

Burke Shire Council NEWSLETTER



EDITION 63 : DECEMBER 2024

A MESSAGE FROM *the Mayor*

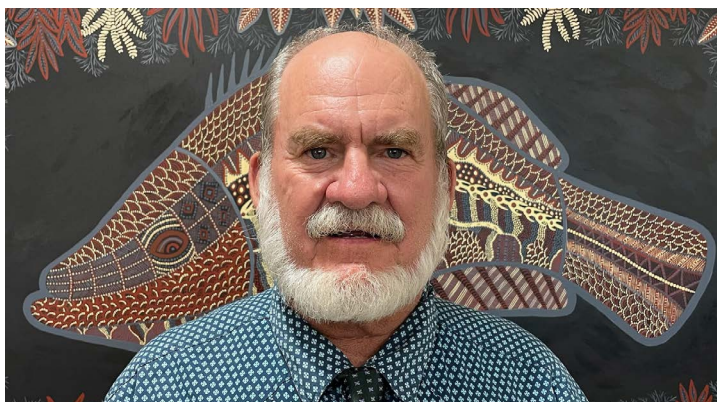
As we near the close of another year it's clear that 2024 has continued, just as its predecessor did, to present significant challenges for our community. The impacts of the devastating monsoonal flooding earlier in the year still resonate throughout the Burke Shire. Full recovery will take years, and back-to-back flooding events have extended the amount of time it will take to fully restore our infrastructure, businesses, and communities. Queensland is one of the most disaster-prone states in Australia, with 66 of its 77 local councils activated for disaster assistance this last year. In response, it's crucial that we consistently and constantly continue to voice the need for betterment funding to enhance resilience for our communities at every available opportunity.

The state's recent change in government, potentially, brings new opportunities for local betterment projects, with fresh sets of eyes and ears on which to emphasise an increasing need to focus on (and fund) the resilience of each community's infrastructure. The focus must be on strengthening local communities and ensuring our infrastructure can withstand increasingly frequent and severe weather events. To this end, Burke Shire Council has made rebuilding our road infrastructure a top priority.

...Continued on next page

In this edition

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.....	1 - 4
WHARF RECREATIONAL GROUND UPDATE.....	5
BURKETOWN AIRPORT ROAD UPGRADE.....	6 - 7
GREGORY AMENITY BLOCK UPGRADE.....	7
BURKETOWN REVITALISATION PROJECT.....	8
TRUGANINI ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT.....	9
FLORAVILLE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.....	10
PHOTO COMPETITION - 'HOME PRIDE'.....	11
ORDER OF THE OUTBACK BALL.....	12 - 13
THE MELBOURNE CUP CAME TO GREGORY.....	14 - 15
SNOWY AND THE 7 COOL DUDES.....	16
CREATIVE WORKSHOPS BRING SHIRE TOGETHER.....	17
BURKETOWN RODEO AND SPORTING COMMITTEE	
2024 WRAP UP.....	18 - 20
SPOOKY FUN AT THE HALLOWEEN VENT.....	21
SENIOR'S DAY AND WALK FOR DANIEL.....	22
HELLS GATE LADIES DAY 2024.....	23
GREGORY CWA HORSE SPORTS & FAMILY FUN DAY...	24
A LONG-AWAITED FISH & CHIPS.....	26
GET COOKING.....	27
COUNCIL INFORMATION.....	28



A MESSAGE FROM the Mayor

...Continued from previous page

Below is an update on key recovery projects and progress to date.

The Council crew have been busy across the Burke Shire, focusing on the DRFA repair works to facilitate the ongoing delivery of the 2023 DRFA program. They have been working on Five Mile Rd, before moving onto Mellish Park Rd.

Other DRFA restoration work includes:

Package 1 – Gregory Lawn Hill Rd Restoration
Contractor: Halloran & Sons Earth Moving Pty Ltd
Completion: 13 December 2023
Expenditure: \$2,322,029

Package 2 – Doomadgee West Rd Restoration
Contractor: Gulf Civil Pty Ltd
Completion: 27 November 2023
Expenditure: \$2,078,253

Package 3 – Bowthorn Rd Restoration
Contractor: K & G Booth Pty Ltd
Completion: 6 December 2023
Expenditure: \$2,231,998

Package 4 – Burketown and Gregory Streets Restoration
Contractor: Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty Ltd
Completion: 24 August 2024
Expenditure: \$3,093,653

Package 5 – Doomadgee Lawn Hill Rd Restoration
Contractor: K & G Booth Pty Ltd
Expected Completion: Scheduled for December 2024
Expenditure: \$1,613,804.26 (as at October 2024)
Awarded Contract Value: \$2,841,391

Package 6 – Riversleigh Rd & Lawn Hill National Park Rd Restoration
Contractor: Halloran & Sons Earth Moving Pty Ltd
Expected Completion: December 2024
Expenditure: \$1,528,488 (as at October 2024)
Awarded Contract Value: \$1,754,649

Package 7 – Morella Rd and Nugaburra Rd Restoration
Contractor: Durack Civil Pty Ltd
Completion: 25 October 2024
Expenditure: \$2,307,829

Package 8 – Doomadgee West Rd Restoration
Contractor: Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty Ltd
Expected Completion: Scheduled for December 2024
Expenditure: \$2,104,438.56 (as at October 2024)
Awarded Contract Value: \$6,810,756

Package 9 – Floraville Rd Restoration (Stage 1)
Contractor: Durack Civil Pty Ltd
Expected Completion: Scheduled for December 2024
Expenditure: \$2,647,597 (as at October 2024)
Awarded Contract Value: \$7,032,998



A MESSAGE FROM the Mayor

Concurrent to road restoration works, there is a major focus on design works. In particular, design/s for the Floraville Road Restoration Works and the Burketown Airport Runway project. These are being progressed with Council's Engineering Consultants NorthLane and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

The main aim for the Truganini Crossing is to significantly decrease the period this crossing gets cutoff in the wet season and for the Airport Runway to become more robust and resilient in the face of inundation.

Tourism numbers have yet to recover from the multiple blows of successive floods and the ongoing damage to key tourism assets such as Boodjamulla National Park, Adel's Grove and the Riversleigh World Heritage Area and roads closed for extended periods.

