

KOWANYAMA NEWS

Welcome to the February edition of the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council Newsletter, featuring a range of important community updates, exciting community news about town and some great local stories to share.

If you have a story for our next edition, please let us know at comments@kowanyama.qld.gov.au

SIGN UP FOR COUNCIL ALERTS

The Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council has a system to advise community members by text message about disasters, urgent community matters and important events. You can sign up to receive these alerts by texting the word “updates” to 0428 386 304.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



It was wonderful to see our community come together in December to celebrate Christmas and the holidays.

Santa made a flying visit to Kowanyama to deliver some presents to the young people of our community thanks to the help of our regional flying services.

Meanwhile, the residents and staff at the Aged Care and Disability Centre joined together to celebrate a Christmas party.

Council is proud to announce the completion of our first muster as owner of the Kowanyama Cattle Company exceeded our projected targets.

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council continues its commitment to delivering essential services whilst taking a leadership position in protecting the community and minimising the spread of coronavirus.

We would like to thank the Queensland Health Nurses, RFDS Nurses from the Kowanyama Community for their hard work in delivering our COVID-19 Vaccination program.

It is the position of the Council to promote the Queensland Government's Public Health Directions and to encourage all persons entering Kowanyama to be vaccinated.

Community safety, along with the protection of our vulnerable elders and young people, is our priority.

We must all do our part to limit the spread and request you consider the need to travel to and from Kowanyama at this time.

Mayor Robbie Sands

Weekly COVID-19 vaccinations available at Kowanyama. Get your vax today!

THE 2021 KOWANYAMA CATTLE MUSTER

As new owner and operator of the former Kowanyama Cattle Company, your Council, in collaboration with Kowanyama Traditional Owners and the PBC, are proudly keeping the cattle dream alive in Kowanyama, with even more local jobs and local opportunities on their way!

The 2021 Kowanyama Muster went from August to November 2021, successfully rounding up 1,480 cattle and transporting them to saleyards, employing 18 Kowanyama locals (a 90% Indigenous workforce) and supporting Council, local businesses and stakeholders to better service Community.

The 18 local employees received training during the muster, including the use of the bionic arm catch technique and gaining further experience assisting at the Kowanyama Rodeo. Most employees assisted over the two-day Rodeo helping with arrangements, transporting, and assembling portable panels, running the backyards and providing protection as

clowns for the bull riders.

In February/March this year, Council will again be advertising for experienced Musterers to assist us over the next few years. Local employment will again be Council's focus! Keep an eye out on Council's Facebook page and website for details.

A special thanks to the Traditional Owners and Kowanyama PBC for supporting this local Indigenous enterprise conducted on their Aboriginal land. We could not achieve these amazing community results without their support. We look forward to continuing to work closely with them to implement a sustainable and successful business model for Kowanyama long into the future.



SANTA ARRIVED EARLY IN KOWANYAMA



Left to right: Craig Southee –General Manager QLD (CTM)

Kowanyama community would like to thank Air Charter Service, Corporate Travel Management (CTM) and Hinterland Aviation for the generous donation of Christmas gifts to the young people of Kowanyama!



Left to right: Matthew Haigh—Assistant Director (Air Charter Service), Andrew Clair—General Manager (Hinterland Aviation), Craig Southee—General Manager QLD (CTM), Robbie Sands—Mayor, Cameron Josiah—Deputy Mayor, Melissa Rogers—Director (Air Charter Service), Tristan Cabello—Chief Pilot (Hinterland Aviation)

CARBON PROJECT HAS BIG FUTURE FOR 2022

The Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council is working hard to deliver on its economic targets in 2022.

The Carbon Project at Oriners-Sefton is an important asset with good economic potential, which requires perseverance and funds to keep the benefits flowing.

Just like any business, we must invest in the people and equipment to deliver on the project's potential over the long term.

Mayor Robbie Sands said he was proud that Kowanyama's Councillors had approved investment in upgrades to the Oriners homestead in 2021.

