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Big smiles from Kayla (left) and Zaria Davidson (right) as they enjoy the fun and excitement of Yarrabah Foundation Day 2025.

Yarrabah Community Newsletter Is Back - Celebrating Our Strength!

Hello Yarrabah,

We're excited to announce the return of the Yarrabah Community Newsletter — your local source of news, stories, and community updates!

After a long break, we're relaunching the newsletter to keep you connected, informed, and inspired. From important council updates and upcoming events to local achievements, cultural highlights, and opportunities around town — this newsletter is for you, about you, and by you.

"This newsletter serves not just to inform, but to connect us, celebrate our culture, and showcases the great things happening in Yarrabah."

Every edition will shine a spotlight on the people who make Yarrabah such a strong and vibrant community. Whether it's celebrating local champions, promoting youth programs, sharing artwork, or highlighting our Elders' wisdom — we want your voices to be heard.

What to Expect:

- Messages from our Mayor
- Updates from Council and community programs
- Highlights of local projects, events, and services
- Cultural contributions and stories from Elders and youth
- Updates on health, education, and local services
- Photos and stories submitted by you

This is **your newsletter**, and we'd love your input. If you have a story idea, a photo to share, or a community event to promote, please get in touch — **we welcome contributions from everyone in Yarrabah.**

Stay tuned for our next edition, arriving in **August 2025**.

Together, let's celebrate the spirit of Yarrabah — strong, proud, and united.

Warm regards,

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council



Like and follow Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council— YASC on Facebook for more up-to-date events and community stories from Yarrabah.





Mayor's Welcome Message

Dear Community,

It's with deep respect and pride that I welcome you to this edition of our Community Newsletter—the first in some time, and a powerful chance for us to reconnect. This newsletter is more than words on a page; it's a celebration of our strength, our stories, and the incredible work happening across our community.

From our Elders to our young ones, our people carry a legacy of resilience, wisdom, and deep connection to Country. Through these pages, we shine a light on our achievements, share upcoming events, and highlight the work we're doing together to build a strong future—one grounded in culture, community, and care.

As your Mayor, I will continue listening, walking alongside you, and standing up for what matters most—our families, our future, and our voice. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter and continues to make our community stronger every day.

Let's keep walking forward, strong in culture, strong in spirit, strong as one.

Warm regards, Mayor Sexton





The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council acknowledges the Gunggandji People as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We pay our respects to their Elders—past, present and emerging.

We also acknowledge the Northern and Southern Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) as Trustees of this Country, the Stolen Generations, and all Yarrabah people whose Elders—past, present and emerging—continue to call Yarrabah home and contribute to the progress and strength of our Shire.

TIPS ON HEALTHY EATING

Eat more:

- Vegetables and legumes/beans
- Fruits
- Wholegrain cereals
- Reduced fat milk, yoghurt, cheese fish, seafood, poultry, eggs, legumes/ beans (including soy), and nuts and seeds.
- red meat (young females only)

Eat less:

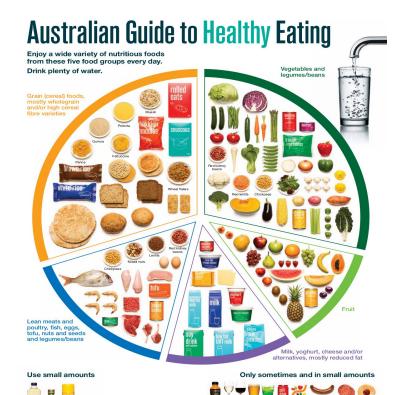
- Starchy vegetables (i.e. there is a need to include a wider variety of different types and colours of vegetables)
- Refined cereals
- High and medium fat dairy foods
- Red meats (adult males only)
- Food and drinks high in saturated fat, added sugar, added salt, or alcohol (e.g. fried foods, most take-away foods from quick service restaurants, cakes and biscuits, chocolate and confectionery, sweetened drinks).

Did you know?

Only 1 in 13 adults eat enough fruit and vegetables One-third of our energy intake comes from food we don't need 94% of children aged 2 to 17 don't eat enough vegetables

How much water should I drink a day?

There are Nutrient Reference Values advising that adult men should drink 2.6 litres of water per day (about 10 cups) and adult women should drink 2.1 litres per day (about eight cups).



