

Monthly Community Update

Message from the Chair



CHAIR JAIME GANE

Hi Weipa,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and were able to enjoy some time off with your favourite people.

This is my first update for 2026, and so far, I'm feeling like it's going to be a great year! It's early days I know, but I'm eternally optimistic, and a big believer that positive energy is contagious, so I'm hoping that everyone catches it!

All the kids are back to school now, but over the holidays, the WTA team ran another successful school holiday program, with lots of activities in the Library and at the WASP. Big thanks to our awesome staff members who do such a great job to ensure that the kids have organised activities to look forward to. I'm sure all the parents are also very appreciative.

Our first WTA event for the year was our Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony dinner, which was a great night. It's one of the highlights on my calendar of

official duties, because I get to welcome our newest Australian Citizens, and pay tribute to those members of our community who go the extra mile. Not surprisingly, there are always a lot of familiar faces in the room for the Australia Day Awards, because these people are often the ones who volunteer on multiple committees, and help at multiple events. Our community wouldn't be the same without this small group of people, so we owe them a great debt of gratitude for all they do.

I would also like to throw down a challenge to the rest of you who may not have volunteered yet, to put your hand up and get involved in something. We have multiple event committees which would absolutely love your help, and if you are new to town (or have been here for years), it's a really great way to meet new people! If you are signing your child up for any of the organised sporting competitions after the wet season, ask how you can help. These activities are only available if people volunteer to run them, and every little bit helps.

In other WTA news, we welcomed our newest elected member Malcolm Slack to the team, who attended his first members meeting last month. We are looking forward to working with Mal, who brings a valuable business/tourism perspective to the table, and is passionate about creating opportunities for our community.

On the weather front, well.... it's called the 'wet' season for a reason. This year we have seen exceptionally high rainfall for January, with over 1m of rain and still more to come. Although we are getting a lot of rain, there is nothing forecasted in terms of cyclone activity at this stage, which is always welcomed news. Wet season is a fun time to be out doing day trips while the bush is bright green and the creeks are flowing, but it also has its risks. If you are out and about, please take care, and don't drive into swollen rivers or floodwaters.

As I said at the start, I have big expectations for 2026. I'm looking

forward to building new relationships, reinforcing old ones, and getting as many people as possible involved in this community, in one way or another. My door is always open, and I'm always keen to hear your ideas and feedback.

Thanks very much for reading, and I look forward to seeing you all out and about in the community.

Jaime Gane

<p>Upcoming Event News:</p> 	<p>Learn to Swim @WAC Mon 2 Feb - Thurs 2 Apr 2026 for all age groups</p>	<p>Term 1 F5F Toddler Rock 'n' Rhyme @ Hibberd Library 9.30am Wednesday</p>	<p>Term 1 F5F Baby Wiggle 'n' Giggle @ Hibberd Library 9.30am Thursday</p>	<p>Term 1 STEAM Kids @ Hibberd Library Thursday 3:15pm</p>
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Hibberd Library STEAM for Kids

Weipa Hibberd Library is excited to be running the STEAM program again in 2026.

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and maths. These five key concepts are a way of boosting creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication.

Young children are hands-on learners and learn best by being actively involved. Because of this they are natural scientists and investigators and are already involved in STEAM activities. STEAM also builds early foundational maths and science skills like critical thinking, problem solving and hypothesizing.

Come along to Weipa Hibberd Library Thursday 3.15pm-4.00pm during the school term.



Australia Day Awards 2026

Weipa Town Authority is proud to announce our 2026 Award Recipients! We are thrilled to recognise the incredible contributions of the following community members:

Penelope McAthur – *Community Spirit Award*
Emily Foy – *Young Citizen of the Year*
Stephanie Neil – *Citizen of the Year*

These outstanding individuals have gone above and beyond — not only in the past year, but over many years — making a lasting and meaningful impact on the Weipa community. On behalf of Weipa Town Authority, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all nominees and award recipients. We look forward to seeing their continued passion, leadership, and contributions throughout 2026 and beyond.



Community Easter Market & Showcase EOI

The Weipa Town Authority is now accepting Expressions of Interest for the Community Easter Markets & Showcase on Saturday, 28 March 2026! This is your chance to sell goods, promote your group, run an activity, or even perform a demo at one of Weipa's biggest family-friendly events.

Community Groups can enter our social media video competition. Event-goers can also take part in the passport competition, with one lucky participant winning a bonus voucher for their favourite community group. Spaces are limited, and EOIs close Wednesday, 11 March 2026. Don't miss out—scan the QR code to secure your spot today!

