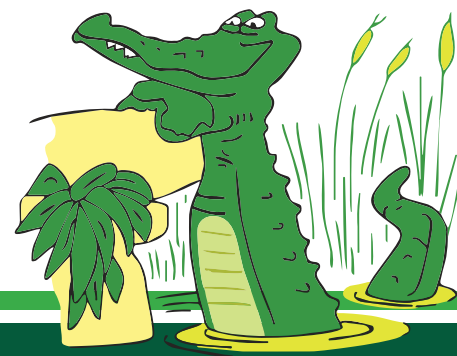


Burke Shire Council NEWSLETTER



EDITION 60 : SEPTEMBER 2022

A MESSAGE FROM *the Mayor*

It is with pleasure as mayor to present the Burke Shire Council 2022/2023 budget. Ongoing sustainability is a major challenge for smaller councils such as Burke Shire Council, which has a very limited rates base (21.55% of total council revenues) and a significant reliance on Federal and State grant and subsidy funding (67.72% of total council revenues). There have been significant challenges and difficulties over the last two years for the Burke Shire community, and indeed the rest of Australia with COVID-19 and the unfortunate arising of conflict in nations abroad resulting in the everyday cost of living increasing for all.

Over the past two years improving financial sustainability has been a major focus of Council.

Council has put in place a number of sustainability measures and controls and we are now seeing that this is starting to have a small but positive impact on Councils financial sustainability overall.

...Continued on next page

In this edition

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR	1 - 3
INVESTMENT IN GREGORY	3
FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK	4
ORDER OF THE OUTBACK	5
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING EXPO	6
MOVE IT BURKE	7
QUALIFICATIONS COMPLETE	7
DATES TO REMEMBER	7
QCWA GREGORY BRANCH TURNS SIXTY	8
PASSING THE HAT AROUND AT HELL'S GATE	9
GREGORY SADDLES AND PADDLES	10
CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY GREGORY	11
GREGORY CAMPDRAFT	11
THANK YOU	12
THE BURKE SHIRE PASSPORT	13
HELL'S GATE LADIES DAY	14
QLD REGIONAL COMMUNITY FORUMS	15
KAP RENEWS PUSH FOR TITLE DEED OVERHAUL	16
ANZAC DAY AT GREGORY	17
BURKETOWN CAG REPS COMMUNITY HEALTH	17
NEW BUSINESSES	18
GET COOKING	19
COUNCIL INFORMATION	20



A MESSAGE FROM the Mayor

...Continued from previous page

These measures are summarised as follows:

- Downsizing of Executive staff.
- A very robust budgeting process and monthly financial reporting process. Budgets adopted the last two years have been extremely tight with actual decreases in cash operating budgets in both years even though costs have been under pressure with Local Government CPI increases and EBA increases.
- Council continuing to consider how it can deliver service delivery smarter and more efficiently.

Even though cash operating expenses have declined, Council is very conscious of delivering a suitable level of service to the community to meet community expectations. This has to be balanced against affordability.

A major positive impact on Council's future sustainability is the increase in Council's Federal Assistant Grant which will be increasing from \$3.307mil to \$6.450mil over three years (a 95% increase). Council still needs to be very prudent in how it budgets going into the future but the estimated cash balance at the end of 2032 is \$20.404mil. This is a very positive prediction for council in relation to improving financial sustainability.

Although a number of rate increases around Queensland are at least 4%, Council is conscious of the impacts of costs of living on its ratepayers and the rate increase for 2022/23 will be 2.6% for Residential Properties and 3.7% for Industrial/Commercial and Rural properties.

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 per year.

Council will implement a very significant capital budget for 2022/2023. This includes carryover projects of \$6,470,527 and new projects of \$6,490,714. This will bring the total capital projects to a record just under \$12.961 million.

Another \$23.574mil of short and long-term future projects have also been planned subject to receiving capital funding.

