

JUNE 2021 |

GREATER WHITSUNDAY COMMUNITIES NEWSLETTER

Updates and news from the Greater Whitsunday
Region



Here at Greater Whitsunday Communities, we are working towards a future where our regional communities achieve and enjoy a high level of social wellbeing. We know that when people feel connected, safe and supported – our communities thrive.

As social development practitioners and the peak regional body, we amplify the Greater Whitsunday community's voice on important issues and continue to promote the social sector as a major contributor to economic growth and prosperity for our region, making our communities better places to live.

In this newsletter edition we are thrilled to launch a brand new www.greaterwhitsundaycommunities.org.au. It provides information, profiles community stories and offers learning and development for community groups and members.

It is essential that we continue to support an active regional voice that connects community members with their local leaders, groups, service providers and government. Communication and connectedness are a key part of this work and the new website will support greater reach and greater awareness of the important work happening across the region.

The website forms part of the 2020 revisioning process that our organisation has undertaken including a new name and look, and new governance structure.

I would like to acknowledge the great work our team has done over the past 6 months. Dorne, Antoinette, Lauren, Kate and Ashton have been extremely busy working across the Greater Whitsunday region with a variety of community organisation and stakeholders.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of our coordinating committee members, the structure review committee members and our interim executive office Jennifer Emmett who have all invested greatly with their time and expertise to lead this organisation through our restructure process while keeping the organisation running efficiently with business as usual.

Karen May,
GWC President

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Collaborative Partnerships

NEBO COMMUNITY WELCOME WAGON

NEBO COMMUNITY WELCOME WAGON

On Sunday 30 May we attended our first Nebo Community "Welcome Wagon" connection activity with 20 people, new and long term residents. A number of attendees shared that it was 'a good opportunity to meet new people' and interest in future events.

Earlier in the year GWC facilitated a number of meetings referred to as 'Nebo Community Chats', where findings from the 2020 Nebo Community Forum were discussed. Desired actions based on the findings from the final report included:

- Develop & sustain Nebo Community spirit & connection
- Hold some community "Meet & Greet" activities to bring community together

- Greater Whitsunday & Isaac Regional Council (IRC) in partnership to bring together Community members to explore Community Coordination & Leadership group to support the community initiatives, and work collaboratively

With this in mind, community members expressed an interest in holding quarterly 'Meet and greet events' and a Health Information Day to bring the Nebo community together and build connection.

The event was a good sign for things to come, with the group motivated and planning to hold another event in August 2021. Thanks to IRC Community Relations Officer & Glencore Community Relations Officer for their support.



Locals new and old were at the first of what the Nebo WAGON group hopes to be regular community catch ups

Funded by
**HAIL CREEK
OPEN CUT**
GLENCORE

Collaborative Partnerships



BETTER TOGETHER HOUSING

Greater Whitsunday Communities commenced as the Mackay Regional Host for the Better Together Housing program (BTH) in March this year. BTH is an early intervention, peer support model for women over 55 facing housing insecurity and homelessness. It is a platform for participants to find someone to share with, it does not provide housing but does link people together who are interested in sharing their home or rental, and benefit from a shared housing situation.

In April, project worker Lauren Pattie and senior coordinator Dorne Wallace began to connect with organisations and groups who were identified as necessary community partners to support the program and participants throughout their BTH journey.

Project coordinator Fiona Malcolm visited Mackay from the Sunshine Coast to meet the Mackay team and link with some of our community partners and female elected councillors from the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday regions. These interactions provided us with valuable knowledge and understanding of the resources and networks available in our regions.

We are hard at work getting the word out there to women and various community groups. A regional advisory group is also currently being formed. If you, your group or anyone you know is interested in the Better Together Housing Program and would like to find out more, visit www.bettertogetherhousing.com.au or email Lauren at lauren@gwcommunities.org.au to discuss the program, organise an information session or have an informal and private chat.



Collaborative Partnerships



WIRE N RUST- CELEBRATING RURAL WOMEN - COLLINSVILLE AND GLENDEEN

Through the support of the Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund Drought Recovery (Round Four), a Women's Health Day was held in Collinsville on 1 June 2021. Greater Whitsunday Communities - in partnership with Collinsville Community Association and Youth Coalition hosted this inaugural event for local women.

The health day allowed community members to interact and connect with health services from all over the Mackay and Whitsunday region, that are not easily accessible to regional communities like Collinsville. We acknowledge the support of Mackay Hospital and Health Services for making this day happen.

Further to the Health Day, Greater Whitsunday Communities coordinated and contracted Wire and Rust and H's Hats to do a craft project, with a theme of resilience building for women affected by drought in the region. A total of 25 women attended the workshops that were held over two consecutive days- one of which was in conjunction with the Health Day on the 1st of June.

