



# Mayor's Message

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

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Earlier in the year on Australia Day, Shannon Gibbs, our Director of Finance and Corporate Services, was awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) for her outstanding public service to local government in Queensland through financial management roles. Recently, I was privileged to be invited by His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC the Governor of Queensland, to be present at the official Awards ceremony, which was conducted in Cairns, to witness the official presentation of the award to Shannon. Once again Shannon, I congratulate you on this wonderful achievement on behalf of the Council and community for your continued commitment to the people of Hope Vale.

Since my last message, Councillors have been busy attending meetings, including the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Board, here in Hope Vale, representatives of the British High Commission, who will again visit the Region as part of Cooktown and Cape York Expo 2021 and I also attended a 'First Nations Mayor's Summit' at the invitation of the Police Commissioner, which involved all Indigenous Council Mayor's from around the State. I will also be travelling to Canberra next week as member of a delegation of Mayor's representing all member Councils of the Torres and Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance (TCICA) when we meet a number of Federal Ministers and senior federal bureaucrats, to pursue issues important to all those people living in the Torres, Cape and Gulf regions.

Another highlight this past month was, of course, the commemoration of the 'Evacuation to Woorabinda' and, at the same time, the official opening of 'Pioneer Hall'. Thanks again to all those who contributed to this most successful day and I look forward to a special celebration next year which will mark 80 years since our people were evacuated from their homelands to Woorabinda during WW11.

A special thankyou must also go to the Mayor of Woorabinda, Josh Weazel, for taking the time to travel to Hope Vale on this special day in our calendars, to represent his Community of Woorabinda and recognise the 'history' between our 2 Communities which was forged 79 years ago.



**Pictured above:** Woorabinda Mayor - Cr Josh Weazel, Hope Vale Mayor: Cr Jason Woibo



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**Pictured above left to right:** Cr Keithan Bowen, Lucy Monaghan - Second Secretary Political and Public Diplomacy British High Commission, Jo Freeman - Consul General Queensland & Northern Territory and Director for Trade, Cr Barry Bowen, Sha-lane Gibson, 2020 Indigenous Project Officer, Cook Shire Council, CEO Mark Kelleher, Mayor Jason Woibo

**Mayor Cr Jason Woibo**