There will continue to be significant expenditure on roads during the 2022/2023 financial year. Flood damage work of \$4,750,000 million is budgeted to be completed. Roads and drainage work of approximately \$3mil, which is significantly funded by external grants from State and Federal governments. Council also carries out \$1,052,000 worth of work for DTMR maintaining the state road network.

The projects included above reflect a balance of Infrastructure and liveability projects. A very significant inclusion is the masterplan and design of a Health and wellbeing Precinct and also stage one development of a Children's Water Park in Burketown. This is subject to grant funding and borrowing \$500,000.

Council will continue to roll out its Housing Strategy to divest its housing stock to staff. Three Council houses have been sold to staff with a further three being close to contract. This creates a platform for local economic empowerment and growth of the rating-base. Council has also been selling residential blocks at Gregory with nine blocks already sold and another eight have gone out to tender. Funds from the sale of Gregory Blocks will go towards a new Depot at Gregory in the area of the Water Treatment plant.

In delivering the Budget, I acknowledge and thank the Executive Management Team and all staff involved in its preparation. It has been a tremendous effort and the manner in which it was undertaken certainly gave Councillors a solid foundation and clarity to allow them to best determine the balance required in finalising the budget for this year. This has ensured my confidence that Budget 2022-2023 will contribute to the sustainability of Burke Shire and progress Council's goals of integrity, inclusion, innovation and infrastructure.

A MESSAGE FROM the Mayor

Budget 2022/2023 in Pictures

\$100

For every \$100, Council invests in the following:



\$ 24.87

Governance, Admin and Operational Services



\$ 0.98

Airports



\$ 4.47

Water Services



\$ 0.95

Environmental Services



\$ 18.76

Engineering and Fleet Management



\$ 8.87

Roads, footpaths and drainage



\$ 3.25

Tourism, events, cultural and community services



\$ 4.53

Public Facilities and Housing



\$ 29.45

Flood Damage Repairs



\$ 2.46

Parks and Gardens



\$ 1.41

Sewer and Waste Services

Investment in Gregory

Council has committed to a \$750,000 capital investment into Gregory for the 2022/2023 financial year which will directly benefit the community. The spend relates to utilities and general amenities upgrades. Some major components include:

- Water Treatment Plant upgrade – enhancing the reliability of drinking water supply for the community
- Gregory River Bridge redecking
- Raw Water intake upgrade at Gregory River
- Gregory Tip Site re-fencing
- Truck off street parking and lay-by area - Master planning and concept design
- Public toilet and shower upgrade
- Gregory airport drainage

In addition to the above capital projects an increase in operational maintenance is scheduled which will deliver an increase in the standard of the town's streets and an uplift of the town's general appearance.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Flood Warning Infrastructure Network

New flood warning infrastructure has been installed throughout North and Far North Queensland as part of a jointly-funded \$8 million investment to deliver 174 extra flood warning assets across the state. Burke Shire Council in partnership with the Australian and Queensland Government is proud to have delivered the Flood Warning Infrastructure Network (FWIN) Project through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) in the Burke Shire.

The FWIN project assists Queensland communities in their recovery following the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough disaster event (25 January to 14 February 2019). The new infrastructure will keep our communities safe by delivering: suitable flood warning infrastructure upgrades to the most appropriate locations throughout the flood-impacted area; improvements to Bureau of Meteorology services to support primary producers and communities; and a range of new assets to support flood warning intelligence, including the use of flood cameras at strategic locations. A combination of rain gauges, river gauges, cameras, signage and the like have been installed across the state. As the Gulf is known for 'dry flooding' events, this network of flood warning infrastructure will be especially beneficial for our region.

