda Wajaarr Team have been busy delivering on a variety of contracts. On-ground works over the last 6 months include but are not limited too;

Undertaking bush restoration in Tuckers Knob State forest as part of the Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance Bush Connect project in partnership with NSW Forestry Corporation. This work has focused on the removal of woody weeds from riparian areas along the river to provide a buffer area from forestry operations and habitat for fauna. The team also located and recorded an important cultural site whilst undertaking this work which provided some extra excitement.



The team have been continuing on-ground works through funding from the Environmental Trust on coastal headlands within Coffs Coast Regional Park. This work has been undertaken in partnership with National Parks, Landcare and the Rural Fire Service. This project has been focused on the treatment of invasive weeds such as Lantana and Bitou Bush and the restoration and rehabilitation of native grass and shrub vegetation communities.

The team are completing bush restoration works at Orara East State Forest in partnership with Envite to regenerate the area along the Bucca creek removing Lantana, Privet and Groundsel. This is an important project to protect riparian areas from erosion and enhance connectivity for a range of different species in the area.

Our programs manager was successful in applying for funding through Coffs City Councils Environmental Levy Grants. This project is focused on working across 19 hectares across six locations within Coffs Coast Regional Park and Moonee Nature Reserve, undertaking community workshops in bush restoration techniques and participating in cultural and ecological fire management.

CH&DLALC are reviewing options moving forward to broaden the scope of the Darrunda Wajaarr team. With considerable experience working on State Forest and NPWS lands the team are keen to work on some of the high conservation value properties owned by CH&DLALC. With this in mind CH&DLALC will be looking to leverage funding in the near future to carry out cultural and ecological surveys, integrated fire and weed management and review opportunities for economic development including eco-tourism.



 Darrunda Wajaarr
Environmental
Management Team
[@DarrundaWajaarr](#)

Just Search
"Darrunda Wajaarr"
on Facebook and hit LIKE



 Coffs Harbour & District
LALC
[@CHDLALC](#)

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on Facebook and hit LIKE

Community Notices

From the Coffs Harbour LALC:

CHDLALC Email Distribution List

The CH&DLALC is looking at more cost effective ways to deliver information to the members. If you have an email account, could you please provide details to the office as soon as possible and future correspondence will be sent to you electronically.



We now are on FACEBOOK!!

As we all know Social Media is the quickest and easiest way to stay in contact with our members, tenants and community. So we decided to get our self a Facebook page.

If you wish to follow us on this page it will keep you up to date with all the deadly stuff we do but also lets us share information with you more quickly and in the space of your own comfort as you flick through your news feed. To LIKE us on Facebook all you have to search is "Coffs Harbour LALC" and hit the like button.

REAP Food Rescue Service providing to CHDLALC

OzHarvest is Australia's leading food rescue organisation, collecting quality excess food from commercial outlets and delivering it directly to more than 1000 charities supporting people in need across the country.

Founded in 2004 by Ronni Kahn, after noticing the huge volume of good food going to waste from the hospitality industry, she decided there had to be a better way. Starting in Sydney with one van.

OzHarvest now operates nationally, rescuing over 100 tonnes of food each week from over 3,000 food donors including supermarkets, hotels, airports, wholesalers, farmers, corporate events, catering companies, shopping centres, delis, cafes, restaurants, film and TV shoots and boardrooms.

Coffs Harbour & District Local Aboriginal Land Council is one of the few in the Coffs Harbour area. We would really love for all members, tenants and wider community to drop into the office and get some of the food displayed in the reception area. In addition we would like to thank REAP Coffs Harbour for supplying these goods to use for our community.



Office Closure over the Christmas Break

Well didn't that 12 months go quick. We have had a huge year and we would like to thank our Staff, Members,

Tenants and wider Community for this year. It has been a pleasure working with you all and looking forward serving our community again in 2018.

Our Office will be closed from 4pm on Friday 22nd December 2017 and will open again on Monday 8th December 2018.

We at Coffs Harbour & District Local Aboriginal Land Council wish you all a very Merry but safe Christmas, and hope that Santa pays you all a visit, and a Happy and Health Happy New Year.



Grace Roberts Hall Activity:

First Aid Course hosted by North Coast Primary Health Network and CHDLALC

On the 10th October 2017 the Aboriginal Health Team in partnership with the Coffs Harbour & District Local Aboriginal Land Council held nationally accredited First Aid training for Aboriginal people in Coffs Harbour.

