



# COFFS HARBOUR & DISTRICT LALC

## NEWSLETTER: Issue 4

Wongala Estate  
301-325 Pacific Highway  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450  
Ph. 02 6652 8740

### FROM THE CEO—Chris Spencer

Once again I would like to welcome back readers to our Land Council Newsletter. We have been very busy this year & I apologise for not getting the newsletter out on time. We will endeavour to get the newsletter out each quarter to ensure our members are kept up to date with the Land Council's activities & community events throughout the year.

One of the most important events coming up for LALC is our AGM. In September your Land Council will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and we strongly encourage our members to attend as we will be electing a new Board of Directors. You will receive a letter in the mail that will provide the date for the AGM which will be held in the Grace Roberts Hall on Wongala Estate. Light refreshments will be available.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our current Board members for the time and effort they have put in to ensure that we are one of the most successful Land Councils in NSW—THANK YOU.



#### **CH&D LALC Meeting Dates:**

##### **Next Members Meeting:**

5th August 2015 @ 6pm Grace Roberts hall

##### **Next BOD Meeting:**

12th August 2015 @ 5:30pm Grace Roberts Hall

**AGM: SEPTEMBER 2015**

#### **Inside this issue:**

PROGRAM MANAGER UP- DATE	2 & 3
LAND CLAIMS	3
CULTURE & HERITAGE	4
FINANCE NEWS	5
PROPERTY NEWS	5
Darrunda—Wajaarr (Repair to Country) NEWS	6
STAFF PROFILE	7
GRACE ROBERTS HALL	7
IMPORTANT DATES	8
FREE VET SERVICES	9
JARJUM'S PAGE	10

## Program Manager update

The LALC is busy with a number of different strategies to move forward and become less dependent of Government funding.

These include the Green Team, Nursery and other income strategies to assist with the Growth.



### Terry Wall—Program Manager

#### To the Nursery

We were able to access a grant from Indigenous Land Corporation to supply infrastructure to our Nursery. The grant was for a little over \$70,000 and will allow us to build 2 more green houses as well as a shed and tractor.

They will also pay for a bore, water tanks and the pipes etc. that go with the nursery. This grant will allow us to rapidly increase capacity and the ability to start employing more people.

Our nursery manager Peter Green along with this is doing well with producing plants and has some 10,000 plants already started.

## Update Continued.....

We are also starting to grow blueberry plants for the growers around Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga. This could be a lucrative sideline to our native plant production as demand is quite large.

We have already had a sale of some 50 plants to NPWS. It may only be a small amount but it is a start in the right direction. Other organisations in the area have also expressed interest in purchasing our product.



### Peter Green—Nursery Manager

#### Green Team

We welcome on board our newest trainee Aj Perkins, Aj started mid-June.

The team have broadened their working area by being invited to work at the Never Never area doing weed removal and planting of rainforest species. We have not worked in that area of the Land Council before and the team was excited to participate.



## Green Team Continued.....

We have secured more funding from Coffs Harbour City Council for contracts along the coastal areas as well as a small contract for Rat baiting on Muttonbird Island.



We are also participating in 2 burning programs that are scheduled soon. One is the burning of an area at Green Bluff – Moonee and the other is behind the airport. It's great to see people recognising our team as an integral part of these programs as well as the traditional ownership the LALC and community has with the lands.

### Investments

We have been looking for investment opportunities for the Land Council to create other income avenues. We had identified the purchase of a doctor's surgery in Murdoch Street as one and made offers. Unfortunately the owner after accepting and issuing contracts withdrew from the sale. We will be looking for other opportunities shortly. We are also looking at also utilising the sheds at Corindi Beach where possible in the near future.

## Land Claims

The Land Council has been successful in the Land & Environment Court with the Council's Wenonah Head Land Claim. The Minister has been ordered to transfer Lot 4 in DP219743 (Wenonah Headland) to CH&D LALC. This comes on the back of our earlier successful claim of land at Red Rock. This is especially significant as these two areas have a very special place within our community.