Flood Infrastructure locations:

- Albert River River - River Gauge
- Archie River - River and Rain Gauge
- Barkly Creek - River and Rain Gauge
- Cartridge Creek - River and Rain Gauge
- Doomadgee Crossing - River and Rain Gauge
- Kingfisher Camp - River and Rain Gauge
- Lower Lawn Hill - River and Rain Gauge
- Norfolk Station - Rain Gauge
- O'Shanassy River CDCR - Rain Gauge
- Running Creek - River and Rain Gauge
- Sandy Creek - River and Rain Gauge
- Sandy Waterhole - River Gauge
- Thornton Station - Rain Gauge
- Tirranna Springs - Flood Camera

THIS PROJECT IS NOW COMPLETE AND 14 ASSETS WERE INSTALLED IN VARIOUS HIGH PRIORITY LOCATIONS ACROSS BURKE SHIRE. THESE ADDITIONAL DEVICES WILL PROVIDE ESSENTIAL DATA AND REAL TIME UPDATES THEREBY INCREASING BURKE SHIRE'S RESPONSE TIME TO POTENTIAL FUTURE FLOOD EVENTS, KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.



COMMUNITY *events*

Order of the Outback

On the 9th of July, Burke Shire celebrated the Order of The Outback Award 2022 at the Gregory Racetrack. Accomplished author Kerry McGinnis won the award for her outstanding contribution to the outback community.

Kerry McGinnis, at the tender age of 12, went on a droving trip with her father and four siblings that saw them travel extensively across the Northern Territory and Queensland before finally settling at Bowthorn Station in the Gulf Country. Kerry has performed many roles in her lifetime including as a droving hand, camp cook, gardener and shepherd. A lady of many talents, she is now a bestselling author with two volumes of memoir, *Pieces of Blue* and *Heart Country*, and the bestselling novels *The Waddi Tree*, *Wildhorse Creek*, *Mallee Sky*, *Tracking North*, *Out of Alice*, *Secrets of the Springs*, *The Heartwood Hotel*, *The Roadhouse*, *Croc Country*, *The Missing Girl* and *Gathering Storms*. Her connection with the land, raising awareness and love for the country reflects on every page in her novels.

The night was filled with wonderful food, lots of laughter and dancing. Everyone looked amazing with children and adults stepping out in their best attire. Belles and Beaus were hard to pick but Doctor, MC and adopted local Dr. Don Bowley stepped up to the task.

A massive thank you to all of our sponsors: New Century Resources, K & G Booth, Floraville Station and the volunteers who worked tirelessly and provided support to make this event successful.



COMMUNITY events

Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo

Burke Shire Council supported by the Queensland Government Localised Mental Health Initiative held a week-long Expo raising awareness around Mental Health and Wellbeing, a topic very close to our Mayor and Councillors hearts.

A holistic approach was taken and service providers came from throughout the region to support this event; Gidgee Healing (Primary Health, Family Wellbeing and drug and alcohol support), John Doyle from Three Sons Fitness (3SF), North West Hospital and Health Service ATODS, Lee from Love-Lee Cooking, Save the Children, Shano's Barber, Chelsea's Massages, Move It Burke and JCU.

The Expo was well attended and there was something for everyone; meal prep demos, haircuts, massages, tailored/group fitness classes, a smoothie bar, primary health, drug and alcohol support, financial support services, painting workshops, mental health training, free health and fitness app subscriptions, a movie night and activities corner for the kiddies and lots more.

We had the privilege of having John Doyle (3SF) and Shane Smith (QPS) as guest speakers at our

community dinner. Both of these remarkable individuals spoke about their personal struggles with mental health and shared some of the tools and support services they have utilised to manage this. Their stories were extremely touching and heart felt and hit close to home with many attendees.

A massive thank you to all of our service providers and everyone who attended. Hopefully this event is the first of many – watch this space!



COMMUNITY events

Move It Burke

Congratulation to Leonie Florence who won a Fitbit Versa 3 as part of the first Move It Burke Challenge - the 3 Workouts 3 Weeks Challenge

Register below to Join The Movement and participate in the next challenge:



Brought to you by:



MOVE IT NO.

