



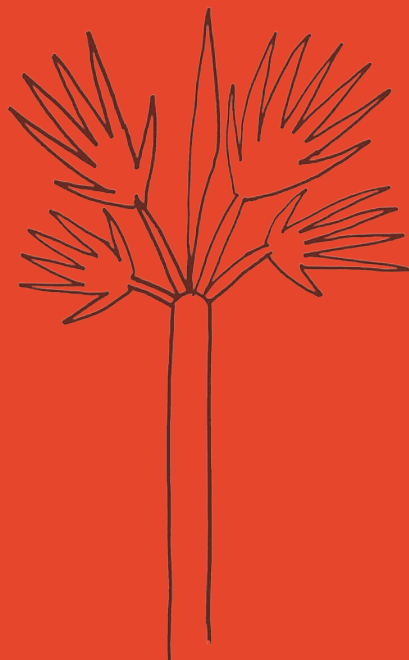
DECEMBER 2014

May you have a happy and safe Christmas break
relaxing and sharing joy with your families and friends.



www.pormpurpaanthu.com.au
22-23 Yalu St, Pormpuraaw, Q, 4892.
Phone (07) 4060 4105
Fax (07) 4060 4280

ALL WORK AND
WALK TOGETHER
ON ONE PATH
OF HEALING,
LEARNING, CARING
AND SHARING,
CREATING A SAFER
ENVIRONMENT
AND COMMUNITY



Youth look beyond Summit success



Young people in Pormpuraaw spent one of the most exciting weeks of their lives showcasing their talents by meeting, greeting, thinking, playing and working with one another during the Pormpuraaw Youth Summit in September.

By the end of the week they had produced a document they hope will influence decision-makers - from the Prime Minister to their own communities - into making the right choices for them and their futures.

'Piintharm Thananaah' (Strong Spirited | Mixed Family) looks for a pathway which will take them ten-years down the track to where they want to be.

It's a vision which includes: happy, healthy and strong communities; strong, empowered and proud people; skills, training and jobs; participation, role models and leadership; healing, connected and positive lifestyles; and, services, support and activities.

The document was presented to Prime Minister & Cabinet representative Laverne Burke by youth group member Stacey Conrad from Pormpuraaw and Stanley Yeatman from Yarrabah.

From the CEO's desk...

It's been another big year with the production of three 20+ page newsletters and hundreds of people following PPAC on Twitter and Facebook to see our photographs and news.

The work that has been carried out by all staff past and present has been phenomenal and the community has benefited from everyone's efforts.

The Organisation has held a range of community and group or centre-based activities including support for National Sorry Day, ANZAC and NAIDOC celebrations all of which acknowledged our Indigenous Service men and women.

There were also national events such as Youth and Mental Health Week, and we have also 'paid it forward' with a community BBQ for our Elders.

In May staff did an amazing job raising community awareness about domestic and family violence; and alcohol and drug dependencies, as we reported in our previous newsletter.

Following on from hosting the International Women's Day in March, was International Men's Day celebrations in November.

To see out 2014 PPAC also hosted and coordinated the Youth Summit, which was an enormous success and really increased community pride and wellbeing.

In 2015 expect great stories and outcomes from our Youth Development Team who continues to work with the Youth Group and local partnerships.

PPAC has also provided a great deal of training for its staff members, finishing the year with First Aid and CPR training for 11 members of our workforce.

A number of local staff completed Certificate IV level training in Mental Health and Social Emotional Wellbeing, and Certificate III in Child Care.

The Child Care Centre has been renovated so watch this space for the 2015 official opening.

Otherwise a picture tells a thousand words so please enjoy the rest of the newsletter!

Liz Pearson, CEO



RJCP Business Manager Marty Chambers, Herbertson Gibo and MiHaven mentor Sam Backo celebrate

PPAC staff and management are very proud of its former youth development worker Herbertson Gibo who after undertaking numerous training programs with PPAC went on to complete Certificate II in Carpentry.

He has now been offered a full-time apprenticeship with MiHaven who recently held a graduation ceremony in Pormpuraaw to celebrate five young people's achievements.

The five have all successfully completed a Certificate II in Indigenous, Housing and Maintenance construction, and have received the ultimate prize and goal of securing full time employment and an Apprenticeship in Carpentry.

These star trainees were Tremaine Luke, Peter Tybingoompa, David Holroyd, Herbertson Gibo and Malachi Wason.

PPAC Deputy Chair and Council CEO Edward Natera said he was thrilled to support the investment in Indigenous traineeships and the valued skills that would be gained by the community.



Progressing Partnerships: PPAC's Men's Support Councillor Sid Moore, Alcohol and Drug Counsellor Robert English, Jobfind Activity Development Manager Ross Furnari, CEO Liz Pearson and RJCP Business Manager Marty Chambers discuss strategies involved in implementing the RJCP Community Action Plan and recommendations from PPAC's Youth Strategy.



From the Board of Directors...

One of the most important things PPAC has talked about over this year has been youth development, training and transition to employment. PPAC Chair Vanessa Deakin writes...

PPAC has written a submission to secure funding for what's known as the C.O.O.L. (Coordinated Orientation Outreach Learning) Bush University which is influenced by the Street University Model in partnership with Noffs Foundation, and joins forces with Berry Street, Latrobe Valley, Victoria who work successfully engaging with youth.

