



Mayor's Message

*Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council's Mayor
Cr Jason Woibo's monthly message*

Wantharra nyundu?

At the time of writing I am attending the Local Government Association of Qld (LGAQ) Civic Leaders (Mayors and CEO's) conference on the Sunshine Coast. By the invitation of LGAQ, Cr Keithean Bowen is also attending due to his previous and continued work in the young leaders space. Cr Keithean not only works hard in his role as an elected representative for Hope Vale but also gives countless hours of voluntary work in our community. It's heartening to see his work and leadership being recognised by organisations like LGAQ.

We also took the time today to meet with Council's Qld Government Ministerial Champion Minister Mick De Brenni in Brisbane. During our meeting we discussed several matters of importance to Council. The Ministerial Champion program is invaluable to Councils as they provide an opportunity to raise matters that may not be usually discussed in formal meetings, with time to explain Council's perspectives and challenges. We thank the Minister for his time and commitment to following up on matters raised.

Last week a very important Men's Summit was delivered by Apunipima Cape York Health Council at Elim beach. Men from all around the Cape were involved. It was an important gathering not so much in re-establishing the role of men in community, but to let our men know there is support out there and to encourage and provide opportunity to talk about unique issues men are facing. I congratulate Apunipima on organising this event and thank everyone who contributed. Council is investigating the options and funding around a men's shed or shelter to provide an alternative option in family situations.

It was our privilege to host the Governor of Queensland Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM in Hope Vale last week. During her visit she and her partner visited the school and the health centre and met with Council and staff. She said that she was very privileged to meet members of the community and also to thank the health team for their work. On behalf of Council and the community I sincerely thanked the Governor for her role in Covid as the Chief Health Officer, recognising the tremendous pressure she was under and for keeping Qld safe.

Local heroes. They can be your dad, your mother, your sister or auntie, or anyone. Local heroes play a special part and have a special bond in our community. There's a lot going on in the local hero area in relation to rugby league. Firstly, a big Congratulations to our Hope Vale Junior Rugby league team – the Cockatoos – which are now the first team in our town's history to be incorporated. Also, our men's team – the Hope Vale Rebels - is on a winning streak being undefeated in the Three Rivers competition which includes Hope Vale, Cooktown, Wujal Wujal and Pormpuraaw . The Rebels are not only deadly on the field, but they display with pride each week the two different colours depicting our two clans.

I'd also like to congratulate girls who have taken up the sport of rugby league and are playing with the Mossman Sharks in the CDRL competition. They're coached under the watchful eye of Keithean Bowen and Keithean has mentioned feedback he's receiving about how well the girls are going and how proud people are to see such talent coming out of the community. Well done to the girls and Keithean.

A couple of weeks ago we had the opening of the new BMX track with the mantra of Healthy kids, Active kids in mind. It's important to keep fit, healthy and as active as possible. With that in mind,



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school holidays are upon us with more kids in the community. Please keep an eye on your kids, keep them busy and make sure they respect the special township they live in.

Next month our newsletter will provide special information on our Local Thriving Communities committee and planning. Over the coming months Council will be looking at co-designing and developing plans to support the LTC committee to find collaborative ways to work together on issues affecting our community, how to measure outcomes and progress on programs and initiatives. More to come next month on this very important program.

Due to a reduction in funding for PCYC activities, Council is maintaining activities as best as possible during July to September and at the same time developing an overall plan of how to deliver viable sport and recreation activities in our community. As a community, we hope you will support and understand Council's efforts and assist where possible during this time of change.

Special mention this month goes to Barry Bowen and his health team. They do a special, but not so easy, job in the community, keeping us safe and healthy. Thank you all. A reminder also to visit the team and have your flu needle.

Don't forget the NAIDOC celebrations next week 3-8 July 2022. More information will be on the Facebook page.

Until next month. Stay safe.

Mayor Jason Woibo