REGISTER HERE:



This initiative is supported by Western Queensland PHN

Qualifications Complete!

Congratulations to Shakiah Douglas and Brianna Harrison for successfully completing their Certifications! Shakiah completed a Cert III in Business Administration while Brianna completed a Cert III in Business. We cannot wait to see what each of you do next as we foresee bright futures!



Dates to Remember

18 September

What: Gregory CWA Horse Sports & Family Fun Day
Where: Gregory Race Track

October

What: RACQ Get Ready
Where: Burke Shire

1 November

What: Burke Shire Show Holiday
Where: Burke Shire

11 November

What: Remembrance Day
Where: Burketown Cenotaph

24 November

What: Seniors Lunch
- Collaboration with
Carpentaria Shire Council
Where: Normanton

30 November

What: Young Ambassadors Program
Where: Burketown State School & Burke Shire

1-15 December

What: Christmas Light Competition
Where: Burke Shire

2 December

What: Gregory Community Christmas Event
Where: Gregory Memorial Park

8 December

What: Burketown Community Christmas Event
Where: Burketown

4PM 16 December - 9AM 3 January

What: Burke Shire Council Office Closure
Where: Burketown

COMMUNITY events

QCWA Gregory branch turns sixty



Sunday the 24th of July saw Gregory CWA Members and guests coming together for their AGM Meeting and a celebratory 60th Birthday High Tea at the Gregory Community Hall.

Just over sixty years ago, while waiting in the verandah shade at the Gregory Hotel while their husbands conducted meetings inside, a small but enthusiastic group of women decided they needed to have an organised group for themselves. QCWA was determined as the organisation that could support such an initiative. After much toing and froing of communication via mail the inaugural meeting was conducted on the 30nd of June, 1962 at Planet Downs Station and the Gregory QCWA was born. Reminiscences from Pat Carrington, Branch instigator and founding member, about these early years were shared at the meeting.

Beryl Murphy, accompanied by her daughter Suzi Paterson, was the guest of honour. Beryl was one of the founding Branch members attending that first meeting and spoke to members about all the changes she noted. She recalled how catering in the early days was done under a bough shed with a pan of water always on the boil, under a fire outside the shed, for the never-ending cups of tea and coffee

required by the hungry crowds.

A mouth-watering array of sweet and savoury high tea treats were prepared by those in attendance to share. A Branch birthday cake was cut by Beryl and Bev Webber, from Mellish Park, our current longest serving member having been part of the Branch for 49 years. The inevitable quiz, this time focussing on the year 1962, was completed during the nibbling, sipping and catching up.

At the AGM, held before the High Tea, Kylie Camp was voted in as President, Sue Clarke and Rose-marie Newton returned to their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Megan Munchenberg and Sam Butterworth are Vice Presidents and new member, Maria Hoevsgaard, stepped into the International Officer role.



COMMUNITY *events*

Passing the hat around at Hell's Gate Roadhouse

This year marks the 6th anniversary of having our resident mechanic, Tim Hick, at Hell's Gate. Known to most as 'Timbo', his friendly bearded face has greeted many travelers, and locals, to the roadhouse and assisted with plenty of jobs such as tyre changes, mechanical repairs, gas refills, merchandise sales and fueling up vehicles (just to name a few!). But probably his most wowing talent is his fire & light twirling.

The nightly show has dazzled international and domestic visitors to Hell's Gate Roadhouse for the past 6 years. What makes it even more special is that Timbo uses this opportunity of grabbing the crowd's attention to ask for a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. He has raised more than \$6,000 in his time here at the roadhouse, with his goal of one day reaching the \$10k target.

When he returned in May for the 2022 tourist season, Timbo very generously decided that he wanted to raise enough money to install a mobile defibrillator machine at the roadhouse. He smashed his goal of \$1900 in less than four weeks and the machine has already been ordered. Now it is back to 'business as usual' for Timbo returning to his regular RFDS fundraising each night he brings out the fire and lights.

