



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

Puuya means “heart” or “life force” in the Kuuku Ya'u dialect, one of the six major language groups in Lockhart River.

The Puuya Foundation's work in the very remote Aboriginal Community of Lockhart River on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula, transforms the lives of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Australia.

The support of our community partners, Board and funders who share in the Puuya Vision and Mission:

- Encourages innovation;
- Builds community-led programs (especially in early years learning and parenting);
- Co-designs family wellbeing services;
- Facilitates women's leadership; and
- Develops skills-focussed men's empowerment program.



CONTENTS

OUR VISION	3
OUR CHALLENGES	4-5
CHAIRPERSONS REFLECTION OF THE YEAR	7
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT	8
OUR PATRON’S MESSAGE	9
GOVERNANCE	10
OUR TEAM	11
FAREWELL FROM FOUNDER, DENISE HAGAN	12
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	13-14
A YEAR IN REVIEW	15-18
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	19-20





THE PUUYA FOUNDATION JOURNEY STARTED WITH A VISION

To empower the local community to identify and own their challenges, develop strategies and build the capacity to determine and shape their own futures.



The Puuya Approach is a community led model, with 10 key elements to create change.



PARTNERSHIPS
& COLLABORATIONS



AUTHENTIC
RELATIONSHIPS



TO VALUE
OTHERS



HOPE
& DETERMINATION



PERSONAL
MOTIVATION,
CONFIDENCE
& COMMITMENT



BIG PICTURE,
HOLISTIC
THINKING



SHARED
LEARNING



SKILLS &
KNOWLEDGE



CONNECTIVITY



OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ACTION



OUR CHALLENGES



- 15% homelessness
- 90% social housing homes
- No new housing available
- 50+ families on wait list for housing

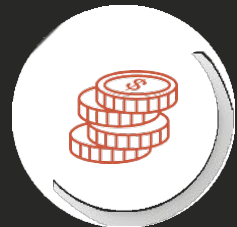


- 43.5% of families have children aged under 15 and no parent employed (13.8% Qld)
- 30.1% of population aged 0-14 yrs (19.4% Qld)
- 32% of families have no vehicle



- Groceries cost 65% more than regional areas
- During wet season the community is dependent on barge freight services (once/wk – weather dependent)

OUR CHALLENGES



- Median personal income \$17, 264/yr or \$332/wk
- Median family income is \$42, 120/yr or \$810/week
- 3 times the national unemployment rate



- 42.9% of Yr 3 students achieved the national minimum standard in reading (96.1% - Qld)
- 16.7% of Yr 3 students achieved the national minimum standard in numeracy (95.2% Qld)



- 65.3% of women smoked during pregnancy
- 16% of children were born a low birth weight
- 2020 – 18% of births mother aged under 20 yrs, 63% of births mother aged 20-29 yrs



- Our people live 20 years less than the national average
- In 2021 we buried 10 people
- Suicide rate is 5 x higher than the national rate (6x for young men)





DESPITE
OUR CHALLENGES,
WE ARE CREATING
A BETTER FUTURE



CHAIRPERSON'S REFLECTION OF THE YEAR

On behalf of the Puuya Foundation Board, I have great pleasure in sharing our Foundation's Annual Report for 2020-2021.

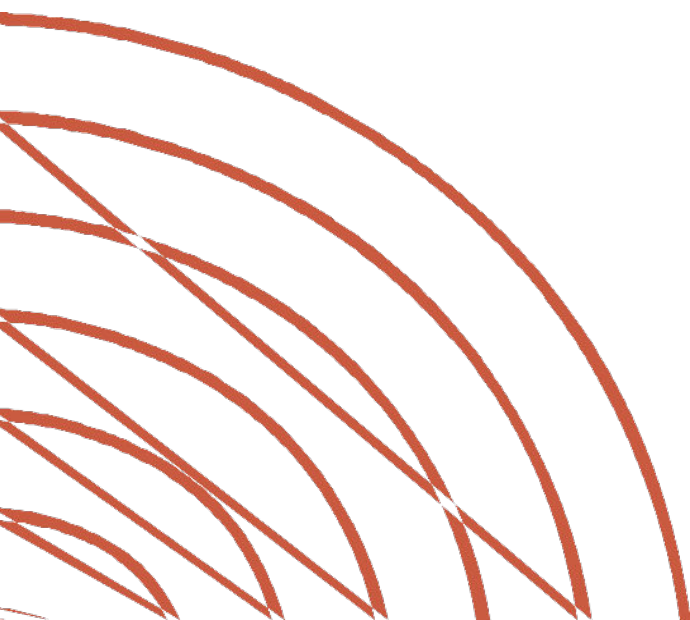
Our year has been both rewarding and challenging, managing the impact of COVID, welcoming our new executive team, new board members and saying farewell to wonderful friends and colleagues. Our farewell celebrations for the wonderful work undertaken by our retiring CEO and Founder, Denise Hagan, recognise her commitment and support for the Lockhart River community and Foundation, and her untiring efforts over 10 years to build and grow the Foundation. Hand in hand with the community she planned and established the Kuunchi Kakana (families together) Centre with programs for children, families, and individuals. I also want to appreciate and acknowledge the good work of Executive Officer Patricia Thorpe and her dedication to the Foundation and community and Moira Macumboy who has been a tireless Early Years Worker and often stepped up to lead the team at our most challenging times. Thank you ladies!

