



Newsletter

Edition 1 November 19, 2025



Welcome to the first Ngoonbi Newsletter - Edition One

**If you have any news to share,
contact: Reception
40937177**



Aged Care Reforms

Ngoonbi CHSP staff from the Kuranda, Mareeba, Atherton & Mt Garnet sites have been preparing for the New Aged Care Reforms Legislation. The new Aged Care Act legislation takes effect on 1st November 2025. Ngoonbi CHSP is committed to providing quality and safe services to Aged Care clients. Protection of clients rights, in a respectful and dignified manner is our priority.

36 Coondoo Street

Demolition and New Build

Ngoonbi Office building at 36 Coondoo Street was built in the 1940s and demolished over a 6 week period and cleared 14th October 2025.

Updates:

1. MSC approvals received to commence builds.
2. Finalising the design layout.
3. Preparations are in place to build a retaining wall ahead of the wet season, prioritising safety and structural integrity.
4. Local Indigenous artist engaged with the Facade design.
5. A public tender will be issued to engage a local building company to assist Ngoonbi to commence construction in 2026.

Ngoonbi Visit

Hon. Bree James MP visited Ngoonbi on Wednesday 22th October 2025 to thank Ngoonbi for the support provided during her 12 month term in office. A gift of donuts and a thank you note were dropped off for our enjoyment. Keep up the good work Ms James.



Staff Training

10 Employees are undergoing training to complete their Certificate 3 in Individual Support with Cairns TAFE.

Onsite training

- Staff & Leadership Workshops - In preparation for the Aged Care Reforms
- Sandwai Software Training to record & manage aged care services
- Fire Warden Refresher Training
- First Aid & CPR
- Food Safety

Community Programs

Let's welcome JP to the role as the Community Programs Coordinator. JP is qualified in counselling and much more.

Our AOD team supports clients to understand the stages of change model, staying strong and safe and where to access culturally designed supports. Referrals to Clinical Care, Rehabilitation and culturally designed model of care. Ngoonbi has worked collaboratively with the Family Drug Support team and facilitates workshops for staff and community in self-care, resilience and well being.

Bibi Yungan - Holds weekly playgroup and facilitates parent sessions, focusing on empowerment, education, training, employment and school readiness. Our reading support team assists school children to progress with their reading levels.

CYEP - The Community & Youth Empowerment program has held gatherings and community events to promote cultural connections, social and emotional wellbeing. The highlights of the year were camps held at Chillagoe in April and September. Facilitator Randall from Red Dust Healing focus on making strong choices and cultural ways of operations.

Sport & Recreation - Afterschool programs, supporting sporting events, promotions of healthy and active lifestyles is ongoing. School Holiday Programs are a highlight, enjoyed and appreciated by young people and their families.



Other News



**ESTABLISHED AS A
HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE LTD
IN 1975**

Ngoonbi Programs have expanded to provide the following services:

- Administration
- Emergency Relief
- Centrelink
- Housing and Construction
- Commonwealth Home Support Program
CHSP sites
 - Kuranda
 - Mareeba
 - Atherton
 - Mt Garnet
- Indigenous Employment Initiative

Community Programs:

- Alcohol & Other Drugs
- Bibi Yungan Great Start to Great Learning
- Community & Youth Empowerment
- Mareeba Indigenous Youth Connection to Culture
- Remote Jobs & Economic Development
- Sport & Recreation



Butterfly Sanctuary Visit

Bibi Yungan - Great Start to Great Learning playgroup have been learning about butterflies and their life cycles. A visit to the Butterfly Sanctuary on Tuesday 21st October 2025 was an exciting excursion for participating children, parents, Grandmas and Staff. Everyone was fascinated with seeing so many butterflies flying freely, which created a peaceful and calming feel.

Ngoonbi Website News

Ngoonbi's Website is under construction and we look forward to the long awaited upgrade and a 2026 Launch.



**For additional information regarding programs please contact
Ngoonbi Admin: 07 40937177**



Employment and Training News



Fifteen (15) Participants enrolled in the two day 'Ready for Work' six week program held 12th May to 16th June 2025. The program was designed to empower and build participants confidence levels and to be work ready. Throughout the program participants achieved white card tickets, First Aid and CPR certificates and a certificate of completion. Activities included excursions to Cairns TAFE, James Cook Uni, hearing from empowering guests to motivate and inspire participants in their journey. Sessions focused on setting short-term and long-term goals, how to apply for jobs, keeping a journal, Literacy, numeracy and communication skills development. We explored diverse and unfamiliar work industries where participants identified where their potential strengths lie. Other important sessions included job interview skills, self-care, hygiene and therapeutic practices which included Music, Art and Outdoor activities. I'd like to thank our local Pastor and Barber for giving us a day of his time to be apart of the self-care team. The mini graduation ended with a meal at Rainforest Restaurant and the handout of the certificates of completion.

