



Newsletter

Edition 3: June 2026



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



The Ngoonbi Respite team prepares nutritious meals three days a week—Monday, Wednesday and Friday—for clients across the Kuranda region. Each menu features a hearty soup, a main course, and a delicious dessert to finish. In addition, Ngoonbi's weekly respite gathering takes place every Tuesday, providing clients with an opportunity to connect and socialise. Feedback from participants has been positive, in response to the variety and quality of meals.



**Welcome to Edition 3 of
Ngoonbi's Newsletter**

**If you have news to share,
contact: Reception
07 4093 7177**



CEO MESSAGE

Hi my name is **Judi Grogan Enoch**. A mother, grandmother and CEO of Ngoonbi. Raised in Kuranda, born in Cairns. I am a Kuku Yalanji woman, and a descendent of the tribes of Takalaka, Djiru and Djabugay. Born to Kuranda residents Finley and June Grogan, both of whom were born and raised at Mona Mona Aboriginal mission, where Aboriginal families were sent under the 1897 Aboriginal Protection Act. I grew up in our Kuranda family home along with our 9 siblings and many cousins where the Kuranda Post Office is currently located today. We were raised with a determination to know that we were expected to have a go and to never give up. Growing up in Kuranda was full of adventure -- playing in the outdoors, swimming in the Barron River, going to the local SDA church and enjoying all the youth activities that the church offered. All these experiences provided a strong foundation. Like most of us who were blessed to be raised in Kuranda, I attended the Kuranda State Primary School for grades 1-7 and then later travelled on the railway train to attend Cairns State High School for years 8-12.

If anyone would have told me years ago, that I would be the Ngoonbi CEO, I would have said no way, not me. Witnessing the opening of our local Aboriginal organisation in 1975, and then later when I was 14 years old, I had my first job at Ngoonbi during the school holidays working as a retail assistant selling local aboriginal arts and crafts made by our Elders. Much later in 1994, after coming home from Townsville's James Cook University and my first teaching post, I transferred home to teach at our local Kuranda primary school. In the same year I was elected to the Ngoonbi Board of Management as a director and served as a volunteer from 1994 to 2012. In 2012, an opportunity opened to secure funding to kickstart an education program called the Kuranda Parent and Community Engagement (PACE) program working with the school and parents to improve educational outcomes for Bama people. A couple of years later, we successfully secured further funds for the Bibi Yungan Great Start to Great Learning program which is still currently being delivered today at Ngoonbi. Bibi Yungan's vision continues with the goal of securing strong educational and employment outcomes for Bama people in the Kuranda District. Starting from birth to youth, and working with parents, Bibi Yungan (meaning train up a child) seeks to expand the opportunities for families in learning, training and employment. The vision that our Founding Elders had for our community.



*Staff
Photo*

BIBI YUNGAN

GREAT START TO GREAT LEARNING



Healthy eating supports children's growth and development. A healthy diet consists of drinking clean water, eating a variety of fruit and vegetables, choosing plant based proteins helps to reduce the risk of chronic diseases. Continue eating bush foods, this keeps families healthy and strong.

What Keeps Family & Community Strong?

- Healthy meals on a budget
- Safe, stable housing
- Employment, training and development
- Saving and owning your own home
- Seeking Elder's wisdom
- Strong culture and belonging.

Strong
Families
Good Food
Good Sleep



Good Sleep - Strong Families

- Sleep supports children's learning and mental health
- Poor sleep makes physical health problems worse
- Safe housing and routines help families rest better
- Try to go to sleep by 9 pm each night, children by 7pm.



Bibi Yungan playgroups take place every Tuesday from 10-12pm at Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre or Centenary Park (weather permitting). The learning activities promotes social, emotional, and cognitive development in young children. How is this achieved? Through storytelling, music, language, speaking, listening, counting, colour recognition, reading and safe play.



Bibi Yungan Playgroup



Bibi Yungan's playgroup is designed to encourage active and creative play, supporting the development of language and speech, literacy and numeracy, as well as fine and gross motor skills. By providing a safe and nurturing environment, the playgroup helps lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Parents and carers play a vital role and are commended for their ongoing support in their children's growth and development. Planned excursions to Muddy's, the Butterfly Sanctuary, and other local attractions have been well attended, offering enriching experiences beyond the playgroup setting.