His skill of twirling has evolved over the years into a visual display of laser light effects and choreography performed in rhythmical sync to favorite tunes such as 'Ring of Fire' and 'Highway to Hell'. We are very grateful for his contribution to our business, family and to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

In the past three years we have had the RFDS land three times to retrieve sick or injured patients; two of these retrievals were at night and required the team at the roadhouse to light up the runway for the pilot to land with unique methods such as diesel dipped toilet paper rolls and fuel filled empty beetroot tins.

Thankfully we now have special beacon lights ordered as well to have on hand for any future incidents.

Running a business in a remote part of the country will always have its challenges but getting to work and live with great people like Timbo and experience the generosity of strangers that are passing through, is what makes it worth going to work every day.

We always live in hope that we won't end up in a situation where we must make that call to the RFDS but are very thankful that they are our 'Angels in the Sky' if we do.

If you haven't had the pleasure of witnessing Timbo's light show then please put it on your bucket list and come join us for an evening at Hell's Gate Roadhouse when we light up the night with good company and pass the hat around for a great cause.



COMMUNITY events

Gregory Saddles and Paddles

The annual Saddles and Paddles event was slightly different this year - horses were not part of the weekend. Due to a downpour of rain on Thursday evening the track was deemed too wet to race on.

Despite Saturday's horse racing being abandoned, the decision was made to go ahead with all other activities. A wonderful crowd supported the Gregory Downs Jockey Club with Fashions of the Field, children's events, yabby races, and the famous Gregory Gift foot race all conducted. Live music and dinner in the hall were enjoyed in the evening.

Sunday drew a large crowd to the Gregory River for

the 47th Gregory River Canoe Marathon. With 181 registrations, paddlers as young as 16 and as old as 73 and craft ranging from stand up paddle boards, short sit on top plastics and sleek K1's and K2's.

Many jockey club members and volunteers of the club took to a canoe and competed in the Canoe Marathon. Those members not paddling supplied food and drinks at the finish line.

The Gregory Downs Jockey Club would like to thank the Burke Shire for their continued support. Thanks also to the sponsors and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly before, during and after the event.



Sponsor Jo Start with winners of the couples section - Maria and PJ from Mellish Park Station; Jenny and John from the Tablelands



Sponsor Brandon Goldstein with James Geeves (Charters Towers) and Blake Clarke (Woodstock)



Claire Clarke (Emerald), Meg Everett (Gregory Downs Stn), Rachel Arnold (Blackall), Jessie Woods (Armagay Stn)



The Running River Rowers

COMMUNITY events

Clean up Australia Day in Gregory



BURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, SOUTHERN GULF NRM, BUNNINGS MOUNT ISA AND VOLUNTEERS TEAMED UP TO CLEAN UP SOME OF OUR MOST POPULAR CAMPING SPOTS AT GREGORY IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP OUR SHIRE TIDY! THE TEAM COLLECTED A UNICORN FLOATIE, A TENT, SCRAP METAL, TYRES AND FILLED FOUR X 150L BAGS OF SMALLER RUBBISH. GREAT WORK TEAM!!

Gregory Campdraft



Cloncurry Mustering District Teams Draft
 1st: Gregory - Hannah Simms, Megan Munchenberg, Matt Jones
 2nd: Augustus - Sam Morrison, Bradley Irvine, Charley Hackett
 3rd: Escott - Indy Whitfeld, Jesse McCutcheon, Will Dugan



Gregory Downs Station District Maiden
 1st: Pru Kendall - Riversleigh Stn
 2nd: Matt Jones - Gregory Downs Stn
 3rd: Darcy Woods - Armraynald Stn
 4th: Dale Harrison - Riversleigh Stn
 5th-6th: Sam Morrison - Augustus Downs Stn
 5th-6th: Mathew Murray - Gregory Downs Stn

COMMUNITY

Thank you!