July happenings

Sunday 6 July - Sunday 13 July National NAIDOC Week

Thursday 10 July - Sunday 13

July - CIAF at the Tanks Art Centre at Edge Hill

Friday 11 July Yarrabah NAIDOC Day

Saturday 12 July - Sunday 13 July - Mareeba Rodeo Festival

Sunday 13 July 7Cairns Marathon Festival at Fogarty Park, Cairns

Tuesday 15 July - Sunday 20 July Kuranda Roots Festival

Wednesday 16 July - Friday 18 July - Cairns Show at Cairns Showgrounds

Wednesday 16 July Community Fun Night, 4pm - 7:30pm at PCYC Yarrabah

Thursday 24 July
RACQF Community Event
11am - 2pm
at Arts & Cultural Centre





THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

6-13 JULY 2025

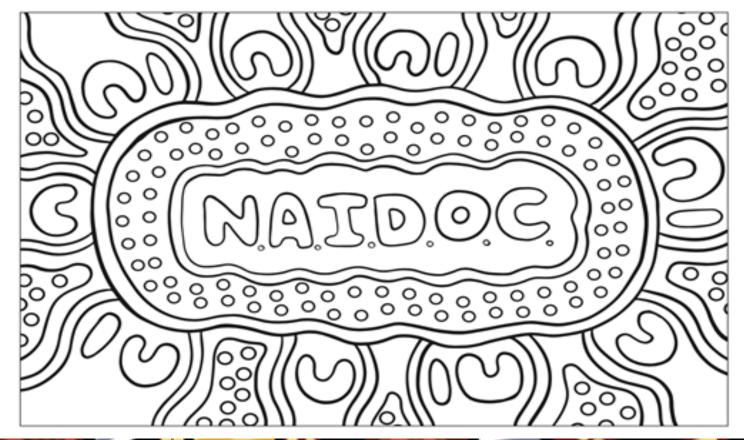


As we enter 2025, this year the National NAIDOC Week marks a powerful milestone: 50 years of honoring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience. The 2025 theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.

With every story shared, every act of resilience remembered, and every cultural practice celebrated, we honor a legacy that reaches far into the past and extends into the future. As we celebrate this milestone, we look toward the next 50 years with excitement and confidence, while everyday ensuring that NAIDOC remains a movement grounded in community-led vision and integrity.

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council will be holding an event on <u>Friday</u>, <u>11 July 2025</u>, at Bishop Malcom Park from 9:30am, check Council's Facebook page for more details. Let's come together as one mob to celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC and many more to come.

Kids NAIDOC coloring







Celebrating the vibrant arts and cultural heritage of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the 16th landmark edition of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) will showcase an exciting First Nations program from Thursday, 10 July 2025, to Sunday, 13 July 2025, in the city's lush botanical arts precinct.

Yarrabah arts and cultural precincts
- 2024 CIAF

Situated in the heart of Gimuy / Cairns' botanical precinct and surrounded by the verdant rainforest, CIAF's 2025 program, featuring primarily free and ticketed events, is brimming with highlights and involvement from some of Australia's most eminent First Nations artists, and activists, that will transform Tanks Art Centre's three repurposed World War II oil tanks into an inclusive and culturally immersive wonderland.

Comprising over 600 visual artists and 150 performers, CIAF's 2025 program spans visual and performing arts, masterclasses, cultural demonstrations, talks, awards, fashion, food and more in events and activations that include Opening Night, *Pay Attention!* Art Fair Showcase, Artisans Showcase (formerly art market), *Look & Listen* Fashion Performances, Artist Talks, Mark Makers Talks Program, Guided Tours, Art Awards, Masterclasses, Cultural Demonstrations, Cultural Practices (dance) and Closing Ceremony.





Visit CIAF website for more information

https://ciaf.com.au/cairns-indigenous-art-fair-ciaf



Make sure to come visit us at CIAF (13-16 July), check out our latest creations, and support all the other incredible art centres, artists, and events happening across the festival! It's a powerful celebration of culture, creativity, and connection and we can't wait to see you there!

This vibrant artwork celebrates Yarrabah's culture and connection to Country, with bold layers of colour, sea life, and powerful messages like 'Always Was' and 'Treaty Yarrabah



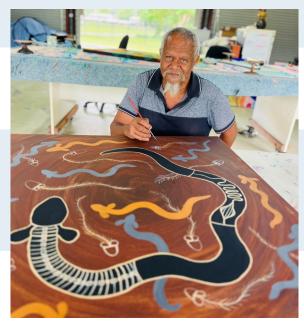




Local Artist Spotlight

Meet Shane Bulmer – a creative artist and storyteller through art. Shane brings a grassroots spirit and vibrant colour to every canvas,

painting stories that come from the heart and resonate



NEW WORK IN PROGRESS

Errol Thomas returns with another captivating piece. His latest painting is already giving us goosebumps, with rich layers of culture and story coming to life in every brushstroke.