### Land Rights

Last year the Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Act 2014 was passed by the NSW Parliament as a result of the 5 year statutory review of the 1983 Act. The majority of amendments commenced on 1st July 2015. We are now able to negotiate Aboriginal Land Agreements, planning, reporting and compliance requirements have been reduced, we will continue to facilitate business enterprises, we can now enter into arrangements involving separate entities and CEO's are now able to declare a member inactive if they have not attended 6 consecutive meetings. Want more information:

[www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)

## Culture and Heritage

The Land Council has recently employed a cultural Heritage Officer to oversee our Cultural Heritage Program. The successful applicant for the position was Michelle Flanders who took up the position in April 2015



**Michelle Flanders**

In this role Michelle liaises with CHCC, Archaeologists, Developers and Property owners. Responds to Development Applications on lands where the Land Council holds an interest. Other stakeholders are regularly liaised with such as the Office of Environment and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife

Michelle allocates our site officers to different development projects to ensure due diligence and the interests of the community are upheld.

Recently, Michelle has engaged a female site officer to assist in the ever increasing workload and to have a female site officer to take care of the Women's only business.

## Culture and Heritage continued.....

As we are all aware the Pacific highway upgrade is in full swing and most of our site officers have been busy monitoring works and salvaging artefacts that may otherwise have been destroyed by the earthworks.

Two of our site officers, Ian Brown & Daniel Flanders, have been working every day for the past two months on a very complex site out at Kangaroo Trail Road at Corindi as part of the Pacific Highway Upgrade.

The Site Officer's have consistently made comment about the site complex as "containing a high concentration of artefacts and cultural materials" and "This is one massive site complex" so of course it has been both exciting and awe inspiring to work on such a site.



**Uncle Ian Brown & Daniel Flanders**

In addition, we have had site officers at Moonee, Sawtell, Karangi and Coffs Harbour working hard to maintain and document our living culture and heritage.

## FINANCE NEWS WITH TIMOTHY HOSKINS

Timothy has recently enjoyed some time out taking some well earned annual leave. He has returned refreshed and ready for End of Financial Year reconciliation of all our accounts. No doubt Timothy will do an amazing job reconciling all monies out and all monies in. Currently Timothy is being kept busy with weekly wages, invoicing for services provided and reconciling all accounts payable.



Chris and Terry are also over the moon that Tim has returned from holidays so they can now get on with their respective roles.



**YEAH—Tim is back**

## PROPERTY NEWS WITH LOCKIE SKINNER

Hi I'm Lockie Skinner, I'm the Assistant Property Manager here at the Land Council. I started back in September 2014 and really enjoying it.

I'll be the "Go To Guy" when it comes to most of the Property stuff. My day to day work involves Rent Receipting, organising the Water Accounts, Payments and much more, So I'm not just a pretty face.

Most recently I have been busy with updating the Housing waiting list. We currently have two vacant houses on Wongala Estate and one vacant house at Corindi and these will be allocated to the next in line on the housing waiting list so please ensure you keep up to date on our list



### Lachlan Skinner

Our assistant for property, Lachlan Skinner, is fitting in very well with the team and grows in expertise daily. We have had some new tenants come on board and a new housing policy developed by the Board. This will assist the property department to implement the policy and gives us direction for the future.



Group photo—The Grafton, Corindi, Ngurrala & Coffs Harbour Green Teams



Alita Carberry & Blake Greenup

### Darrunda—Wajaarr (Repair to Country)

The Green team would like to thank the Board and all members of Land Council for the Angourie rainforest resort planning Experience in October last year.

In addition, the team has undertaken Wild dog trapping Cert 2. It has been a fantastic experience, we are now doing monitoring and all 4 green team members will be the first Aboriginal teams to achieve this goal—congratulations to the teams.

The Jaliigiir project is also in the final stage apart from some kids vandalising some sites we have had great success.



