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## **Contents**

Celebrating 50 years	3
Ernie Hoolihan: The Visionary Founder	
of Yumba-Meta Limited	4
Awards & Recognition	5
Our Purpose, Values, Vision, Strategic Priorities	5
Yumba-Meta Limited Fiftieth Anniversary Gala Dinner	6
Chairperson's Report	10
CEO's Report	11
Board of Directors	12
Executive Staff	14
Brenda Lucas - First Nations Cultural Advisor	16
We're All One Big Family - Photos of Our Staff	17
Timeline	18
New Head Office Official Opening	21
Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)	
Construction	22
Housing Services	24
Accommodation & Support Services	24
Employment & Education Housing Program	24
Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre	26
Breaking the Cycle	26
Dale Parker Place	28
Flora House Women's Shelter	30
Elsie House Women's Shelter	32
Seniors Housing	
The Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village	34
Support Services	
Townsville Family Violence Support Service	36
Weeburra Thulgarri Residential Care Services	
for Young People	38
Weeburra Thulgarri Early Tutoring and	
Mentoring Support Program	40
Partnership & Collaboration Project	
Karingal Patient Transition	
Accommodation Facility	42
Housingwise Realty	
Townsville's First Social Enterprise	
Real Estate Agency	44
Long-Term Housing Project	
Hillside Gardens Residential	45
Estate Development	
Names for Page 17 Staff Photos	46
YML Supporters	47

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We respect and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this publication contains images and names of deceased persons.



# Yumba-Meta Limited. Celebrating 50 years of achieving sustainable communities through access to housing and support services.

In 1973, a group of local Aboriginal individuals united with a shared mission: to offer housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the area.

Their vision grew into Yumba-Meta Limited, now at the forefront of addressing housing and homelessness challenges, particularly for First Nations people in Townsville.

Through secure, affordable, and culturally appropriate accommodation and support, Yumba-Meta Limited effectively breaks the cycles of poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence for numerous individuals and families

Over the last 50 years, Yumba-Meta Limited has greatly impacted the lives of vulnerable individuals and families, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We are committed to remaining a powerful advocate for our community, offering services tailored to diverse personal and cultural requirements, and creating positive change.

Cheers to another 50 years of Yumba-Meta Limited transforming lives for the better.







TOP LEFT: The 2003 Yumba-Meta board at the official opening of the YML head office at 565 Ross River Road Kirwan. ABOYE: Dr Ernest Michael Hoolihan officiating the opening. BELOW: Dr Ernest Hoolihan and Queensland Minister for Housing Tim Mander at the official opening of the Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village in 2012. LEFT: The 2022 Yumba-Meta board and elders at the official opening of YML head office at 202 Ross River Road. Aitkenvale.



# Ernie Hoolihan: The Visionary Founder of Yumba-Meta Limited



Dr. Ernest Hoolihan OAM, affectionately known as 'Ernie,' is an icon of Indigenous empowerment, celebrated as the visionary founder of Yumba-Meta Limited.

Established in 1973 under the Whitlam Government, Yumba-Meta's enduring impact on Townsville's First Nations communities stands as a testament to Ernie's indomitable spirit.

While Ernie has retired from his active roles, his legacy within Yumba-Meta endures as a beacon of hope and transformation. This organisation, under his leadership, not only came into existence but thrived, providing vital services, advocating for Indigenous rights, and nurturing a strong sense of community and pride.

Ernie's unwavering commitment to justice for Indigenous communities was further exemplified by his roles within the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service. He served as the first secretary, past treasurer, and President, making him an integral part of its foundation and growth.

Ernie's influence extends far beyond Yumba-Meta. His dedication to preserving Indigenous heritage and cultural traditions is evident in the establishment of the Townsville Aboriginal Cultural Centre. This cultural hub stands as a testament to his enduring commitment to the rich heritage of Indigenous communities.

For over three decades, Ernie championed the rights and wellbeing of Aboriginal inmates through the Legal Service, ensuring that their voices were heard and their dignity upheld.

Even in retirement, his commitment to the welfare of seniors continues to shine through his work with the Seniors Safety Group, contributing to the Townsville Safe Communities Project.

Ernie's philanthropic spirit endures as he tirelessly raised funds for local causes, including the beloved Leukaemia House. His legacy also includes the creation of TAIHS (Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services), which provides comprehensive healthcare access to Indigenous communities.

Ernie's illustrious journey is adorned with a rich collection of accolades. Notably, as a Medal of the Order of Australia awardee, the National NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year in 2021, Queensland Senior Citizen of the Year in 2006, and the Townsville City Council Senior of the Year in 2020.

A distinguished Past Student of Townsville Grammar, and an Honorary Doctorate recipient, these awards and accolades bear testament to a life dedicated to justice, education, and community well-being.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Yumba-Meta Limited, we pay tribute to Ernie Hoolihan, whose visionary leadership, dedication to justice, and philanthropic endeavors have left an indelible mark on the First Nations communities in Townsville.

His enduring legacy continues to inspire and uplift, reminding us that one person's commitment can create lasting change.



ABOVE: YML CEO Dushy Thangiah and Chairperson Eva Kennedy accepting the 2015 Australasian Housing Institute National Award for Leading Innovation Award for Professional Excellence for the Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{BELOW: } Yumba-Meta was the first Indigenous Community Housing Provider in Australia to achieve full accredited by the National Community Housing Standards and Accreditation Council. \\ \end{tabular}$ 



# Awards & Recognition

- Yumba-Meta was the first Indigenous Community Housing Provider in Australia to achieve full accreditation by the National Community Housing Standards and Accreditation Council.
- Full accreditation provider under the Human Services Quality Framework
- Registered Tier 2 provider with the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).
- Registered Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Provider with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).
- 2019 National Australasian Housing Institute Award Winner -Professional Excellence in Social Housing - Continuum Model.
- 2022 National Australasian Housing Institute Award Winner Executive Excellence YML CEO Mrs Dushy Thangiah.
- 2022 National Australasian Housing Institute Award Runner-up -Leading Housing Development Project - Hillside Gardens.

#### **Our Purpose**

To lead the housing and homelessness agenda in North Queensland towards stronger policies and sustainable programs for vulnerable groups particularly First Nations People.

#### **Our Values**

Quality, Connection, Leadership, Respect, People.

#### **Our Vision**

Achieving sustainable communities through access to housing and support services.

#### Our Strategic Priorities

#### Housing

Identifying needs and delivering affordable and appropriate housing with support and advocacy