Burketown State School are grateful to have received 2 small outdoor table sets, a portable volleyball/tennis net and some new volleyballs with funds that were raised from the Mougibi Fishing Competition that was held in April.

Thank you to all the businesses and community members that contributed to the event.

The younger students finally have seating their size for eating as well as the many outdoor activities they do. The net and balls will be available to use by the students as well as community members.

Thank you to CLCAC Rangers Jimmy Kum-Sing, Mick Watson and Dean Wildermuth for delivering and setting up the equipment.



Mougibi members Jennifer Kum-Sing, Mangubadijarri Yanner and Murrandoo Yanner Jnr presented the items to the school.

Mental Health First Aid in the Shire



COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING IN JUNE. REPRESENTATIVES FROM BURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, BURKETOWN HEALTH CENTRE, VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE SERVICE AND QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE PARTICIPATED IN THE INVALUABLE TRAINING SESSION. THANK YOU TO THE RFDS FOR FACILITATING THIS SESSION.

The **BURKE SHIRE PASSPORT** *is back!*



#WishYouWereHere

TRAVEL LIKE A LOCAL FOR ONLY \$10

Discover the Shire and use your passport to collect local goodies on the way.

Visit **burkepassport.com** for more information.

COMMUNITY *events*

Hell's Gate Ladies Day

One of the biggest events on the Gulf social calendar returned for 2022 - The Hell's Gate Ladies Day. On July 23rd a crowd of approximately 50 women from across the shire (and beyond!) gathered for a day of good company, great food and lots of activities. The Hell's Gate chef, Giovanna Slottje, provided an array of nibbles, hot foods and desserts for a High Tea event that included the addition of Giovanna's daughter Aislin, an artist from Brisbane, who conducted a 'Paint & Sip' art class. The attendees were able to take home their very own piece of artwork that they created under Aislin's guidance. The day also included an essential oils information session provided by Hell's Gate's very own 'Vibrant Health with Esther' who then led the ladies through creating their own essential oils blend to take home with them.

There was also a variety of pop up market stalls for a spot of shopping, an art auction in aid of the RFDS, an endless stream of delicious food and drink, with the day rolling into a Trivia Night that evening for those wishing to continue the fun after dark.

A huge thank you to Jenny Hays and her team at the roadhouse for bringing this beautiful day to fruition and to all the wonderful women who travelled to be here and make the day a huge success - we couldn't do it without your support! See you all again in 2023!



COMMUNITY

Burke Shire Represented at Qld Premier's Regional Community Forums

by Kylie Camp

The Queensland Government has held a suite of meetings and roundtables with community members across the state to help identify and address key priorities facing regional areas. Building on those conversations, the Regional Community Forums were created in 2019, supported by the Office for Rural and Regional Queensland, to strengthen partnerships with regional Queensland and to give those living in the regions greater access to government and better opportunities to influence government decision-making.

The Regional Community Forums bring locals, regional stakeholders and government representatives together each quarter to discuss local priorities and opportunities to strengthen regional economies and services, and consider what outcomes are most important to the community. The resulting conversations from the Forums will help to create and support regionally focused programs delivered with the community in mind. Each region determines at its first meeting 3-4 priority focus areas from which the forum will identify ways to overcome challenges and impediments and look at ways to redress the challenges and create opportunities.

Expressions of Interest to join the Forums were called for late last year and so I put in an EOI. I was fortunate to be chosen to represent Burke Shire at the North and North West Qld Region Forums over the next two years. There are six other regional forum groups and we all meet at the same time across the State.

The first forum was held in Townsville at the end of May and was an opportunity to meet the eighteen other community members from across the region as well as Ministers, Directors-General and other key representatives of government departments. Scott Stewart, Min for Resources, Charis Mullin, Assistant Min for Treasury and Di Farmer, Min for Employment and Small Business, Training and Skills Development will attend every forum as will the Forum Co-Chairs Aaron Harper and Les Walker, MP's for Thuringowa and Mundingburra respectively.