It means we are moving away from the traditional 'drop-in' centre model to focus on educational planning by facilitating different programs to keep people interested in learning where they may otherwise have no opportunity.

The Bush University engages young people in activities and vocational and accredited learning modules that builds confidence and develops their latent talents.

My understanding is that PPAC would be working with children and young adults who have fallen through the gap and are not attending any schooling or training away from the community; as well as support children to transition back to school.

PPAC will develop strategies that supports and empowers young people to work towards qualifications whilst they're based in the community.

We would then encourage higher learning once they have gained skills and confidence.

This support is needed in the community.



There's a number of generations missing out and are going to be on a very, very low level of education, and they're the ones that are going to be Centrelink dependent with lower levels of literacy who will struggle. Nowadays you need to have computer skills and a lot of people don't even have that. There are kids in this community who haven't finished primary school so I think we need to entice those kids to come back and learn. We need to give them the hunger to learn or they're going to be doing the same things day in, day out and they will lose hope.

PPAC is offering support through its Youth Development Unit, and Youth Group who will work with local mentors and services. At least give them the opportunity that they won't find anywhere else - an opportunity to pursue a better education.

God bless, I hope you have a safe and happy Christmas.

Looking at governance and restructuring our Board over the past year has been a really important step forward for the organisation in 2014 Deputy Chair Edward Natera writes...

One of our biggest accomplishments was also to get our Constitution changed to strengthen our Charitable status so people can donate to PPAC.



Board members are now obliged to attend every meeting and we are trying to slowly replace our older people with some younger faces. Our Elders still have a role to play coming in and giving advice to our younger people.

It was important that we addressed the governance issue because we need to sustain and renew confidence within state and federal governments. PPAC is on the right path and moving towards accreditation in 2015.

Like every other NGO within Pormpuraaw, PPAC has a selected few who do so much for so many.

This year the Board has undertaken Leadership and Governance training; and well as financial management training. Now PPAC has new Counsellors on staff we hope to address domestic violence in the home, and parenting and leadership within the family.

We look forward to our ongoing work into next year.



Early Childhood Education Service

PPAC Child Services Director Erin Kendall is excited about the new Long Day Care Centre building, due to be opened early in the New Year.

“Renovations have just completed, which is very exciting,” she said.

“Paperwork is in, so now we’ve just got to wait for our provider approvals and service approval to come through, so we can open as a Long Day Care Centre.”

She said it had been a busy year.

“We recently had our own Playgroup Christmas Party, which was a great turnout,” she said.

“Nearly all of our children who have attended the service this year came and we had quite a few parents and family members coming along.

“It was great to see so many people getting involved with their children and their education.

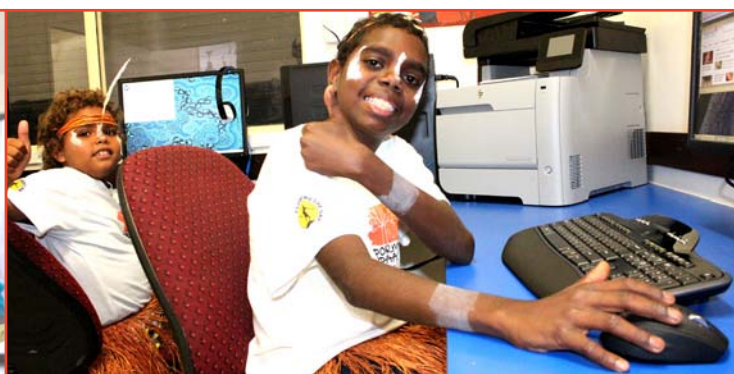
“The children were very lucky to have Santa come along and surprise them, and they were rewarded with a small toy each.”

Mrs Kendall said the new computer lab was increasing their capacity to document their work and outreach to the parents and that parents themselves had also used the computers thus increasing their computer literacy.

“One of our young staff members is very confident with computers,” she said.

“She takes a lot of the photos, uploads them, then writes little learning stories and we actually developed a Playgroup Learning Story scrapbook that sat at the front desk as parents signed in, so they could actually look through the activities that the children have been doing.

“So if they were unable to attend, another family member might come in and look after the child while they’re at work so if they drop the child off they can actually see what the child’s been up to, because we can put that scrapbook there which allows everyone to see.”



Supporting parents in transitioning their kids from home to school is the main focus of Positive Parenting and Targeting Parenting Representative for PPAC Donna Armstrong.

"I help parents bridge any gaps, often referring to other places in the community that can help the parents in getting their children to school, such as the health service and counselling services of PPAC," she said.

"I've been liaising between the parents and the school for the successful transition of the three-year-olds who will be four-year-old next year and going up to the school to do Pre-Prep.

"Parents and kids go to those 'classes' from 8am-12.30pm.

"It gets the children use to the routines of attending class and gives me a chance to work with parents breaking down barriers they may have when getting their kids enrolled.



"That could be helping parents with any Centrelink requirements; or organising birth certificates as a form of ID necessary throughout the life of the child to adulthood.

"I support parents by assisting with enrolment forms and therefore bridging the literacy gap between what they need to be able to progress themselves or their children into school.

"Ten of 16 pre-preps this year didn't have any birth certificates, so there was a great deal of work organising the parents to complete applications, getting their signatures, proof of ID, etcetera.

