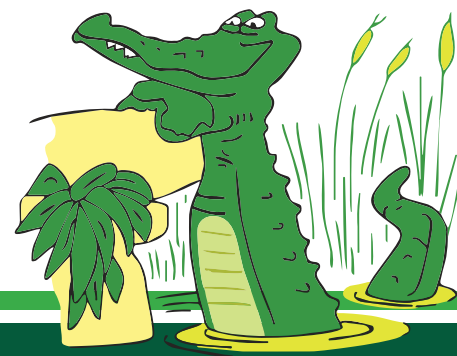


# Burke Shire Council NEWSLETTER



EDITION 61 : DECEMBER 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM *the Mayor*

A lot of water has gone under, over, through, up, down and around the bridge since I last wrote a newsletter article. It has been a challenging time for many in the Shire and for many individuals, businesses and, indeed, Council itself it will be years before a return to the norm is achieved.

Burke Shire LDMG and Council, supported by the DDMG in Mt Isa, undertook a tremendous task to rescue, evacuate, support and return those evacuated. With such a small workforce under immense pressure exacerbated by ever worsening flooding conditions, it was an amazing effort. Thanks must also go to all those outside Council and the LDMG who helped to rescue, evacuate, take care of pets left behind by those who evacuated, clean up and assist those who returned to re-enter their homes. Your generosity, compassion and willingness to step forward in a time of duress is to be commended and highlights to me why this is a great Shire - it's filled with great people doing great things for each other and the community. On behalf of Council and all of whom were assisted, including my family and myself, I offer my heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Cr Clarke, CEO Dan McKinlay and myself, accompanied by Doomadgee CEO Troy Frazer travelled to Canberra at the earliest possible opportunity post flood and Burke also travelled to Brisbane at a later date (with Cr Murray travelling as part of our delegation this time) to advocate fiercely for Federal (and State) support to redress the circumstances we have found ourselves in post flood including, but not limited to, the need to improve core infrastructure such as roads, energy and communications.

...Continued on next page

## *In this edition*

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.....	1 - 3
FLOOD RELIEF HOUSING.....	3
HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRECINCT UPDATE.....	4-5
DOOMADGEE EAST ROAD CULVERT UPGRADE.....	5
CONNECTIVITY BOOST FOR THE REGION.....	6
PROJECT UPDATES.....	7
WATER SYSTEMS UPGRADE.....	8
LINE MARKING IN THE SHIRE.....	9
YOUNG MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD.....	10
STATE SCHOOL GRADUATION.....	11
SADDLES AND PADDLES RACE MEETING.....	12-13
BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS.....	14
RECOVERY FUN DAYS.....	15
SENIORS DAY EVENT.....	16
AUSTRALIA DAY.....	17
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DASHBOARD.....	18
GET READY EVENT.....	19
FAREWELL TO MERV AND JEANIE.....	19
HORSE SPORTS & FAMILY FUN DAY.....	20
LDMG GEAR UP FOR WET SEASON.....	20
EMERGENCY ACTION GUIDE.....	21
MISOTA GREGORY MINISCHOOL.....	22
GET COOKING.....	23
COUNCIL INFORMATION.....	24



## A MESSAGE FROM the Mayor

...Continued from previous page

We need to enable a more timely reopening of our Shires to the outside world: bringing with it goods, services and people to enable us to sustain and grow our region as so many others take for granted whilst improving the health and safety of our residents too.

This blitz of meetings was accompanied by radio, newspaper and television interviews all seeking to tell of our reality and our wish for acknowledgement of our circumstances and the need to do better to minimise, going forward, the impacts caused by natural disasters.

Our Shires and region would only be too pleased to collaborate and cooperate to see an improvement of existing services and infrastructure. Unfortunately, those other levels of government by and large have not

heard our voice. We continue, at every opportunity, to reiterate the key points we made on those visits South and hope that they bloom in fertile ground. Next year is an election year so you never know.

Despite the challenging circumstances many found themselves in, community groups and their volunteer members stepped up and ran some fantastic local events this year – a most welcome boost to our social and mental health.

The next Wet is almost upon us and so I urge you to begin your preparations now. Please stay off the roads and don't cross flooding creeks and causeways during wet weather – as always, "if it's flooded, forget it!"

In closing, my family and I wish you and yours all the best for the festive season.



## A MESSAGE FROM the Mayor



## Temporary Housing for Flood-Affected Residents

In the wake of the recent floods that have significantly impacted homes in Burke Shire, an initiative has been put in place to ensure that those facing displacement find some sense of comfort and support during these challenging times.

Residents whose homes suffered substantial damage and are unable to return have been offered a lifeline through temporary accommodation. This initiative recognises the immediate need for shelter for those grappling with the aftermath of the floods.

In a response to the housing crisis, caravans were deployed in late July, followed by the construction of cyclone-rated portable dongas on-site. This initiative extends its support to residents in Burketown and rural properties, ensuring a secure place to call home until early 2024. Local contractors within the shire played a crucial role in expediting donga installations.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has been instrumental in funding this vital initiative through the Counter Disaster Operations (CDO) Funding stream.

As residents rebuild their lives, this gesture provides a stable foundation for facing the challenges ahead.





# PROJECTS UPDATE

## Health and Wellbeing Precinct: Shaping a Vibrant Future

In the heart of Burketown, an ambitious project is underway to enhance our community's health and recreational facilities—the Burketown Health and Wellbeing Precinct. This proposed development, situated southwest of the Council Administration Office on the corner of Burke St and Sloman St, aims to elevate the quality, safety, and accessibility of our recreational spaces.