We participated in a workshop, as did every forum across Qld, as part of the State Government's development of its Workforce Strategy. We also spent considerable time brainstorming and thinktanking our way through issues/challenges and opportunities prevalent in our region before narrowing down all possibilities to four key areas. The key focus areas determined at this meeting, for progression over the next two years, are as follows:

- Regional Attraction and Retention
- Investment Bias/ Postcode Discrimination
- Delivery of Essential Services
- Childcare and Transport

The second forum was held in Charters Towers in early July with a focus on housing affordability and availability and the influence of postcode discrimination/investment bias on this. Unfortunately, due to illness I was unable to attend. From this forum, it has been decided we will break into working groups to inform, investigate and instigate potential solutions and actions between forum sessions.

If you would like to find out more about the forum or wish to chat about our focus areas I'd welcome you to contact me. Additionally, I also have opportunities to bring up other key issues with the Ministers and departmental representatives during the forum. Examples or case studies that support the issues raised are most valuable and I would appreciate hearing from anyone willing to provide their story.

Kylie Camp – 07 4748 5585



KAP RENEWS PUSH FOR TITLE DEED OVERHAUL

Katter's Australian Party Leader and Traeger MP Robbie Katter is recharging a five-point KAP policy which principally calls to address restrictive title deeds and allow Indigenous Queenslanders to build and own their own homes.

It comes as Gkuthaarn and Kukatj people in the Normanton region were granted freehold title over 155 hectares within 16,000 square kilometres of native title land, allowing them independence over housing and economic development.

Under native title, Indigenous people's rights and interests in land held under traditional custom were recognised by law, with little opportunity to control access to land.

"In the KAP, we believe in 'deeds, not words', and will continue calling on the Governments to act with deeds for our First Australians to improve the quality of life, employment and health outcomes for Indigenous communities," Mr Katter said.

He said the Indigenous Queenslanders who were granted freehold ownership were now hopeful of the growth of their communities and proud of what they could potentially achieve.

Mr Katter called on the Queensland Government to address convoluted and restrictive native title and land tenure laws, as well as provide Indigenous communities with adequate access to legal services to help navigate the process.

Addressing title deed issues to allow people to own their own home in communities like Doomadgee was one of the top priorities in the KAP's five-point policy to improve outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders, released in 2020.

The policy included: acting on youth crime by enacting Relocation Sentencing; improving the restrictive 'Blue Card' system to support more Indigenous Queenslanders into jobs;

controlling exorbitant food costs in communities; and addressing the failings of Alcohol Management Plans.

It complemented the KAP's Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill (or 'Blue Card Bill'), designed to support Indigenous people in accessing gainful employment and purpose, which was backed by communities and was currently being considered by the Queensland Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

In May, Mr Katter met with the Napranum, Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Councils, Napranum Local Justice Group and community members to discuss the Blue Card Bill.

"The community leaders I met with were enthusiastic about making changes to empower local people to work, boost their self-determination and make valuable contributions to their communities, and help solidify the family unit, which would go a long way in alleviating youth crime," he said.

"Simplifying the process of achieving freehold ownership of land would add a powerful element of independence to enable Indigenous communities to prosper."



COMMUNITY

Anzac Day at Gregory

Anzac Day 2022 at Gregory saw a large crowd gather at the cenotaph for the Dawn Service. The community was honoured to have in attendance Vietnam Veterans 7RAR and 1RAR 1967- 1968, Mr. John Nelson and Mr Russell Stafford (pictured).

The service included John reading The Ode, Russell laying a wreath for Vietnam veterans, the Last Post played beautifully on violin and the poem 'Mates' (by Rod Kenane, A Company Vietnam) recited.