#### **Support Services**

Identifying and providing holistic support

#### Leading Sector Change

Sustainable growth through innovation

#### **Collaboration and Partnership**

Engaging with partners to achieve our purpose

#### **Empowering**

Strengthening community relationships



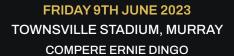






YUMBA-META LIMITED

# Fiftieth Anniversary Gala Dinner











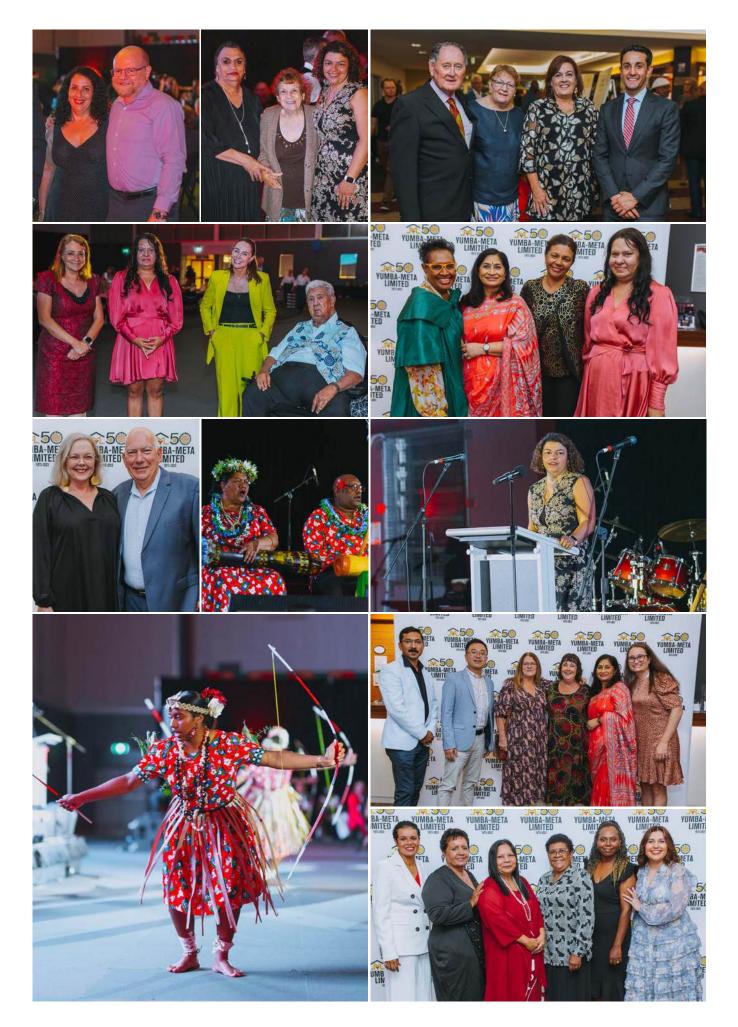












# Chairperson's Report

#### Muriel Bin Dol



As my first year as Chairperson of Yumba-Meta Ltd I have great pleasure in presenting my report for 2023. I acknowledge my fellow directors on the board Dr Ernest Hoolihan (Patron), Dr Janine Gertz, Peter Lindsay, Dawn Charteris, Douglas Dunstan, Max Lenoy and Greg Redington the Company Secretary.

I wish to highlight some of the significant achievements for the year – celebrating 50 years of services was big for the organisation and the community. The 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner was very successful, and I thank the staff of Yumba-Meta for pulling together such a high-quality event. There was good media coverage and positive feedback from the community in a year, which has been difficult for our community regarding adverse reporting. Yumba-Meta is proud to show black excellence with the new office building and all our services.

There were several highlights during NAIDOC Week. A key one was securing operational funding for the Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation Facility. The Minister for Housing Megan Scanlon came up to Townsville and announced the funding onsite at Karingal with Uncle Ernie, staff, and myself present. Positive reporting recognised that Karingal would be a legacy for Yumba-Meta. Funding for Karingal is \$2.1M annually. This achievement resulted from years of consistent advocacy by Dushy and the current and previous boards.

YML also secured funding for a First Nations Cultural Advisor position to the Townsville High Risk Team.

YML completed the construction of four duplexes for social housing, taking the total tenancies to 203.

In October 2022, YML secured funding to manage young people in residential care in four homes.

One of the things I am very proud of is the Yumba-Meta workforce. YML staff numbers have increased from 55 in December 2022 to 94 as of October 2023.

I am most proud of our workforce's stability; our CEO has 28 years of service, which has been key to our long-term aspirations and success. We have more than 20 staff who have ten years of service. This longevity indicates that YML is an employer of choice in the community.

YML will be commencing civil works at Riverway Drive shortly and undertaking \$10M worth of capital works in the next 12 months. Funding has been secured, which will provide stability for the organisation.

We are at a point where we are managing a big business with over \$40M of equity. The board's decisions revolve around looking after the organisation's long-term interest and being good custodians for the future generations of our mob in Townsville.

I thank Dushy and Changyi for the detailed reports they provide monthly for board meetings, which we critique and give feedback on.

I am proud to announce the commencement of the formal operations of Karingal on 6th November 2023.

I take this opportunity to specially thank Dawn Charteris for her contribution to Yumba-Meta over 23 years as a board member.



# CEO's Report

#### Dushy Thangiah



It is my pleasure to present the 2023 report to members and stakeholders. I am honoured and humbled to lead an organisation that has consistently supported the community for 50 years, with elders and board members sharing their wisdom and cultural knowledge to build a robust and culturally responsive organisation.

Yumba-Meta Limited (YML) staff have worked hard through challenging times to deliver services to the community. I am privileged to lead such a dedicated team of staff who strive to eliminate the inequalities in our society. The past few challenging years have displayed the unwavering resilience of the YML workforce. They have effectively adapted to the changing environment and needs of our community.

YML completed the construction of one multi-gen home, eight social housing dwellings, and one Specialist Disability accommodation home during the year. These homes provided 11 secure tenancies to local families. As a leading housing provider, we are committed to increasing social and affordable housing through a planned construction strategy over the next three to five years.

The housing crisis across Australia has highlighted the lack of Government investment in social and affordable housing over many years. Housing providers nationwide are welcoming the national spotlight on the housing crisis, which has resulted in record investment into the housing sector.

YML continues to manage several housing programs (Long-term Community Housing, Employment Education Accommodation, Senior Housing and Supported Housing) and several support programs (The Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre, Breaking the Cycle, Dale Parker Place, Women's Shelters, Townsville Family Violence Support Service, First Nations Cultural Advisor Service, Residential Care for Young People and Early Education program) which are operating at maximum capacity.

Our increased presence in the Domestic and Family Violence sector in Townsville has provided the much-needed cultural support that was lacking in achieving a positive impact. YML was awarded the First Nations Cultural Advisor funding for the Townsville High Risk Team. Brenda Lucas has been appointed to the role and is achieving incredible results for First Nations victim-survivors and persons using violence.

Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation Facility will accommodate and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people travelling from remote and rural communities for treatment at the Townsville University Hospital. Construction was completed in August 2021. YML secured operational funding in July 2023 and commenced operations on 6th November 2023. Through this program, we aim to improve health outcomes for vulnerable First Nations people from rural and remote communities who struggle to access appropriate mainstream health services.

YML received Development Application Approval to construct social housing at the YML-owned Riverway Drive precinct. These new projects will improve access to housing in the Upper Ross area. Construction is expected to commence by March 2024 and deliver 28 new social housing dwellings.

I am particularly pleased that Housingwise Realty, YML's not-forprofit real estate agency has gained momentum, with 13 properties currently under our management. Through this project, YML hopes to increase housing options for people who face discrimination and poor judgement in the private housing market.

I take this opportunity to thank the Board for their stewardship and the independent chairs of the sub-committees for the professional support provided to YML.

I sincerely appreciate the YML Senior Management team and front-line staff, the true heroes of Yumba-Meta. I applaud them for their dedication and commitment. These amazing people work tirelessly to create an inclusive society. Finally, I acknowledge the contribution of all our consultants, contractors, and service providers for their ongoing professionalism and commitment to Yumba-Meta.

YML will continue to advocate for increased housing, culturally appropriate responses for domestic and family violence issues and better access to health and other essential services that meet the changing needs of our community.

Our promise to the Townsville community is that we will continue to be a strong voice for our community, ensuring services are place-based, person-centred, culturally appropriate and sustainable. We strive to make Townsville a place where all community members can be equal participants, making Townsville a vibrant and thriving community.



# **Board of Directors**

The Yumba-Meta Limited Board is focused on the organisation's quality improvement, sustainability, and sound financial and governance practices.

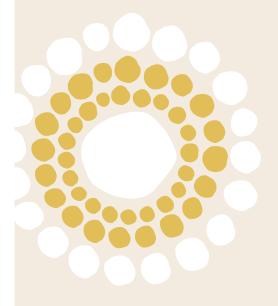
Yumba-Meta Limited is governed and led by its Board of Directors in accordance with its company constitution and other appropriate laws and regulations.

The Board has an oversight role in setting strategic direction for Yumba-Meta Limited and monitoring execution appropriately in meeting these objectives.