Visitor numbers at the Visitor Information Centre from April to September of 2021 to 2024 highlight the effects of external factors and the reopening up of borders post Covid pandemic closures. In 2021 and 2022, numbers were notably influenced by increased domestic travel within regional Australia due to international travel restrictions, which drove more Australians to explore local destinations. Comparatively, recent numbers reflect the impact of flooding, and the lack of resilient infrastructure, on visitor turnout as follows:

Visitor Information Centre- numbers of visitors April to September:

- 2021 - 3,909 visitors
- 2022 - 3,342 visitors
- 2023 - 1,608 visitors
- 2024 - 1,755 visitors

Council adopted its 2024/2025 budget in late July. This was the first budget of the newly elected Council and was prepared at a time where there were ongoing significant economic challenges facing not only our Shire but the nation as a whole.

Key points include:

- Council worked hard to absorb inflationary costs whilst also maintaining existing services and keeping this year's rates rise as low as possible. Council continues to face the same inflationary challenges as everyone else, including, supply chain issues, accommodation and housing shortages and labour scarcity. Ongoing financial sustainability is a continued major challenge for smaller councils such as Burke Shire Council, which has a very limited rates base (12% of total council recurrent revenues for 2024/2025).
- Improving the Shires financial sustainability remains, as always, a major focus of Council and we continue to see the positive benefits of measures and controls implemented in previous years. For example, our level of funded depreciation has increased significantly, from 4% in 2021/22 to 41% in 2024/25, enabling us to allocate \$2.40 million in capital expenditure from depreciation.
- Council's rate increase for 2024/2025 was 3.6% for all ratepayers. This was in line with CPI and below the average rate increase across Councils' budgets Queensland wide. Pensioners will continue to receive a rate concession of 20% of the general rate and utility charges, excluding water consumption and Emergency Management Levy, to a maximum of \$500.00 per year.
- Council is continuing to advocate for increased grants from both Federal and State Government to ensure we can deliver the services and programs they are shifting onto our shoulders. A major positive impact on Councils future sustainability was the increase in our annual Federal Assistance Grant allocation which increased from \$6.54M to \$8.28M over the previous financial year (26.6 % increase).

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A MESSAGE FROM the Mayor



in Gregory, generating \$325,000 in sales revenue to date. Funds from the sales are earmarked for the construction of a new depot at Gregory, strategically located near the Water Treatment Plant.

Due to the large fuel load, as a result of the big Wet seasons, our Shire (and indeed much of the North West) has been hit by massive bushfire events. I acknowledge and thank those Rural Fire fighters, stations, road contractors and volunteers who worked mightily hard to control the blazes and protect homes, stock, wildlife and assets in challenging conditions.

Finally, I remind all residents that the wet season is not far away. The Local Disaster Management Group will soon meet to prepare for the wet season. By the time this newsletter is published a "Get Ready" public event will have been held in Burketown and Gregory. While information about preparedness for an emergency event and how to ensure households are prepared for the upcoming wet season will be shared at those events, information will also be available on Council's website. This is a gentle reminder to all to be prepared and not become complacent as another big Wet is being predicted.

The Local Disaster Management Group remains vigilant and ready to respond to any potential disaster events, including bushfires, cyclones, storm surges, heatwaves, and floods. As always, if its flooded, forget it.

Despite the challenges of the past year, I am proud of the resilience shown by our community. With continued focus and collaboration, we are building a stronger, more resilient Burke Shire. I encourage all residents to stay informed, prepared, and engaged as we work towards a brighter future together.

I wish you and your families all the best for the festive season and the coming year and hope you have many opportunities to come together to converse, celebrate and make lasting memories.

Mayor Ernest Camp

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With the Shire suffering isolation for an extended period, two Wet Seasons in a row, several Health and Wellbeing activities were initiated during the year, in response to the resulting individual, familial and communal stressors witnessed.

- \$31,850 in grant funding was received for sports equipment for the Burketown Gym. Our gym is the envy of many smaller communities. Its popularity can be seen in its usage, with the Burketown community estimated to have utilised it approximately 2,000 times this year. A number of boot camps and other group fitness activities were held in Burketown and Gregory.
- Council released the tender for the Burketown Health and Wellbeing Precinct Stage 1-Splash Park and Playground-this project has a value of \$4.552 mill. Council continues to seek funding for this project to proceed.
- The Burketown Wharf Recreational Area should be completed by Christmas.
- A Mental Health First Aid Public Workshop facilitated by RFDS was held in early November.

Council continues to roll out its Housing Strategy which to date has been very successful and seen the sale of six houses to staff raising \$325,000 to 30 June 2024. This strategy creates a powerful platform for local personal, communal, and economic empowerment whilst also contributing to the growth of the rating base. Council has also been selling residential blocks

PROJECTS UPDATE

Burketown Wharf Recreational Ground Project Update – Exciting Progress!

We're pleased to share new updates on the Burketown Wharf Recreational Ground Project. Significant progress is being made each week, and we are on track to deliver this exciting new space for our community by Christmas, weather permitting. Here's the latest on what's happening on-site:

Shade Structure Installation Underway

The footings for the shade structure have been poured, setting a solid foundation for the structure. Additionally, the shade structure kit has now arrived in Burketown, and installation is in full swing. We anticipate the structure will be fully installed by 20 November, ready to provide shelter and a welcoming area for gatherings.

Toilet Block Design and Preparations

The design of the toilet block has been finalised. Footings for the toilet block are expected to be poured by the end of November, ensuring they are set in time for the arrival of the toilet block kit, scheduled for late November. With these elements in place, we're confident the toilet block will be ready soon, aligning with the project's timeline.

On Track for Christmas Completion

The entire project remains on schedule for completion before Christmas, bringing Burketown a fantastic recreational area for residents and visitors alike. We're excited to see the final touches come together and provide a beautiful, functional space that our community can enjoy.



New shade structure installation underway at the Wharf Recreational Grounds



Councillors and the Burke Shire Council Engineering team inspect the new rock protection at the Wharf Recreational Grounds, which is designed to control erosion.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Burketown Airport Road Upgrade Project Update

The Burketown Airport Road Upgrade Project is advancing steadily in enhancing flood resilience and road safety for this essential link between Burketown Airport and the township. Seasonal flooding, especially due to the nearby Albert River, has historically impacted access to the airport. Recognising the need for reliable access during flood events, Burke Shire Council developed a robust design solution to elevate road immunity against floodwaters.

Flood Impact Assessment Findings

A recent flood impact assessment evaluated the proposed upgrades for their effects on local flood behaviour. The assessment confirmed that raising the road and upgrading the culverts improves flood resilience during the 1% and 10% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) events, with no adverse impacts on the Wills Developmental Road. However, minor permanent ponding may occur upstream due to the design, which channels most floodwater through Lagoon Creek.

Project Scope and Objectives

The scope of work for the Burketown Airport Road Upgrade Project includes not only design and

engineering but also the comprehensive construction of reinforced concrete box culverts at two critical locations along Airport Drive, specifically at Chainages 140m and 350m. These upgrades will reduce flood impact, prevent seasonal disruptions, and improve road longevity.