Council, in collaboration with a Consultant Designer, has crafted a master plan that envisions a transformed recreational hub. The existing site features a sports court (basketball/tennis) and a gym. To add more diverse recreational opportunities, the master plan

introduces exciting additions, including a 6-lane 25-metre swimming pool and a vibrant Splash Park.

The Burketown State School played host to an engaging community consultation event on February 14, 2023, where the future of the Health Precinct's water park was shaped by none other than the children themselves.

Council representatives, Kimberly Chan, Jenny Harders, and Shannon Moren, met with the children to discuss the theme and colour scheme for the water park. The children, buzzing with creativity, generated four exciting themes: barramundi, crocodiles, turtles, and dinosaurs. Dividing into groups, they further developed their ideas, crafting imaginative drawings that captured their vision.

Names for the water park were also proposed, ranging from the adventurous "Burketown Wildest Water Park" to the playful "Wet & Wilder." The children's enthusiasm and creativity during the consultation were truly inspiring.

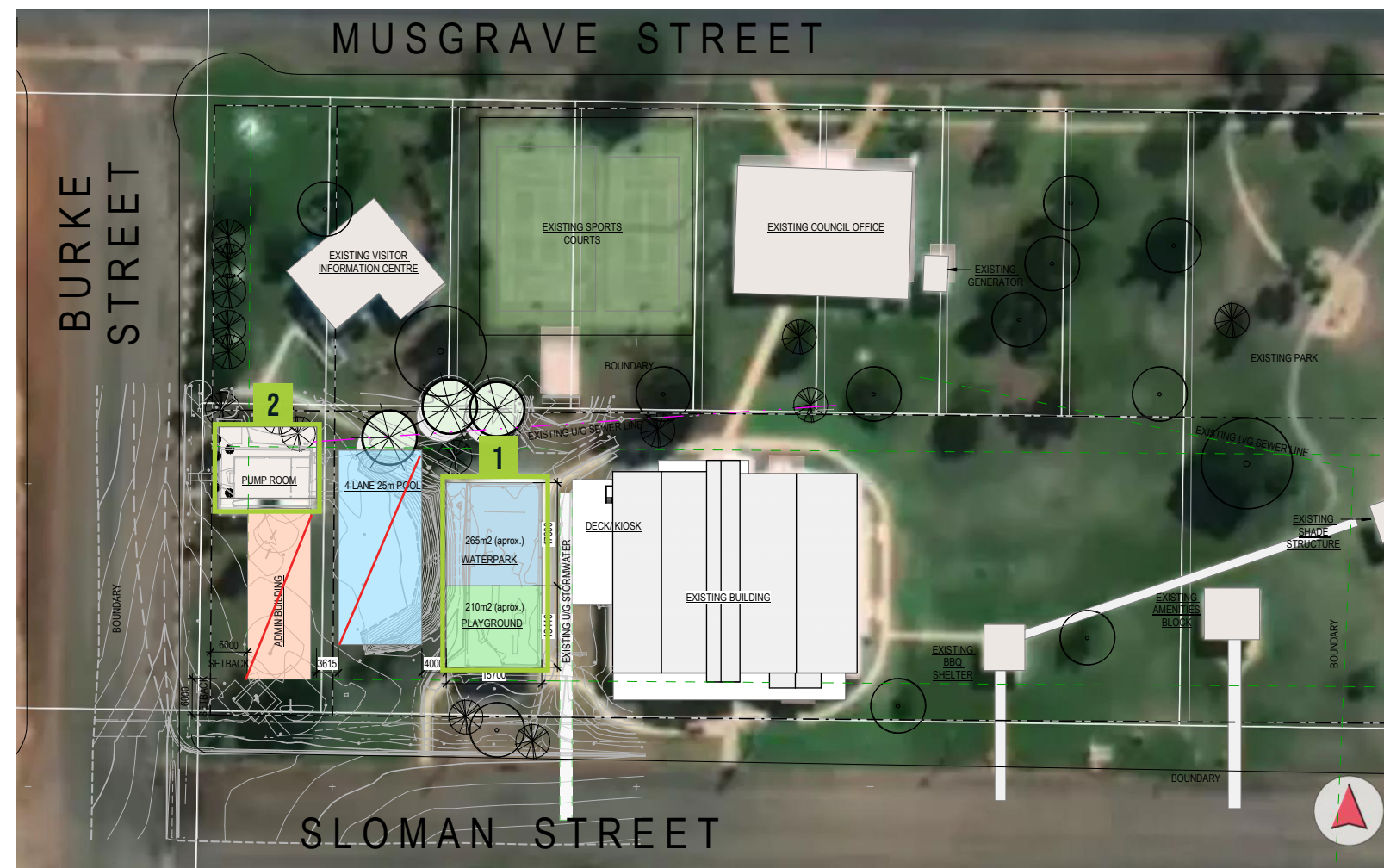
While the design is in its early stages, the Health Precinct promises to transform Burketown into a standout destination in the Gulf. The envisioned facilities, including the Splash Park, Playground, Shade Structure, Security Lighting, and Plant Room, aim to create a dynamic community space.

Council is actively seeking external funds for Stage 1, focusing on the construction of the Splash Park & Playground. Additionally, plans are underway to engage qualified contractors for the Design and Construction (D&C) of Stage 1. This crucial phase will set the groundwork for a community facility that aligns with our collective vision for a healthier and more vibrant Burketown.