Muriel Bin Dol Chairperson

Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait Islander) woman Muriel Bin Dol, born on Thursday Island, holds strong connections to Townsville since 1988. A Public Sector Management Program graduate, she boasts 20 years' government experience in roles ranging from services for those at risk of homelessness to executive management. Muriel's community service includes volunteering on committees and supporting Townsville NAIDOC and Mabo Day working groups. Inspired by her late mother, Eileen Kable, Muriel values her legacy as a foundational staff member at Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre from 1997 to 2008.





Dawn Charteris
Director

woman, Dawn, brings 18 years of valuable service as a YML board member. With deep cultural ties to the Gulf, Torres Strait, Cape York, and Townsville, she plays a crucial role in enhancing culturally responsive care at YML. Dawn's public health journey started in 1991 at Queensland Health in Charters Towers, transitioning to a 16-year role in Nutrition Promotion with the Tropical Population Health Network in Townsville. Subsequently, she served as a Maternal Health Education Officer and Health Worker at TAIHS before taking on a Senior Mental Health Worker role with Queensland Health.

Proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



Doug Dunstan Director

As a skill-based Director at Yumba-Meta since 2016, Douglas contributes over 30 years of board-level expertise as a Non-Executive Director, Consultant, and Senior Associate spanning diverse industries. His notable achievements include roles as the National President of PNG CPA and the inaugural President of the PNG Branch of CPA Australia. Currently, Douglas serves as a Queensland Divisional Councillor and North Queensland Branch Councillor for CPA Australia.



Max Lenoy Director

Max Lenoy, a Jirrbal, Warungnu, and Kuku-Yalanji man with roots in Palm Island and Yarrabah, has dedicated his career to Indiqenous education since 1990. Max holds a Bachelor of Education from James Cook University and an Education Masters from Harvard University Graduate School of Education and MIT Sloan School of Management. As the Executive Manager of the CSIRO Indigenous STEM Project, Max brings extensive governance experience from educational and youth organizations, including roles in QIAMEA and the State Library of Queensland. His accolades include a National Indigenous Staff Scholarship and a United Nations Indigenous Fellowship.



Hon. Peter Lindsay OAM

Experienced Community Advocate and YML Board member since 2020, The Hon. Peter Lindsay OAM brings valuable insights into lawmaking and governance. Initially in television, Peter transitioned through engineering, production, news, editorial, and executive roles. He later ran his own electronics business for 25 years. Peter's political career includes roles as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence in 2007 and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary until 2010. In 2016, he was honored with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).



Dr. Janine Gertz

Based in Townsville, Dr. Janine Gertz, a Gugu Badhun and NgadjonJi woman, is deeply connected to North and Far North Queensland communities. As a Lecturer of Indigenous Studies at the University of New South Wales, she focuses on political representation and self-government of Indigenous Nations. Leveraging her Australian Public Service background and roles in Indigenous community organizations, Janine provides public policy advice and governance support to North Queensland's Indigenous community sector. Inspired by her elders, she proudly serves on the Yumba-Meta Board of Directors, contributing a wealth of experience in public policy advocacy.



Greg Redington OAM Company Secretary

Greg has been a Director of Coutts Redington Pty Ltd Chartered Accountants since 1994 with accounting experience going back to 1985. Whilst Football Queensland President, Greg received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2017.

Greg is a Member of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee of TAIHS Ltd, past-Chairman of the Board of Football Queensland Ltd, and past-President of Townsville Junior Soccer Association, NQ Football Inc, and Rotary Club of Thuringowa Central Inc.



## **Executive Staff**

Yumba-Meta Limited has a highly skilled dedicated management team that is passionate and enthusiastic about achieving positive outcomes for the local community and improving the lives of some of the most marginalised people in our community.



Dushy Thangiah OAM

As the dedicated CEO of Yumba-Meta Limited since 1995, Dushy Thangiah brings her expertise as a seasoned management accountant and graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Boasting 29 years in the community housing and services sector, Dushy is a respected advocate for vulnerable communities, particularly First Nations and culturally diverse backgrounds. Beyond her leadership at Yumba-Meta, Dushy is an active volunteer committee member/board member for a number of not-for profit organisations, and sits on a number of advisory panels. Dushy also completed a Graduate Certificate in Housing Management and Policy from Swinburne University in

Dushy's remarkable contributions have earned her prestigious awards, including the 2019 Telstra Businesswomen's Award and the 2022 Australasian Housing Institute Executive Excellence Award. In 2023, her outstanding achievements were recognised with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).



Anil Kaithakulath

Manager Dale Parker Place, Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre, Breaking the Cycle, Co-Manager Townsville Family Violence Support Service, Co-Manager the Residential Care for Young People Program.

Anil joined Yumba-Meta in 2012 and became the Dale Parker Place Manager in 2016. Currently, he manages Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre and co-manages the Townsville Family Violence Support Service and oversees the Residential Care for Young People Program. His journey reflects his commitment to Yumba-Meta's programs and services



Changyi Liu Chief Finance Officer

Changyi Liu moved from Singapore to Townsville in 2005 to study at James Cook University (JCU). He completed a Bachelor's Degree in Business, majoring in Human Resource Management, then gained his Master's Degree in Professional Accounting.
Changyi is a member of the Australian Institute of Chartered Accountants.
Changyi joined Yumba-Meta Limited in 2015 and is now YML's Chief Finance Officer. Changyi also completed a Cert IV in Real Estate Practice and a Diploma of Property Agency Management in 2021.



Brenda Lucas

Manager Women's Shelters, Co-Manager Townsville Family Violence Support Service and Manager Cultural Advisor Service to the Townsville High Risk Team

Brenda is a proud Mitakoodi (Cloncurry) and Gngalidda (Far North Gulf Country) woman. Brenda had over 25 years Federal and State public service experience, before joining YML as Housing Manager in 2015. Brenda manages our two women's shelters, Flora House and Elsie House and is the Co-manager of the Townsville Family Violence Support Service and Manager for the Cultural Advisor Service to the Townsville High Risk Team.



Vicki Miles

**Manager** Housing Services and **Co-Manager** the Residential Care for Young People Program.

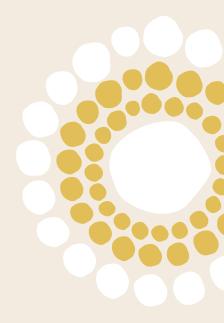
Vicki joined Yumba-Meta Limited as Housing Manager in January 2021, bringing her strong background in public sector housing from her 20-year career with the Department of Housing. From 2009, Vicki took a lead role in delivering the Townsville social housing component of the federal government's \$42 billion Nation Building Economic Stimulus Package. From 2016 to 2020, Vicki was housing representative on the Townsville Stronger Communities Action Group. Vicki completed a Cert IV in Real Estate Practice and a Diploma of Property Agency Management in 2022.



Mahima Matta

**Manager** Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation Facility

Mahima joined Yumba-Meta in 2023, to manage the Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation Facility. Mahima worked in the Northern Territory for Kakadu National Park for 5 years and then the Katherine West Health Board for 6 years and has a Master's degree in Foods & Nutrition.



# YML's Brenda Lucas appointed First Nations Cultural Advisor to the Townsville High-Risk Team



Brenda Lucas was recently appointed as a First Nations Cultural Advisor to the High-Risk Team (HRT) led by the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Services.

Her appointment brings a wealth of experience from her role at Yumba-Meta Limited, offering tailored guidance that respects the traditions and needs of First Nations people. Her focus is on understanding their language, customs, and unique family dynamics, aiming to provide culturally sensitive support within the framework of the High-Risk Team (HRT).

The appointment of Brenda Lucas signifies a step towards inclusivity and cultural sensitivity within the strategies employed by the team. By integrating a First Nations Cultural Advisor, the HRT ensures that the specific needs and cultural nuances of the local community are acknowledged and respected.





# Fifty Years of Yumba-Meta Limited

The partnerships Yumba-Meta Limited formed have played a crucial role in shaping the organisation's current range of services.

#### 1973

Yumba-Meta Housing Association Limited established as the first Indigenous Community Housing Organisation in Queensland.

#### 1974

Purchase of the first 8 homes.