GWC also brought Wire N Rust and H's Hats to Glenden on the 31st of May, which was supported by the Glencore Community Investment Program to provide the Glenden community with the opportunity to have something unique come to their community, as well as a chance for community members to come together, build connections and networks.



"The power of community to create health is far greater than that of any physician, clinic or hospital" - Mark Hyman



Collaborative Partnerships



ClermontCONNECT DIRECTORS INFORMATION SESSION

In April a group of likeminded Clermont community members met for the ClermontCONNECT Directors Information Session. ClermontCONNECT is a concept that enables Clermont community members to make changes in their community and contribute to the future of the town and help keep the community viable and vibrant. The Thumbprint People was written by John Burnett about ClermontCONNECT and the logo.

This project has been made possible with funding received from Glencore Coal Assets Australia.

Trying to keep the community viable and vibrant. The Thumbprint People (Page 6.) was written by John Burnett about ClermontCONNECT and the logo.

Funded by

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Collaborative Partnerships



Regional Socio-Economic Practice



Community Leadership Skills



Regional Voice & Connectedness



Community Governance & Management Capability



Peak Body Representation

The Thumbprint People

My new phone came the other day to bring me up to speed,
My daughter says it's perfect- says it's everything I need.
I only want to check the mail, and take calls in and out,
A basic phone is what's required, that's what it's all about.

So first I go to open it, to see what is on the screen,
'Please enter in your thumbprint', why I nearly dumps me spleen!
But still, I put my thumb on there and move it slowly round,
It seems to think I've done the job, but who knows what it found!

Now only one thumb does the job, the other one's rejected,
Fingers are quite useless, why you'd think they were infected.
But that one thumb, with minute lines can tell it who I am.
It is unique, apparently, or is it just a scam!

Well then, I start to thinking, just what creates those lines?
And if I get some barbed wire cuts, will this thing still be fine?
Will my thumbprint end up different, just like a kid that grows?
So, what will happen to those lines, each time I pick my nose?

Just like in our community there's lots of little things,
That make us all quite different, but one thing in common rings.
We move in social circles, sometimes we change direction.
Most working for the common good, community protection.

We might coach the kids at football, or join the local choir,
Or help out at the Men's Shed might be what you desire.
It doesn't matter what it is that gets you most excited.
It's how we can help each other, will keep us all united.

For we are the "thumbprint people", all working to a goal,
And put us all together, we become our Clermont's soul,
It seems to give our families a great place to call home,
And there's a yearning to return for most who choose to roam.

A district built from gold it seems, that then morphed into coal,
Add cattle, crops, and horses -sheep also had a role,
And large holdings were then split up for many new selections,
Today we have new miners here, with multiple detections.

Throughout the town, there's buildings that reflect our glorious past,
Some survived the great town flood, for most were built to last.
But time moves on, some lose their role, some just need renovation,
How does the future look to fit? This all needs contemplation!

For Clermont is not as it was one hundred years ago,
But we're still strong in spirit, and we still hold our show.
The world has changed and so have we, there's challenges we face,
But if we work together, that's a challenge we'll embrace.

Our kids must know what we believe, and know from whence we came,
And see the vision that we hold, there's no one else to blame.
The future of this community is here for us to share,
Our young folk just need leadership, then they will take us there.

ClermontCONNECT is just a way to make a dream come true,
But it will not work on dreams alone, it's up to me and you.
To make this a reality, to take a leading role,
To make the thumbprint clearly, and to reflect our Clermont's soul.

----- John Burnett 1/04/2021

Community Leadership

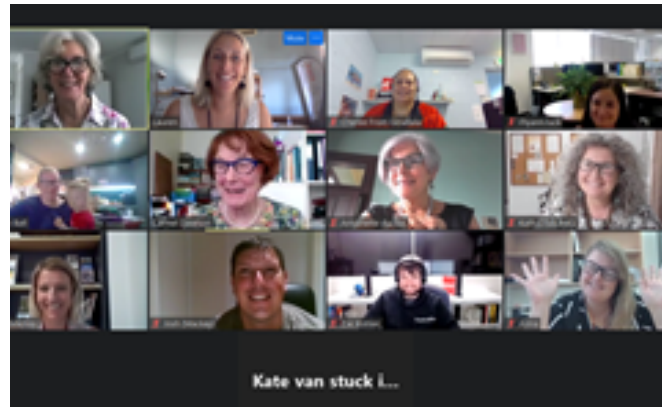


COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Community Leadership Programme has been funded as a pilot for our region. The goal is to develop knowledge, skills and capacity for emerging leaders in the Greater Whitsunday region. This work is funded by the Australian Government Building Better Region Fund Community Investment stream.