### Darrunda wajaarr—new trainee staff

Alita Carberry joined the Green Team as a trainee in mid October 2014 and is currently undertaking training in Conservation Management Cert III. Our most recent addition to the green team is Aj Perkins who started with us at the end of June 2015. Please join us in welcoming these new Green team members.



Aj Perkins and Alita Carberry

## Staff Profile

In this addition we are profiling our Bush Regeneration Team Supervisor **Ms Lisa White (pictured below)**.



Lisa has 3 lovely daughters and 2 grandsons and started full time with the Aboriginal Land Council on the 31st August 2009. Since starting with us Lisa has obtained a Cert IV in Business Frontline Management, Cert IV in Conservation Land Management, Level 1 Chainsaw operation, Cert III in Business Administration, Senior First Aid, Basic Fire Fighting and Wild Dog Dingo Cert II.

Lisa started work in bush regeneration about 20 years ago so she has a wealth of experience in this field.

The Land Council's green team was named by Lisa as Darrunda—Wajaarr (Repair to Country) and Lisa has also trained 2 Aboriginal trainees to Cert IV level in Land Conservation Management as part of her supervisory role. With keen interests in camping, bush walking, exploring, live music & dancing Lisa slips easily into her role as the Green Team Supervisor.

## Grace Roberts Hall—Wongala Estate

As part of our Council's services to community we regularly have community groups utilising our hall. For example, the hall is used every Thursday morning for Gumbaynggirr Language classes.

The Deadly Sista Girls also utilise the hall every week for DSG meetings, and Lockie Skinner has been using the hall with the young ones in the lead up to NAIDOC week's Deadly Factor.

The hall is also used for Board meetings and Member's meetings as well as for Business meetings with our service providers.

In addition, the Garlambirla Guuyu-girrwaa Aboriginal Elders Corporation use our hall one day each month to hold their Elder's meetings.



**Pictured (L-R) Uncle Reg Craig, Uncle Bindi, Aunt Kerrie, Uncle Barry & Uncle Gary at their last Elder's meeting**

Outside organisations are also able to book our hall for a small fee if they need to. If you would like to book the hall please call 6652 8740 and our friendly team will be happy to help you out with availability and bookings.

## Important Dates

### NAIDOC Week—5th—12th July

NAIDOC week is almost upon us and it will be a week of exciting events running from Sunday the 5th July though to Sunday 12th July. The Land Council Darrunda-wajaarr Repair to Country green Team will be participating in this event which will be held on Thursday 9th July and the theme is Caring for Country—Planting the Seed at Diggers Beach from 10am to 2pm



### National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day—4th August

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (Children's Day), and the week leading up to it, is a time to for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.



### International Day of Indigenous Peoples—9th August

The focus of this year's International Day is "Bridging the gap: implementing the rights of indigenous peoples".



### Coffs Harbour & District Local Aboriginal Land Council—AGM September 2015

Remember in September your Land Council will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and we strongly encourage our members to attend as we will be electing a new Board of Directors. You will receive a letter in the mail that will provide the actual date for the AGM which will be held in the Grace Roberts Hall on Wongala Estate. Light refreshments will be available.





## FREE VET DE-SEXING SERVICE

Matt from Vet Projects International is keen to become involved with the Land Council with a view to contributing positively and meaningfully to the community. Matt is offering free spay/neuter operations for our pets at Wongala Estate. Matt is a fully qualified veterinarian who has run similar projects in many countries around the world for disadvantaged families.

Matt will be bringing up some trainee vets to help with the work and they will be strictly supervised at all times.

Matt is planning to run a pilot vet clinic over a few days in our shed at Wongala Estate in September or October of 2015. You will be advised via a letter on the actual dates Matt and his team will be here at Wongala Estate.