#### 1975-1995

Housing stock increased to 33 properties during this period.

#### 1996

Constructed a 5 x 1 bedroom unit complex for Seniors in Garbutt funded by the Queensland State Government.

#### 1997-1999

Housing stock increased to 45 properties during this period.

#### 2000

Completed Management Manual (Policies and Procedures) funded by the Queensland State Government Best Practice Program.

#### 2001

Purchased 6 acres of land at Innes Estate to construct an Elders Village.

#### 2003

YMHAL constructed it's own office building on 565 Ross River Road Kirwan, officially opened by Dr Ernest Michael Hoolihan in July 2003.

#### 2004

YMHAL became the first Indigenous Community Housing Organisation in Australia to achieve full accreditation through the National Community Housing Standards and Accreditation Council.

#### 2005

YMHAL entered into a formal partnership with Australian Red Cross to jointly manage the Homeless Early Intervention Program funded by the Queensland State Government.

#### 2006

YMHAL funded by the Queensland State Government to manage the Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program.

#### 2008

YMHAL awarded management of Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre and Flora House Women's Shelter by the Queensland State Government.

#### 2009

YMHAL purchased 26 acres of land at Thorn Street Mount Louisa to facilitate pathways for Indigenous home ownership.

#### 2010

YMHAL funded through the Commonwealth Government Nation Building Economic Stimulus Capital Grants Program to construct seven homes.

YMHAL funded through the Commonwealth Government Nation Building Economic Stimulus Tenancy Management Program to manage 61 tenancies on 13 sites.

Funded by the Queensland State Government to manage the Breaking The Cycle Program at Reverend Charles Harris Diversity Centre to support 10 clients.





#### 2011

YMHAL funded by the Queensland State Government to manage the Dale Parker Place Supported Housing Program to support 20 males and five females.

#### 2012

Completed construction of 16 x 2 bedroom detached dwellings in the Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village at Innes Estate.

YMHAL funded by the Queensland State Government to manage eight properties through the Employment Related Accommodation Program.

#### 2013

The Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village officially opened by the **Oueensland Minister for** Housing, Tim Mander.

#### 2014

YMHAL celebrated 40 years of service to the local community with a gala dinner.

YMHAL received five more properties under the Employment Related Accommodation Program (ERAP) taking the total number of properties under this program to 13.

#### 2015

YMHAL successfully gained Tier 2 Registration with the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).

#### 2016

YMHAL received Development Approval from the Townsville City Council for the Hillside Gardens residential estate project at Thorn Street, Mount Louisa.

#### 2017

YMHAL completed the Hillside Gardens project and commenced selling land on the open market.

YMHAL purchased 1145 Riverway Drive, Rasmussen for future development.

#### 2018

Yumba-Meta Housing Association Limited (YMHAL) officially became Yumba-Meta Limited (YML) to reflect the current business operations.

YML purchased 25 Acheron Avenue. Cranbrook for a community centre.

YML approved as a Registered Specialist Disability Accommodation Provider (SDA) with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

#### 2019

YML received Development Approval from the Townsville City Council for 1145 Riverway Drive, Rasmussen.

YML received \$2.89 million capital funding from the Commonwealth Government Building Better Regions Fund toward the construction of the Patient Transition Accommodation Facility at 1145 Riverway Drive, Rasmussen.

YML received new Queensland State Government funding to operate the Townsville Family Violence Support Service.

YML opened the first registered Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) in Townsville in November.

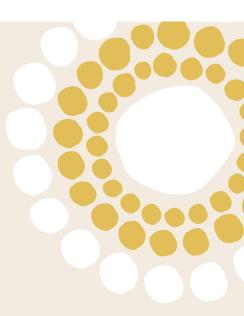
#### 2020

YML commenced construction of the Patient Transition Accommodation Facility in May 2020.

YML purchased 1151 Riverway Drive, Rasmussen.



# Fifty Years of Yumba-Meta Limited



#### 2021

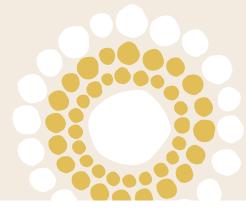
YML purchased a property to operate a second women's shelter, Elsie House, which was officially opened in August 2021 by Mrs Elsie Thompson.

YML received funding through the Queensland State Government 's Partnering for Growth Program to construct 4 duplexes creating 8 new tenancies.

For the first time YML received funding from the National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA) for operations of Elsie House women's shelter.

YML purchased 202 Ross Rover Road Aitkenvale in July for YML's new head office.

Hillside Gardens residential estate project sold out in February.



#### 2022

YML received second round of funding through the Queensland State Government Partnering for Growth initiative to construct 4 more duplexes on YML owned sites, creating 8 new tenancies. This took the total number of new tenancies to 16.

YML completed construction of first the Multi-Gen home at Hillside Gardens, Mount Louisa.

YML completed construction of a two-shared Specialist Disability Accommodation, taking the total number of SDA residents to 4.

Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation facility was officially opened on 30 July by Phillip Thompson OAM, Federal Member for Herbert.

YML head office formally opened on 30 September by Dr Ernest Michael Hoolihan OAM, Founding Member and Chairperson of Yumba-Meta Limited.

YML received Development Approval from the Townsville City Council for the Upper Ross development project combining lots 1145, 1151 and 1155 on Riverway Drive, Rasmussen.

YML completed construction of it's third Specialist Disability Accommodation, taking the total number of SDA residents to 6.

YML launched it's own not-for-profit real estate a subsidiary of YML, Housingwise Realty.

#### 2023

YML was approved for funding through the Queensland State Government Quick Starts Program to construct 23 studio apartments, a one-bedroom unit and two duplexes. A total of 28 tenancies.

YML approved for funding through the Queensland State Government Residential Care Program to manage 10 young people in four residential homes.

YML approved for funding through the Queensland State Government for the First Nation's Cultural Advisor Service to the Townsville High Risk Team (HRT).

YML celebrated 50 years of services to the community with a gala dinner on 9 June.

YML completed construction of it's fourth Specialist Disability Accommodation home, taking the total SDA residents to 8.

YML approved for funding through the Queensland State Government (Department of Housing and Department of Health) for operations of Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation Facility in July.

YML commenced Stage 1 Civil Works on 1145 Riverway Drive, Rasmussen.

# New Head Office Official Opening

# 202 Ross River Road provides for the needs of the future

On Friday, September 30th last year, Yumba-Meta Limited celebrated the official opening of its new head office located at 202 Ross River Road, Aitkenvale. The ceremony was presided over by founder, past chair, and current patron, Dr. Ernest Michael Hoolihan OAM.

Spanning an expansive 1260 square metres across two floors, the new head office boasts modern office spaces and facilities. Among its highlights are a versatile multipurpose boardroom and additional areas earmarked for the future expansion of YML's services and programs. For added convenience, the secure rear parking area accommodates up to 33 vehicles.

The strategic acquisition of this new head office was driven by YML's vision for growth. Beyond providing ample space for expansion, the new head office significantly elevates the profile of Yumba-Meta Limited. Situated along the bustling Ross River Road as a prominent fixture, the building reinforces YML's standing as the foremost provider of housing and support services for First Nations people in Townsville.





















# Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Construction

In November 2019, after two years in development, Yumba-Meta delivered Townsville's first-ever newly built and NDIA-accredited Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA).

All of the homes on the 4 sites at Hillside Gardens have been built, housing 8 SDA residents .

The properties feature wide doorways, wide hallways, adjustable height kitchen benchtops with accessibility underneath for wheelchairs, and other SDA specifications to meet the needs of those living with a disability.

It remains an ongoing challenge to connect available SDA properties with suitable tenants, as these properties require a referral through NDIS. Yumba-Meta continues advocating for those who require access to appropriate housing by educating NDIS support coordinators and NDIS support services.



ABOVE: Turning the Sod for the first SDA home, 11 March, 2019.