Exhibitions — Cairns Art Gallery

Ours Stories: Contemporary Indigenous Weaving

Exhibition runs from 28 June to 14 Sep 2025. Free entry. No booking required.

The sculptural weaves of Philomena Yeatman (Gunggandji and Kuku Yalanji) embody stories of life, connection, and culture in Yarrabah, using the traditional materials of her ancestral heritage. Her work is a powerful assertion of her maternal connections and unbroken connection to Culture.



World Female Ranger Week 2025, 23-30 June

Celebrating Bold Women Protecting the Planet Real Women. Real Stories. Real Impact.

World Female Ranger Week is a global initiative that shines a light on the fearless women working on the frontlines of conservation, protecting wildlife, Country, and culture.

This year, we proudly celebrate two outstanding local women: **Meegan Fourmile** and **Finetta Mundraby**, dedicated rangers with Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji (GMY) Rangers.

As proud Gunggandji and Mandingalbay Yidinji women and dedicated custodians of Country, Meegan and Finetta bring deep cultural connection, resilience, and care to their work. Through their roles with Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji (GMY) Rangers, they are protecting country, preserving biodiversity, and passing on traditional knowledge to our future generations.

Their contributions go far beyond environmental management — they are community leaders, educators, and role models, proving every day that women are essential to the future of conservation and our country.

We honour Meegan and Finetta not only for the work they do, but for who they are: strong, wise, and connected to our country. This week, and every week, we say thank you.

As proud Gunggandji and Mandingalbay Yidinji women, Meegan and Finetta bring powerful cultural knowledge, strength, and connection to their work on Country. Their leadership is vital in protecting biodiversity, restoring landscapes, and preserving traditional knowledge for future generations.

More than environmental stewards, Meegan and Finetta are educators, role models, and community leaders. Their work reflects the deep interconnection between culture and conservation — reminding us that protecting Country is about people as much as it is about land and wildlife.

This Female Ranger Week, and every week, we honour their wisdom, resilience, and tireless efforts. Thank you, Meegan and Finetta, for protecting Country and inspiring us all.

Special thanks to the GMYPPBC Facebook page for sharing these great photos and story featured in this article.



Finetta Mundraby (left) & Meegan Fourmile (right)

































YARRABAH FOUNDATION DAY 2025

Yarrabah Foundation Day 2025 officially fell on 17 June, but due to weather conditions, the celebration was rescheduled to Friday, 4 July.

For over a century, the Yarrabah community has come together on this date to acknowledge the establishment of the community as a Mission in 1892—and to reflect on how far we have come.

In earlier years, celebrations included church services, re-enactments and sports days. As far back as 1917, the *Australian Board of Mission's Review* described the day as "a solemn procession from the Church, and a service at the wooden cross situated on the beach at the spot where the pioneer missionary landed", with hymns led by the Yarrabah brass band.

In 1943, the Sports Day was moved from June to January due to the absence of many Yarrabah men, who were filling labour shortages during World War II.

This year, although the weather forced us to postpone, we came together once again to celebrate our story—strong, proud and united.

Enjoy the photos throughout this edition capturing the joy, colour and spirit of the day—from smiling faces, races and community pride.

We look forward to seeing you next year for another Foundation Day filled with fun, games and community pride.



Yarrabah Daycare News - Our Little Explorers Visit the Cairns Aquarium!

We're excited to share the joy from our very first excursion to the Cairns Aquarium in June!

The children were thrilled to see sharks, manta rays, turtles, and so many more fascinating sea creatures. Their faces lit up with wonder and curiosity, it was truly heart warming to see.

With 20 little ones full of energy and questions, it was a big morning for all of us. They behaved beautifully and were safely back on the bus for the return trip, worn out but happy from such a fun filled day.

A big thank you to our amazing staff who joined and supported the excursion. It was a big day for them too, and we couldn't have done it without their help.



NEWS FROM COUNCIL



Did you know YASC can help community members to remove abandoned vehicles

An abandoned vehicle can be more than just and eyesore—it can be serious health and safety risk to the community.

These vehicles may attract pests and rodents such as rats and mice, which can spread disease and create unsanitary conditions.

Additionally, they often become a target for vandalism or arson, placing nearby properties, lives and the environment at risk.

Abandoned vehicles also contribute to a sense of neglect and disorder in our community.

If you are aware of any abandoned vehicles in your area, please report them to Yarrabah Works Department at 4056 0120

If you would like to have your vehicle removed, or report an abandoned vehicle within the community, please contact the team at: Yarrabah Works Department (07) 4056 0120

Your cooperation helps keep our community safe, clean and free from hazards.







