

# PASC News

For more information about any of the articles in this newsletter please contact **February 2025** Council on 4060 4600.

*Please be aware there may be images of deceased people within this publication.*



## Council Round-Up

Mayor Kendall has met with Queensland Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Fiona Simpson and local member David Kempton in Cairns to discuss Council's top three priorities:

1. Pormpuraaw State School to include years 7 to 10;
2. Sealing the rest of the Strathgordon Road; and,
3. Funding for a new Art Centre precinct.



At a special meeting on 10 February Council:

- Adopted a new Council Remuneration and Expense Reimbursement Policy; and,
- Resolved to provide \$10,000 for the Community Fishing Competition.

At the Ordinary Meeting on 24 February Council:

- Adopted a new Community Grants & Assistance Policy, Standing Orders for Council Meetings and Model Meeting Procedures;
- Adopted delegations from the Council to CEO;
- Supported extended trading hours for the Pormpuraaw United Brothers Sports Club for 2025 State of Origin matches; and,
- Awarded a second prize for the "design a shirt competition" to be used for shirt for a Don't Buy Sly initiative.

# A word from CEO Janelle Menzies



*A well-attended Pormpuraaw Stakeholders meeting was held at the Justice Centre on Friday 21 February.*

## My first month as CEO has passed very quickly.

The Chief Executive Officer is also the Airport Manager, and I have undertaken a refresher Aerodrome Reporting Officer course along with five other Staff from Pormpuraaw and one person from Kowanyama.

With heavy and consistent rain over four days earlier this month, our aerodrome runway sustained some damage resulting in us having to shorten it.

This hasn't affected our daily flights from Skytrans and Hinterland.

I have met with our engineers regarding our airstrip replacement and hopefully that project will be able to go out for tender soon so the project can be completed in the dry season.

Our disaster management plan

was put to the test during the month when an aircraft heading to Pormpuraaw phoned ahead to report the plane had smoke in the cabin.

Our Local Disaster Management Group jumped into action with quick response times from all of us, including the Pormpuraaw Police, Rural Fire Services and Pormpuraaw Health staff.

Luckily, the plane landed without any problems and everyone arrived safely.

We have had some exciting news about possible funding for the new subdivisions and social housing, and some additional money for extensions and possible granny flats to relieve some overcrowding.

I will keep everyone informed once funding agreements have been signed.

I have had several meetings with WIP Construction, who are doing the construction of the new hospital.

We have signed off on the "Indigenous Economic Opportunities Plan" and have almost finalised approval for their batching plant, as per Section 75A of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Our finance team in Cairns is getting ready for our internal and external audit programs for the year,

and the program dates are agreed.

Mayor Kendall has met with the Queensland Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Fiona Simpson, and he and I also attend a Torres & Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) meeting in Cairns with the other Councils, Apunipima Health, Ergon Energy, Worksafe Queensland, Local Government Association of Queensland and the Department of Local Government.

High on the agenda was their Red Tape Reduction Taskforce.

The meeting was very informative and a great networking opportunity for the Mayors and CEOs.

Next week I am off to Brisbane for my very last Queensland Local Government Grants Commission meeting.

I have been a member of the Commission for nine years, and during that time they have substantially increased their Financial Assistance Grants for rural, remote and Indigenous Councils in Queensland.

I am looking forward to March as we bring all our Cairns staff to Pormpuraaw to be involved with the Council's "Getting to know you" and "Wellbeing" forums.

*Janelle*

**PORMPURA AW**

**106.1<sup>FM</sup>**

**BLACK STAR**

**RADIO NETWORK**

# Watch out for ehrlichiosis in your dogs



Canine ehrlichiosis (pronounced 'err-lick-ee-oh-sis') is a disease of dogs caused by infection with a bacterium carried by ticks.

Some dogs become unwell 1–3 weeks after being bitten by an infected tick.

This is called an acute infection and needs veterinary treatment.

There is a high rate of severe illness and death during the acute phase, especially if unwell dogs do not receive veterinary care.

Other dogs can be infected but show no signs of disease, which is known as subclinical infection, meaning it is a hidden infection. Infected dogs may clear the bacteria from the bloodstream or they may become subclinical carriers of the bacteria in the spleen and bone marrow, with no signs of illness, for months or years.

Most dogs who receive veterinary treatment for acute infection respond well and appear to make a full recovery.

There is no easy test to assess whether the bacteria remain in the tissues, but not in the bloodstream. There is also no guarantee that the bacteria will be found.

Because of these challenges, a dog who is diagnosed with acute or subclinical ehrlichiosis is considered potentially subclinically infected for life, even after treatment.

Dogs with chronic ehrlichiosis have many different signs of disease.

Dogs may have a fever, be lethargic and lose weight, even if they are provided with plenty of food.

Bleeding disorders include bloody noses, bleeding or bruising under the skin, or bleeding into the lungs, causing breathing difficulty. Large lymph nodes might be visible or felt as lumps under the jaw, in front of the shoulders and in the back legs.