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: Official Opening of Townsville's first completed SDA home by Aaron Harper MP, State Member for Thuringowa, 23 November 2019.

OPPOSITE: Three of Yumba-Meta Limited's Hillside Gardens SDA homes - 23 Thorn Street, 45 Yumba Circuit, and the first completed home at 13 Yumba Circuit.





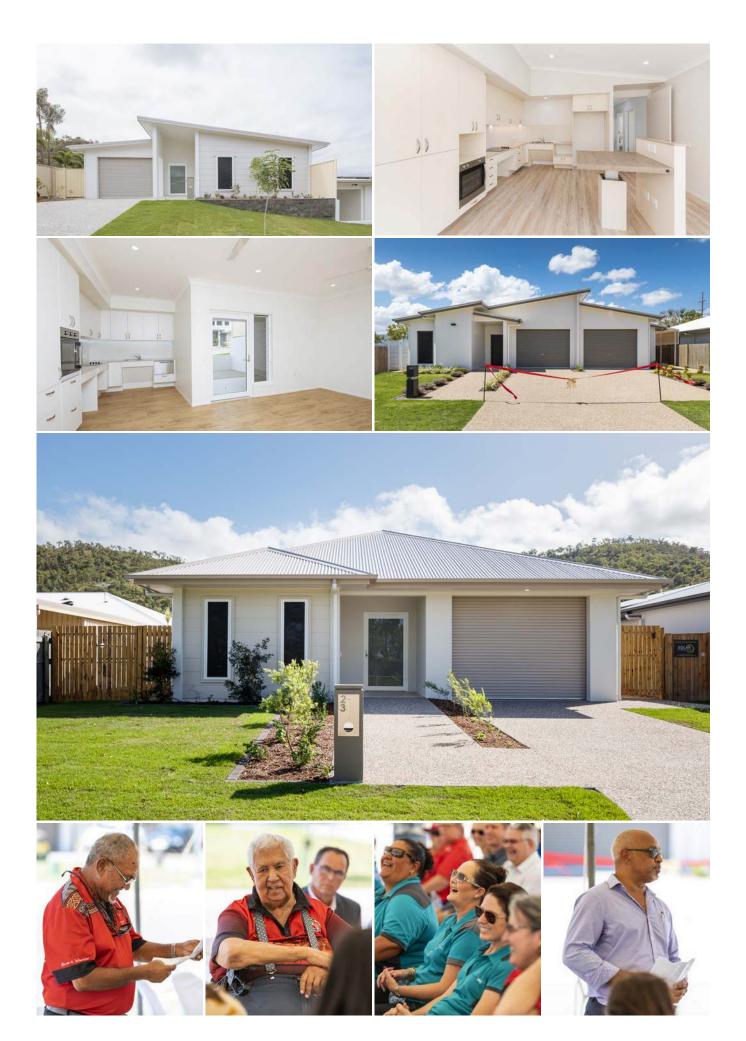












# **Housing Services**

Yumba-Meta Limited now provides housing to over 440 people every single day!

Through the Housing Services program, Yumba-Meta Limited (YML) provides housing support to some of the most marginalised people in the community who cannot access housing in the private market.

YML manages 150 tenancies across Townsville under the Long-Term Community Housing Program and 53 tenancies under the Transitional Housing Program.

YML provides housing and support to those experiencing vulnerability in some form and deemed to have complex needs. YML offers more than just a house. YML aims to capacity build clients to sustain tenancies.

Properties are available for families or individuals requiring secure, appropriate and affordable housing and where other housing options cannot adequately meet their needs.

YML assesses clients via a comprehensive intake process that helps understand their immediate and long-term needs.



# Accommodation & Support Services

# Employment & Education Housing Program

Yumba-Meta's Employment and Education Housing Program offers 13 specialised tenancies for transitional accommodation and support to Indigenous individuals relocating to Townsville from remote communities for employment, education, or training purposes.





#### Nelson Donaldson

Long-term Housing Program Resident

Nelson Donaldson has been a tenant of Yumba-Meta for around a decade, after first being connected with the organisation through the Department of Housing.

'Home' for Nelson is a tidy little apartment within a small, gated complex, within the established and popular city-fringe suburb of South Townsville.

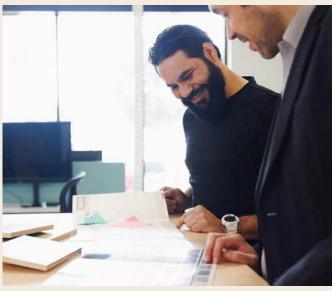
"I've rented the same unit here in South Townsville the whole time," says Nelson, who lives alone and says he's had no issues with the low-maintenance, one-bedroom, one-bathroom property over the 10 years.

"It's all pretty good here, I don't complain much, and I know Yumba-Meta is good at fixing any issues. They are good to deal with."

Now aged 31 years, the South Townsville lifestyle suits him. "It's good, it's nice and quiet most of the time and it's close to everything," he says.

"I really like living here."





# Accommodation & Support **Services**

#### The Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre (RCHDC)

The Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre is a sobering-up facility open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, designed to support people at risk of harming themselves or others due to public intoxication.

The centre provides them with a safe and familiar place to sober up, a clean bed, healthy meal, hygiene and laundry facilities and basic first aid if necessary. Assistance is provided to those who are too intoxicated to meet their basic needs unaided.

The centre is an alternative to the Townsville Police Watch House. Clients are transported to and from the centre.

#### Breaking The Cycle

Managed at the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre this program was developed in response to the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people regularly seeking sanctuary from substance abuse. Allowing clients to remain in the centre for an extended period gives them the incentive to become more involved with the programs offered.

All regular clients of Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre are encouraged to participate in the Breaking the Cycle Program. If successful, they transition to Dale Parker Place, community housing or private rental depending on the client's capacity to maintain a tenancy.

The Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre has sheltered 10.950 individuals since 2008.

Since 2011, 2920 clients have participated in the Breaking the Cycle Program.







# Accommodation & Support Services

#### Dale Parker Place (DPP)

Dale Parker Place (DPP) accommodates and supports single males, single females, and couples without children who are experiencing homelessness and are currently sleeping rough or chronically homeless to attain independent, sustainable housing and participate within the community.

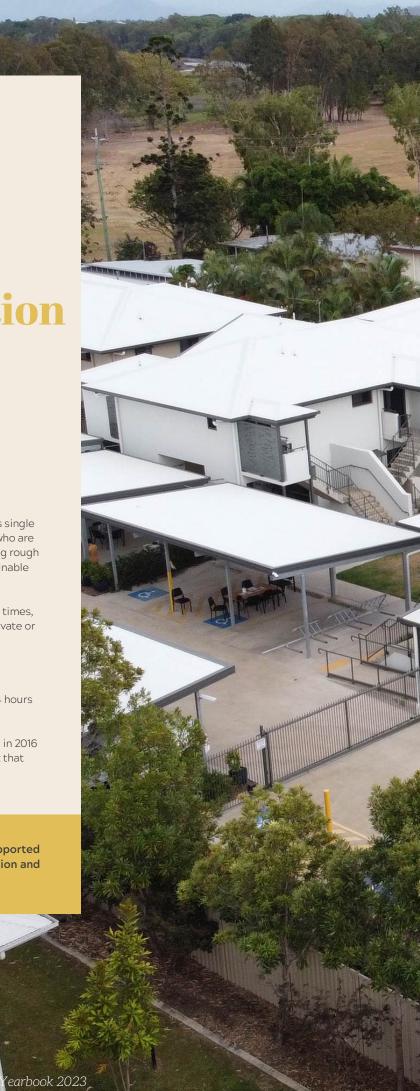
Dale Parker Place occupancy has exceeded 95% at all times, with several clients successfully transitioning into private or community housing.

The service provides a high level of individual case management to clients to support their transition to appropriate accommodation. DPP staff the facility 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

The original building of 25 tenancies was demolished in 2016 and replaced with a new  $40\,\mathrm{x}\,1$  bedroom unit complex that opened in August 2017.