As we look forward to the unfolding chapters of this exciting project, stay tuned for updates on the transformation of Burketown's Health and Wellbeing Precinct. Together, we are shaping a brighter and healthier future for our community.



# PROJECTS UPDATE



SELECTED HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRECINCT SITE AND MASTER PLAN DEPICTING STAGE 1 AND STAGE 2

## Culvert Upgrade Completed at Doomadgee East Road

At Doomadgee East Road, Culvert 15A underwent a transformative upgrade to bolster stormwater drainage. The project included the construction of a reinforced concrete box culvert and elevating the road level for improved resilience. With a total investment of \$870,000, encompassing the culvert and 112 metres of raised road pavement, funding from DTMR ATSI TIDS (2022/23 and 2023/24) was instrumental. We're pleased to announce that the project has reached practical completion, achieving a 100% success rate in fortifying our infrastructure.





## PROJECTS UPDATE

### Connectivity Boost for Burketown and Normanton

Great news for Burketown and Normanton communities! The Burketown and Normanton-Kennedy project is set to deploy 226 km of fibre optic cable, creating a vital link between these Northwest Queensland areas. This initiative aims to establish a fibre loop encompassing Northwest Queensland, providing additional network redundancy to 780,000 residents across 15 Local Government Areas.

The project's main goal is to ensure reliable communication for 66 percent of Queensland by offering multiple paths for connectivity. This redundancy is crucial for maintaining uninterrupted communication among communities, businesses, and emergency services, ensuring connectivity even during disruptions.

Beyond improved connectivity, the introduction of fibre optic infrastructure is poised to stimulate economic growth. Businesses, especially those reliant on data communication, will benefit from faster, more reliable internet connections. This development could lead to the emergence of new industries, increased investment and job opportunities in the region.

Enhancing network resiliency, the project plays a vital role in disaster preparedness. In the face of natural disasters like cyclones or floods, a resilient communication network becomes a lifeline. The deployment of fibre optic cable is a significant step forward in strengthening the region's ability to respond and recover from such events, supporting emergency services and relief organisations.

In summary, the Burketown and Normanton-Kennedy project is a substantial development for the serviced communities. With fibre optic deployment and supporting infrastructure, the initiative provides additional network redundancy and resilience to a significant portion of Queensland. This will benefit numerous Queenslanders, improving connectivity, fostering economic growth, and enhancing disaster preparedness in the region. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact this project will have on Burketown, Normanton, and the surrounding areas. The build for this fibre backhaul line is estimated to commence in April 2024. Stay tuned for further updates!

### Clean Sweep Complete!

Thanks to the assistance of Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council and their new street sweeper, our urban area's kerbs and channels have received a thorough cleaning. This ensures optimal drainage flow, especially during rainy days. A big thank you to Doomadgee for their invaluable support! The operators from Doomadgee will use this experience as further training on the new equipment.



## PROJECTS UPDATE

### Revitalising the Albert River: Wharf Precinct Update

Exciting transformations are on the horizon as we embark on the creation of a vibrant community space along the scenic banks of the Albert River. The \$1.3 million project, a collaborative venture funded by Council, Works for Queensland (W4Q), and the Mental Health Package, is poised to bring a refreshing change to the area.



Stage 1, encompassing picnic shelters, an amenity block, landscaping, lighting, surface treatments, a car park, and potentially a playground with a shade structure, has progressed to the tendering phase after completing detailed design work. Anticipated to commence post-wet season, the project is slated for completion in two to three months. Pictured are indicative views of the Wharf Precinct, Stage 1.

### Completion of Burketown Aerodrome Fence Relocation

Ensuring the safety of our skies, the Burketown Aerodrome Fence Relocation project is now successfully concluded. With a focus on enhancing safety measures, the initiative involved the removal of 81 metres of the old fence, making way for the construction of a robust 91-metre section at the northeast end of the runway. Jointly funded by the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program (RAUP) Round 9 and Council, the project reached a 100% completion milestone, contributing to a total cost of \$151,000. This marks a significant step toward fortifying safety protocols at the Burketown Aerodrome.





# PROJECTS UPDATE

## Empowering Efficiency: Automation Upgrade for Water Systems

In a significant stride toward modernization, Council is embarking on a transformative project to automate its Water and Wastewater systems. This comprehensive initiative involves upgrading the water intake points in Burketown and Gregory, along with a full-scale enhancement of the Gregory and Burketown Water Treatment Plants.