The main address focused on the sinking of the Vyner Brooke after it left Singapore Harbour with evacuees. 64 Australian nurses were on board. Ladies of the community read the names of the 12 nurses who perished at sea, the 21 who were massacred on Radji Beach, the 8 who died as POWs and finally the 24 who returned to Australia. The Gregory community provided breakfast in the hall at the conclusion of the service.



Burketown CAG Represents Community Health in the North West

North West Qld Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) are locally based health groups comprised of community members, local Council, health, police and school staff as well as a broad range of health professionals and representatives from North West Hospital and Health Service (NWHHS). The Burketown CAG meets quarterly in Burketown in person and via Teams.

Local community members bring forward, to the wider group, issues – good and bad – that are affecting our community, they provide feedback on existing services as well as suggestions for improving health outcomes. Local health staff report on what is happening in health and at the local Clinic. NWHHS offer feedback and guidance on issues raised, take forward our ideas, as well as seeking our input on projects and programmes that they are, or are considering, undertaking.

Issues that our local CAG have tackled recently are flu vaccines for all community members given we have

no pharmacy to readily access them, dental care, ageing in place, RFDS airstrips information, regular allied health access, patient travel, health provision to Bidunggu and improving feedback on local health services. Some members participated in a workshop about assessing local health needs and also First Nations health equity consultations.

CAG members would love to hear from you about health – how you access it, can you access it, any shortfalls or gaps that aren't met and of course the positive experiences you have had in having your health needs met. Your input and information helps us advocate for the health needs of Burke Shire. Community members are – Katrina Rex, Tonya Murray, Jasmin Davis and Kylie Camp (CAG Chair). Please feel free to contact one of us and give your feedback.

North West Hospital and Health Service can also connect you with the Burketown CAG, please email: nwhhs.engagement@health.qld.gov.au

NEW BUSINESSES

Grant Finder Service

Grant Finder – RDA NWQ offers direct access to thousands of grants totalling around 70 billion dollars currently available in our region.

This site provides a comprehensive list of grants and funding opportunities which can be customised to suit your local business, community group, not-for-profit or project.

It's FREE to register to receive updates on grant opening and closing dates and new grant opportunities of value to you or your organisation.

Register now, and never miss another grant opportunity!

Register here: rdanwq.grantguru.com.au/register

Marc Adamson Plumbing

Marc comes from a family of plumbers in the Maclean region on the NSW North Coast.

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GET COOKING

One Pan Mexican Rice

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- ½ red onion, finely diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 capsicum, sliced
- 1 400g (14.1oz) tin black beans, rinsed
- 1 cup frozen corn kernels
- 1 tbsp sweet paprika
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 cup basmati rice, rinsed
- 1 ½ cups vegetable stock
- 1 400g (14.1oz) tin tomatoes
- 250 grams lean beef mince (optional)

To serve (all optional)

- 1 avocado, cubed
- ¼ cup sliced jalapenos, or chilli flakes
- ¼ bunch coriander, leaves picked
- Cheese of choice

Cooking steps:

STEP 1

Heat the olive oil in a non-stick pan over a medium heat. Add the red onion and garlic to pan. Season generously with sea salt and black pepper and sauté for 4 minutes or until the onion starts to soften.

STEP 2

Add the capsicum, black beans, frozen corn, sweet paprika and cumin to the pan. Sauté for 3 minutes or until the spices are fragrant. Add the rice, vegetable stock and tinned tomatoes and bring to the boil. Cover with a tight-fitting lid, reduce the heat and simmer for 20 minutes.

STEP 3

Turn the heat off and leave to rest for 10 minutes. Don't remove the lid. Allowing the rice to rest will ensure the rice is properly cooked.

STEP 4

If using mince, season and brown the mince.

STEP 5

Remove the lid of the rice and fluff the rice. Add browned mince. Add cheese if using. Top with your optional toppings - sour cream, avocado, jalapenos and coriander.



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:

September	Thursday 22
October	Thursday 27
November	Thursday 17
December	Thursday 08

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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.