We are happy to have expanded on the excellent work of our Board planning early in 2020 and are delighted that our Patron Dame Quentin Bryce continues to support our organisation. With our new team in place, we continue to look for opportunities to be creative and build on our Puuya Approach through the implementation of our initiatives including increased engagement of parents and children in our programs.

Following COVID restrictions easing, we have renewed our partnerships and developed new networks and connections. We look forward to the continuation on the great work we have started with Kirsty Davis, our new CEO, leading our team these past 6 months.

I give our thanks to everyone who has walked with us this year. I feel thankful for the commitment and resilience of all of our staff and Board. It has been a tough year and I thank them sincerely for their efforts. We know we cannot do it alone, and the commitment and help from our supporters is greatly appreciated.

Dottie (Dorothy) Hobson





CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Puuya Foundation welcomes the new year and a new leadership team. After my first 6 months in the role, I would like to thank the Lockhart River community, our local council and stakeholders for working collaboratively with us throughout the year.

Much of our success is attributed to the good foundations established by Denise Hagan and her team plus the consistent efforts of our new team connecting with community, collaborating with local partners, supporting our families, growing the learning and culture focus in our programs and strengthening strategic relationships at federal and state levels, with local council and philanthropic organisations. As the learning and leadership hub, we are supporting leadership in our community from cradle to elderly, recognising the voices of our Elders and building the leaders of tomorrow.

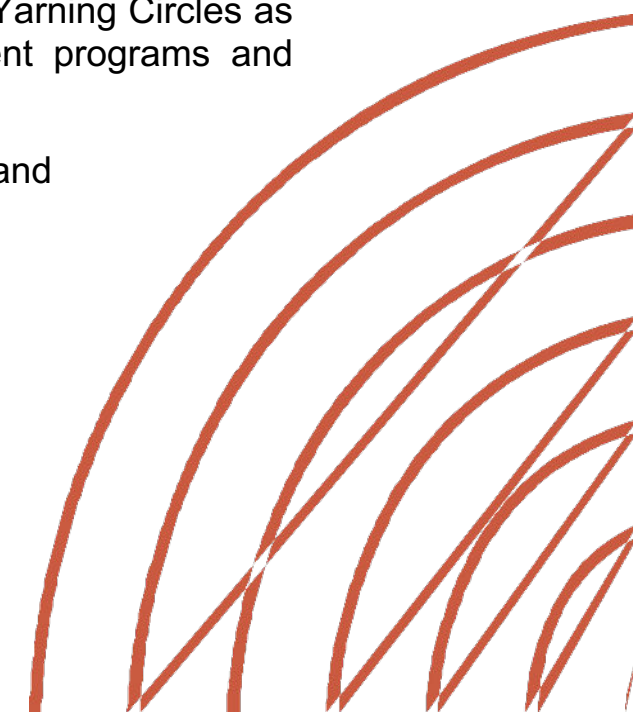
Our work with the Creative Industries team from QUT to research and co-design a Social Impact Evaluation Strategy with our community has already delivered great results. We have co-designed a measurement and evaluation tool to assess existing delivery and steer the design of future program delivery, ensuring community leads change, and success is achieved, reported and evaluated for future growth. The involvement of community in these discussions reflects the energy, enthusiasm, and talent of our local Elders and leaders.