"PPAC is wanting to provide the pointy end support to families in and out of the home so the children will go through a smooth transition into school next year and even later down the track when they go to boarding school.

"I also continue to support the Outside School Hours Care children and the coordination of those activities as well as working with parents whose children attend playgroup.

"An important part of my role is liaising with the Integrated Healing Services Team to ensure positive parenting is part of the broader organisational philosophy of social emotional wellbeing in our community."



p 5: Young and older enjoying the Computer Lab opening during the Youth Summit; Top: Donna Armstrong & Erin Kendall sharing their cooking skills, Above, right & below: PPAC's transition 'class' at work







*Facing page: Top right: Launch of Pormpuraaw Outside School Hours Kids' Healthy Recipes book during the Youth Summit;
Middle: the Christmas party!; Below: Community Fun Day to kick off PPAC's Vacation Care program in early December.*

PPAC Early Childhood Education and Integrated Healing Services staff members spent a morning at the Pormpuraaw State Primary school (pictured above) raising awareness and carrying out activities with children on White Balloon Day this year.

Activities pictured above included beading, face painting, parachute play, salt art and making silky play dough.

The day is Braveheart's signature event held annually during Child Protection Week to raise awareness about child sexual assault and help empower survivors to break their silence.

PPAC staff members have undergone Braveheart Training to provide education and awareness to the children attending its early childhood education programs.



Integrated Healing Service

PPAC's Oolong Program is showing great – and measurable – results thanks to new capacities to work on outreach programs, along with ongoing risk assessment and counselling.

The service uses the Gem Tool which is an outcome measure and maps the progress of service users every three months by setting a goal and using the Staying Strong Plan.

“We’ve had a number of successes, and it’s good to see peoples’ progress,” PPAC Drug and Alcohol Counsellor Wendy Cawdell-Smith said.

“They are at a point in their healing journey where they’re not screaming and yelling all the time, which is wonderful to see. Instead, they’re coming in and they’re sitting down and they’re talking about their problems in a quiet and calm way.

“It means as families they are making better choices because their choices are inclusive of each other and the children. We have three or four families now who have their children back from Child Safety Services, and that gives other people hope.

“They know it can be done so rather than feeling hopeless because children are still being taken away, families now see they can get their kids back.

“It gives everybody a reason to try harder because they know it can happen if they take responsibility.”

She said the Oolong Program, as reported in previous newsletters, was based on cognitive behavioural therapy.

“We use behavioural modification, so cognitive behavioural therapy is perfect for recovery,” she said.

“We also now have the capacity for women to be seen by a female domestic and family violence counsellor and the men to be seen by our male domestic violence counsellors. Women who need emergency care in the women’s shelter are referred to the appropriate counselling team member and a safety plan is developed. The perpetrator of the violence is referred by the Shelter to the men’s support counsellor who is Sid Moore.

“The men are also re-establishing the Men’s Group, and we have Women’s Groups for the women as well as one-on-one and group counselling.

“We have a really diverse team at the moment and I can see things are going to get even easier for service users because there’s going to be enough staff with diverse and specialist skill sets.”



She said the support was there for those who need it.

“The counselling and support we give to groups and in individual counselling supports change; and we do ongoing risk assessment and develop safety plans with our clients,” she said.

“We refer to other services when needed, and we try to empower people to assess their own circumstances and relationships and make good choices for themselves.

“Group and individual counselling engages a person using abusive behaviour and provides the mechanism for them to realise they must be accountable for their behaviour; and how it impacts on their family.

“The group work with men, the programs we offer, the community education and activities is reaching people and making them aware of the negative impacts of domestic violence and alcohol and drug use.

“We also work closely with other local services like the Police Service, the School, the clinic, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Department of Justice, and other external services who fly in and out.

“The basis of our work is our program which runs for three days a week, Monday to Wednesday from 9.30 to 11.30.”

With an increase in counselling staff PPAC will take a more integrated approach to community education and the PPAC early learning educational environment as well.

PPAC’s philosophy of integrating positive parenting techniques and positive family leadership across its services overall means a cohesive and constructive response to generational change.





PPAC's Men's Support Councillor Sid Moore hails from the gemfields of Central Queensland (around Emerald) and spent several years as a Union secretary before embarking on psychology and counselling studies more than ten years ago.

His work at PPAC will include working with community men to address domestic and family violence; and work with men to build resilience to the underlying causal factors which lead to consume unsafe levels of alcohol and other substances which contributes negatively to their health and wellbeing as well as that of their families and the community.

PPAC now has four male counsellors who, together with the men and other service providers like Jobfind and the Remote Jobs Community Program (RJCP), will support men's groups, including a men's recovery group and activities that leads to men and boys working together; as well as increasing family activities and supporting children in the early education centre.

Above: Men walking, talking and working together - RJCP Business Manager Marty Chambers, PPAC Men's Support Councillor Sid Moore, Drug and Alcohol Consultant Marcin Ohl and Domestic Violence Counsellor Glenn Cummings

Drug and Alcohol Consultant Marcin Ohl has been a qualified psychologist for 15 years.

He arrived in Australia about five years ago and has recently come back from working in Samoa in counselling and training.

He plans to continue his studies in Australia and is keen to put his clinical skills, his experience, his very multicultural background and his enthusiasm for his work to good use for the community here in Pormpuraaw.