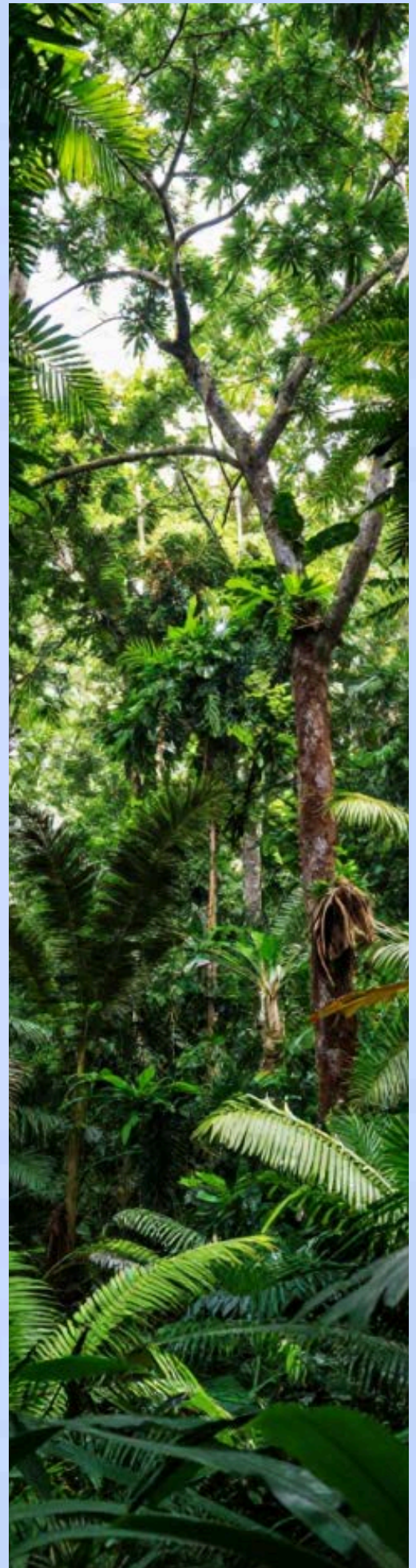
Bibi Yungan supports families, children and young adults as they transition successfully into schooling, training and employment. Ngonbi workforce is currently made up of 15% youth. Families have been able to access a wide range of programs and opportunities designed to build resilience, promote empowerment, self-esteem, social and emotional wellbeing. The program delivers a variety of activities that includes:

Early childhood learning and development sessions – Playgroup, Excursions, Early Reading Intervention programs at KDSC and the development of educational resources

Family support and engagement programs and workshops – With the focus on Family Visitations, Nutrition, Wellness, Family Routines, Teaching your child at home, as Parents/Carers are their children's first teachers

Weekly Youth mentoring and transition pathways in collaboration with Kuranda District State College – Girls Group, Boys Group, Bama Role Model sessions, Monday Breakfast Club at KDSC, Homework Support, successful enrolments to obtain accredited training and qualifications, plus Traineeships and School Based Work experiences at Ngonbi,

Health, wellbeing and community-building initiatives, promotion of self-care initiatives - Promotion of self-care initiatives for healing and assisting the delivery of fortnightly men's and women's group.



June/July School Holiday Program

NAIDOC - 50 Years Deadly

MONDAY 29.06.26	TUESDAY 30.06.26	WEDNESDAY 01.07.26	THURSDAY 02.07.26	FRIDAY 03.07.26
CAIRNS ESPLANADE LAGOON 10AM - 2PM	MOVIE EVENT CINEMAS 10AM-2PM	THE CULTURAL DAY OUT AT MONA MONA HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER	SKATING MUNUNDA \$18 PER SKATER 10AM-12PM	CAIRNS NAIDOC MARCH NO TRANSPORT AVAILABLE
MONDAY 06.07.26	TUESDAY 07.07.26	WEDNESDAY 08.07.26	THURSDAY 09.07.26	FRIDAY 10.07.26
NAIDOC TALENT QUEST 5PM - 8PM	ELDER'S LUNCHEON 10AM-2PM JOHN MORIARTY FOOTBALL-CAIRNS ESPLANADE 11AM - 2PM	DJABAGUY DEADLY DAYTIME EVENT 12PM - CENTENARY PARK EDOR CARNIVAL 9AM - 3PM	KURANDA NAIDOC MARCH - 9:45 COMMUNITY FUN DAY NYAWARRI PARK 10AM - 2PM	CIAF DAY OUT DPT KDA: 8:30AM DPT CNS: 3PM
SATURDAY 11.07.26	TUESDAY 14.07.26			
DJABUGAY DEADLY EVENING EVENT 4:30PM	KDSC NAIDOC CELEBRATION 9:15AM - SIGN IN AT OFFICE ACTIVITIES & MORNING TEA			