On a practical level, we increased the number of children and families participating in our programs, created new cultural activities ensuring that those coming to the Centre feel enlivened by their learnings and enhanced in their connections to country, culture and community. Furthermore, we have instituted new systems and processes, and developed new funding opportunities to grow our financial sustainability.

The changes instigated over the past 6 months have been very beneficial. We have a range of new child, youth and adult activities as features of the Kuunchi Kakana Centre's program offerings. We have introduced Yarning Circles as a way of amplifying community voices, set up a Youth Club, facilitated Women's Empowerment programs and instigated family support services.

As a relatively new CEO, I express my gratitude to the Board, and our dedicated team. The strength and support each person has provided has eased my transition, enabling me to focus on supporting the voice and needs of community for the benefit of our community. Our work is important and valued. We make a difference.

Kirsty Davis



OUR PATRON'S MESSAGE

It is with much pleasure I share with you the Puuya Foundation's report for the year 2020 - 2021.

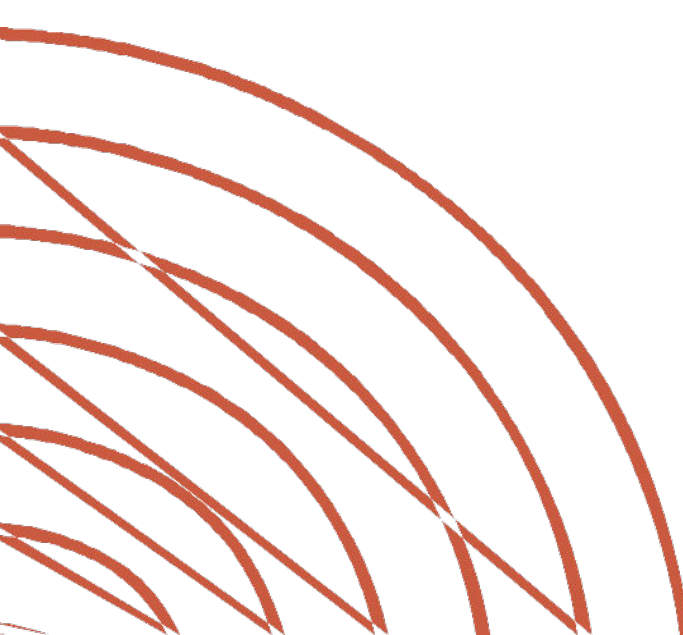
Though a difficult year, the team at the Puuya Foundation continue to nurture and support strong Puuya in the Lockhart River community.

Denise has done a marvellous job over the years since she set up the Foundation in 2008. It has been a long road, and many outstanding results including the establishment of the Kuunchi Kakana (Families Together) Centre. I wish her well in her future endeavours.

I was delighted to meet with the new CEO Kirsty Davis and know that her enthusiasm, significant expertise and experience will be of great assistance to this community. It was evident from our discussion that the Puuya Foundation will continue with a strong focus on responding to what the community wants, supporting children and families, empowering women, and embedding culture into all programs.

I look forward to my continuing involvement with this proud and vibrant organisation, as it continues to go from strength to strength in its significant and vital work.

The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO



GOVERNANCE



**Dottie (Dorothy) Hobson,
Chairperson**



**Jim Varghese
Deputy Chairperson**



**Wayne Butcher
Director**



**Denise Hagan
Director and Founder**



**Marian Pettit
Director**



**Jason Cooling
Director**



**Veronica Piva
Director**



**Paul Piva
Community Strategic Advisor**

The Puuya Foundation Board of Directors lead the strategic development and governance of the organisation. In the period, the board continued to grow our work with the leadership and guidance of local indigenous and corporate board members who volunteer their time, demonstrating their commitment to building the future of Lockhart River families.



OUR TEAM

Name	Position
Denise Hagan	Outgoing CEO and Director
Kirstyne Davis	Chief Executive Officer, 2021
Patricia Thorpe	Outgoing Executive Director and Company Secretary
Sandra Roberts	Executive Officer, 2021
Helene Cleveringa	Director, Kunnchi Kakana Centre
Moira Macumboy	Early Years Worker 2020
Lorraine Warradoo	Early Years Worker
Rebecca Elu	Family Support Worker

In the reporting period, the organisation was supported by a team of dedicated staff and supporters who bring to the Puuya Foundation a commitment to indigenous empowerment and the education of our future generations.