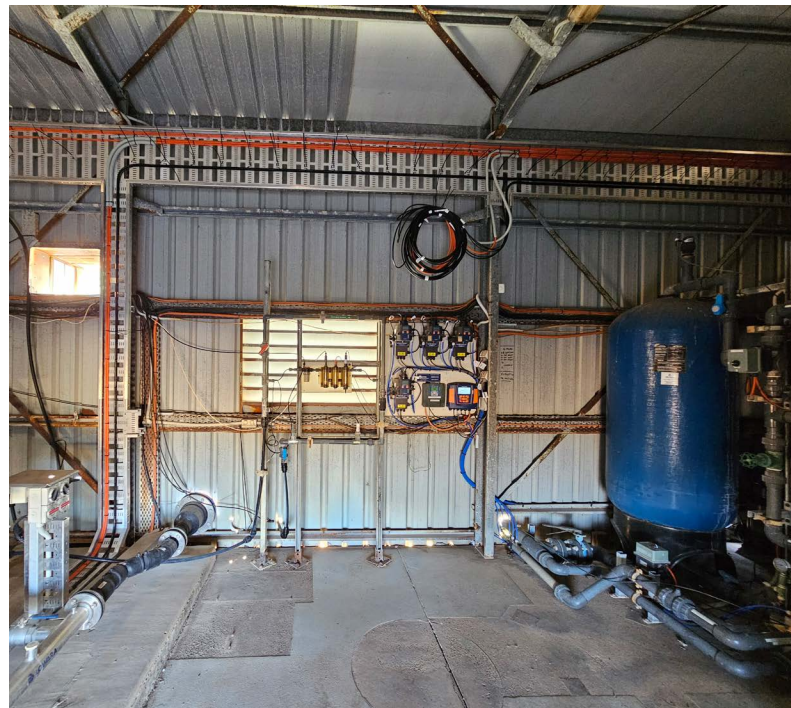
The primary objective of the project is to establish a cutting-edge system that allows for remote monitoring and operation of the Council's Water and Wastewater facilities. This shift toward automation promises heightened operational efficiency, minimises potential disruptions, and ensures prompt alerts in case of faults or issues within the system.

The upgrades at the intake points and Water Treatment Plants' mark a crucial step toward a more sustainable water supply for the community. The revamped system introduces constant automated water quality monitoring, facilitating early detection and swift rectification of any defects or issues.

This ambitious project is part of a holistic approach, coupled with two additional endeavours—the Water Source Inflow Upgrade (Gregory & Burketown) and SCADA Upgrade Projects. The combined budget for these three projects is set at \$2.6 million.

To bring this vision to fruition, a Design and Construct (D&C) Contractor has been engaged. The contractor has already completed the design phase of the Burketown Water Treatment Plant upgrade, upgraded water intake points and pumps, and enhanced the Gregory Water Treatment Plant, with the exception of the raw water storage system.

With a planned completion timeline within this financial year, Council is committed to ushering in a new era of efficiency and reliability in its Water and Wastewater infrastructure.



## Line Marking Transform Streets and Gregory Airstrip

In a visual transformation, fresh lines now grace the streets of Gregory and Burketown, adding both clarity and vibrancy to the community. Completed in November, this project has defined parking and refuelling bays outside the Gregory Downs Hotel and brought renewed visibility and safety to Burketown's give-way intersections. The vibrant centerline on Musgrave Street and the crisp, white lines defining wharf parking bays contribute to a more organised and visually appealing streetscape. This comprehensive line marking initiative enhances both aesthetics and safety on Burke Shire roads.

The safety and efficiency of aerial operations at Gregory Airstrip also received a significant boost through a successful line-marking makeover. Completed as part of a comprehensive repainting initiative, the project addressed badly faded line markings, ensuring optimal visibility—especially critical during Royal Flying Doctors (RFDS) landings. Meticulously marked runways and aprons represent a renewed commitment to safety, marking a noteworthy milestone for Gregory Airstrip and ensuring the continued safety of RFDS operations in the region.



## Transformative Progress at Archie/Dinner Creek

Works on elevating Gregory Lawn Hill Road for rainy season accessibility and enhancing sight distance has progressed throughout the year. This \$5M initiative, funded through TIDS, R2R, PACP, and Council, progresses with significant advancements. The focus now shifts to concluding earthworks and pavement construction, bringing us closer to the targeted project completion date of mid-December 2023.





## COMMUNITY events

### Madison Marshall: Burke Shire's 2023 Young Manager of the Year

We're excited to share that Madison Marshall from Burke Shire Council is the Local Government Managers Association (LGMA) 2023 Young Manager of the Year. Madison joined Council in 2011, starting as a trainee and progressing to her current role as Corporate Services and Governance Manager.

Madison's commitment to community extends beyond her council duties. Her involvement with the Burketown SES and Rural Fire Brigade highlights her dedication to community safety. As a member of the Disaster Management Team, Madison made substantial improvements to evacuation plans during the recent flooding event, showcasing her ability to lead in high-pressure situations. A supportive leader and advocate for staff development, Madison prioritises qualifications for her team. Her eagerness to learn and question the status quo allows her to critically analyse practices and identify opportunities for improvement.

Madison's well-deserved recognition includes her name on the perpetual trophy alongside other talented local government officers and a \$1,500 grant for professional development. As the 2023 Young Manager of the Year, Madison exemplifies professionalism, ethics, and a unique strength of character, making her a true asset to Burke Shire Council and the community.



### 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, 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.



**SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN**

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.

## COMMUNITY events

### Class of 2023 Shines at Burketown State School Graduation

On Wednesday 29 November, the Burketown State School celebrated the graduation of Grade 6 student Kimberly Martin. Having spent her entire primary school journey at Burketown State School, Kimberly was honoured with the prestigious Dux award and received her well-deserved graduation certificate. The Burke Shire Council extended their congratulations by gifting Kimberly a Young Ambassador pack filled with essential items donated by the Burke Shire Community, preparing her for the exciting transition to secondary school next year.

Rioli Nelson and Holly Wilson achieved a notable milestone by graduating from kindergarten at the Burketown Community Hub and Childcare Centre.

Principal Chris Ford had the honour of presenting student awards, including an attendance award recognising the highest percentage of school attendance days—an outstanding 97%, a record-breaking achievement not seen in the school for a decade.