Women's Group

From April to June, the women's group delivered a range of activities focused on healing and strengthening social and emotional wellbeing. Sessions included yarnning, dancing, music, creative arts and crafts as forms of self-expression. Participants also received financial literacy support from Uniting Care, offering practical guidance on managing money in a supportive and non-judgemental environment.

The group continues to provide a relaxed and welcoming space, with a variety of tools that encourage wellness, self-care, connection and shared laughter. A recent highlight was the trip to Bulmba Ja, where participants brought their stories to life through movement.

Community members are encouraged to contribute ideas for the next six months to help keep the women's group strong and vibrant. Everyone is also invited to spread the word and encourage others in the community to come along and take part.



Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation visited Kuranda to share information regarding signing up to enrol and vote, with a reminder to update enrolment details. Balkanu have been working in partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission-Indigenous Electoral Participation Program. Balkanu looks forward to returning.





Staff Training Feedback

Four staff members recently attended a Mental Health Training Course facilitated by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) at the Kuranda Library precinct. The session provided valuable insight into the impact of substance use across Far North Queensland, highlighting the widespread availability of drugs and the fact that substance misuse can affect anyone, regardless of background.

The training also addressed a growing concern regarding the increase in intravenous drug use among First Nations communities, particularly involving methamphetamines. This trend has contributed to a rise in blood-borne viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis C, which is evident both in local communities and within the correctional system.

A strong emphasis was placed on harm minimisation strategies, including raising awareness about the significant risks associated with sharing needles and the promotion of safer practices to reduce the spread of infection.

Welcome to our new recruits in:

- Sport & Recreation
- Atherton CHSP
- HR/Administration



Ngoonbi
Staff-We
appreciate
you!



Ngoonbi Website News



Above and below are snapshots of the website concept. We are waiting on professional and cultural photos to be finalised.

Ngoonbi's website remains under development as work continues on its long-anticipated upgrade. Building and launching the new platform has required significant time and effort, with completion expected by July. The extensive work invested is set to deliver lasting benefits, making the wait worthwhile. The project is being undertaken by a dedicated team of four, working collaboratively under the leadership of Mahiweb to bring the new site to fruition.



Come and see us

Ngoonbi has Four sites across the Tablelands. All sites are open to community, you can walk in, call ahead, or ask your referrer to get in touch on your behalf.



Kuranda

2/40 Coondoo Street,
Kuranda QLD 4881

(07) 4093 7177 (Main Office)
(07) 4093 7298 (CHSP)

admin@ngoonbi.org.au

Mareeba

210 Walsh Street,
Mareeba QLD 4880

(07) 4092 5276

Atherton

12 Herberton Road,
Atherton, QLD 4883
(07) 4091 1315

Mount Garnet

73 Opal Street,
Mount Garnet QLD 4872
(07) 4097 9465

36 Coondoo Street, Update

The concept plan is expected to come to life by the end of August. The structural engineering reports are near completion, which means the tender process can be finalised. We anticipate that the 36 Coondoo Street construction will start either at the end of August or early September.

Ngoonbi's Tenant News & Information

A tenant meeting was held at Ngoonbi's Respite centre on 4th June 2026. We encourage all tenants to attend these meeting to keep up to date with tenancy agreements and rights. A major update includes 4 weeks of Bond to be paid in advance to meet the RTA Tenancy legislation. The housing officers will be in contact with tenants who are required to update their Tenancy Agreement. If you have any concerns, the housing officers are available to yarn with you.

Tenant Information

Clean stoves after use, wash windows and doors, vacuum sliding door tracks, clean your gutters.

REPORT water leaks and any maintenance issue ASAP.

Keep lawns mowed, neat and tidy. Mareeba Shire Council notifies Ngoonbi if overgrown lawns, are impacting neighbouring properties.

All tenants are to pay 4 weeks bond as per Tenancy Agreement

Excess water fees are charged to the tenants.

