

# PASC News

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

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



## A word from Mayor Ralph Kendall

Happy New Year – new start, new CEO, new beginnings.

This is our first monthly newsletter for the year.

I am looking forward to progressing with the projects we have budgeted until the end of June 2025.

Council would like to introduce Janelle Menzies as she takes up the position of CEO to take the Pormpuraaw community on its next journey.

We would like to thank the outgoing CEO Edward Natera for his dedication and commitment to Pormpuraaw over the past 16 years.

We wish him all the best for his retirement.

We have the fishing competition happening on 11 April 2025.

Council has arranged a donation to the Pormpuraaw State School lunch program for 2025.

We are well into the wet season

so be careful and if it is “flooded forget it”.

Keep Safe  
Mayor Kendall



## How our Christmas went off with a \*BANG\*!

*Thanks to our guests and sponsors for coming to the party and making this such a GREAT night. They included the band :Deluxe: along with PPAC, PUBSC, CEQ, Rise, Pormpuraaw Anglican Store, Pormpuraaw Police, Ergon, Coles, PCYC, Skytrans, HC Building & Construction and more!*





# A word from (new!) CEO Janelle Menzies

I am so excited about returning to Pormpuraaw for the fourth time, CEO Janelle Menzies writes ...

Firstly, I want to thank Edward Natera for his dedication and commitment and who, with help from the Finance team led by Tracey Graham, grew the Council's bank account to an extremely healthy balance, which theoretically would allow the Council to operate for more than 44 months without relying on grant funding.

## About me...

Before working in Local Government, I worked for various accounting firms in Brisbane.

Working for the Department of Local Government, in March 2008, I was appointed Financial Controller for Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council after the Council received an "unable to form an opinion" result (very bad).

At that time, they had not had an unqualified result (good) for more than ten years, so I worked with the funding body to protect the Council from bankruptcy and finished my role in June 2009.

In May 2010 I came back to the Council as the Finance Manager,

based in Cairns and the Council obtained its first Unqualified Audit (good) in 2012/13

In 2013 I became the Operations Manager and relocated to Pormpuraaw with my husband David, who became Council's first Workplace Health and Safety Officer until the end of 2014.

David and I have twin girls, who are now 29.

In December 2013 the girls came to Pormpuraaw for Christmas.

While they were here Tasmyn had a visit to the Crocodile Farm and she now works at Australia Zoo on the Sunshine Coast.

Petyon spent some time at the Art Centre, studied IT at JCU and has specialised in undertaking accessibility audits on corporate websites.

I have a Bachelor of Accounting and 25 years of experience working in Local Government, mostly with Aboriginal Councils including Kowanyama, Umagico (in the NPA) and Aurukun, and have held CEO roles at Yarrabah and Napranum.

I have also worked in Western Australia and the Northern



Territory, and in Cunnamulla for the Paroo Shire and, more recently, the Quilpie Shire, both in far far southwestern Queensland.

## So what can you expect ...

I am keen to improve the Council's transparency, which is a Council Value.

This will start with this monthly newsletter and the full Council Meeting Agenda being available on the Council website.

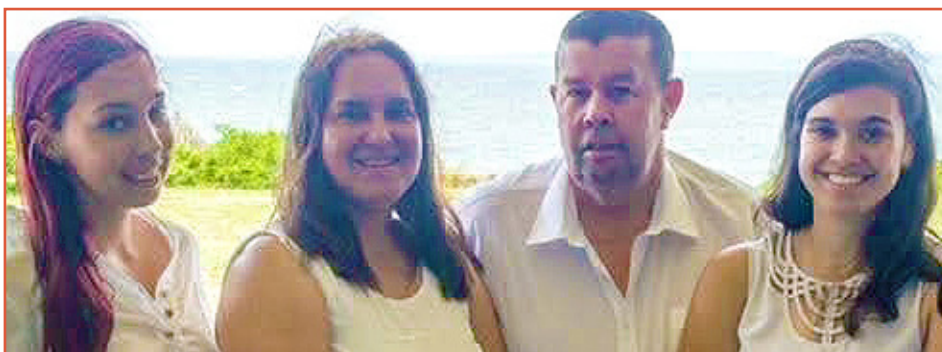
I wish to establish a Pormpuraaw Executive Forum as an opportunity for every business in Pormpuraaw to meet regularly and work in unity to increase the overall communication in the community.