#### **FACTS & FIGURES:**

Since 2015, Dale Parker Place has housed and supported over 40 individuals daily, providing accommodation and on-site assistance.







#### Kerryann Mudd

Client, Dale Parker Place

After being homeless for more than a decade, Kerryann Mudd is working to break the cycle and build a new life for herself with support from Yumba-Meta.

The Palm Island native was living homeless in Mareeba in 2021 when she returned to Palm Island for a funeral. After the funeral, she stayed in Townsville, couch surfing and sleeping in the park.

Kerryann has long battled with drinking but says the death of her son in 2021 was a turning point. "My eldest son hung himself, so after I buried him, I came back to Townsville and was still drinking, drinking, every day of the week," shares Kerryann, who spent time at Yumba-Meta's Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre, where she discovered the Breaking the Cycle program. "I put myself on the program, and I'm glad I did. I'm glad to be off the streets."

Kerryann grew up in the foster home system. She left Palm Island around 1980 to move to Victoria and live with her mother and stepfather. In 1986, at 14 years old, Kerryann gave birth to her first child, a son. She returned to Palm Island two years later, leaving her two eldest children with her mother to raise. She had two more children, and due to alcohol use, her youngest two children were raised by family in Mareeba and Palm Island.

"After I had my children, I went tripping. I just been a drunk ever since until I came here," says Kerryann, who moved into her studio apartment at Dale Parker Place in March 2022

"I'm doing really well here, I'm very proud of myself. I have a little roof over my head, somewhere I can call home, and I'm about to have my first Christmas here! Only wish my eldest son was here to see me."

For Kerryann, family is a big motivation. "Hopefully, I'll stay here awhile, keep bettering myself, then get a transfer to the suburbs so my eldest grandson can come live with me.

"My goal is to get out there and face the world."

# Accommodation & Support Services

#### Flora House Women's Shelter

Yumba-Meta manages two Women's Shelters, namely Flora House and Elsie House (which we own). These shelters offer round-the-clock support to women and their children facing domestic and family violence.

Flora House, with ten bedrooms, and Elsie House, with six bedrooms, provide a warm, welcoming, and non-judgmental environment.

#### FACTS & FIGURES:

Over the past five years, Flora House Women's Shelter has supported 796 women and 371 children. Since its opening in January 2020, Elsie House Women's Shelter has provided assistance to 72 women and 102 children.

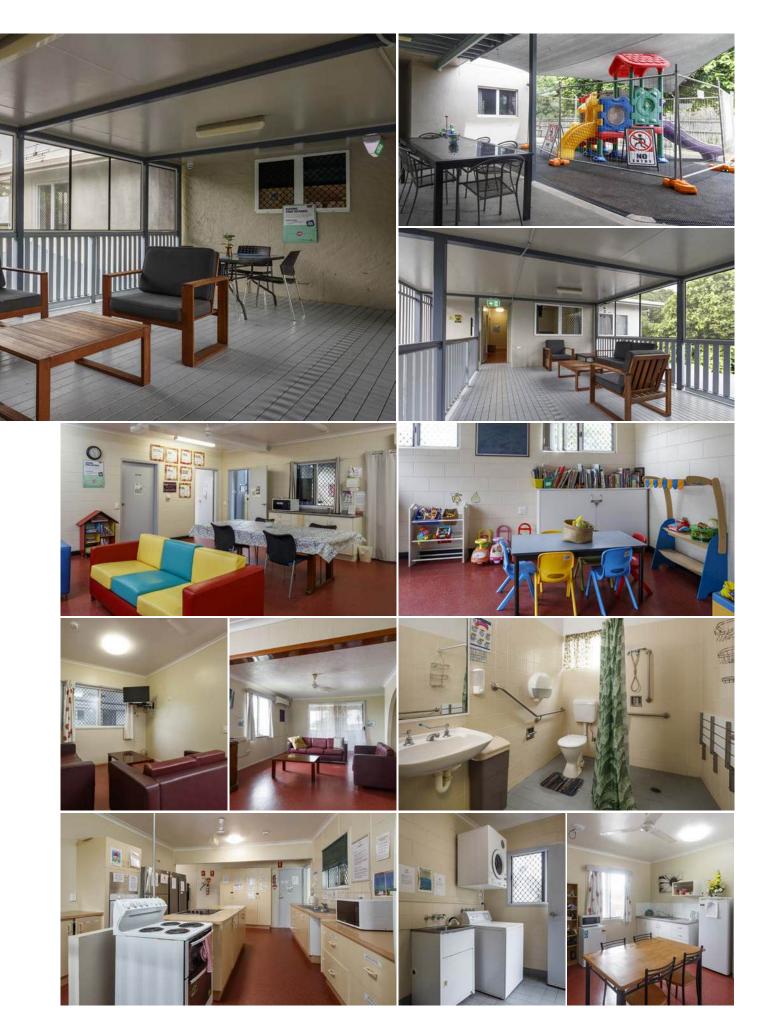












## Accommodation & Support Services

#### Elsie House Women's Shelter

When choosing a name for Yumba-Meta Limited's second women's shelter, Yumba-Meta looked to one of its longest supporters, Elsie Thompson.

Elsie was an Aboriginal woman from the Gugu Badhun and Kudjala clans.

In the early 1970s, Elsie was involved with a small group of people, including her cousin Eva and her dear friend Maud, all led by Maud's husband, Ernie Hoolihan. This group was the early iteration of Yumba-Meta Limited.

Elsie's namesake, Elsie House, opened its doors in 2021, offering shelter and support to women and children seeking refuge from domestic and family violence. It is the second women's shelter under Yumba-Meta Limited's accommodation and support services.

"It's an honour to have this house named after me," Elsie said at the official opening. "Women need to know there is a safe place to go."







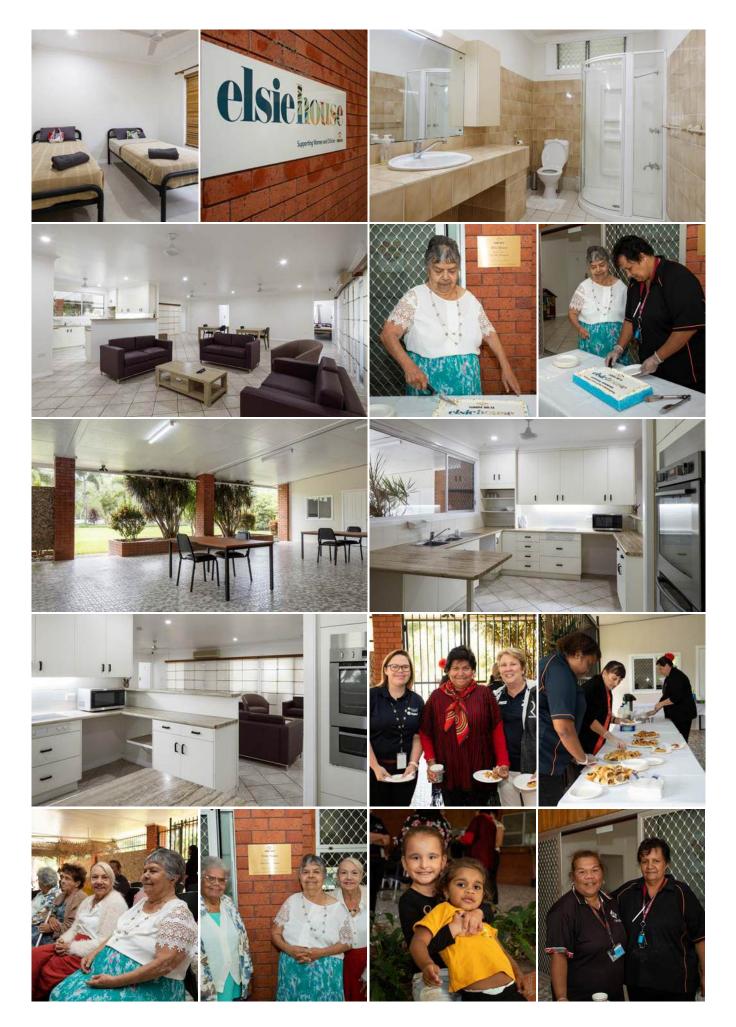












# **Seniors Housing**

#### The Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village

The Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village continues to improve its offering as a retirement village-style accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders residents aged 55 years and over.