The graduation ceremony unfolded on the new student lounge, where the beaming students gathered for a group photo, capturing the joyous spirit of this significant achievement.



#### 2023 Young Ambassador Program pack sponsors:

A massive thank you to the following sponsors, without your support this program would not be possible:

- Almora Station
- Burketown Caravan Park
- Burketown Post Office
- Clinton and Tonya Murray
- Floraville Downs Station
- Morning Glory Restaurant
- Nowland Engineering
- Northlane
- Savannah Aviation & Lodge
- Tirranna Springs Roadhouse





# COMMUNITY

## Reviving the Spirit: Gregory Downs Jockey Club's Triumph in 2023 Saddles and Paddles Race Meeting

After the disappointment of cancelling the horse racing in 2022 due to a wet track the Gregory Downs Jockey Club pondered if they would have the time and energy to prepare the grounds after the flooding event of 2023.

The club felt the community would benefit from a get-together and went into action preparing for the annual Saddles and Paddles Race Meeting conducted on the 29th of April. Volunteers, some travelling long distances to help whipper-snipped, mowed, cleaned and repaired. The main priority of any race-meeting is the racetrack. The grader went to work, and many were seen walking the track making sure it was safe for horses and jockeys.

The GDJC was disappointed for their North-West Canoe Club friends who despite many months of preparation had to cancel the canoe marathon due to river conditions.

Race day arrived and all the hard work paid off with a happy crowd enjoying the six race card. Between races Fashions on the Field was conducted and the children enjoyed some races. After the races The Gregory Gift foot races was conducted. One local commented that there was more cheering for this event than the six horse races. Dinner and live-music finished off the day.

The GDJC would thank to thank all sponsors and volunteers for their support. Thanks to the Burke Shire Council for again supporting this important event in the NWQ calendar.

### Winners of the races were:

#### **BRODIE & CO BENCHMARK 50 Handicap (800 METRES)**

EXPLOSIVE GIRL

Trainer: S Royes Jockey: D Sparks

#### **CUSTOM STEEL FAB / KEVIN MALONE MEMORIAL QTIS Maiden Plate (1150 METRES)**

MORE THAN VENICE

Trainer: D. Ballard Jockey: K. Ballard

#### **NIVERAK SMASH REPAIRS / DIAMOND HELICOPTERS Class 6 Plate (1150 METRES)**

THERESABEARINTHERE

Trainer: J. Bawden Jockey: J. Baker

#### **CLEMMENTS ELECTRICAL Class B Handicap (1300 METRES)**

ROYAL TONIC

Trainer: K. Krogh Jockey: J. Babarovich

#### **BURKE SHIRE CUP OPEN HANDICAP (1300 METRES)**

DANAWI

Trainer: T. Parry Jockey: T. Hill

#### **ALMORA STATION BENCHMARK 55 Handicap (1500 METRES)**

ALL AT SEA

Trainer: T. Parry Jockey: K. Ballard

# COMMUNITY



**BRODIE & CO BENCHMARK 50 Handicap (800 M)**  
EXPLOSIVE GIRL - Trainer: S Royes Jockey: D Sparks



**NIVERAK SMASH REPAIRS / DIAMOND HELICOPTERS Class 6 Plate (1150 M) | THERESABEARINTHERE**  
- Trainer: J. Bawden Jockey: J. Baker



**CLEMMENTS ELECTRICAL Class B Handicap (1300 M)**  
ROYAL TONIC - Trainer: K. Krogh Jockey: J. Babarovich



**BURKE SHIRE CUP OPEN HANDICAP (1300 M)**  
DANAWI - Trainer: T. Parry Jockey: T. Hill





# COMMUNITY

## Burke Shire's Resilience and Progress: Budget Highlights

Our Shire, alongside the rest of Australia, endured severe impacts from massive monsoonal flooding in February/March 2023. The aftermath caused record-breaking damage, and a full recovery is expected to span several years.