Yarrabah Community Bus Service

Service commences 16 June 2025

The Yarrabah Community Bus Service runs to and from Edmonton/Mt Sheridan on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. It's a good idea to get to the bus stop a few minutes early and make sure you signal the driver as the bus approaches.

FARE: 50c one way \$1 return Cash or card accepted

YARRABAH ↔ EDMONTON / MT SHERIDAN Monday, Wednesday, Friday service.

YARRABAH → EDMONTON / MT SHERIDAN

EDMONTON / MT SHERIDAN → **YARRABAH**

Stop Location	MON, WED, FRI	Sto
Wugu Nyambil Yarrabah (Noble St)	9:00am	Mt S
Cattle St (Old Bruce Hwy)	9:45am	Cattl
Mt Sheridan Plaza (Barnard Dr) Stop A	9:50am	Wug

Stop Location	MON, WED, FRI
Mt Sheridan Plaza (Barnard Dr) Stop A	1:30pm
Cattle St (Old Bruce Hwy)	1:35pm
Wugu Nyambil Yarrabah (Noble St)	2:20pm







Meet the faces supporting Council's Community Events & Communications

Council is proud to introduce two team members who play an important role in strengthening our connection with the community – our Community Services Officer and our new Trainee – Communications.

Together, they bring a strong commitment to community connection, cultural pride, and storytelling.



Muriel Bond: Community events are more than just a good time—they help build relationships, strengthen our spirit, and celebrate who we are.



Sahbreya Smith: I am excited to be apart of the team, to learn new skills and help our community be informed and connected.

Call for Contributions - Yarrabah Community Newsletter

Calling All Community Members, Organisations & Local Business!

We're always looking for stories, updates, milestones, events, shout-outs, stories, artwork photos and more to feature in our community newsletter — and we'd love to include yours in the next edition!

Whether you're a local business with news to share, a community group hosting an event, or a resident with a great photo or story, this is your chance to be part of something special.

Let's showcase the strength, culture and achievements of our amazing community — together.

Submissions are now open for our next edition.

What You Can Submit:

- Community news or event updates
- Staff or student achievements
- Photos from recent activities
- Upcoming program or training info
- Cultural stories, art, or local history
- Public notices or job opportunities

Please email your contribution to <u>CommunityServices@yarrabah.qld.gov.au</u> by Tuesday **22 July 2025**.



If you have any questions or need help preparing your submission, feel free to get in touch.

Thank you for being part of what makes our community strong, proud and connected!

We Hope You Enjoyed This Edition!

Thank you for taking the time to read our community newsletter.

We hope you enjoyed the stories, updates, and photos shared in this edition.

Your feedback is always welcome — let us know what you'd like to see in future issues or how we can improve.

We're here to celebrate and connect our community, and your input helps us do just that. **Got feedback or ideas?** Email us at CommunityServices@yarrabah.qld.gov.au





Yarrabah Noise Complaint

Yarrabah Station | QPS

Address: 644 Back Beach Road, Yarrabah - 4871

Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm

Phone Number (07) 4068 4022



Housing repairs and Maintenance request

Tenants can call Qbuild

8am - 5pm on <u>1300 650 910</u>

All Repairs and Maintenance Request are to be made by the tenant by the use of the blue phone

(located outside of the Housing Office at the Training Centre)

Community Services Contacts

SES - 132 500

POLICE LINK EG. NOISY PARTIES- 131 444

BAS (Q-BUILD) - 1300 650 910

EMERGENCIES: FIRE / POLICE / AMBULANCE - 000

UUU

PCYC - 4056 9112

GURRINY HEALTH SERVICES - 4226 4100

Yarrabah Community Public Holidays 2025

Survival Day - Monday 27 January
Yarrabah Foundation Day - 17 June
Yarrabah NAIDOC - Friday 11 July
Cairns Show Day - Friday 18 July
Yarrabah DOGIT Day - Monday 27
October

Queensland Public Holiday 2025

New Years - 1 January

Australia Day - 27 January

Good Friday - 18 April

Holy Saturday - 19 April

Easter Sunday - 20 April

Easter Monday - 21 April

ANZAC Day - 25 April

Labour Day - 5 May

Kings Birthday - 6 October

Christmas Day - 25 December

Boxing Day - 26 December





The Yarrabah Community Newsletter is produced by Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council on a monthly basis. Input is encouraged from community members. Please email suggested notices and stories for consideration to CommunityServices@yarrabah.qld.gov.au A digital copy of this newsletter is available on Council's website and will be promoted through our Facebook page and 4k followers. Advertising is available - please call Council on 4056 9120 to discuss.