The training is to help communities members respond to minor injuries and/or to provide support until the ambulance or health professionals arrive.

20 community members attended on the day. The first aid course was run over 1 day (7.5 hours) face to face at Wongala Estate in Coffs Harbour.



Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan - 2 Path Strong Goori Learning Centres

It's been a big year for the Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation (BMNAC) Team and all the kiddies at the Goori Learning Centres, especially the one that runs on Wednesday Afternoons here at Wongala Estate.

This year the BMNAC team seen to over 70 children from many schools in the Coffs Harbour Area. Working with the kids on Reading, Sewing and Cultural Activities like Dancing and Language.



Over the year the kids were tested in their reading which has been tracked to see progress. This is a partnership that the Goori Learning Centre has with the Coffs Harbour Uni that analyse where the kids are. Clarke Webb has said "they are on track and getting deadlier as the years go on".



BMNAC have also put a deadly cultural camp this past September which included a trip to Gold Coast.

To be involved in this and much more you should definitely get involved in the Goori Learning Centre run by the BMNAC Team! They are at Wongala Estate every Wednesday Afternoon from 3:30pm till 5pm.

Please note the Goori Learning Centre does not operate in the School Holidays. Therefore the last one for 2017 will be the Wednesday 6th of December, and should return on Wednesday 30th January 2018



Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan - 2 Path Strong Language Classes

Just like the Goori Learning Centres it's been a great year for the language Class. With it getting great turn outs every week it really is growing.

From the Language Classes we have had 10 people that now also meet on Tuesday Afternoons to work together to become fluent Gumbaynggirr Speakers and Teachers. Shout out to a fellow staff member that is in this group, Aj Perkins, who is doing a deadly job as a part of this group.



If you wish to get involved in this be sure to come to Wongala Estate on Thursday Mornings from 7:30am till 9am.

Upcoming Events:

Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Social Events – Family Fun Christmas Pool Party

Entry: Gold Coin Donation per Person.

After a year's break we are returning by popular demand. The last family friendly gathering for 2017 is coming up. All happening at the Coffs Harbour Pool.

Healthy BBQ Lunch – Games – Jumping Castle – Buccaneer Inflatable

And of course a visit from the Black Santa himself dropping off presents to all the girls and boys. For More Information please contact Lachlan or Noelene Skinner on 0403 196 123



Gagu Jiinda Connections – A Christmas Special with Kevin Kropinyeri

Tickets: \$25.00 per Person. Adults only and Limited Tickets Available

Australia's premier Aboriginal comedy star, Kevin Kropinyeri is a one-man whirlwind that will have you holding your sides laughing, as he shares tales of growing up, marriage and the particular, absurd challenges of life as an Aboriginal Australian family man.

A high-energy performer, Kevin is sharp, likeable, silly and measured; mixing keen observational stand up with joyfully ridiculous physical comedy.

Coming to the Coffs Hotel for a One Night Only Show hosted by Gagu Jiinda Connections run by Lachlan and Noelene Skinner. For More Information contact Noelene or Lachlan Skinner on 0401

239 800 tickets are limited so get in quick.

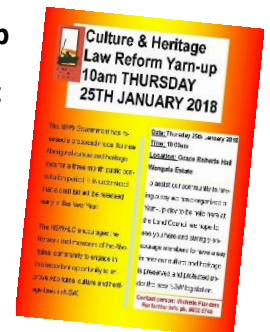


Coffs Harbour & District LALC – Culture & Heritage Law Reform Yarn-Up

Free Community Event

To assist our community in having a say we have organised a Yarn up Day to be held at the Land Council we hope to see you here and strongly encourage members to have a say in how our culture and heritage is preserved and protected under the new NSW legislation.

All happening on Thursday 25th January 2018 from 10:00am at the Grace Roberts Hall, Wongala Estate. For further information please contact Michelle Flanders on 02 6652 8740.



NAIDOC 2018 Theme: *Because of her, we can!*



BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!

8-15 JULY 2018

NAIDOC Week 2018 will celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made – and continue to make - to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation.

Under the theme - Because of her, we can! - NAIDOC Week 2018 will be held nationally from Sunday 8 July and continue through to Sunday 15 July.