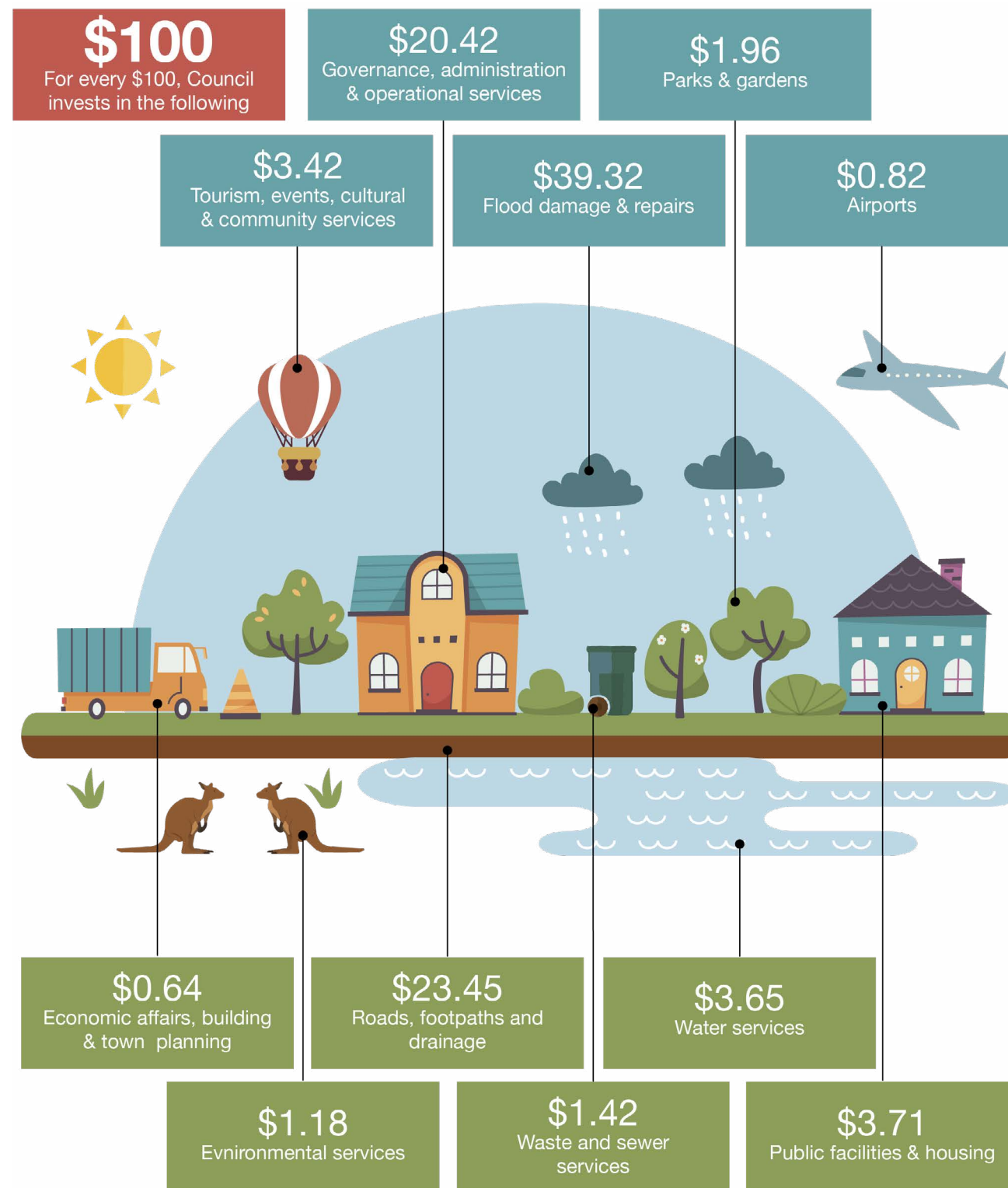
Financial sustainability remains a challenge for smaller councils like Burke. Relying heavily on Federal and State grant funding, Council has embraced innovation and responsible fiscal management. Over the past three years, a focus on financial sustainability has yielded positive results, with funded depreciation rising from 4% in 2021/2022 to 40% in 2023/2024, totaling \$2,390,965 for capital expenditure.

Council's Federal Assistance Grant has also increased, from \$4.754 million in 2022/2023 to \$6.330 million in 2023/2024, contributing to future sustainability despite inflationary challenges, supply chain issues, and labour shortages.

The 3.5% rate increase in this year's budget, conservative compared to other Councils, ensures pensioners continue to receive a 20% rate concession. With a capital budget of \$22.785 million, including crucial road repairs post-flooding, Council aims to secure grant funding for 79.9% of these projects to maintain operational sustainability.

Key projects, such as the Health and Wellbeing Precinct and Children's Water Park in Burketown, align with Council's vision for a stronger, more resilient Shire. The Housing Strategy, divesting housing stock to staff, empowers the local economy and promotes communal sustainability.

In summary, this budget addresses the financial pressures faced by communities, aiming to build a more liveable, resilient, and accessible Shire.



# COMMUNITY *events*

## Bouncing Back: Community Recovery Fun Days

In a bid to uplift spirits post the March 2023 Flooding event, Burke Shire Council, in collaboration with Cannington Mine, orchestrated two days of Community Recovery Fun in Burketown and Gregory on the 9th and 10th of June. The event proved to be a resounding success, offering a much-needed respite for residents and a chance to reconnect with friends and family.

The days were full of activities for young and old! There was a monster water slide (for kids and adults game enough to take it on), massages, haircuts, mini health checks, arts and crafts, food, mental health support, face painting and raffle draws. A great time was had by all and it was good to see everyone having a much needed break.

Each day concluded with a fiery whip-cracking performance by 'Walter Whip,' an Australia's Got Talent performer.

A massive thank you to Cannington Mine, Derek from Basement Barber, the staff from the Burketown Health Centre, Denise from TRAIC and the many volunteers and staff who made this rejuvenating event possible.





## COMMUNITY events

### Seniors Day Blossoms in Burketown

On the vibrant morning of Thursday 26 October, Burketown's Nijinda Durlga Hall buzzed with activity as eight seniors kicked off the annual Seniors Day event. Made possible by the Council of the Aging, this day proved to be a delightful blend of creativity, community, and connection.

The seniors' first project involved assembling and customising plastic planter boxes. With wheels attached, the participants sprayed their creations with undercoat, adding stencils and vibrant colours to personalise their designs. The atmosphere was lively with conversations and mutual assistance, creating a sense of camaraderie among the seniors.



Morning tea, graciously provided by the local bakery, offered a delightful pause at 10:30 am. Seniors indulged in an assortment of cakes and coffee, mingling and savouring the moment. After the break, the seniors filled their planters with potting mix and headed to the breezeway to select seedlings. The outdoor setting provided a platform for discussions on gardening preferences, protection strategies from chooks and bugs, and home gardening anecdotes.