The main construction activities, in addition to geotechnical and flood modelling completed during the design phase, are as follows:

- Airport Drive – Chainage 140m
 - » Installation of new culverts (supplied separately) with inlet and outlet protection.
 - » Reshaping creek batters and adding protective measures for erosion control.
 - » Pavement construction, including provisional layers of “special embankment” material as required, and installation of road furniture.
- Airport Drive – Chainage 350m
 - » Similar culvert installation with protective inlet and outlet works.
 - » Additional batter reshaping and protection.
 - » Pavement construction, including provisional embankment material and installation of road furniture.

A critical component of the construction is developing and implementing a traffic management plan, ensuring safe access throughout the project with sidetracks at each worksite.

The new road is shifted by approximately 1m to the west, due to lifting the road height and battering on the opposite side of the powerlines. As part of culvert replacement works, the existing road on the culvert approaches is diverted to connect to the new alignment on top of the culvert. The road will be straightened as part of the final stages of the road upgrade works, when funding becomes available and after Airport Runway Upgrade works completion.

Current Progress

With both culvert installations complete, the project is advancing to finalise the remaining works, including rock beaching, batter protection, and creek reshaping. Completion of these tasks will enhance the road’s resilience and provide reliable airport access, particularly during flood events.



Preparing culvert for concrete pouring



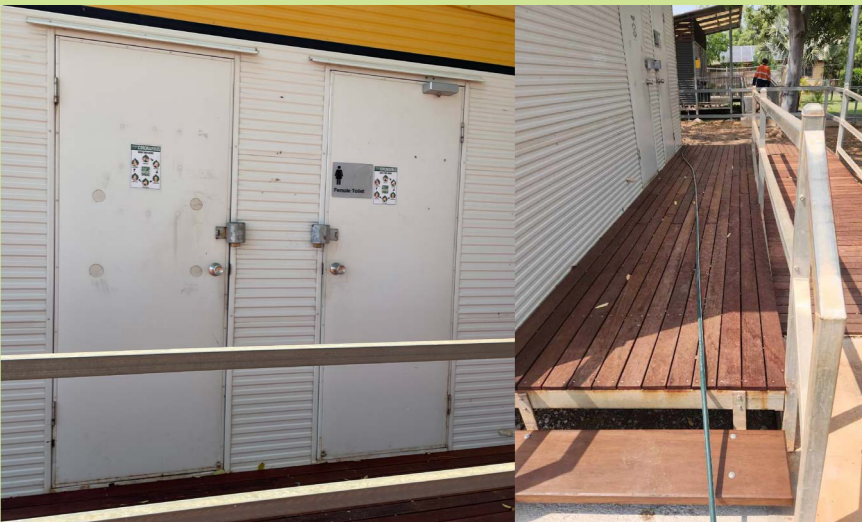
Slab of the culvert at CH 350



Connecting road to culvert approaches

PROJECTS UPDATE

Gregory Amenity Block Upgrade



We’re excited to share the latest on the Gregory Amenity Block Upgrade Project, which is almost completed and set to offer an improved facility for residents and visitors alike. This project involved replacing the old toilet block, with a block including two shower units, enhancing comfort and accessibility for all.

Project Scope

The upgraded amenity block includes two units, one dedicated female and one dedicated male toilet and shower unit. Additionally, the old toilet block was successfully sold, contributing to the community’s sustainability efforts.

Project Progress

The new amenity block is now complete, with only the final labeling for male and female units remaining. While the facility is ready and available for use if needed, Council plans to officially open it for public use after the wet season. This approach aims to keep maintenance and cleaning costs minimal, especially given that another shower unit is located adjacent to this block and can serve the community’s needs in the interim.

The new amenity block is designed to enhance convenience and ensure accessibility for all, providing a fresh and welcoming facility for the Gregory area.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Burketown Revitalisation Project: Progress Continues!

We're excited to bring you the latest updates on the Burketown Revitalisation Project. As our team works hard to bring new vibrancy and essential improvements to our beloved town, we're pleased to share some recent milestones and upcoming steps.

Construction Funding Application Submitted

A key part of making this project a reality is securing construction funding. We're pleased to announce that the funding application has been submitted and is currently under review. We remain optimistic about receiving the necessary support to move forward with construction in the near future.

Final Drawings in Progress

Our engineers and planners are working diligently to finalise the detailed drawings for the revitalisation project. These drawings are the blueprint for the changes and improvements that are planned, and

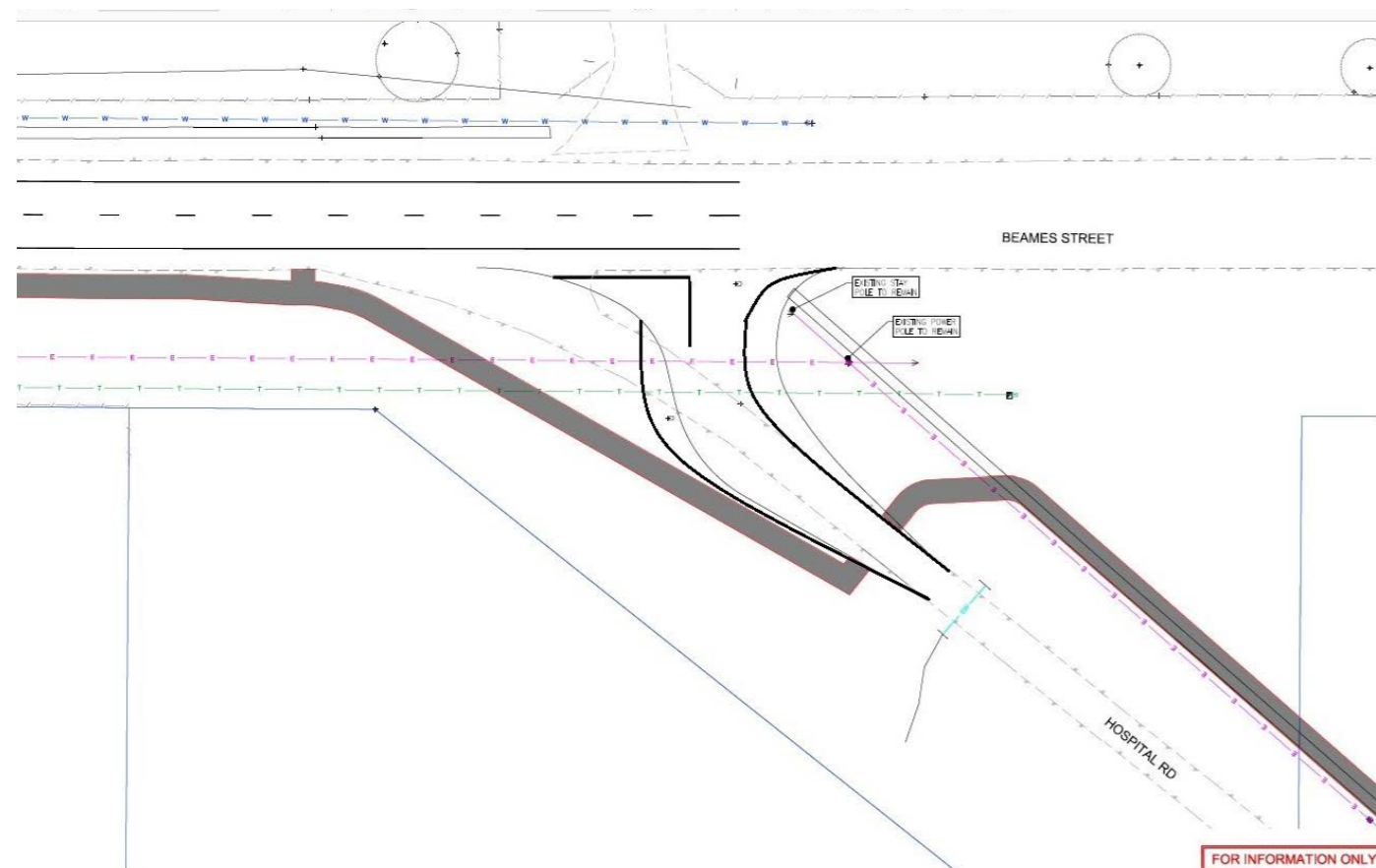
this step brings us one step closer to construction.