Ngoonbi would like to congratulate the 8 attendees who have successfully gained employment.

The **Remote Jobs Economic Development** scheme, enabled seven (7) job positions for seven (7) participants. The following roles within Ngoonbi are: Program Admin Assistant, Trainee Promotions Assistant, Trainee Data Officer, a Construction Labourer, 2 Local Business Owner Development and a Hospitality trainee.

The IYCC program - **Indigenous Youth Connection to Culture**, is a program that is facilitated within the Mareeba region. This is an evidence based program, increasing cultural identity and resilience in young people through community-led activities.

Identified Barriers/Culturally designed Keys to Success:

- **Impacts of Alcohol and other Drugs** – Education on making change and gaining awareness and understanding that drugs and alcohol can affect the way we BEHAVE, THINK and FEEL (see Breakthrough Our Way resource, QAIHC)
- **Mental Health and Chronic Disease** – Healthy Lifestyle Promotion, access to health services and community healing programs, Mental Health First Aid
- **Intergenerational Trauma** - Red Dust Healing program addressing significant areas such as: Identity, family roles and structure, relationships, Elders, Men's business, Indigenous history and the impacts of colonialism, drug and alcohol issues, family violence, grief, loss, anxiety and fear, stress and mental health issues, anger management, Incarceration and juvenile justice, education and employment housing issues, meetings and community contribution and governance.
- **Development of Empowerment and Resilience** – Maintaining a Social & Emotional Wellbeing focus to successful and healthy outcomes in life.

Success Stories

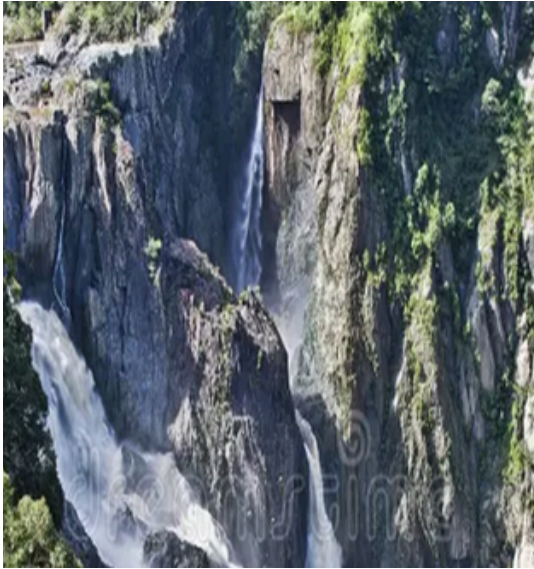
- Young and mature aged obtaining Driver licenses
- Long term mature aged unemployed gaining employment
- Wealth creation
- Caring for Community
- Learning to Read successes
- Healthy Habits established
- Positive Cultural Connections
- Training and Employment
- Positive stakeholder engagements
- Building and Working as a team
- Early Years Development
- Youth/AOD Healing Camps, Training & Employment



*Step by step we can achieve
our goal*

The Social & Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Framework

The Social & Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) framework was introduced to Ngoonbi through the facilitated National Empowerment Program. This framework is consistently referred to, establishing strong connections culturally, maintaining positive relationships and self-care strategies.



SEWB diagram adapted from Gee et al., (2014)



Housing & Construction New Builds 8 & 11 Kullaroo Close, Kuranda

Exciting News - Ngonbi new construction of four (4) dwellings on Kullaroo Close, is near completion. Four tenants will be moving in and tenanted the premises before Christmas 2025. The completion of the the houses have included internal and external painting, final fitouts and landscaping. We look forward to celebrating the completion of the builds with all who have made this possible.

The builds commenced, April 2025 led by Cairns Builders Strategic Builders with the Ngonbi construction team was contracted by Ngonbi and Dept of Housing and Public Works (HPW). Ngonbi has been instrumental in the planning and design layout with Housing Public Works, Project Managers QBuild, 8 Pencils Architecture and Cairns Strategic Builders as the successful tenders.

Along this journey, we have had Ngonbi's construction team involved with the builds as labour hire and project oversight. One construction employee engaged as a labourer, with the goal to becoming an apprentice carpenter learnt skills and is well on his way to achieving his goal towards building his own home on country.

The anticipated date for the opening ceremony is scheduled for the end of year. An invitation will be provided to our Elders, community members and distinguished guests.

