



Better Homes, Better Futures

Community Gardens

Community Gardens bring people together to grow fresh food at little or no cost in neighbourhoods across the region. They are a fantastic space to meet new people, learn new skills, get active and experience the satisfaction of growing nutritious fruit and vegetables.

This reduces the environmental impacts of diets usually made up of food that is transported great distances and is especially important for those living in high density areas without a garden. There are several gardens supported by Council:

- Manoora Community Garden: Lot 8 (cul-de-sac), Rollinia Close, Manoora
- Holloways Beach Community Garden: Raintrees Park, Oleander Street, Holloways Beach
- Edmonton Community Garden: Walker Road, Edmonton
- Bungalow Community Garden: 7 Kidston Street, Bungalow
- Marlin Coast Community Garden: 205 Reed Rd, Trinity Park

There are many more communities growing food in Cairns, including schools, kindies and James Cook University.



From the CEO's desk

As Easter and school holidays are upon us, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy, safe Easter. It is also an exciting time for sports lovers with the Commonwealth Games about to commence and it is wonderful to see that Cairns is hosting some of the basketball games. Hopefully some of you got to see the baton relay as it progressed through far north Qld. The football seasons are also underway and Access Housing is this year encouraging tenants, staff and friends to be part of our football tipping competition. We have some prizes throughout the season and it is not too late to join us. If you are interested, see the link later in the newsletter. I hope your efforts in selecting winners might be better than mine. Go the Cowboys!

We have been conducting inspections across all of our properties and one of the issues we have found is that tenants are not reporting issues, such as water leaks or electrical faults and whilst there may



Leah Cameron receiving her Qld Law Society Award.

be very valid reasons for these not being reported, eventually they often become major problems. If you have a leaking tap, please report it to us. In most cases we pay for these repairs. It is cheaper to replace a flick mixer, a tap washer than it is to replace a kitchen or bathroom cabinet down the track. Thanks for helping us with these repair notifications. If your home needs any repairs or maintenance, please contact our Property team on 4031 6702.

We recently farewellled Charmaene and Susanne and thank them for the efforts and energy they contributed during their time with us. We wish them well for the future. I wanted to acknowledge a wonderful achievement by one of our Board Directors, Leah Cameron who recently won the Qld Law Society's First Nations Lawyer of the Year Award. Leah is the principal of Marrawah Law and chairs our Reconciliation Action Plan working group. A big congratulations to Leah on her well-deserved award.

Cheers to all and looking forward to watching some amazing athletes over the next few weeks during the Commonwealth Games.

Cheers,
Donna-Maree





Fire Equipment

All properties managed by ACHC have fire warning systems in place, whether it is domestic smoke alarms or a fire alarm system. Some properties also have extinguishers, hydrants, hose reels and fire blankets, depending on the type of building. It is important that all of the fire equipment is kept in

working order so it is ready if there is a fire. Although the fire appliances and systems are routinely inspected, firefighting equipment and detectors are often damaged. Not only are they expensive to repair, the damage also means the equipment might not be available when it is needed in a fire.

If your fire equipment becomes faulty or damaged, please contact ACHC and we will arrange for it to be repaired. This includes if a domestic smoke alarm beeps due to a fault or flat battery. Leaving a smoke alarm disconnected puts you and others in the house at risk.

Under Queensland law, interfering with fire equipment is an offence that carries heavy penalties.



Little Taccas

You're never too young to develop a green thumb.

The Little Taccas program, named after the tropical plant *Tacca integrifolia*, gives young children an appreciation for nature and gardening. Aimed at children aged under five years, the fortnightly program features nature-based activities in the Cairns Botanic Gardens precinct, including art and craft, storytelling, sing-alongs and garden discovery walks. The program is held fortnightly on Thursdays from 10 am to noon. Children must be accompanied by a parent or carer. Bookings essential.



Please download form

www.cairns.qld.gov.au/facilities-sport-leisure/botanic/little-taccas.

Program 2 dates: May 10, 24, June 7, 21 & July 5
bookings open Monday 30th April 2018.



Water Usage and Billing

In rented properties tenants are usually responsible for all water charges if the property is WELS (Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards) compliant, or for excess water usage if it is not WELS compliant. This is the same for ACHC properties. When a property has WELS compliance it means the property has water saving measures to keep water bills down. ACHC is working towards making all properties WELS compliant.

So what does this mean for our tenants? Tenants already paying a full water bill will be unaffected, but we may carry out checks from time to time to make sure the water saving measures are still effective. Tenants whose tenancy agreements do not include a water charge will be given the appropriate notice before any billing changes are made, but this will only happen after the property is made WELS compliant. Water is a precious resource and we need to conserve it now and for our future. By changing some of your habits you can: save water, save money, save the environment. Being waterwise is easy. Make a difference today!

Residential water usage is charged at a rate of AU\$1.17 per kilolitre (1000 litres).



http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/69907/how_to_be_ww_a4.pdf



For the first time, Queensland will be celebrating its own youth week. If you are 12 to 25 yrs, Queensland Youth Week is your opportunity to make your voice heard and make a difference. Jump in. Make a splash. Get involved.

The Queensland Youth Engagement Hub (eHub) is a safe online space where you can connect directly with your peers and have your say about what matters most to you. Maybe consider attending some of the events during Queensland Youth Week.

Celebrate the achievements, vitality, and strength of young Queenslanders aged 12 to 25yrs. Help acknowledge the positive contribution young people make to our communities and Queensland's social, cultural, and economic life.

For event and activity details visit
www.cairns.qld.au/youth

All Tenants are invited to attend the

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL TENANTS ADVISORY GROUP INC.

Meetings are every second month on the first Friday of the month. The meetings provide an opportunity to discuss tenancy issues and hear updates on social housing matters.