Marcin will work with Wendy Cawdell-Smith and Robert English to deliver therapeutic programs and counselling to adults, young people and families struggling with alcohol and other drugs.



Last month PPAC hosted an International Men's Day luncheon, issuing an open invitation to all men and boys across Pormpuraaw. Guests working together from local and external services included staff from Apunipima Cape York Health Council, the local doctor, James Cook University researchers; PPAC Domestic and Family Violence Counsellors and male workforce, male nurses, and mental health clinicians from Queensland Health and Department of Communities staff members; Elders, young men; Shire Council and RJCP workforce and contractors all shared a healthy lunch and a cake to celebrate their inaugural coming together. The day also included an invitation for men to spend a morning with their children at Play Group, which was taken up by a number of young dads.



Women's Group activities offer good and strong cultural grounding

PPAC Bringing Them Home Counsellor Sandra Wason has been involved with the Pormpuraaw Women's Group for nearly eight years now.

In that time she's seen the emphasis of the group move from physical activities - such as healthy eating and lifestyle, the effects of alcohol on a foetus during pregnancy - to include social and cultural wellbeing and cultural safety.

"We welcome anyone from the ages of about 16 and up," she said.

"These days we still do all of those physical things, but we also have a cultural emphasis with things like learning about bush tucker, trying to get back to the old days and ways where food was good for people.

"It helps them, I think, interacting with other women and learning from them."

Domestic Violence Support Workers Meredith and Maggie are also long-term supporters of the Women's Group.

"We went to the beaches, dug up a bush medicine and bush dye," Meredith said.

Maggie said their activities had covered everything from collecting materials to taking photographs of the outcomes and was very much a two-way process.

"We encourage women to come along and show us what sort of food to collect when people have to go out hunting to get bush food and that sort of thing," she said.

"Because it's healthy and it has been a good strategy, instead of getting diabetes and other chronic disease issues. It's good for our cultural way of healing.

"It's about passing the knowledge on to the younger generation coming up so they'll do what we have been doing and showing them.

"It's the learning process to us; it's from our ancestors, like our mums and aunts did with us, showing how to do it, so we showing it to them now."

PPAC staff members working with women were able to incorporate culture and on country activities as a vehicle for engaging in tougher conversations about how alcohol and domestic and family violence takes away from continuing lore.

They also provide education and awareness about harmful effects of alcohol and drugs; and the right to be free of abuse.

The most important message is children need to be at school, well fed, rested and free from fear.

Drug and Alcohol Counsellor Wendy Cawdell-Smith said people looked forward to meeting in the group and she always has clients asking her when activities were going to be held.

Wendy facilitates therapeutic programs Monday to Wednesday for two hours and during this time a range of topics are covered that supports recovery and increased wellbeing.

"The Women's Group is also a good forum for the women to get together and talk about the domestic violence they might be having, and find a way to support each other and help people deal with the violence," she said.

"And they can talk about the things that are bothering them in a comfortable environment with good support."



Men's Group set to re-form with new staff support

Men and Boys Working Together will be the theme behind six months of activities that could lead to training and employment opportunities for the youth age group, and continuing to engage men in on country activities, non-accredited and accredited training.

Led by new male staff including Sid Moore, Glenn Cummings, Marcin Ohl and Robert English, with positive input from the Youth Group, particularly Devon Tarpencha and Herbertson Gibo, there are high hopes a new Men's Group will re-form in Pormpuraaw and show some good results.

"What we want to see is men developing strategies around men and boys working together," Sid said.

"It's all about engaging people and trying to change behaviour so the men understand their families need to feel safe and secure.

"RJCP will partner with PPAC to deliver activities, training and education to increase wellbeing, builds resilience and family leadership.

With four male counsellors with a diverse range of skills including Psychology, PPAC CEO Liz Pearson said she believed the men would take a lead role in increasing community safety and wellbeing, promoting fatherhood and encouraging men to participate more in their children's education.



Domestic Violence Counsellor Glenn Cummings (*below right*) has come to our community after spending four years in Western Australia supporting patients with mental illness move back into independent living.

He said his background was predominantly in social work and he was looking forward to making a difference to people's lives in Pormpuraaw.

His role is to work with adults, children and young people; and families affected by domestic and family violence; to improve safety and wellbeing and increase public awareness about domestic and family violence including available support services.



Domestic Violence Counsellor Linaire Hodge (*above*) is engaged to be married to her partner, Glenn (also above!), who she came to Pormpuraaw with late last month.

She has been working in New Zealand in a residential centre looking after high risk youths for the past 15 years.

Her qualifications include a Diploma in Counselling, Certificate in Mental Health and Community Support Services as well as being mum to four and grandmother to five.

She said she and her husband-to-be have previously worked as a team - one with men, one with women - and they were both optimistic about their future work in Pormpuraaw working with families to prioritise victim safety and improve capability, resilience and safety of vulnerable peoples by providing a range of supports associated with domestic and family violence.

A part of this model is to work closely with Police, school, Council, and housing at a systems management level to improve safety at a community level.



Children & Young People Service

The last term of 2014 saw an increase in the numbers of children coming across from the school to the newly renovated Pormpurkuukyikngathar Culture, Knowledge and Learning Centre (formerly the Corner Shed) Child Services Director Erin Kendall says.