Ngonbi's commitment is to continue providing appropriate and affordable housing to Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander families within the district.



NGOONBI'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONE

Ngoonbi 50th anniversary was held on Thursday the 25th of September 2025, marking another significant event in Ngoonbi's history. With over 200 guests attending including Elders, community members, Ngoonbi staff, partners and sister organisations and various stakeholders. The formal event was held in the Kuranda and Mossman Ballroom at the Pullmans International, Cairns.

Throughout the night historical and cultural presentations celebrated the heart and soul of Ngoonbi. Presentations by Miriki and Djabugay dance groups were touching performances encapsulating the resilience of our predecessors and Ngoonbi's foundational values of caring for community.

Inspiring speeches from Gimuy Yidinji Elder Neville Reys, local Member of Parliament Bree James, Mareeba Shire Councillor Amy Braes, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Qld (ATSIHQ), Deputy Chair Angie Ahkee and ATSIHQ Director Donna O'Chin, Ngoonbi Chair Kelvin Coleman and CEO Judi Enoch highlighted the strength of organisations that are leading and shaping community for better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and all peoples across this nation.

The night's entertainment was a line up of local and national talents. Master of Ceremonies and Comedian Sean Choolburra from the Yalanji nation and local Yalanji Comedian Leon Filewood engaged the audience with lots of laughter. Participants commented that the night was filled with good spirit and they needed this night of laughter and goodwill. One comment made; "You mob was deadly! Brought people together the right way --- strong, warm and full of respect, with lots of laughter from Seanie and Leon. It was deadly to be a part of it, honouring the legacy and showed what's still to come."

Local performer Shavonne Hansell, gave a strong rendition of the song "Goodness of God" after the showing of the historical Kuranda Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Choir video singing Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus which was a tribute to the Kuranda SDA Founding Elders who established Ngoonbi in 1974 and incorporating the organisation in January 1975.

Rising 15-year-old singer, songwriter Daisha Auda celebrated the night with her awe-inspiring vocal performances along with popular local band Night Shift who is a regular feature at Ngoonbi events.

We would like to thank all of the organisers of this event, and those who attended the celebrations. As part of the Ngoonbi family, we are blessed that you have celebrated this milestone with us. We dedicate this celebration to the 50 years of resilience, empowerment, leadership and vision of our strong Elders, staff and community members throughout the years.



Ngoonbi Office Closure Wednesday 24th December 2025
– Returning 12th January 2026. The Kuranda Reception
office will be opened by skeleton staff.

Normal Services	23/12/2025	Tuesday
Kuranda Reception open 8.30am to 12pm	24/12/2025	Wednesday
Xmas Day – Public Holiday	25/12/2025	Thursday
Boxing Day – Public Holiday	26/12/2025	Friday
Weekend	27/12/2025	Saturday
Weekend	28/12/2025	Sunday
Kuranda Reception open	29/12/2025	Monday
Kuranda Reception open	30/12/2025	Tuesday
Kuranda Reception open 8.30am to 12pm	31/12/2025	Wednesday
New Year's Day – Public Holiday	1/1/2026	Thursday
Kuranda Reception open	2/1/2026	Friday
Weekend	3/1/2026	Saturday
Weekend	4/1/2026	Sunday
Kuranda Reception open	5/1/2026	Monday
Kuranda Reception open	6/1/2026	Tuesday
Kuranda Reception open	7/1/2026	Wednesday
Kuranda Reception open	8/1/2026	Thursday
Kuranda Reception open	9/1/2026	Friday
Weekend	10/1/2026	Saturday
Weekend	11/1/2026	Sunday
Normal Services-Staff Return to Work	12/1/2026	Monday

Ngoonbi Community End of Year Family Day

Venue: Kuranda Park
Date: Wednesday 17th December 2025
Time: 10.00am -2.00pm



End of Year Tips

- Be safe and look out for each other
- Manage your finances wisely
- Enjoy time with friends and family
- Talk to someone if distressed
- Take care of self!

Remember the 8 Laws of Health

1. Good Nutrition - eat whole foods of fruit, vegetables and a small amount of protein
2. Exercise- to Keep Active and healthy
3. Drink at least 2 litres of WATER daily = 8 cups
4. Sunshine - gives Vitamin D for healing, early morning sunshine is best.
5. Temperance - Eat and drink in moderation
6. Fresh AIR - Breathe deep clean air. Do outdoor activities, go camping, let fresh air into your homes.
7. Rest- 6-8hrs of sleep each night
8. Trust in a higher power, meditate and pray.