FAREWELL FROM FOUNDER, DENISE HAGAN

With a mixture of sadness and joy, I have decided to step down as CEO of the Puuya Foundation in December. Time flies - I have been living in Lockhart River on and off for 18 years now and truly value the friendship and kindness I have been shown. Everyone has taught me so much. Working together with the community to strengthen 'Puuya' has changed my life.

At the core of my purpose in setting up the Puuya Foundation in 2008 was co-creation of a leadership space for dreams and priorities, with the right support to achieve them. Since this time, I have had the chance to contribute, to make a difference, bringing new partners and donors to the community.

I thank everyone for the trust shown and welcoming of new people to Lockhart River. I want to express further thanks for the privilege of leading a decade of enormous growth in the Puuya Foundation. Working together we have overcome many obstacles and achieved beyond expectations, including the establishment of the Kuunchi Kakana (families together) Centre. This centre was requested by elders, leaders and stakeholders in community. From a 10-year dream that came to fruition in 4 years, this is the only centre of its kind in Queensland, where the planning, building and set up was enabled by innovative partnerships between philanthropists, local, state and federal governments and was community led.

The Foundation's establishment stage has now come to an end. This presents a great opportunity to appoint a new CEO, one with the skills and experience necessary to build on our successes and direct the exciting next stage of Puuya Foundation's work. We have achieved this with the appointment of Kirsty Davis, an exceptional Indigenous leader with commitment and capability to support the community and apply her extensive experience from her work with Cape York communities. I look forward to seeing the Puuya Foundation grow and succeed in its vital work of developing everyday leaders.

I sincerely thank Chair Dottie Hobson, the Board, our community partners and our wonderful staff for their incredible efforts over the years. I will miss you all.

Denise Hagan

Founder and CEO, Puuya Foundation



OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES 2020-2021

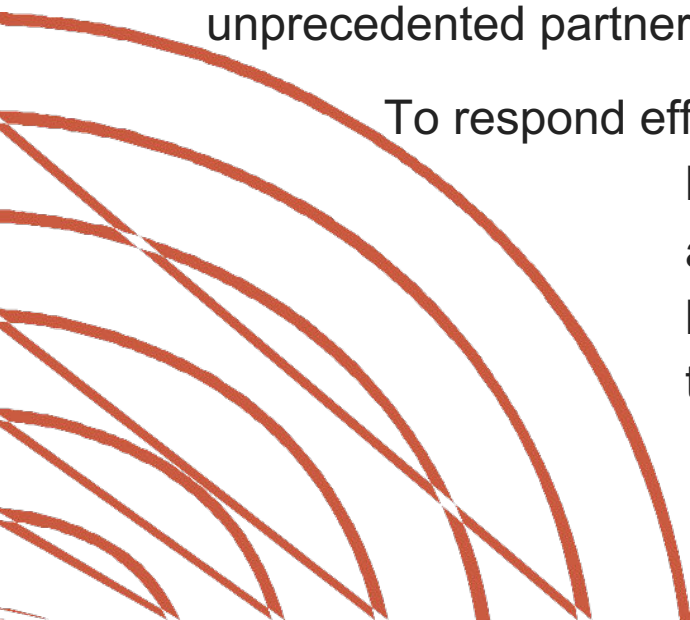
Lockhart River is situated on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula about 10 hours drive north from Cairns. The beauty of its pristine beaches, rainforests and rich cultural history, collides with the various challenges faced by many of the 800 residents who call this remote community home.

The community is accessible by road during the dry and cut off during the wet, leaving air travel as the only way for people to move in and out. Freight costs are extraordinarily high with the cost of groceries some 65% more than regional cities. Food quality is a consistent issue.

Our people live an average of 20 years less than non-Indigenous Australians due to the myriad of health issues affecting First Nations people such as diabetes and Rheumatic Heart Disease. We have many families waiting for housing and overcrowding is a major issue. Lockhart River children are among the highest reported rates of middle ear infection – studies showing a rate five times higher than non-Indigenous children. Few students have completed secondary school and we are very proud of our one university Nursing graduate.