She suspects the introduction of the new computer lab and the use of iPads had become the draw card.

Introducing technology as part of their outside school care program was to encourage extra curricular activity and make learning more fun.

"The kids go on the computers and since the renovations we have definitely seen a lot of improvement in the way we can work with the children," she said.

"One of the things we've seen is that the kids' basic computer skills weren't as high as we first thought they may have been so we've allowed the kids to explore a little bit more.

"We've talked to them about Word, Microsoft Word, and different things you can do in Microsoft Word as well as the other software on the computers.

"We've looked at writing our names with Word Art.

"They've been researching animals and just trying to increase their basic computer skills and research techniques.

"We also have computer games the kids have been accessing, which they rather enjoy.

"Some of our younger kids are training our older children on how to use the computer which has been very exciting for PPAC staff to observe.

"So one day I'll show the older kids how to do a certain activity and then they'll want to do it the next day and one of the smaller children will actually talk them through how to do each step."

She said the interest and willingness to learn and show off their skills didn't stop there.

"We've also had the children educating some of our staff members on how to use the computer, and it shows that the local staff members see that may be they can use the computer, and they are wanting to gain more access to the computers" she said.

"As a result of that we're now looking to getting some basic computer skills for two of our local staff members. The Queensland State Library also offers basic computer training.

"And that will benefit them when we open the Long Day Care Centre early next year.

"It means local staff will be able to enter data into the computer and any conversations and qualitative stories from the children without having to write it down first.

"We also want the children to develop their own books in English and language and print them at the Centre.

"So, it's going to be a big jump for the ladies, and I think they're very excited for it."





Staff at play: Jill Yantumba, Donna Armstrong, Nickalah Gothachalkenin, Erin Kendall and Hannah Gothachalkenin

She said the HitNET Kiosk had also been a big...hit!

"The little kids even know how to use it; it's very, very user-friendly," she said.

"They have found some favourite songs and dances, and the older kids have even started to learn some of the dances, so they're learning about hip-hop dance just by watching it on the Kiosk. It's actually brought a lot of happiness to a lot of our families too.

"We sometimes get mums who have had a rough night the night before and they come in, they talk a little and then they'll sit at the HitNET Kiosk and if you have a little look you actually see a smile straight across their face."

Outside School Hours and Vacation Care will run from the new Centre in the afternoons from 2-5pm, Monday to Thursdays. On Fridays staff continue with planning and have their Unit meetings so we continue working through the Quality Improvement framework.

"Once the Playgroup has moved out of here and the Long Day Care is running this will be used as the learning space for children 12-26 yrs of age," Erin said.

"Young people will interact in this space as part of their own learning.

"The CEO also wants to establish a Bush University that includes social inclusion activities and vocational and accredited learning modules.

"Young people will mentor and support the younger children attending outside school hours and vacation care; they will be able to come to chat, have focus groups, use the computers to develop resources; do graphic design and videography; develop apps; do a newsletter for the youth so accessing the computers will be important.

"They might be able to build on some literacy skills, numeracy skills, basic computer skills, and it will just be a safe place they can sit and chat as well."

These skill building concepts are also part of the working rationale behind the Youth Development Unit and Youth Group who in the near future will be managing this space and therefore improving young people's access to learning and training.



Alcohol and Drug Counsellor Robert English (*pictured on the left below*) has recently graduated from James Cook University in Cairns with a psychology degree after growing up in Malanda on the Atherton Tablelands.

He said before he came to Pormpuraaw he was teaching youth work at TAFE.

He's particularly looking forward to working with the Youth Group here in the community, on the heels of the very successful Youth Summit held in September.

His dual role will be to work with young people affected by alcohol and other drugs; as well as work with RJCP and the Youth Corp to ensure vocational and accredited training is planned and implemented with young people while funding continues to June 30 2015.

The Youth Declaration and Strategy is being brainstormed by the youth group and Robert, together with RJCP Activities Manager Marty Chambers, expects to see some exciting developments over the next six months.

Value-adding to this will be the support from the Noffs Foundation and Street University.

CEO Matt Noffs and his dedicated staff will return to Pormpuraaw to support the Youth Movement following the success of his week here during the Youth Summit.



Ongoing work which will help to carry forward the Youth Summit recommendations will be led by PPAC Alcohol & Drug Counsellor Robert English and Stacey Conrad, Devon Tarpencha, Madlyn Conrad (pictured) and the Pormpuraaw Youth Group.

"You pick your weapons on the battle field and tell your story your way", CEO Liz Pearson said, in response to being asked by a teenager about what should they do, or whose shoes they should follow in.

The Pormpuraaw Youth Summit philosophy was to create a safe space for conversations and discussions about the solutions to challenges confronting young people.

At the same time it allowed them to get involved in socially inclusive activities from sports, recreational activities, dance, art, music and information technology including graphics and videography.



Pormpuraaw Youth Summit life changing for young people

Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation wanted the voices of youth across Cape York and beyond to be heard; and to show case the strengths and talents and dare people to dream for a future within their reach. It is up to young people to champion change, pick up the flag on the battle field and with their resilience, their aspirations and goals, their strengths and talents given them by their predecessors and ancestors – including the oral histories and lifetimes of struggles and create the Future.