Twelve emerging leaders from all over the Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay Regions were challenged with a comprehensive programme including a mentoring programme and an intensive weekend retreat.

From the skills and experiences gained throughout the programme, emerging leaders are kicking goals in their community. Participants Sandy (Page 8.), Cheree and Toni-Marie (below) share their successes and new partnerships being formed.



Collaboration and Partnerships in Bowen

Toni-Marie from The Neighbourhood Hub and Cheree from Girudala Community Co-Operative have been working hard to create a great community partnership between the two organisations. During April, Financial Literacy Workshops were delivered at Girudala by The Neighbourhood Hub with the second workshop being delivered in the first week in June.



Community Leadership continued



CLERMONT4DOCTORS SUCCESS

Twelve months from the launch of the Clermont4Doctors project it is a significant moment to reflect on the changes in the community during that time. The Clermont community has a long history of Doctor shortages and inadequate access to medical services and although Clermont may not have increased the number of Doctors in town YET, the Clermont4Doctors project has successfully advocated the necessity for a change in medical model.

It is uncertain if the model proposed is the answer to the problem, but community now has a seat at the table regarding their needs. Clermont4Doctors has also encouraged the Mackay Hospital and Health Service to host an open community forum for the community to have any questions answered regarding the service delivery model change which was held on Thursday 17 June 2021, at the Clermont Civic Centre.

Engagement with the project has significantly increased over the past three months with many community members feeling empowered and confident to continue with their own advocacy instead of Clermont4Doctors advocating on their behalf. This is something the Clermont4Doctors Group are incredibly proud of, as previously the voices of the community have been stifled by service providers.

Sandy's involvement in the Greater Whitsunday Communities Leadership programme has provided her with a support network and community development framework for the Clermont4Doctors project. She believes this has given her the confidence to partner with the Clermont community and encourage them to act. By using a community development approach, Sandy can be confident Clermont4Doctors will fulfill the obligations of their funding sponsor through their community improvement program as the work they do will always be by the community for the community. Clermont4Doctors also participates in the ClermontCONNECT collaboration.



ISAAC YOUTH UNMET NEEDS RESEARCH PROJECT

We have been working in partnership with Isaac Regional Council on a research project to identify the unmet needs of young people across the region. We have collected the data from approximately 300 young people, 55 parents and 50 service providers through an online survey, focus groups and feedback sessions.

There were many correlations between what young people, parents and service providers felt were issues and concerns for young people in their communities. One thing that was very clear from all groups is the need for more structured youth development activities, outside of sport, and availability of specialized youth support services- particularly in mental health. After school and weekend care services were also identified across each of the data groups as being important factors in improving the wellbeing of young people in the Isaac Region.

We are expecting to finalize the report to present to council in July 2021 and will make it available via our website. Stay tuned for next steps!

YOL1000 PROJECT

Greater Whitsunday Communities (GWC) continues to support the collaborative project -Youth Out Loud 1000 (YOL1000) which aims to hold 1000 conversations with young people to explore strengths as well as needs, as identified directly from the young people themselves.

The YOL1000 Engagement Group have held 600 out of the target of 1000 conversations with young people between 10-21 years. From these 600 conversations, clear trends are beginning to appear.

These trends and themes were presented at a recent YOL1000 Champions Check-in where participants were invited to look at both an area of strength and an area of need as perceived by young people, to determine the areas of focus for action planning.



The two areas of priority chosen were:

- Lack of entertainment (area of need)
- Places and Spaces (area of community strength)

High impact, low-cost actions were explored to be included in the first 90-day implementation plan.

Interested parties who would like to assist in driving the next steps of action are invited to contact Greater Whitsunday Communities via email admin@gwcommunities.org.au

Community Governance & Management Capability

MANAGING DISRUPTIONS – PEER 2 PEER NETWORKING APPROACH

Funded by the Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements CQ Bushfires Flexible Funding Grant- The aim was to work alongside not for profit community-based organisations in the Isaac and Mackay & Whitsunday regions to build awareness and encourage uptake of user-led business continuity planning.

From November 2020 to March 2021, GWC facilitated five half-day workshops. The workshops were to engage with the identified community-based organisations and exchange ideas about how they dealt with previous disruptive events and identify gaps and shortcomings they experienced with the planning during the events.

Facilitators included Greater Whitsunday Communities, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the regional council emergency representatives.

Key observations from the workshop were:

- The workshop session was the first time that the organisations had come together to discuss business continuity plans.
- Planning for adverse events had always been done in isolation for most of the organisations experiences.
- BCPs had mainly focused on cyclones and flooding, not other disruptions, until COVID -19.
- BCPs were developed by individual people within the organisations.
- Business Continuity Planning is not prioritised in organisations.
- Most organisations do not have BCPs for leadership and management in organisations.