I also want to continue to renew and purchase assets and infrastructure to the value of the Council's Annual Depreciation expenses so we can build a new Council Office and enclose and air condition the community hall to improve liveability in our community.

I would like to see continuous improvement and "getting stuff done" while maintaining best practice policies and procedures.

Over the next two months, I will also make sure our Cairns-based staff spend time here with our staff on the ground, as we all get to know each other.

I trust we will all work together, as one team, and help each other to get stuff done!



# Council Round-Up

*BELOW: Councillor Keith Barney, Deputy Mayor Tim Koo-Aga Roi, former-CEO Edward Natera, Mayor Ralph Kendall and Councillors Romina Edwards and Lucy Foote.*



## At the January Ordinary Council meeting, the following things happened:

- Janelle Menzies was formally appointed as Chief Executive Officer and, as she was in the building at the time, ran the meeting from there.
- the December 2024 Quarterly review of the 2024–25 Operational Plan was accepted.
- the financial delegations in the procurement policy for three senior staff were reduced and credit cards were issued for the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.
- recommendations from the Local Government Remuneration Commission were set to apply from 1 July 2025. From this date remuneration for the Mayor will be \$122,975pa, Deputy Mayor \$70,946 and Councillors \$61,486. These payments represent a base payment of \$40,990.67 plus monthly meeting fees.
- an application for \$100,000 for the Supply Scheme Fund for an upgrade to the Council's Planning Scheme was endorsed.
- a donation of \$28,080 for school lunches at Pormpuraaw State School, funded by contractors working in Pormpuraaw through the Indigenous Economic Opportunity Plan, was endorsed.

Meeting dates for 2025 were set for the fourth Wednesday of the month with exceptions in February, October and December as follows:

- o Wednesday 29 January
- o Monday 24 February
- o Wednesday 26 March
- o Wednesday 30 April
- o Wednesday 28 May
- o Wednesday 25 June
- o Wednesday 30 July
- o Wednesday 28 August
- o Wednesday 24 September
- o Wednesday 15 October
- o Wednesday 26 November
- o Wednesday 17 December

**PORMPURAAW FISHING**  
**COMP: 11 April 2025**  
*Watch this space for details!*



## Community Services

- An aged Care Quality & Safety Commission audit has been postponed until early 2025.
- The cashier from the main office has been relocated to the Post Office which is working efficiently and effectively.
- Centrelink has been opened for self-service and Council are in the final stages of a recruitment process.
- The SES held a recruitment drive in November 2024 and have signed up six new recruits.
- Council has a new ARNI (ARNI provides essential communications, high-speed data services and greater situational awareness) system which will be operated by the Rangers. (Pictured below)



## Corporate Services

- Airport Reporting Officer training will be undertaken in February in Pormpuraaw. The training will be shared with staff from Kowanyama. Staff who undertake the training will participate on the on-call roster.
- Multi-factor authentication for the Council's IT infrastructure access project has been completed.
- The Admin Store undertook a stock take on 29 to 30 January 2025.
- Replacement ablution and laundry units for the Main Roads Camp are in Cairns and will be transported when the roads are open again.

## COUNCIL VACANCIES

- o Apprentice Carpenter
- o Aged Care Support Worker
- o Aged Care Cook
- o Aged Care Kitchen Hand
- o Community Services Officer – Customer Services
- o Community Justice Group Mentor
- o Operations General Hand – Garbage Crew



## Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council

Ph (07) 4060 4600 or (07) 4032 8221  
24 Thinraathin St  
Pormpuraaw QLD 4892

<https://www.pormpuraaw.qld.gov.au/>

### Council Hours:

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

## Around the Council...

### Operations



*Grant Dennis started as our new Executive Manager of Operations in November 2024*

- Our Community WIFI program has been installed and can be used for emergency calls. The system allows data calls when the Telstra 5G network is down.
- The Waterpark is back in use.



*Elijah Walker (LEFT) is the Council's new plumber.*

- 10 new houses are scheduled to be completed in late February.
- 2 x 2-bedroom staff duplexes are scheduled to be completed in late March.
- Six new roller doors for the Community Hall are now installed.