More than 120 youth and nearly as many support workers and staff from Cape York, Yarrabah and as far south as Rockhampton attended five days of health and wellbeing, dance, sport and leadership workshops, and yarning circles.

The Pormpuraaw Youth Summit was organised by Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation who was funded for twelve months by Prime Minister and Cabinet to establish a youth development program.

A one-off grant provided to the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council by the Prime Minister & Cabinet's Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) enabling the community to organise the largest Youth Summit Cape York has experienced since 1997.

Young people themselves have already decided they want the Youth Summit to be an annual event.

PPAC Chairperson Vanessa Deakin said the Summit offered Pormpuraaw youth exposure to ideas and issues beyond their own community.

“This was about empowering our youth to take control of their lives instead of just sitting down, getting dole money and living a hopeless life,” she said.

“We wanted them to have positive messages starting with ‘you don’t have to be sitting here doing nothing’.

“We hope more of our young people will want to stand up with the capacity to change their ways and not be ashamed of trying to reach their dreams.”

“This was an opportunity to positively impact people’s lives by helping create individual, families, community and societal outcomes that contribute to the safer model of care for our community.”

On the last day of the conference an aspirations document - ‘Piintharrm Thananaah’ (Strong Spirited | Mixed Family) - was handed over to a representative of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

As many as 120 youths worked and workshopped with National Indigenous Youth Leadership Academy Director Benson Saulo and his colleague Nayuka Gorrie and several other support workers in fields ranging from dance to sport to cuisine to produce the document.





Pictured are QRL clinics, NIYLA workshop and Remote Indigenous Hockey workshops. On the third day all participants cooked their own lunch in and Interactive team building exercise led by chef Tony Legg.

Mr Saulo said the week had been a great success.

“We’ve been looking at what is the current experience of young people within communities here, positive as well as negative,” he said.

“Then we moved onto the kind of future that they would like to see, so we stepped ten years down the track and into 2024.

“We reflected on what have been the successes in our communities, how young people have made a difference, what kind of changes we’ve seen and what were the challenges that we overcame.

“Finally, we looked at the practical steps needed to achieve these changes.

“With all this information and consultation with these young people we have worked towards developing this declaration and strategy which will support young people to drive a positive change in their communities with the older generations.

“This summit has been a great success, it’s not very often you have the opportunity to bring more than 100 young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people together in a remote community to talk about the issues that they care about, that they’re passionate about, and the future they really want to drive for themselves.

“So I think it’s been a great success to finally hear from young people around the future experiences they want for themselves and their communities.”



The Youth Summit's vision for their future reads:

"Individually we are healthy, wise, confident, empowered and are role models to those around us. We are running our own businesses, studying, educated and are professionals.

Communities are unified and self-determined with strong leadership, locally owned business employing local community members and greater community control. There is also more political representation on a local, state and national level. Communities are safe, no longer affected by drugs or alcohol. Communities have built capacity, celebrate and highlight identity.

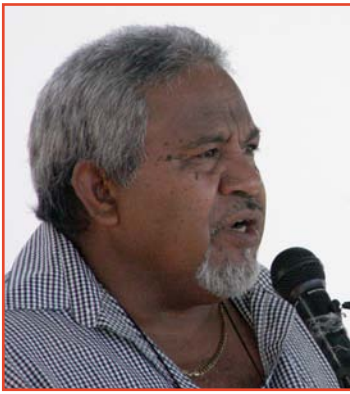
People are healthy, and have greater access to education and are completing high school, TAFE and university at higher rates. People are also able to access employment opportunities. People are increasingly professional and have greater access to modern technology.

Communities have adequate housing and infrastructure and have access to home ownership. The natural environment is still untouched and owned by the community. People are culturally grounded."



It wasn't all fun and games, everyone worked hard in Benson & Nayuka's (pictured left) workshops on developing a vision for their own futures, the outcome of which was the document presented to Prime Minister & Cabinet.





Robbie Deemal (MC)

“As I drove over here yesterday I had mixed feelings, sadness because so many elders have passed on, happiness that I have the opportunity to MC this youth summit and the leaders of tomorrow.

“Each and everyone of you is special, you have something to offer, you have talent, so let’s keep that fight going that our elders and our fighters have made for us, we are reaping the benefits so let’s keep that fight going. Our Elders are our knowledge base, our family is important. Let’s walk in two worlds and the only way we do that is be strong in our culture, identity and showing leadership. Follow your dreams, believe in yourself, you can do it.



“Take advantage of every opportunity, learn and earn, look after your health and wellbeing so that physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually you can be strong. Be true to yourself, your family and your community, what you get out of this week is what you get out of it. So I encourage you all to participate, make your friends, join in the conversation, be mindful of others, have self-respect and respect for others, help each other and most of all be proud of who you are.”



Between Live Learn Leap, who brought netball, basketball, tough, softball, Yurum Underwood, ‘Smithy’ and Matthew Mulligan with them, Remote Indigenous Hockey who brought rising hockey stars Amber Mutch and Deyonte Fraser, Australian Jillaroos player Jenni-Sue Hoepper and QRL’s Dave Maiden, sport and exercise was well and truly covered at the 2014 Pormpuraaw Youth Summit. Workshops were held twice a day to get the blood flowing and to work off some of that excess energy young people carry in abundance when they are eating and living healthily. Enthusiasm for whatever the game at hand was very much in evidence, as was appreciation for the support and hard work our visitors showed in every aspect of the Summit.