"Council has put in a new bore, upgraded the homestead and improved internet coverage. This will make the homestead safer and more effective for our ranger crews," Mr Sands said.

Every year at Oriners-Sefton the rangers conduct early season burns using helicopters ground crews and traditional burning knowledge which is a valuable part of this work.

Fire operations contractor Daryl Killin said seasonal burns are important protection measures.

"We try hard to protect the country with early season burns. When everything goes well, we can protect the country from late season wildfires."

Funding from carbon projects is not guaranteed. Some years Council makes a profit, other years Council makes a loss. Fire prevention is key to successful outcomes.

Council is currently assessing the budget and planning to invest in more training and equipment for the rangers, so that 2022 will be a safe and profitable year.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE AGED CARE AND DISABILITY CENTRE

Residents and staff at the Kowanyama Aged Care and Disability Centre came together for an end of year Christmas party.

The event was a wonderful success with residents attending the celebrations and enjoying a great night together with laughter and smiles all around.

The centre's staff worked very hard to host the event and delivered a delicious spread of great food.

The residents even received a surprise visit from a little Santa Claus, who stole the show and had everyone cheering with delight.

Thanks to the centre's staff for their fantastic efforts and to all who attended, making it a great night for all and something that the team hope to replicate soon.

Top to bottom photos: NDIS Client Jamima Gilbert and Aged Care Staff Michael Yam | Setting of the tables | Santa Jillinkin Brumby



COUNCILLOR JACK JOINS THE TEAM

We would like to congratulate Councillor Jack on his success in the recent 2022 Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council – Councillor by-election held on Saturday, 15th January 2022.

Former Kowanyama Postmaster of 22 years in Kowanyama, Cr. David Jack was sworn in on Tuesday 18th January 2022, as a Councillor for the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire at the January's Council meeting. As long-term member of the Kowanyama community, Cr Jack looks forward to advocating for community.

GETTING VACCINATED IN KOWANYAMA

Since August 2021, the vaccination teams from Queensland Health and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) have been working tirelessly to vaccinate our mob and protect our community against Covid-19.

We are proud to say that currently 99% of our Kowanyama community have received their first dose of the vaccination, and 84% have received their double dose of the Covid-19 vaccination.

Without the hard work and dedication of the Queensland Health Nurses, RFDS Nurses

and Lucy Croake from the Kowanyama Community Cultural Support Women's Group, we wouldn't have been able to produce such high vaccination rates.

Thank you to the nurses and Lucy who have assisted to facilitate home visits within our community, attending the contractor's camp, Sport and Recreation Club and other businesses, whilst also facilitating vaccination clinics at Kowanyama State School, MPC, outside CEQ Store and the Kowanyama Health Clinic.



Qld Health Vaccination team along with RFDS Vaccination Nurse Shirley Bradley and local KASC support worker Lucy Croake.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council meetings	Tuesday 15 March 10.00am–5.00pm Tuesday 19 April 10.00am–5.00pm Tuesday 17 May 10.00am–5.00pm Tuesday 21 June 10.00am–5.00pm
International Women's Day	Tuesday 8 March Supported by Kowanyama Women's Services team

NDIS SUPPORTS TRAINEES PLAYING THEIR PART

NDIS clients Randyn Kitchener and Charlie Butterworth are progressing well with their training at the Kowanyama Aged Care and Disability Service Centre.

Randyn Kitchener (*pictured right*), from the individual support of our disability services team, has grown during the last year immeasurably. Randyn plays a role in the maintenance of the facility. Our crew have upskilled, motivated and encouraged Randyn to be involved. Randyn is now working part time for Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, being proud of the person he has become and is on the road to success.



Charlie (*pictured left*) is currently working towards seeking employment with the Council. Charlie has shown great punctuality, and responsibility and the initiative to go that extra mile. Charlie is innovative and creative with great interest in learning new things.

We congratulate Randyn and Charlie on their progress and wish them well.

Get in touch.

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