Back inside, the seniors potted their selected seedlings, adding mulch to enhance moisture retention. A group photo captured the diverse and colourful array of completed planter box designs.

Lunch, served at 12:30 pm, marked the arrival of the local Community Hub and Childcare. The energy heightened as school children and teachers joined, interacting with seniors and council members. The afternoon unfolded with seniors filling out surveys, expressing their enjoyment, and eagerly anticipating the next community event at Christmas.

As the children arrived, the room transformed into a hub of creativity with a craft and potting program. Divided into two groups, children decorated recycled milk container butterflies and designed painted ceramic pots. The collaboration between seniors and children added an extra layer of community bonding. The joyous room echoed with the laughter of proud children showcasing their creations.

Principal Chris Ford commended the event, expressing how much the children enjoyed the workshop and lunch. Coordinator Taren from Burketown Community Hub and Childcare extended gratitude for the invitation, emphasising the positive impact of connecting with Burketown's senior residents.

Seniors Day in Burketown was a testament to the enriching power of community engagement, fostering creativity, and creating lasting connections across generations.

## COMMUNITY events

### Australia Day Awards Ceremony in Gregory

The annual Australia Day Awards ceremony was held at the Gregory Downs Hotel on 26 January 2023. The event was well-attended by members of the Gregory community who shared a delicious BBQ lunch provided by the Gregory Downs Hotel after the awards.

A much larger event was planned for the day at the racetrack with the traditional game of cricket, a cooking competition and the water slide however due to some much-appreciated rain and rising flood levels the event was scaled down. None the less it was still a fabulous day! The event brought people together to celebrate the achievements of their fellow residents and to reflect on the strong sense of community that exists in the area. The awards ceremony was a testament to the hard work and dedication of those who have made a positive impact on the community, and serves as an inspiration for others to continue to do the same.

A big congratulations to our Award Recipients:

Gregory Downs Jockey Club, Saddles and Paddles

Community Event of the year

Award accepted by life members Bev and Allan Webber

Community Champions

Bec and Marty Dixon

Ongoing support and contribution to the Shire

Young Community Champions

Lelany King

For her outstanding sporting achievements

(Award accepted by Claudette as Lelany was unavailable due to school commitments)



Bev and Allan Webber



Claudette King accepting on behalf of Lelany King



Rebecca and Martin Dixon



## BURKE SHIRE

## Emergency Management Dashboard

### What is the Emergency Management Dashboard?

Emergency Dashboards are used to provide important information to support local communities during and after disaster events. Emergency dashboards include information about: emergency evacuations; river heights; road conditions and closures; power and phone outages; and helpful contacts.

**STAY INFORMED!**

### How can I access the Burke Shire Emergency Management Dashboard?

On the Burke Shire Council website click the Emergency Management Dashboard icon or go to [www.emergency.burke.qld.gov.au](http://www.emergency.burke.qld.gov.au)



### What can I find on the Emergency Management Dashboard?

- Emergency News
- Weather Warnings
- Road Conditions including local road conditions
- The Burke Shire Emergency Action Guide
- Flood Cameras
- Emergency Contacts
- ABC Radio Link

**PLUS HEAPS MORE!**

Emergency News	Weather Warning Last updated 5 minutes ago	Road Conditions Last updated a few seconds ago	Burke Shire Emergency Action Guide
Local Road Report			
Get Ready Burke Shire	Local Disaster Group Plan	Flood Cameras	Pets & Animals
Emergency Contacts	Weather Radar (BoM)	River Heights	Listen to ABC North West 96.3

### Get in Touch with Us!



office@burke.qld.gov.au  
 (07) 4745 5100  
 www.burke.qld.gov.au  
 https://www.facebook.com/BurkeShireCouncil

To join Burke Shire's Notices Distribution list for all local public notice updates and community updates please email your interest to office@burke.qld.gov.au

## COMMUNITY events

### Get Ready: An Evening of Preparedness and Engagement

The Burke Shire community came together on the evening of Tuesday 14 November at the Nijinda Durlga Hall for the annual Get Ready Burketown event. A gathering of 50 people marked this crucial occasion aimed at enhancing community preparedness.

One of the highlights of the evening was the launch of the Burke Shire Emergency Dashboard. Patrons provided positive feedback, emphasising its user-friendly interface and practicality.



The event featured insightful talks from distinguished speakers in the emergency services sector:

- Shane Hopton, Rural Fire Services Area Manager
- Elliot Dunn, Emergency Management Coordinator
- Kevin Anderson, Local RFB Member
- Sandra Bettles, Burketown Health Centre A/DON Nurse Practitioner
- Braden Daly, Local QPS Officer

Attendees were automatically entered into a lucky door competition, with two fortunate winners walking away with emergency evacuation packs stocked with essential items. Additionally, everyone received a distinctive orange Get Ready Burketown bag containing up-to-date information, a small handheld radio, document holders, note pads, and pen packs—a valuable resource in case of emergency.

The evening concluded on a delightful note with a delicious BBQ dinner, fostering community spirit and emphasising the importance of being prepared for any unforeseen events. The success of Get Ready Burketown 2023 is a testament to the community's commitment to safety and preparedness.

### Farewell to Merv and Jeanie

The Gregory community came together to farewell Merv Bird and Jeanie Fraser in December last year.