Stanley Yeatman (17): Yarrabah

"It's different, it's the first time we are doing this, and it's a new experience," Stanley (pictured right) said.

"I liked it, it was really good for me, and it was something different to go back and tell my community about, and make changes.

"We don't have a youth council or anything based around youth so I want to go back and start looking at something to do with youth, doing something like this somewhere down the track.

"So we're going to go back and want more things for our communities and our youth and even our Elders, just new and better changes.

"The document is important because it tells everyone, like Parliament what we think should happen in the near future. Its about getting it out there, getting our voices heard and making those changes."

"Over the last few days of the Youth Summit we gathered information about issues that occur day to day in communities from Weipa down to Yarrabah. We invited youth from different communities to have a say on what they thought about the ongoing issues they face, and how they could be resolved. To gather this information we formed little yarn groups so that people would feel more comfortable. Then after each session we collected what was brought to the table in each group and combined all of the raised topics into our Youth Strategy plan." **Rita and Gwen, Pormpuraaw Youth Group Members.**



Weaving Conversations (top right) with Matt Noffs and crew was about exploring identity through song writing and composing. Youths split into small groups to work on writing and composing a song together as well as making a DVD to showcase their results. Some of the clips can be found on our web page at <http://www.pormpurpaanthu.com.au>



Matt Noffs (Street University)

“The responsibility of the young people and the adults here this week is the reclaim those words which come from men in suits wearing ties - summit, vision, mission, plan - and turn them into words of significance to you and your community.

“The most important thing I can try to get across to you is it's very easy for us, especially the adults, to expect young people to sit here and write a vision plan for their future. What we need to be doing is figuring out ways to make that as enjoyable as possible for young people, so what I've been saying to you is this is about enjoying yourself, your future should be as fun as possible, it doesn't need to be boring, you don't need to live a life that other people expect of you.

“What you need to do is lead a healthy, flourishing and fulfilling life. Carry on your traditions and your culture and make your Elders proud and have fun this week. If creating a vision means writing a song or drawing a map, that's just as important, if not more, than writing down a vision plan. All this work should mean something to you, you own this week.”

“Young people own the rest of their lives, and will be the ones taking responsibility for their future,” CEO Liz Pearson says. “In Pormpuraaw we take a whole-of-community approach to fulfilling a community obligation to closing the gap relating to attending school; education, training and employment; and community safety. If as a collective group we can mobilise, educate and advocate thereby creating change agents and champions of change within the spheres of health, education and leadership from within our current and next generation of children and young people then their future and community health and wellbeing can only be enhanced.”





Workshops covered all areas from sports through to some serious team building and then to more introspective...such as Bubble Movement with Lachlan Boyd and Jane Barr's Berry St 'Living with feelings and talking up our strengths' Thinking out loud was what it was all about.

Summit Objectives

- Gain a deeper understanding of the current issues impacting young people in their communities
- Create a vision that their communities can aspire to in the future
- Develop steps and identify actions to achieve the future aspiration of their communities.
- Empower young people to take ownership of the solutions
- Ensure that young peoples voices and input was at the core of the Youth Declaration and Strategy
- Build connection between community groups and young people
- Inspire participants to think about their future and the positive role they can play in their community.

Key recommendations as a result of the Youth Summit.

It is encouraged that youth representatives from Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation and other participating youth groups identify key stakeholders to action their recommendations. The push for community controlled initiatives and programs were something that continually came up in conversations of empowerment, pride and skill development. It was widely acknowledged that capacity building is key to transitioning communities to self-sufficiency models and governance structures in the future.

It is important to acknowledge and understand the context of communities and the issues that are faced across various communities.

It was heartwarming to hear young peoples' enthusiasm to the role they can play and impact they can have in communities given the support structures. Re-framing issues and removing deficit language enables a fresh approach to ongoing and generational issues like joblessness, housing and alcohol.





CEO Liz Pearson said those involved in the Summit understood very well how significant it had been to have so many young people together in one place sharing their stories, their talents and ideas with one another.

PPAC will be working with Jobfind, the Youth Development Unit, Youth Group and RJCP to align the recommendations from the strategy to the Community Action Plan, she said.

Some community-driven initiatives were to support health promotion, suggested activities are:

- Community Garden
- Fitness groups
- Yoga classes
- Men's & Women's Yarning circles
- Local markets

PPAC will soon open the bakery as a social enterprise and promote markets on Saturday mornings to normalise social activities that urban people take for granted.

The message from young people was to establish place-based solutions for addressing issues by building local capacity in health promotion, governance skills and trade skills.

Young people also felt it was important to appoint a local council champion to ensure voices of community and young people were heard at council meetings and committees.

The local champion would engage and inspire young people to connect with elders and to be receptive to teachings, knowledge and cultural lessons and to share knowledge and insights.

To build pride in identity through cultural affirming activities some of the suggestions were:

- Language
- Land management
- Arts

"There are so many people to thank including the Chefs who served over 3000 meals in the first 4 days, Berry Street Director - Jane Barr, Noffs Foundation and Street University CEO Matt Noffs and his crew Adam Byrne, Josh Hawkins and Eliam Royalness," Ms Pearson said.