The village comprises 16 two-bedroom units, surrounded by trees and nature, where residents enjoy a peaceful setting and quality, modern homes that are easy to upkeep.

The village is named after Dr Ernest Hoolihan OAM and his late wife Maud, who founded Yumba-Meta in 1973. Creating an elders village was a long-time goal for Ernie and Maud, so it made sense that this achievement was their namesake.

The estate is on six acres of land at Deeragun, which was purchased in 2001. It took 12 years to complete the Hoolihan's elders' village vision, and the village has maintained total capacity almost consistently since it was officially opened in 2012 by the Hon. Minister for Housing and Public Works, Tim Mander.









### Robert Leon Tenant, Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village

After a long career working in the mining sector, both underground and as a boilermaker, in Mount Isa and Townsville, Robert Leon now lives a much slower-paced lifestyle in his retirement. Today, his days are filled with visits to friends and neighbours, fishing trips and watching the football.

'Home' for Robert is Yumba-Meta's Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village, where he has lived for the past eight years since the village first opened in 2012. In fact, Robert was the third tenant to move into the 16-unit complex, and today he is the village's longest residing tenant.

What's kept Robert content in his unit for so long is the convenience. "The shops and the doctor are within walking distance, and I walk to the shops every day," tells Robert. "The [Yumba-Meta housing] staff are good to deal with, and prompt in fixing things. All the maintenance is done for you."

It's the peace and quiet that Robert says he enjoys most about his home. "It's very quiet out here. It feels safe and private, and we've had not one break in," says Robert. "I get along with everyone out here, they're all good people," he adds of his fellow villagers. "We have had a few barbeques with the neighbours. We look out for each other. Loneliness is a killer; it's good to get together."



## Taleta Ling Tenant, Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village

Taleta Ling, "but everyone calls me Toots", has been living at Yumba-Meta's purpose-built Elders Village in Deeragun since 2013 and loves being close to nature. Moving into the village from a relatively small, noisy unit near Stockland, she appreciates the roominess of her two-bedroom unit and the suburban peace and quiet.

In 2018, the Elders Village was one of the first Yumba-Meta-owned housing developments to receive solar panels, which helps residents keep their electricity bills low. And residents benefit from a free bus service to access shopping and health appointments. This is particularly important for Taleta as she needs to attend hospital for dialysis three times a week.

In her youth Taleta worked for the Aboriginal Health Service for over a decade, taking patients to and from their appointments. Now things have come full circle and it's her turn to receive some of the care she enjoyed giving others.

Residents of the Elders Village are visited regularly by Yumba-Meta support workers who are proactive in connecting the seniors with services they may need, such as My Aged Care.

"I know that Yumba-Meta is there to help us and I can ring up if anything happens."

# **Support Services**



#### Townsville Family Violence Support Service

Townsville Family Violence Support Service is a domestic and family violence support service assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing and/or using violence. This service is trauma informed and delivered within a healing framework, prioritising victim safety and working to reduce violence and abusive behaviour.

Ultimately, the program's goal is to achieve best outcomes for families by keeping families safe. Best outcomes can mean many things - from working with offenders to proactively changing entrenched behaviours, to supporting clients to access and understand protection orders, court support, counselling, case management, information or referrals. The issue of family violence is often ingrained within families across many generations, and this is where the early intervention piece is critical to the long-term solution. This program is unique in that it deals with both persons using violence and victim survivors to attempt to break the cycle of family violence.

At the core of this service, is education. From YML's experience working with domestic and family violence victim survivors, there is a misconception that a protection order is 'only a piece of paper'. At the same time, persons using violence sometimes don't understand the conditions of their court order to avoid violating the order. The Townsville Family Violence Support Service works closely with victim survivors and persons using violence to understand court orders. At the end of the 2019-20 financial year, the service had commenced early trials of a 12-week Men's Behaviour Change Program led by an Indigenous Elder.

#### **FACTS & FIGURES:**

Since its launch in 2019, the Townsville Family Violence Support Service has supported 764 females and 350 males with case management and 324 females and 194 males with counselling.

The Men's Behaviour Change Program, running from May 2020 to April 2023, engaged 117 Indigenous males.





# **Support Services**

#### Weeburra Thulgarri Residential Care Services for Young People

Yumba-Meta's Weeburra Thulgarri Residential Care Services for Young People provides essential out-ofhome care and support to young individuals in need.

With safe and nurturing residential environments, trained staff, and evidence-based interventions, the program aims to empower young people to build a positive future.

#### **FACTS & FIGURES:**

Since January 2023, the Weeburra Thulgarri Residential Care Services for Young People has supported 30 young people.











### **Support Services**

#### Weeburra Thulgarri Early Tutoring and Mentoring Support Program

Yumba-Meta Limited is committed to improving Indigenous children's physical, social, and emotional wellbeing, strengthening their connection to culture and building on resilience and coping skills.

In 2018, Yumba-Meta purchased 25 Acheron Avenue, Cranbrook, with the intent to establish a community centre and facilitate an early intervention tutoring and mentoring support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The program launched in July 2021, targets Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 7-8 years old (Year 2 at school), with the aim to improve students' school attendance, engagement in the classroom, literacy and numeracy skills, and overall confidence as learners. By building students' self-esteem and a sense of pride and belonging in a classroom environment, Yumba-Meta hopes to increase the chances of these students completing high school and possibly further education.

The program is named Weeburra Thulgarri, meaning 'one big family'.

Three State Primary schools; Rasmussen State School, Kelso State School, and Aitkenvale State School, partner with YML in the program. YML conducts two sessions per day four days of the week.

Students travel to the community centre by the Yumba-Meta bus, supervised by a teacher's aide and Yumba-Meta staff. They are served a healthy lunch before starting work. The program is centred on cultural and spiritual values, to support young children.

#### FACTS & FIGURES:

Since its start in July 2021, the Weeburra Thulgarri Early Tutoring and Mentoring Support Program has supported 59 Indigenous children aged seven to eight years.











# Partnership & Collaboration Project

#### Karingal - Patient Transition Accommodation Facility

Karingal is Yumba-Meta Limited's patient transition accommodation facility, which is designed to provide short-term supported accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from remote and rural communities accessing Townsville University Hospital and Health Services.

The facility was completed and officially opened by Philip Thompson MP on July 28, 2021. Construction took 14 months and cost more than \$5.75 million, with Federal Government contributing \$2.89 million and Yumba-Meta Limited contributing the balance plus the purchase of the land. This is a significant financial investment from a community organisation.

Karingal's purpose is to act as a bridge between Townsville's health system and patients from remote communities requiring medical treatments. The Townsville University Hospital and Health Services oversees a significant area throughout North Queensland, including many remote communities. When patients are referred to Townsville, many arrive, unable to speak English and with no understanding of the health system.

Yumba-Meta Limited provides culturally appropriate, trauma-informed case management support to assist clients in an unfamiliar urban environment. Referrals and support are provided to help patients regain functional independence and confidence sooner to avoid needing longer-term care and support.

The facility includes sixteen male beds, eight female beds and four self-contained units for families. Karingal also provides private consultant rooms for visiting health specialists and other agencies. The short-term accommodation is staffed 24/7, 365 days of the year.