Electrical Design Expected in December

In line with our project timeline, the electrical design is progressing well and is expected to be completed by December. This will ensure that all electrical aspects are in place to support our revitalisation efforts, including new lighting and power solutions for enhanced safety and functionality.

Approved Concept for Hospital Road Intersection

The draft concept for the Hospital Road intersection, shown in the image below, has been reviewed and approved for detailed design. This new design aims to improve sight distance and intersection safety by realigning the intersection to a 90-degree angle, creating a compliant T-intersection. These changes will ensure a safer, more efficient flow of traffic and enhance pedestrian safety.



Truganini Road Culvert Replacement Project Update

The Truganini Road Culvert Replacement Project is nearing completion, addressing a critical access route to the Albert River Wharf and boat ramp, which traverses low-lying tidal flats at Beacon Pile Gully. The Level 2 Bridge Inspection report identified severe deterioration of the existing culverts and reinforced the urgency of replacement of the compromised culvert structures with concrete box culverts.

The project scope includes installing new 1800x1200x2400mm reinforced concrete box culverts. Given the importance of maintaining access during construction, tenderers were tasked with proposing traffic management solutions with preference on the option of installation of an elevated platform to limit road closures, ensuring minimal disturbance to the ground, and minimal disruption for users accessing the Albert River Wharf.

The primary culvert replacement work is now complete, with only batter protection remaining. Additionally, replacement of the adjacent causeway is underway and anticipated to finish by 20 November. These enhancements will ensure a safer, more resilient structure for road users, preserving access to this vital community resource.



Night works on Truganini Road Beacon Pile Gully Culvert replacement to minimise the impact to the road users



Truganini Road Beacon Pile Gully new culvert



All hands on deck as they pour concrete for the new culvert



The causeway slab, being completed in two halves for traffic management reasons

PROJECTS UPDATE

Floraville Road Reconstruction Project Update

Progress on the Floraville Road Reconstruction Project has been strong, with substantial sections completed since roadworks began on 23 September. This project focuses on restoring the first six kilometres from the Shire boundary westward, part of ongoing efforts to improve Burke Shire's road network.

To date, the first and third kilometer sections have been completed and sealed, while pavement placement for the fourth and sixth kilometres is nearing completion. Work on the second and fifth kilometres is also underway, with the entire project anticipated to wrap up by mid-December, weather permitting. Traffic management measures remain in place, and we thank the community for their continued patience and support as we work to improve our region's infrastructure.



Floraville Road, section 1 of 6.



Floraville Road, 6km north of the falls.

Congratulations to Natasha!

We are thrilled to announce that Natasha Williamson, Council's Work Health Safety and Training Officer, has successfully completed her Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety this year. This achievement reflects her dedication to maintaining a safe and supportive work environment for all council staff and members of our community.

Natasha's commitment to enhancing her skills ensures that we continue to prioritise safety and well-being at every level. Please join us in congratulating Natasha on her hard work and dedication to professional growth in this vital area.



COMMUNITY events

Photo Competition – 'Home Pride'

The Burke Shire Council's "Home Pride" photo competition, which closed on 30 September 2024, showcased stunning images capturing the beauty of our local area.

Congratulations to our talented winners:

Maxine Sowden

Aerial shot of the Burketown bore

Craig Taylor

Aerial view of the Gregory Racetrack in Gregory

Kelly McKnight

Cozy campfire on the Gregory River, Gregory

Judging was conducted by Burke Shire Council's councilors, and each winner received an acrylic print of their photo along with a \$200 gift card.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

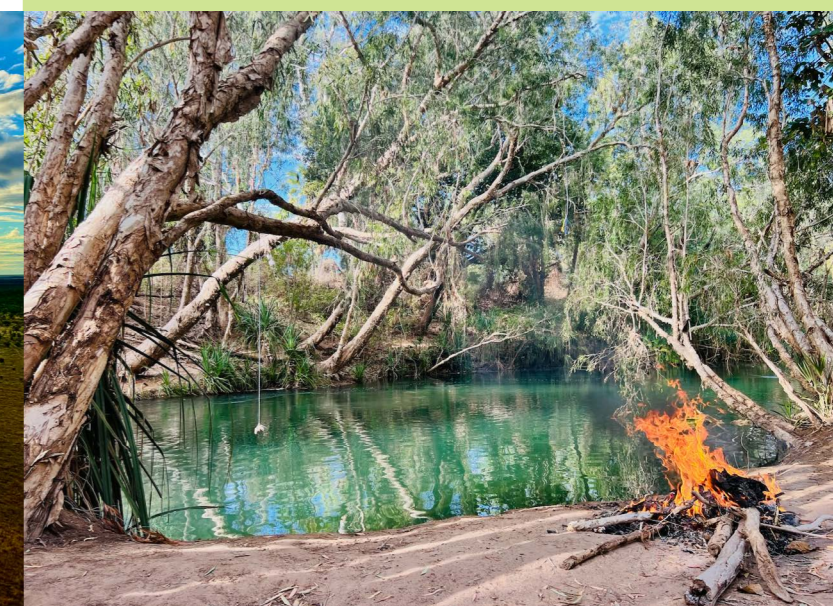
Keep an eye out for the next photo competition, coming early next year.