It was fitting to gather at the Tim O'Leary Health Clinic on R.F.D.S Day. Merv, for many years, has been a wonderful supporter of the clinic and community. He has started the generator to supply power, set the clinic up for the day and collected and returned the R.F.D.S staff to the plane. Often Merv was called upon to help with medical evacuations.

Dr. Don Bowley made a special appearance via zoom to thank Merv on behalf of the R.F.D.S and wish him and Jeanie good luck. Presentations were made by R.F.D.S Doctor Shaun and the Gregory CWA's Bev Webber.



Morning Tea was enjoyed by all, with Nurse Neridah bringing out Merv's favourite cream buns. The Gregory Community thank Merv and wish him and Jeanie all the best in their new homes.



COMMUNITY  
*events*

QCWA Gregory Branch – Horse Sports & Family Fun Day

For over fifty years the Gregory C.W.A has conducted their Horse Sports and Family Fun Day. On the 23rd of September the event was conducted with over 100 people in attendance.

It was great to see about 50 competitors participate in the Horse Sports. The prizes were shared but the stand-out competitor was Aidan Munchenberg from Gregory Downs Station in the Gents division.

The weather was kinder this year which was a bonus for the Track and Field events. The Broom Throw was again keenly contested with Lorraine Station producing both gents and lady’s winners, Lachlan and Tanya.

Our branch would like to thank the Burke Shire Council for their continued support of our event.

Reflecting on Lessons Learned: Burke Shire Local Disaster Management Group Gears Up for the Wet Season

In a crucial gathering held in November, the Burke Shire Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) convened to analyse the impact of the major monsoonal flood that struck the Shire in early March. Building on insights shared during a public meeting, the LDMG engaged in a comprehensive debrief on the extensive flood event, where record river flood levels were observed in some areas.

The meeting facilitated discussions on both successful strategies and areas that required improvement, fostering valuable learning lessons for the future. Notably, the LDMG assembled a detailed checklist in anticipation of the upcoming wet season, emphasising proactive measures and preparedness. Additionally, the Local Disaster Management Plan underwent a thorough review, laying the

groundwork for its readoption by the Council. This collaborative effort ensures the community is better equipped to navigate potential challenges in the times ahead.



BURKE SHIRE  
*Council*

EMERGENCY  
ACTION GUIDE

FREE COPY  
AVAILABLE FROM:  
COUNCILS OFFICE  
COUNCILS WEBSITE



THIS GUIDE WILL HELP YOU:

- Prepare your Emergency Plan
- Prepare your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit
- Prepare your family, pets, home, yard and belongings - before, during and after a disaster
- Find information during a disaster
- Understand the risk and likelihood of disasters within your community



# COMMUNITY

## MISOTA Gregory Minischool

By Sam Butterworth

Another great Mount Isa School of the Air Minischool was had at Gregory last year in August. Yet again the Gregory Jockey Club and CWA Hall facilities was transformed into an amazing school grounds for over 25 remote distance education students from all over the region.

The children enjoyed engaging in classroom learning, art lessons, sports activities, and a dress up and disco night with their teachers and school mates. Graduation night saw four of the MISOTA students graduate from Year 6. There was also an exciting visit from some of the local crocodiles thanks to the CLCAC Rangers.



A big thank you to the Burke Shire Council, Paraway Pastoral, QCWA Gregory Branch and all the local community members of Gregory and Burketown that supported this memorable event.



**BURKE  
HAPPY  
SNAPS**



### JOIN US AT BURKE HAPPY SNAPS

BURKE SHIRE COUNCIL HAS CREATED A FACEBOOK GROUP FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO SHARE PICTURES OF OUR SHIRE. WE WOULD LOVE IT IF YOU COULD POST PHOTOS TO THE PAGE AND SHARE THE PAGE WITH OTHERS. [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/BURKEHAPPYSNAPS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/BURKEHAPPYSNAPS)

# GET COOKING

## Thai Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce

BY WENDY VAN DER WOLF

### Marinade for chicken

- 500g chicken thighs cut into small pieces
- 1/4 can of coconut milk
- 1 tbsp curry powder
- 1 tsp white sugar
- 2 tsp red curry paste
- 1 tsp salt

Mix all ingredients in a bowl or plastic bag, add chicken and marinade for at least 1 hour or overnight.

Thread chicken onto skewers and cook on BBQ, grill or stove. Soak Skewers for 2 hours if cooking on BBQ.

### Sate sauce

- 3/4 can of coconut milk (rest of opened can)
- 2 tbsp red curry paste
- 3/4 cup (180g) natural peanut butter
- 1/4 cup (50g) white sugar
- 2 tsp soy sauce (preferably dark soy)
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp cider vinegar (or plain white)
- 3/4 cup (185ml) water

Add all ingredients into a pan on medium heat. Stir ingredients together and simmer to form a thick sauce. Add water if the sauce is too thick.

### Pickled cucumber:

Slice cucumber.  
Mix together 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar and 2 tsp of white sugar.  
Pour over cucumber and toss to coat.



### To serve

Serve with jasmine rice cooked according to package instructions.

Optional extras:

- Fresh chilli
- Coriander
- Crushed roasted peanuts



# COUNCIL INFORMATION

## Information On Our Website

Burke Shire Council Website  
[www.burke.qld.gov.au](http://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	Thursday 25
February	Thursday 22
March	Thursday 7
April	Thursday 18

## Follow us!



[www.facebook.com/BurkeShireCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/BurkeShireCouncil)



[www.linkedin.com/company/BurkeShireCouncil](http://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.