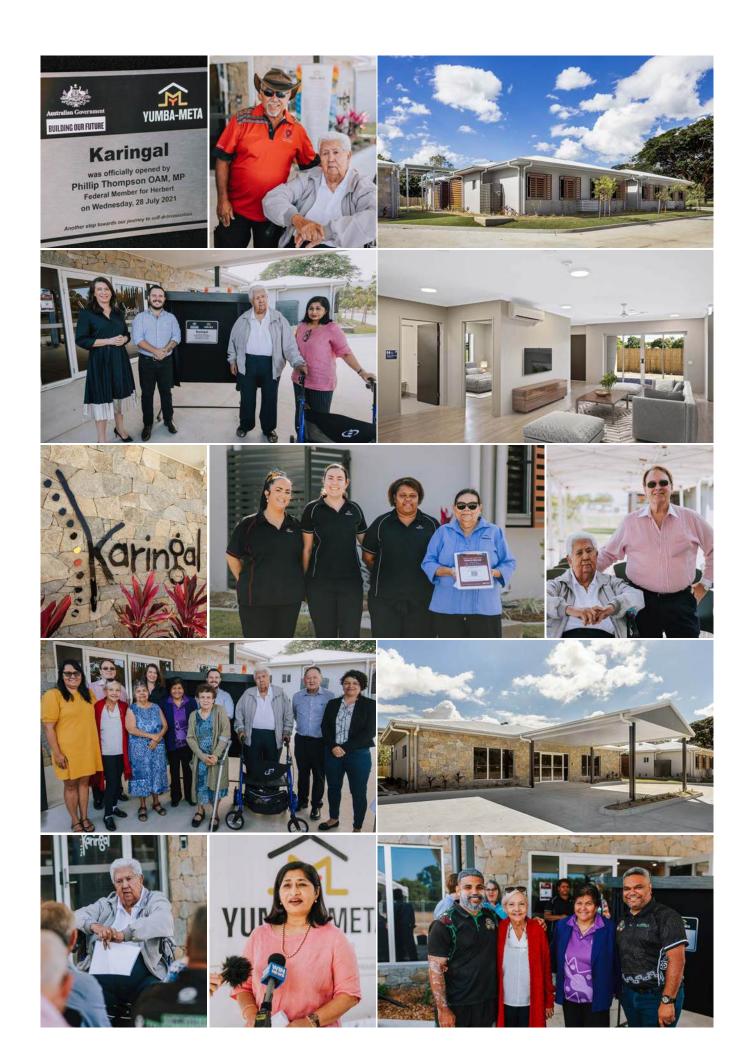












# **Housingwise Realty**

#### Townsville's First Social Enterprise Real Estate Agency



Housingwise Realty is Townsville's first social enterprise real estate agency with 100% of profits going towards charitable work to improve life outcomes for vulnerable people.

It is a Registered Not-for-Profit Real Estate Agency that is a subsidiary of Yumba-Meta Limited. It offers a personal 'boutique' service for people looking to rent in the private market.

Instead of striving to be the largest agency in Townsville, we focus on managing a limited number of properties. This allows Housingwise Realty to offer the best personal management for both landlords and tenants.

Through Housingwise Realty, YML hopes to increase housing options for people who face discrimination and poor judgement in the private housing market.





# Long-Term Housing Project

#### Hillside Gardens Residential Estate Development

Hillside Gardens Residential Estate has proven a shining jewel in Yumba-Meta Limited's property development portfolio. The estate, located on 50 acres of land in the foothills of Mt Louisa, was designed to facilitate pathways to Indigenous home ownership.

Thirty-four of the 41 land lots were sold to private buyers and the remaining lots were retained by Yumba-Meta Limited.

The last 15 lots sold during the 2020-21 financial year, with the final lot sold in February 2021. Land sales from Hillside Gardens totalled \$2.2 million.

Chairman and founder of Yumba-Meta, Dr Ernest Hoolihan OAM, said the development of Hillside Gardens was a "game-changer" for the local Indigenous community.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples face multiple barriers to homeownership, including inter-generational poverty resulting from dispossession, low income and insecure employment," he said.

"The staged development of Hillside Gardens allowed us to fund the subdivision progressively—as we sold blocks to private buyers, these funds financed the construction of the rental housing and supported three young Indigenous families on their path to homeownership.

"We've been able to create a well-designed, village-like atmosphere in an enviable location within easy reach of amenities," said Dr Hoolihan.





#### **Matthew Lucas**

Hillside Gardens Resident

Hillside Gardens resident Matthew Lucas built his home with lifestyle in mind. The first-time homeowner was the estate's initial resident when he moved in just before Christmas in 2017

Matthew's three-bedroom, single-level home, located at the end of a cul-de-sac, also includes a media room and a large garage big enough to fit his boat. While the home has a front yard, there is minimal backyard, which was intentional

"It's low maintenance, which is exactly what I wanted," says Matthew, who confesses he prefers to spend his weekends boating or camping rather than mowing a big lawn or giving hours to tending to a garden.

Since moving in, Matthew has seen the neighborhood come to life as houses have been built, and residents have settled into the 50-acre estate located at the foothills of Mount Louisa. "The neighbors are nice; it's a pretty quiet area."





#### PHOTO 1 Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre and Breaking the Cycle

Left to Right

Anil Mathew Shane Widermuth Wayne Ah-Wong Elaina Bin Dol Skye Vaituliao Janette Charles Patricia Ah-Wang Dulcie Kawane Alfred Waterton Wilma Kemp Ami Schwartz Jorden Pryce Francis Townson Candice Toby Dilon Folekene Kevin Zaro

#### PHOTO 2 Dale Parker Place

Left to Right

Kayleen Alberts
John Thottupuram
Jodie Chetty
Carissa Bickey
Isis Geas
Lilly Miles
Janette Johnson
Abdul Kamara
Lillian Burke
Anil Mathew

#### PHOTO 3 Finance and Corporate Support

Left to Right

Narayan Ranabhat Karen Lusk Olijah-Juwon Kennedy

#### PHOTO 4 Townsville Family Violence Support Service

Left to Right

Tamara Smith Lucy Kite Brenda Lucas Anil Mathew John Thottupuram Charles Cloudy

#### PHOTO 5 Housing Services

Left to Right

Anushka Tanner Jacqui Page Vicky Miles Betty Lloyd-Jones Molly Lucas

#### PHOTO 6 Residential Care Services

Left to Right

Tagie Tapau Leslie Tanner Adie Melville Jodie Chetty

Dion Pollard Anil Mathew

Prashanth Kurisuinka

Prashanth Kurisuin Paul Ransom Francis Ngugi Taura Sariman Dwayne Payne Ervyn Simpson

## PHOTO 7 Domestic and Family Violence Services

Left to Right

Annie Tapau Dyna Aplin Roslyn Smith Taileah Watson Brenda Lucas Catherine Zaro Juanita Ratcliffe Anita Tapau Roselyn Welk Wilma Weatherall



# Our sincere thanks go to all our business consultants, partners and stakeholders for their ongoing professionalism and commitment to Yumba-Meta Limited.

We also thank our partners and stakeholders:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Legal Services

Aitkenvale State School

Anglicare

Australia CEO Challenge
Australian Red Cross
Commonwealth Bank
Department of Housing

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Department of Child Safety, Seniors and

Disability Services

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Department of Youth Justice

Djambul DV Connect

First Nations Womens Legal Service Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School

Martin Locke Homes
Jessup's Audit Partners
Kelso State School

Mr Angelo Licciardello (Consultant)

Moray & Agnew Lawyers

Murri Watch - Community Patrol

NDIA

North Queensland Domestic Violence

Resource Centre

**OZHarvest** 

Queensland Health

Queensland Police Service Rasmussen State School

Ray White Kirwan Rosel Sherwood

RSL Women's Auxiliary Ryan Catholic College

Scott Morrison Graphic Design

**SDA Services** 

Sera's Women Shelter StreetSmart Australia Supergreen Solutions

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation

The Womens Centre

Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders

Health Services

Townsville City Council -Mayor's Christmas Tree Appeal Wilson Ryan Grose Lawyers Wulguru Health & Wellbeing

Zephyr Foundation

Zonta Club of Townsville Metro Inc.

And consultants, contractors and individuals

who have helped us through the year.