The Puuya Foundation is a community led organisation, owned by the people of Lockhart River. We empower the voice of the community to set goals for the future, and support co-designed programs and services. We do this by delivering programs aimed at development and learning across the community. Since its inception in 2008, the Puuya Foundation has worked alongside local families with a deep respect for the cultures and customs that make up this vibrant community. Working together has resulted in an unprecedented partnership; a relationship based on authentic mutual respect, trust and collaboration.

To respond effectively to community needs, the Foundation utilises a Puuya Approach building authentic leadership, confidence, hope and determination and opportunities for action. This approach has produced new and powerful insights assisting us to advance significant outcomes for community. We recognise the only way forward is with locally led, community designed programs that support our people from birth to elderly and embedding culture to sustain the “Puuya” (lifeforce) of our community.



In the past year, the Puuya Foundation supports individuals and families with a suite of programs, at the Kuunchi Kakana (Families Together) Centre, in Lockhart River.

Early Years Parenting Program

In 2020-2021 we were supported by a team that operate the Early Years Parenting Program, 4 mornings per week. The program supports the social, emotional and learning outcomes of 0-4 year old children, with their parents.

Family Support Services


Tuesday and Thursday mornings are where women come to participate in a Family Support Services program. The program engages women through learning, art and craft and provides a space to discuss the challenges in the community. Our partnerships with stakeholders support capability building opportunities for health, wellbeing and empowerment.

Youth Club

At the request of community at Yarning Circles, we deliver Youth Club twice per week, after school. We collaborate with Apunipima and RFDS to deliver youth development and learning in wellbeing, healthy eating building strong minds and bodies.

Puuya Bucks

In collaboration with Thread Together, we established an incentivised program to build positive engagement and improved educational, health and empowerment outcomes. Community members attending a set number of programs each week receive 'Puuya Bucks', our community created currency. Puuya Bucks provide shopping dollars at our store, where our partnership with Thread Together stocks the first fashion store in our community, with clothing and shoes for women, men and children. You can't buy at the store, you can only shop with Puuya Bucks. The program has doubled program participation across all areas.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has seen some significant changes at the Puuya Foundation.

After 10 years as inaugural CEO, Denise Hagan resigned from the position but continues as a Board member. Denise is also contributing to QUT research projects and the leadership transition.

Following a competitive recruitment process, Kirsty Davis was appointed CEO and commenced in December 2020. As an Indigenous executive with over 23 years' experience in driving the strategic delivery of projects, organisational and business growth, Kirsty will lead the next exciting phase of the Puuya Foundation, building on successes and addressing organisational challenges, including growing financial sustainability.

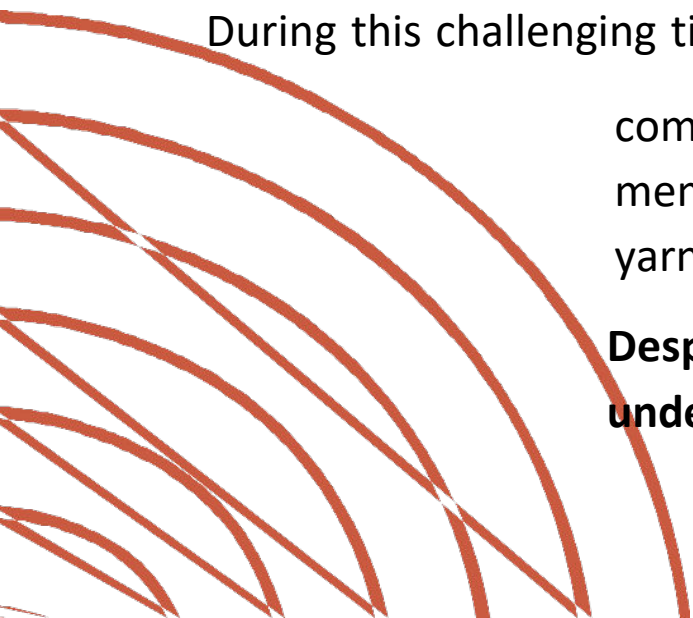
Long-term Executive Officer Patricia Thorpe announced her retirement and the Foundation welcomed Sandra Roberts as Executive Officer in March 2021. Sandra has over 27 years' experience in finance, operational management, and team leadership. Sandra's business vision and strong leadership qualities are demonstrated by her proven track record of leading organisations to deliver tangible growth and success.

Lockhart River faced unprecedented challenges with the COVID pandemic, severely impacting the community. Funerals for example, were postponed for months adding further distress to an isolated and struggling community.