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Although funding for this product has been provided by both the Australian and Queensland Governments, the material contained here-in does not necessarily represent the views of either Government.

Regional Socio-Economics

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORUM 2020



In September 2020, we convened and facilitated a forum attended by 60 key stakeholders including, LGA's State Government representatives, industry and business groups and community partners to:

- Build capacity and greater understanding of the link between social and economic development.
- Increase understanding of the role the social sector plays in the economic profile of the region
- Position Greater Whitsunday Communities as a key player in the socio-economic agenda of our region.

We have applied to the Australian Governments Building Better Regions Fund to develop a regional Community of Practice in this space.

Read more [here](#) about the work we have undertaken to facilitate this interconnectedness.

Peak Body Representation

COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY ALLIANCE UPDATE

On the 20th of May 2021, Greater Whitsunday Communities hosted CEO Belinda Drew and General Manager Matthew Gillet of Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA), in Mackay.

They met with community services from across the WIM region to give an update on what CSIA has been working on and hear what the issues and concerns are currently for the WIM region.



WORKFORCE CAPACITY

CSIA has had a strong focus on strengthening the workforce capacity and resources to support the growing demands of the community services industry. In terms of workforce, community services and health industry are the largest employing industry in Australia. Accounting for about 13% of the workforce in Queensland, and approximately 10% in the Mackay Region. This is predicted to grow by two percent in the Mackay Region 2024, six times the average growth.

CSIA continue to advocate for the training and employment systems to improve their support of this growth. They have been working with community service providers across various sectors to try to improve its capacity to attract and retain the right talent through various strategies including:

- Workability Queensland project which is focused on the NDIS workforce for Queensland. Providing training and development programs which look at supporting better pathways into new NDIS roles, with strong focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organizations and workers. Read more about the Workability program [here](#)
- Job Road Show events specific to individual regions- where jobseekers and employers are invited to come together to give a bit of an overview of what jobs in the industry look like, and then conduct speed interviews with the employers. These will continue to roll out over the next 12months.
- National program, Boosting Local Care Workforce, is a partnership with Ernst and Young and funded by the Department of Social Services, working with aged care and disability, workforce

- The Department of Social Services will soon release a national Care and Support Workforce Strategy to extend the BLCW work. The strategy has been released and can be found at this [link](#)
- New program called Community Services Job Match- an online platform that allows interested job seekers and experienced workers to register themselves on the platform, filling in a profile for employers to see their experience, job interests and localities willing to work in. Read more about Job Match [here](#)

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

Belinda raised that the Queensland Government has commenced a consultation process on the approach to implementation of Child Safe Standards in Queensland.

CSIA has provided a submission in partnership with NAPCAN. Key areas of focus are:

- further consultation and engagement with industry,
- joint design of the approach with industry, support to build capability,
- a transition period for implementation.
- CSIA will continue to raise awareness in anticipation of the government undertaking further work.

COVID-19 TASKFORCE UPDATE

[Meeting COVID-19 challenges through collaborations and partnerships - CSIA - CSIA \(csialtd.com.au\)](#)

PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE

[Portable Long Service Leave - CSIA - CSIA \(csialtd.com.au\)](#)

Community Events Across the Region

Plastic Boutique in Glenden
4th & 18th of July
9:30am-2:30pm
Glenden Recreation Centre

FREE sculpture workshops using wire, foil, mesh and different techniques to manipulate fabric to create feathers. We would love to have you all come and join us.

To register your interest or find out more email margaretburgessart@gmail.com

NAIDOC Week 2021
July 4-11
Heal Country, heal our nation



HEAL COUNTRY!
4-11 JULY 2021

Heal Country! – calls for stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

[Events across Australia](#)



Your supported by Queensland Government through its Department of Tourism, Queensland's Arts and Culture Strategy Package and a 4-Year Ambition of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Click below to register:

[28 June 2021 | Collinsville Community Centre](#)

[29 June 2021 | Bowen Soundshell](#)

QLD'S SINGLE-USE PLASTICS BAN

STARTS SEPT 1, 2021

Community groups who use single-use packaging for community or fundraising activities may be affected by the ban.

Join us for a free forum series for community groups to learn how to become ban compliant.



INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS WHO USE DISPOSABLE SINGLE-USE PACKAGING TO LEARN HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE QLD PLASTIC BAN.

Thursday, 22 July

5:30-6:30pm

Souths Leagues Club, Gold Room

[Click here to register or to find out when a session will be in your area](#)

Qld's single-use plastic ban starts on September 1!

Community groups who use disposable single-use packaging as part of community or fundraising activities may be affected by the ban.

Join a local forum to learn more, including:

- What items are included in the ban
- What alternative products can be used
- How your group can adapt to comply with the ban