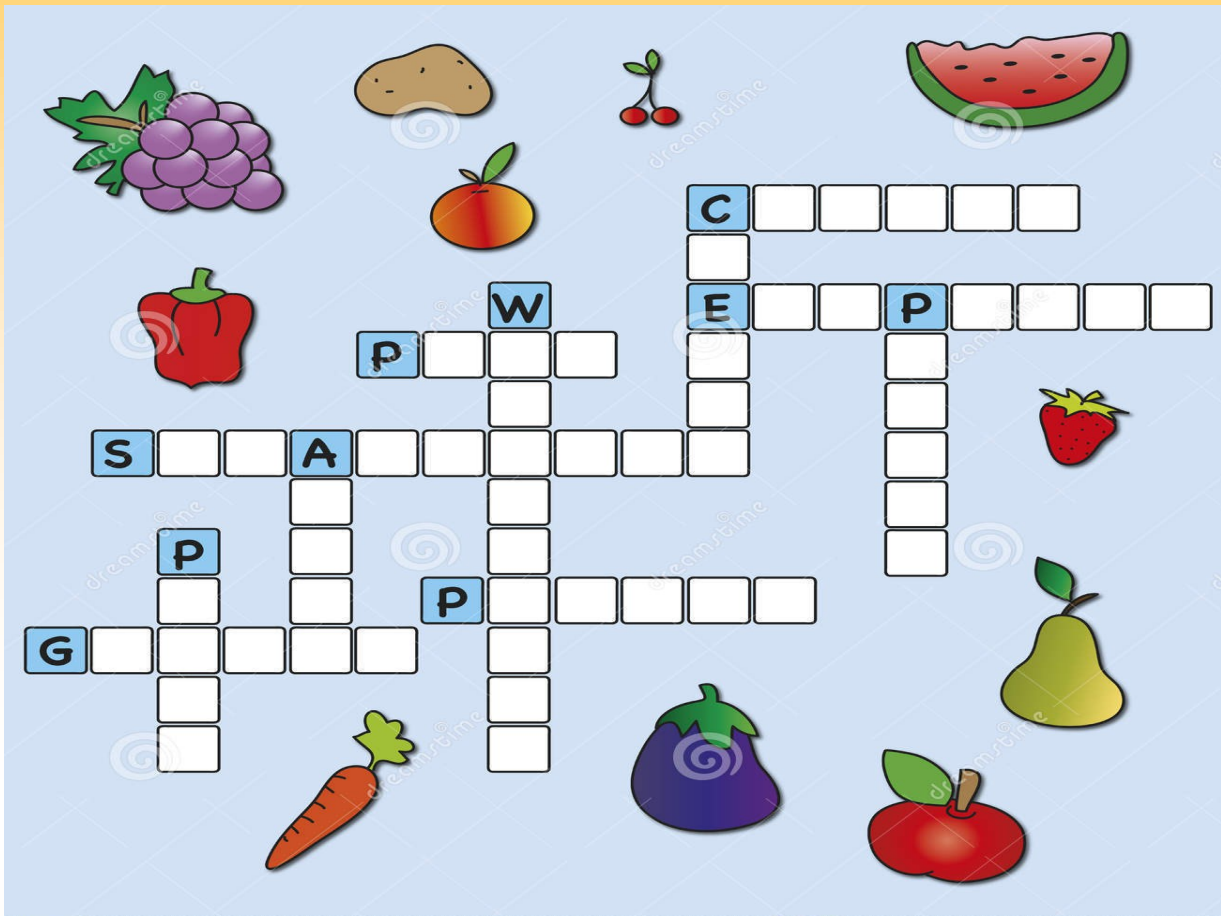


This is an exciting opportunity for our members to have access to a free vet. If you have a dog or a cat that you would like to get de-sexed free of charge then this program is for you.



If you are interested in this FREE service please call Michelle at Admin and ask to put your name and phone number down on the list. All dogs and cats are welcome and if the pilot program is successful we can aim for bigger vet projects in the future.

## Jarjum's page



## JOKES

What goes up a chimney down but can't go down a chimney up?

An Umbrella

What gets wetter the more it dries?

A Tea Towel

Why did the man throw the clock out of the window?

Because he wanted to see time fly