Responding to Federal, State and Lockhart River Council advice, the Foundation instigated no travel, social distancing and closed the Kuunchi Kakana Centre for a period of time. These changes disrupted the community and children's routine at the Centre.

During this challenging time, the Puuya team, community members and service providers banded together and did what was possible to support community members who struggled to deal with the impacts and fear of the virus. The Foundation worked with community members to develop innovative solutions including an outreach learning program for children, parents and carers, modified yarning circles on country and activities for youth after school.

Despite the challenges, the Foundation successfully attracted philanthropic funding from the Girgensohn Foundation to undertake community based research and develop a Social Impact Evaluation Strategy.





To help with co-design and delivery of the Social Impact Evaluation Strategy, the Foundation engaged the highly experienced team from QUT Creative Industries Faculty. A significant additional in-kind contribution was provided by QUT for this 3-year project.

From the start, community engagement reports showed high levels of community participation and interest in the project. The research intends to embed local cultural ways to measure program outcomes, continuously feeding results to inform the effectiveness of the Foundation's programs, ensuring that services are community designed and owned.

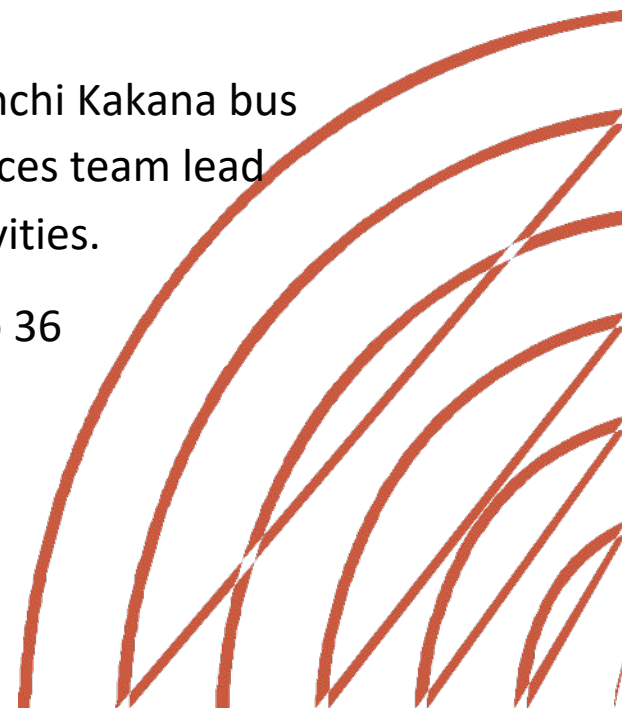
Some important fundraising initiatives occurred including:

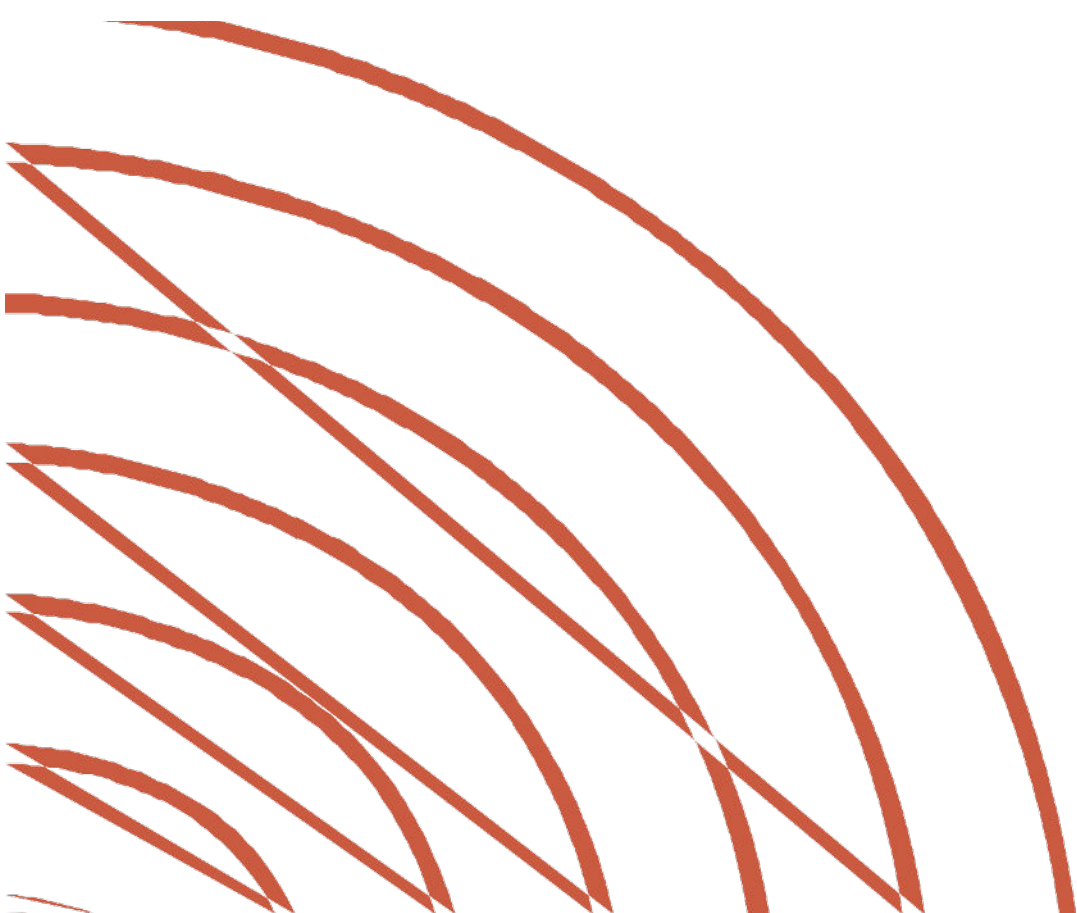
- the preparation of a Fundraising Strategic Plan;
- a streamlining of grant application processes;
- an inaugural Christmas Appeal which attracted \$21,000 in donations; and
- the Full Tummies appeal once again successfully delivered new funding at the Tax Appeal 2021.

The Puuya Foundation is focussed on building everyday leaders, in an engaged and strong community. This was our focus for the **Sunsuper** *Dreams for a Better World* initiative. As a finalist in this grant, Sunsuper's funding supported the Learning for a Better Life Literacy Program as a pathway to lifelong learning for children, parents and carers. The results increased literacy levels for children and improved transitions from early years learning, to kindy and prep years at school.

The Kuunchi Kakana Centre's early years learning and parenting program commenced in 2021. From Monday to Thursday, the Kuunchi Kakana bus drives around picking up families to come and learn at the Centre. In the multipurpose room, the Foundation's Family Support Services team lead twice weekly "Yarn and Craft" women's sessions, bringing local women together to yarn, support each other and share cultural activities.

Cultural programs were also designed for Lockhart River Youth creating learning environments at the Kuunchi Kakana Centre. Up to 36 youth came twice a week to the After School Youth Club. Art and cultural craft programs coincided with sessions on healthy eating choices and lessons with Elders. Collaborating with Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council and the Indigenous Knowledge Centre, has contributed to sustainable knowledge transfer with the sharing of traditional stories and culture with the children and families.





STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	2a	773,009	1,040,152
Other income	2b	2,884	10,380
		775, 893	1,050,532
Employee benefits expense		(706,507)	(669,641)
Depreciation and amortisation		(104,662)	(104,662)
Other expenses from ordinary activities	2c	(346,908)	(294,404)
		1,158,075	1,068,708
Surplus (deficit) before income tax		(382,184)	(18,176)
Income tax expense	1e		
Net surplus (deficit) for the year		(382,184)	(18,176)
<i>Other comprehensive income</i>			
Total comprehensive income for the year		(382,184)	(18,176)
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		(382,184)	(18,176)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	735,266	999,204
Trade and other receivables	4	10,486	18,048
Other current assets	5	15,361	19,171
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>761,113</u>	<u>1,036,423</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	<u>2,061,174</u>	<u>2,165,836</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,061,174</u>	<u>2,165,836</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>2,822,287</u>	<u>3,202,259</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	33,680	13,577
Unearned revenue	8		21,330
Provision for employee benefits	9	<u>109,894</u>	<u>106,455</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>143,574</u>	<u>141,362</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>143,574</u>	<u>141,362</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>2,678,713</u>	<u>3,060,897</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		<u>2,678,713</u>	<u>3,060,897</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>2,678,713</u>	<u>3,060,897</u>