"Then we had Live Learn Leap, PCYC Napranum, Remote Indigenous Hockey and the NRL who provided some dedicated young Indigenous sports ambassadors.

"And finally the Sacred Creation Dance Company and Eloise Yungaporta provided some breathtaking performances in contemporary Indigenous dance, and Black Image for coming across and having such a fun night with us too."



Blueprint the same: connect, empower, lead and be healthy

Some of the highlights for members of the youth group, including Devon Tarpencha and Stacey and Madlyn Conrad, were meeting new people, sharing experiences and becoming better people and future leaders in their community.

"It has made a difference," Stacey said.

"We get a lot of youth at the touch competition every Wednesday at the school now. And there has been kids coming back from school and actually getting a job during school holidays.

"There has also been kids going to the clinic and getting health checks, which was arranged with sexual health workers by PPAC.

"Highlights for me were the yarning circles, the sports, our traditional dancing had lots of young people involved and obviously the cooking exhibition - the range of activities for young people."

Young people want communities to support an annual Pormpuraaw Youth Summit, with a focus on connecting, empowering, leadership and healthy lifestyles.

They said they want to establish youth groups where there weren't any in their communities and that they should be run by youth leaders for young people and include skills and competency development activities and youth-led community initiatives.

The young people also want to facilitate biannual youth forums to reconnect young people to a common issue to address each year. They wanted community leadership training, including in financial literacy, governance training and project management.

CEO, Liz Pearson said she believed PPAC could deliver on this within its Bush University Model.

"It was exciting to have Melbourne University's Kristen Smith and Central Queensland University's Deanna Beatson, Susan Garret and student Kerry Williams here at the summit," she said. "They all participated in, and supported this inaugural event."

CQU Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) and BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) Chair in Indigenous Engagement Professor Bronwyn Fredericks said CQ University had an important role to play in backing youth initiatives.

"It's started already," Ms Pearson said. "And 2015 will be a great year for the children and young people of Pormpuraaw".

"Working with the National Indigenous Youth Leadership Academy was one of the main highlights, especially building on confidence," Devon Tarpencha said. "All the youth got involved in the workshops with other communities and no one was shame about anything; we all just had fun together."

"It was a great opportunity for the community," Madlyn Conrad said. "We hope to have other summits in the future so our next generations can get involved and meet new people. We all hope now for a better future for the communities and we hope the things we talked about will happen."



*p22 Top middle: Members of Youth Group completing Cert 11 in Carpentry;
Bottom middle: Sacred Creation Dancers: Nancy Cook, Johnny Nandy,
Tamara Pearson, Braydon and Shellie Bing.*

*p23 Left: the Youth Summit started off with welcome to country and this is
when the healing began for our young people and visitors coming together
as one; Below & Right: Youth Group members at the Summit;
Right: CEQ's Deanna Beatson cooking up a storm and a laugh.*



Vacation care in action

Support for PPAC's vacation care program has grown since PPAC has employed more young people to be involved in mentoring our younger children.

The Vacation Care Program was a great success when it was held in conjunction with the Youth Summit.

Children were able to join in with activities and programs coordinated during the Youth Summit (pictured right).

They included Live Learn Leaps' touch, netball, softball and basketball games; Remote Indigenous Hockey's stick and ball handling, and NRL ball handling.

For these end of year holidays PCYC will maintain night time activities at the Community Hall, and PPAC's day time program will be ongoing.

Youth Development unit staff will also be involved in Outside School Hours Care and Vacation Care Programs and will take the older children 12-16 for other activities, while Erin and staff continue with a junior program for our under-12s.



Vacation Care Christmas Program Week Two



	Monday 15 th December	Tuesday 16 th December	Wednesday 17 th December	Thursday 18 th December	Friday 19 th December	Saturday 20 th December
9am to 12pm Culture, Knowledge and Learning Centre (Corner Shed)	Physical Activity with LIVE LEARN LEAP @ the School	Indoor	Indoor	Indoor	Christmas Party (Boomerang Area) Christmas Games Decoration Making Relays Bubbles Face Painting Food and Fun	CLOSED
Craft: - Felt heart key ring Kids in the kitchen: Christmas Smoothies Block Building Christmas Activity Book Children's choice		Craft: - Popsicle Star ornament Loom Bands LEGO Christmas Activity Book Children's choice	Craft: - Candy-Cane Reindeer Kids in the kitchen: Fruit Christmas Tree Draw Really Cool Stuff Children's choice			
Outdoor		Outdoor	Outdoor			
TIGs		Water Fun	Parachute			
12pm to 1pm	Children go home for lunch					
1pm to 4pm School	Craft – White Clay Ornaments Minute to Win it Challenges	Active Games Golden Child Children's Choice	Active Games Ball Games Children's Choice	Active Games Circuit Games Children's Choice	CLOSED	Baking: Choc Chip Cookies Craft: Hanging Ornaments Nail Art Music
4pm to 5pm						
5pm to 8pm PCYC Hall	CLOSED	CLOSED	Carols by Candlelight (Boomerang Area) 6pm-7pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	Badminton Juniors: 5pm-5:45pm Seniors: 6pm-7:30pm

Vacation Care will re-open Monday 12th January. For more information call Erin from PPAC on 0499 555 882 or Vivian from PCYC on 0458 298 933.