Aerial shot of the Burketown bore.
By Maxine Sowden



Aerial view of the Gregory Racetrack in Gregory.
By Craig Taylor



Cozy campfire on the Gregory River, Gregory.
By Kelly McKnight

COMMUNITY events

Burketown Shines Bright at Starry Night Celebration

Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons had it right with their classic line, "Oh, What A Night." Burketown truly outdid itself at the 2024 Order of the Outback Ball. This gala event not only captivated attendees but also uplifted community spirits, especially after the challenging floods of the past two years. The evening's success is a testament to our incredible sponsors, local businesses, and the tireless efforts of our dedicated committee.

This year's ball embraced a 'Starry Night' theme, transforming the hall into a dazzling visual spectacle of twinkling lights and shimmering stars. Guests enjoyed a gourmet spread, catered by Cairns Spit Roast, that pleased every palate.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Order of the Outback Award. This year, Burke Shire honoured the legacy of the Indigenous stockmen who played a crucial role in opening up the Outback. Frankie Shadforth, a Garawa man, and proprietor of Seven Emu Station near Borooloola, graciously

accepted the award on behalf of all Indigenous stockmen. Frankie, continuing his father Willie's legacy, has transformed Seven Emu Station into a thriving enterprise, raising cattle, mentoring troubled youth, and developing a must-visit tourist destination for an authentic Outback experience. Both Frankie and Mayor Ernie Camp also acknowledged the tremendous contribution Indigenous women also made to station life including in the mustering camp.

With 160 attendees, the dance floor was alive throughout the night, thanks to the soulful performance of Megan Sarmardin and the Bull Dust Band. Mayor Ernie Camp hosted dignitaries including Member for Traeger Robbie Katter, Yvonne Tunney from the Liberal National Party, Nat Trigwell from National Emergency Management Agency, Mayor Richard Sewter from Mornington Island, and awardee Frankie Shadforth. MC Tonka Toholke kept the evening engaging and lively while generously donating his fees to the RFDS and Sober in the Country.

The ball was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors, categorized into three tiers:

Gold Sponsors:

Rex Airlines
Stabilised Pavements Australia
Northlane Consulting Engineers
Ochre Legal
Hastings Deering
Hallaron & Sons
Sibanye Stillwater

Silver Sponsors:

Balloon Aloft
Peak Services

Bronze Sponsors:

Preston Law
Kenlach Transport
Ausnorth Consultants
Ergon Energy
The Procurers
RMT

The night was filled with excitement and generosity, with numerous prizes awarded thanks to local sponsors.

The 2024 Order of the Outback Ball was not only a celebration of achievements but also a reaffirmation of the strong and supportive community spirit in Burketown.

COMMUNITY events



COMMUNITY
events

The Melbourne Cup
came to Gregory

The Gregory Downs Jockey Club after several applications were finally successful in having the Lexus Melbourne Cup visit Gregory.

Melbourne Cup winning jockey, John Letts, VRC representative Trish Burke and photographer, Lucas Dawson ventured to Gregory with The Cup in hand on the 22nd of August.

Photographs were taken at dawn at the racetrack, at the Gregory River where billy-tea and camp oven scones were enjoyed and from the air during a scenic flight with Diamond Helicopters.

A highlight for the Cup team was seeing the RFDS plane land and meeting the doctors, nurses and pilot who were conducting their weekly clinic at Gregory.

At 2pm the community welcomed The Cup at the racecourse with John Letts entertaining the crowd with stories. He said one of his greatest moments on the track was witnessing Makybe Diva win her third Melbourne Cup. He was working for the media riding his beloved Banjo on the track that day.

Three yabby races followed with part proceeds going to the Gregory Health Clinic.

The Cup Challenge saw teams of three come out of the race barriers in a three-man sack, which was amusing in itself. They then had to join some poly connections together (harder than you think) and move around tyres and round bales of hay. The 'Allover Downunder' team from Gregory were the eventual winners.

In the evening, the community supplied a delicious dinner with the highlight being a beautifully decorated cake being cut by John Letts and the cake creator Nicole Jones.

The Gregory Downs Jockey Club thanks the Victoria Racing Club and their wonderful team who couldn't have been more obliging and generous with the \$570,000 iconic Melbourne Cup. It was a once in a lifetime day.

Photos by Lucas Dawson



The yabby race



Hannah Clarke, Brandon Goldstein, Bridget Melton



Winners of the Cup Challenge Tom Stanton, Shane and Joel Adorini



Melbourne Cup winning Jockey John Letts and RFDS plane



Adrian Trindle



Bec, Ellah and Marty Dixon



Jack Clarke



Jo Start - Gregory Downs Hotel

COMMUNITY events

Snowy and the 7 Cool Dudes - A Hit with the Kids!

Jally Entertainment brought their lively stage production, Snowy and the 7 Cool Dudes, to the Durlga in Burketown in October, and it was a fantastic success! Funded by the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), this performance was crafted especially for children aged 4-12, drawing in a mix of students, kindy kids, daycare attendees, and station children.

The story carried a meaningful message, subtly encouraging kids to address issues like bullying and the importance of doing the right thing. Five lucky children even got the chance to join the actors on stage as the “cool dudes,” complete with their very own rap segment. Their excitement was contagious, and the audience was buzzing with energy as everyone joined in the fun.

Alongside approximately eight adult attendees, kids were fully engaged throughout the show. Their enthusiasm and active participation were clear highlights of the day. We hope to see Jally Entertainment return next year with another spectacular production for our local kids!



Building a Healthier, Stronger Community

In the spirit of health and community, we're delighted to share the success of our Move It Burke initiative. Since July 2023, our monthly bootcamps, walks, and personal training sessions have been making waves, bringing our community together for fitness and fun.

As part of Move It Burke, we introduced a fantastic

opportunity for all community members—a free 12-month subscription to the Fit On Pro app. This subscription unlocks a treasure trove of health and fitness videos, along with mouthwatering healthy recipes. It's our way of encouraging everyone to embrace an active and wholesome lifestyle.

The success of Move It Burke is a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of our community. Let's continue to inspire each other, stay active, and make health a priority. Together, we're building a stronger, healthier, and more connected Burke Shire.



SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN



COMMUNITY events

Creative Workshops Bring the Shire Together

Burke Shire Council recently hosted a series of workshops in Burketown and Gregory, funded by the “Tackling Regional Adversity Through Connected Communities” initiative. The resin workshops, hosted by RRW Art, were a hit, with 19 participants in Burketown and 11 in Gregory creating stunning cheese boards, coasters, and lazy Susans. Attendees loved the hands-on experience, with many eager to join similar events in the future.

In addition to the resin sessions, Beth from Karumba hosted a Macrame workshop where participants crafted beautiful plant hangers, owls, hat hangers, and even Christmas decorations. These creative sessions not only showcased local talent but also fostered community connection and creativity.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and made these workshops such a resounding success!



COMMUNITY events

Burketown Rodeo and Sporting committee 2024 wrap up!

It has been a big year for the BRSA! The committee has worked hard to bring not one but two events to our community this year.

Starting with the rekindling of the Burketown Campdraft. Running over the July 21st weekend, it was great to see all the young people of our area having a crack!

A beautiful line of brahman steers were supplied by Armraynald (Paraway Pastoral Co) and they ran beautifully all weekend. A big thank you to the team at Armraynald for such well handled stock, and for donating the cattle. We couldn't have run this event without your generosity.

We started the weekend with the Sweers Island Maiden draft, which after 2 rounds was won by Damian Jamieson riding Dandy.

We then ran our feature draft which we dedicated to our dear friend and longtime committee member, Gabe Kennedy. And so, the Gabe Kennedy Memorial

Ladies Draft was run and won by Tess McNamara riding Idowra Diana. It was a very moving presentation for all committee members involved and it was sponsored by the Kennedy Family and K6 helicopters. The secretary also managed a place and was sure she had Gabe's help all the way round! A few tears were shed, but it was mostly smiles remembering how supportive Gabe had always been to our Lady riders, especially any mums getting in and having a go. We look forward to making our ladies draft a special feature of our event every year.

We then ran on with the THD Enterprises Novice Draft, won by Gregory's Jason Simms on Playboy Lena San- good work Jason!

Sunday morning blew in cold and chilly, but that didn't stop our riders putting them around!

The Burke Shire Open draft was won by Jason Simms, this time on Jessie Jay- talk about having a good weekend!

While the Open was running, in the rodeo arena, some very important "drafting" was happening!

Using a "MAN COW" we ran the Armraynald Pee Wee draft (under 5 years) and the Stocklick Trading Mini draft! Awesome work and well done to all our tiny riders, and to our Man Cow for doing MANY laps around the course for the kids!

Our Pee Wee winner was Clancy Anderson on Diddy, and our Mini winner was Billy Anderson riding Actress, a pair of brothers to watch out for I would say!

Back in the main arena it was time for the rest of our kids to ride- with the running of the MITECH Juvenile, won by Clayton Dayes riding Redskin, and then the Northlane Junior – won by Marney Rogan riding Convince. Well done guys, you all rode so well and very safely.

To finish off our weekend of drafting we had the K&G Booth Encouragement Draft, this was a great event to watch, and the cheer squads were NEXT level! Won in the end by Justin Anderson riding Ariana!

Over the weekend we had delicious food prepared by Liz's Catering, and the bar was kept pumping with Adam, Scotty and Mudge overseeing the service!

A big thank you to all committee members and to our sponsors and volunteers- without you there is no show.

The BRSA had no time to rest after the campdraft, as we set about preparing for the much-anticipated Gymkhana and Rodeo!

Held over the school holidays, on September 21st, we wanted to provide a family fun day out.

Starting with our kid's gymkhana in the morning, which was well supported and kindly sponsored by Durak Civil, which allowed us to make entry of all events free! The kids had a great time, and some great prizes were given out, with thanks to Pets and Produce Mount Isa and Rural Pumping Solutions for their generous support for the kids.

After the heat of the day had passed, we moved onto the rodeo proper!

Starting with the Ladies Barrel Race, Sponsored by Lentons Transport, these are the cowgirls who are addicted to speed! Won this year by Courtney Gray, riding Roc N Floyd.

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COMMUNITY
events

Burketown Rodeo and Sporting committee 2024 wrap up!

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We then moved onto to the most serious of all competitions... the Tim Wilson Carpentry Paddy Ride. These are our up-and-coming rodeo stars and spots for the event filled up fast! Won this year by Daniel Logan of Doomadgee! Well done to all our littlest cowboys and cowgirls!

Next up we ran the Junior Steer Ride- these are our bigger kids who have been doing the rounds for a bit now and are stepping up into bigger stock- Sponsored by Sweers Island, it was won this year by Cade Ferguson of Cloncurry.

Next was the always popular Bullock ride, Sponsored by Northlane Consulting this too was won by Cade Ferguson, who started his night on a roll!

After a bit of a spell for the kids to tackle and chase the Lolly man, kindly sponsored by McMillian Pastoral, Wollogorang Station. This was great for the

kids, and not so fun for the Lollyman who got carted by a bunch of 10-year-olds!

We then moved into the rough stock events proper, beginning with the Station Buckjump, Sponsored by Curly's Transport. It was won by Tristan Bayntun of Escott Station, and the cheers from the crowd- or just Bernard and Katie were pretty vocal! Well done mate!

We then went onto the Kenglen Civil Open Bull ride. The bulls were very good and had those cowboys working hard for points or to just stay on! Won this year by Peter Gregory (JNR) from Doomadgee.

Our last event of the night was the Burke Shire Council Open Bronc ride. There were some spectacular rides and dismounts but was won in the end by Gavin Fry from Hughenden.

A big thank you to our stock contractors Warren and Bec Fry of Inverleigh West, our judges, pick up men, bull protection men, scorers and all the other helpers required to keep the rodeo pumping along. Your time is valued and appreciated!

We closed the night out with music from The Breakaways and cold drinks served up at the bar.

Another big thank you to all our amazing sponsors, thank you for supporting both our events this year, we look forward to more amazing events next year.

Thank you to the hard-working committee members, roped in volunteers and to the community for coming and supporting the shows. Until next time.

BRSA Committee 2024



COMMUNITY
events

Spooky Fun at the Halloween Trick or Treat Event

On October 31st, Burketown families gathered for an exciting evening of Halloween fun with the Childcare & Family Hub! Kids and parents alike dressed up in their best spooky costumes, meeting for some delicious nibbles and refreshments. After fueling up, they boarded the bus, ready to tour the neighborhood in search of treats and friendly frights.