Eye abnormalities, including discharges and cloudy eyes, are common. Many dogs are lame or stiff.

Chronic ehrlichiosis gets progressively worse, because it becomes an autoimmune disease, where the tissues that produce both red and white blood cells are attacked from within the dog's body.

Infected dogs can spread ehrlichiosis, so that the disease becomes established in areas that are currently free from the disease.

Dog owners who travel with their pets and people who acquire dogs from areas where ehrlichiosis is known to occur need to be aware of these risks.

For all these reasons, dogs who live in, travel through or are acquired from brown dog tick-infested areas of Australia should be provided with lifelong, continuous tick control.

Kill-and-repel tick control products provide the best protection against tick attachment, and therefore protection from infection for individual dogs. This will reduce the risk of disease in other dogs.

There is no vaccine for ehrlichiosis.

Use a registered product that both kills and repels ticks, at all times, for dogs that are at risk.

This is the best protection against tick attachment.

Check dogs regularly for attached ticks, and keep long or fluffy coats clipped short so you can find ticks more easily.



See [www.agriculture.gov.au/ehrlichiosis](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ehrlichiosis) to learn more.

## Community Services

Welcome to Coral Harris, our new Community Services Team Leader.

Coral will be working closely with all the community services departments to ensure Council continues to provide high-quality services for the benefit of our community.

We are thrilled to have Coral on board and look forward to the positive impact she will bring to the team.

Coral can be reached via email or mobile as per details below:

Email: [communitytl@pormpuraaw.qld.gov.au](mailto:communitytl@pormpuraaw.qld.gov.au)

Mobile: 0484 071 261

Landline: 07 4060 4608

It was also very exciting to welcome three new team members to our Aged Care Department!

From left to right we have Andrew Poonkamelya, Donna Holroyd-Coleman and Ferguson Williams.

Andrew and Ferguson are joining the team as Aged Care Support Workers, whilst Donna is coming on board as an Aged Care Kitchen Hand.

Donna, Andrew and Ferguson will be a part of the crucial role of ensuring the ongoing provision of high-quality aged care services.

We look forward to the positive impact they will have on the department and the community.



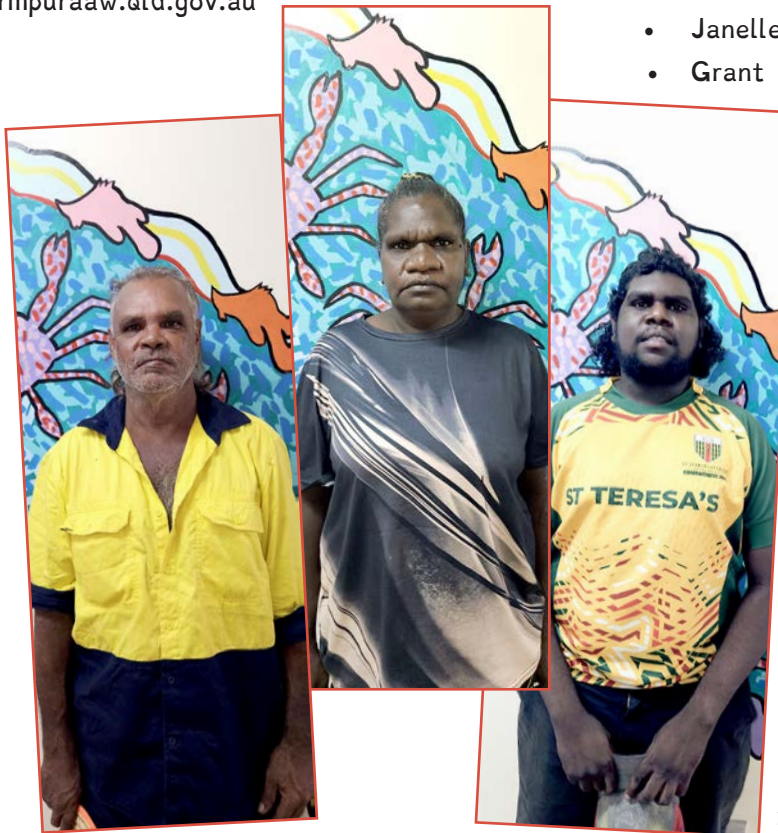
## Training

Five staff completed Aerodrome Reporting Officer Training:

- Janelle Menzies
- Grant Dennis
- Clinton Williams
- Glen Simpson
- Brett Greening

Janelle & Grant undertook the training as part of their roles as Airport Manager and the Executive Manager who oversees with Airport.

Once they have completed the last of their practical assessment, Clinton, Glen and Brett will be included on the on-call roster.



## Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council

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### Council Hours:

Monday - Friday 8am-12pm + 1pm-4:15pm  
Cashier Window (located in the Post Office)  
9am-12pm + 1pm-3pm