Next meeting: Friday the 6th April 2018

Time: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Venue: Building & Asset Services Training Room

Where: 31-33 Grove Street Cairns



If you are shopping at Piccones Supa IGA Pease St or Edmonton Please make sure you quote our Community Number below when you are the checkout. Every point helps us continue to provide more dignity first bags to those whom are homeless.



**Community Number for
Access Community Housing
is 5017**

DIGNITY FIRST FUND

A little Dignity goes along way so please help us out



Free Legal Services at Wuchopperen

Wuchopperen Health Service Limited provides free weekly legal services to clients. The culturally appropriate, on - site service covers both civil and family law, and is provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lawyers from community legal services LawRight and Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS).

LawRight and QIFVLS services can be accessed at Wuchopperen, 6 Moignard St, Manoora, Queensland 4870.

LawRight services are available every Tuesday from 9 am – 12 pm.

QIFVLS is available every second Tuesday 9 am – 12 pm.

The service is open to new and existing Wuchopperen clients. Please call 07 4080 1000 to book an appointment. Transport services available.



Dania Ahwang and Donnell Mills



The Wuchopperen Team

Reuniting Families

Wuchopperen Health Service Limited has partnered with UnitingCare Queensland to deliver Newpin in Far North Queensland.

Newpin Queensland was established under the Queensland Government Indigenous Disadvantage, Social Benefit Bond Pilot program seeking to break the cycle of over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care.

Please contact Wuchopperen on 4080 1000 to find out more about this program.

Meet some of Wuchopperen's Social and Emotional Wellbeing Team who can provide counselling, family and domestic violence education and awareness programs, assistance to people affected by the Stolen Generation policies and practices and those impacted by drug and alcohol issues.

Please contact Wuchopperen on 4080 1000 to find out more about these services.

Wuchopperen Health Service Limited's annual Walk (Wellbeing and Culture) Youth Festival will take place on 11th April 2018.



28 April

Based on a concept from a Catherine Ryan Hyde novel, Pay It Forward Day urges people around the world to commit random acts of kindness. It is a day to do good deeds, and instruct the recipient of your good deed to 'pay it forward', and return the good deed to another person.



Website: payitforwardday.com/



Cairns Junior
Baseball Season

21st April – 8th September

Season starts soon for juniors ages 5-18,
Walker Road Sporting Precinct,
Edmonton



for more information call
0411 801 712.

KINDY & PREP OPEN DAY

TAS, White Rock,
3 May 9am – 12 noon,
more info call 4036 8111



Aimed at Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander youth aged 12-20 yrs and celebrates our voice, our impact and the importance of healthy lifestyle choices, keeping culture alive and education. Event features community stalls, a healthy feed and stacks of activities and entertainment.

Event 4pm – 7pm

For more info please visit

<https://www.wuchopperen.org.au/wak-youth-festival>



DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE AUTISM?



Early Days provides workshops for parents and other family members of children aged 0-6 years who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis or are going through the assessment and diagnosis process.

What this workshop offers:

- Understanding why your child has behavioural issues
- Learn how to identify the purpose of your child's behaviour
- Learn how to develop strategies
- Plan for success.
- Free to attend
- Lunch & light refreshments provided
- Childcare is NOT provided.

Held in small groups of 4-15 and gives you an opportunity to meet other parents

This workshop for parents is Wednesday 16 May 2018, 9.30am - 2.30pm, Manunda Library Raintrees Shopping Centre, 63 Alfred St, MANUNDA.

REGISTER ONLINE

www.autismqld.com.au/page/early-days

It is highly recommended you attend the 'My Child and Autism' workshop prior to attending this workshop.

For more information: Ph: 07 3273 0000

Email: workshops@autismqld.com.au

www.autismqld.com.au



National Reconciliation Week

Organisation: Reconciliation Australia

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey - the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.

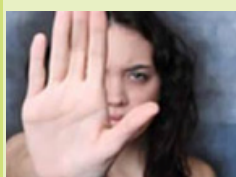


National Families Week

14-21 May 2018

Website: www.nfw.org.au

National Families Week is a time to celebrate with your immediate family, make contact with your extended family and friends and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. It is a time to celebrate the meaning of family and to make the most of family time.



Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

is held during May each year to raise community awareness and promote a clear message that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated in our communities.

Website: www.domesticviolence.com.au/pages/domestic-violence-prevention-month-1st-31st-may-20.php



Remembrance Poppy Workshop

Share craft and stories while having fun making poppies! Poppies will be donated to the Australian War Memorial. Poppy workshop to make hand knitted poppies, all materials supplied, beginners welcome, booking not necessary, poppies made will be donated to the Australian War Memorial Project

**Time: 13 Apr 2018
10:00 am - 1:00 pm**
Location: Manunda Library
Contact: 4044 3779



Join in ACHC first NRL tipping competition!

Go to www.footytips.com.au - Register and join our competition
ACHC Tipping - Password: access

There are prizes awarded throughout the year. Make sure your email is visible to the Administrator (tick the box in "your preferences" within the comp) so you can be contacted if a winner!

Things to do

- Esplanade Market
Sat 7th April 2018
Cairns Esplanade(next to the Lagoon)
- Palm Cove Market
Sunday 1st April
Williams Esplanade, Palm Cove
- Free guided birdwatching tour
Tuesday 3rd April 2018
Time: 8.30am-10.30am – Meet at Friends House in the Flecker Gardens

Diary Dates 2018



29 March	School Terms 1 – Last Day
5 – 10 Apr	Commonwealth Games – Cairns will host the preliminary rounds of the men's and women's basketball.
17 April	School Term 2 – Start
22 April	Earth Day
25 April	Anzac Day
7 May	Labor Day Weekend
13 May	Mothers Day
26 May	National Sorry Day