This community event was a hit, bringing out smiles, laughter, and a few playful scares as kids collected

treats and families enjoyed the festive atmosphere. The Burke Shire Council administration office also joined in on the festivities, decked out with Halloween decorations to welcome community members. Special thanks to everyone who joined and especially to those who decorated their homes to welcome our Trick-or-Treat crew.

If you missed out this year, be sure to join us next Halloween for more treats and thrills!



First Aid Training Brings Lifesaving Skills to Burketown

In the last week of October 2024, Burke Shire Council hosted First Aid and CPR training sessions in Burketown, providing an invaluable opportunity for Council employees and community members alike to refresh their lifesaving skills. All Council staff were encouraged to participate, ensuring they're prepared to handle emergencies both at work and in the community.

The sessions covered essential first aid techniques and CPR, equipping attendees with the confidence to respond effectively in critical situations. Community members who joined expressed appreciation for the chance to learn these important skills close to home.

Burke Shire Council is proud to support initiatives like this that promote safety and wellbeing across our community.



COMMUNITY
events

All Aboard!

To celebrate this year's Senior's Day, Burke Shire Seniors had the pleasure of going on a boat cruise up the Albert River with Yagurli tours.

Many of the seniors had not been on the river for a long time and found that the river had really changed over the years. On the way they saw a huge croc slide and a cheeky croc that popped his head out of water to see what we were doing.

After the cruise, all went back to the Burketown Pub for lunch. An information session regarding upcoming events and general public information was shared and discussed. Mocktails were on offer as well as cold drinks (non-alcoholic) of course. Corned beef, mash, veges & mustard went down a treat to be topped off with fresh fruit and ice cream.

Trivia followed with answers that were hotly contested and debated. Winners were rewarded with treats to enjoy later.

A huge thank you to COTA Queensland, Yagurli Tours and the Burketown Pub for making this special day possible for our seniors.



Walk for Daniel

Burketown State School recently took part in the Walk for Daniel on Friday 25 October, joining hands with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to honour Daniel's legacy of child safety across Australia. Encouraged to dress in red to symbolise their commitment, students, staff, and community members walked together around the school block, raising awareness for this important cause. This event inspired everyone to "Wear Red, Educate, and Donate," helping to further Daniel's legacy and promote a safer future for all children.



COMMUNITY
events

Hells Gate Ladies Day 2024: A Day of Fun, Laughter, and Elegance

Hells Gate Ladies Day 2024 took place on Saturday, 7th September, and was a wonderful success! Attendees enjoyed a day filled with laughter, activities, and stylish fun. The event featured gift stalls and an exciting competition for the Best Hat of the Day, showcasing incredible creativity and flair.

The community came together to celebrate, socialise, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, making it a memorable day for all who attended. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this fantastic event!



COMMUNITY
events

Gregory CWA Horse Sports and Family Fun Day

The Gregory CWA Horse Sports and Family Fun Day on the 15th of September was a great day enjoyed by competitors and spectators.

The day started with the traditional horse sports. The most successful competitors were Sienna Butterworth (Morella Station) in the lady's section, Aven Calhoun (Mellish Park Stn) and BJ Cameron (Gregory Downs Stn) in the gents, Hunter Wilson (Tirranna Roadhouse) and Angus Turnbull (Bowthorn Stn) were the stars in the 7-9 years age group. Maxton

Ramsbotham visiting his grandparents at Talawanta Station was the standout in the 6 and under events. Track and Field Events followed. Gregory Downs Station has the best broom throwers in the district with Eliza McTaggart winning the ladies and Rueben Gill the gents.

Many enjoyed the pleasures of the Gregory River at the conclusion of the day.

Thanks is extended to the Burke Shire Council for their continued support.



Angus Turnbull and Hunter Wilson were the stars of the 7-9 age group.



Burke Shire Mayor Ernie Camp with Maxton Ramsbotham, Charlie Woods and Paddy Woods.



Competitor Line Up



Competitor Line Up



Charlotte Jones being led by Dad Matt Jones.



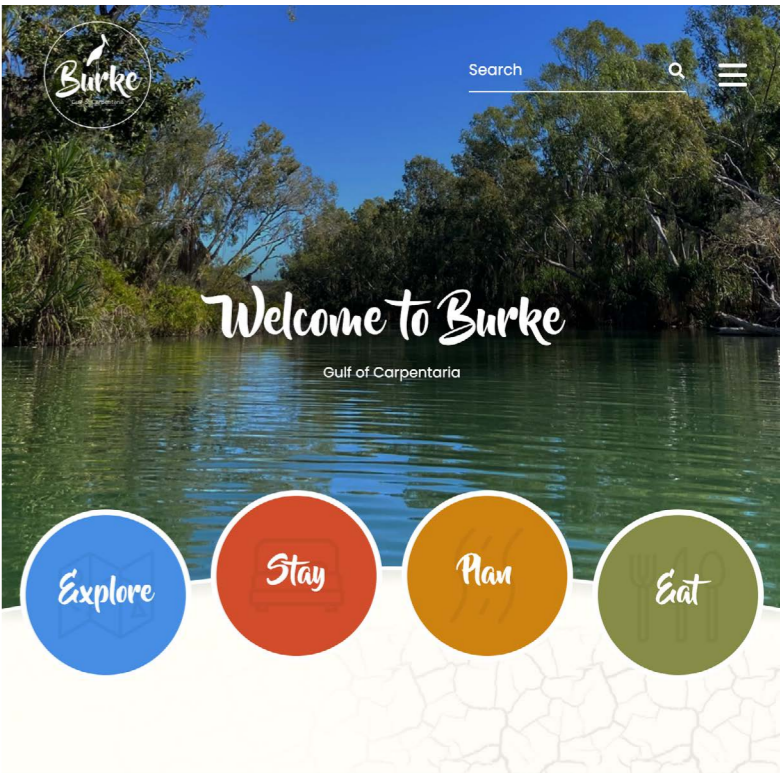
Gretna Green finalists Jock McGavin, Rueben Gill, Matt Jones, James Greeves, Bridget Melton & Pat Melton with event sponsor Hunter Lawson from Elders.

Remembrance Day 2024



COMMUNITY
events

The Explore Burke Website



We're excited to announce the launch of the new Explore Burke website! This dynamic platform is designed to showcase everything our beautiful region has to offer. Whether you're a local resident, a visitor, or a business owner, there's something for everyone.

One of the standout features is the new business directory. This directory aims to promote local businesses, making it easier for residents and tourists to find services, shops, and other essential businesses in the Burke Shire.

Business owners, if you wish to update your information or add your business to the directory, please contact the Council office at 07 4745 5100 or email office@burke.qld.gov.au.

Visit Explore Burke today and see all the wonderful things our community has to offer!

www.exploreburke.com.au

COMMUNITY

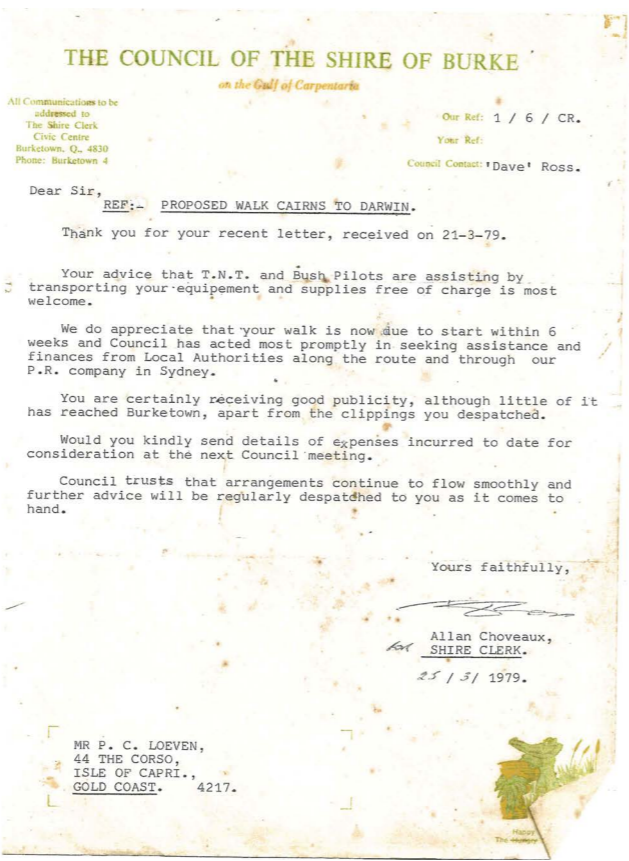
50 Years On, a Long-Awaited Fish & Chips in Burketown

Nearly 50 years ago, Paul Loeven and his friend Tom set out on an incredible walk from Cairns to Darwin, sending supplies ahead and braving the Outback on foot.



Along the way, Burketown’s Shire Clerk, Alan Chevoux, launched a “Burketown Passport” promotion, offering travelers a fish and chips meal at the local pub for \$10. Unfortunately, Paul and Tom had to leave early and missed their meal.

Now close to 80 and as lively as ever, Paul recently wrote to the Burke Shire Council, humorously announcing he’s ready to finally claim his long-overdue fish and chips – for himself and Tom, who’s currently in Alaska. He even has a special request: Coral trout and chips!



Venomous Animals Workshops

Burke Shire Council recently hosted two educational sessions focused on venomous animals and their dangers. Council staff participated in a “Venomous Animals Awareness” session, while the community was invited to attend the “Things That Bite and Sting” workshop.

Both sessions were interactive, offering attendees the chance to safely handle snakes and other animals while learning lifesaving information, including first aid techniques and how to respond to bites and stings. These valuable lessons equip participants with the knowledge to protect themselves and others in emergency situations.

The workshops were well-received, fostering greater awareness and confidence when dealing with venomous animals in our region. Thank you to all who attended and made the sessions a success!



GET COOKING

Mango Tango Chicken Breast and Rice with Refreshing Cucumber Salad

BY NATASHA WILLIAMSON

Ingredients

- 150g Jasmine rice (¾ cup; or alternative rice)
- 1 cup water
- 1 Lebanese cucumber
- Coriander
- 2 Garlic cloves
- 2 Chicken breast fillets
- 10g Sri Lankan curry powder (2tbs; or alternative curry powder on hand)
- 90g mango chutney (4-5 tbs)
- 2 tsp white vinegar
- 1tsp sugar
- 1 tbs oil
- 2 tbs mayonnaise

Method

Step 1 - Cook rice
Rinse the rice until the water runs clear. Put in a small saucepan with 250ml (1 cup) water, cover and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Reduce the heat to low and cook for 12 mins or until tender and the water is absorbed. Turn off the heat and stand, covered, for at least 5 mins. Fluff the rice with a fork.

Step 2 - Pickle cucumber
Meanwhile, thinly slice half the cucumber on an angle. Coarsely grate the remaining cucumber. Pick the coriander leaves and finely chop the stems. Combine 2 tsp white vinegar and 1 tsp sugar in a large bowl and season with salt. Add the sliced cucumber and coriander stems and toss to combine. Set aside to pickle, tossing occasionally, until needed.

Step 3 - Marinate chicken
Crush 2 garlic cloves. Put the chicken flat on a board, put your hand on top and halve horizontally into fillets. Combine the curry powder, half the garlic and 1 tbs vegetable oil in a large bowl and season with

salt and pepper. Add the chicken and turn to coat. Combine the mango chutney and 2 tsp water in a separate bowl and season with salt and pepper.

Step 4 - Cook chicken
Heat a medium frypan over medium-high heat. Cook the chicken, turning regularly, for 3-7 mins until browned and just cooked through. Add the chutney mixture and cook, turning, for 1 min or until the chicken is glazed. Remove from the heat. While the chicken is cooking, combine the grated cucumber, remaining garlic and 2 tbs mayonnaise in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

Step 5 - Serve Up
Thickly slice the chicken. Drain the cucumber, reserving the pickling liquid. Add the coriander leaves to the cucumber and stir to combine. Divide the rice, chicken and cucumber salad among plates. Top with the mayo mixture and drizzle with the reserved pickling liquid. Enjoy!

Step 6 - Make it yours
Feel free to add salad goodies from your veggie drawer to the cucumber salad, such as mint, carrot, avocado or tomato.



COUNCIL INFORMATION

Information On Our Website

Burke Shire Council Website
www.burke.qld.gov.au

You can find information on:

Current Tenders
 Council Meetings
 Employment Opportunities
 Public Notices
 Service Information

Council Meeting Dates

Burke Shire Council meetings are held monthly on a Thursday in the Council Chambers at the Nijinda Durlga and are scheduled to commence at 9.00am. Meeting dates for the next 4 months are as follows:

January	Wednesday 22
February	Wednesday 26
March	Wednesday 26
April	Wednesday 30

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www.linkedin.com/company/BurkeShireCouncil

Get snapping!



Spot an issue in the Shire?
 Take a photo with the Snap Send Solve app to let us know.
 The app allows you to mark the exact location of the issue, take a photo and provide any further information in a few simple steps. Then:

- Council will be notified
- Your report will be assigned
- Reported issue is resolved
- You will be notified.