



BURKE SHIRE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Edition 1 for December 2005 / January 2006
(Issued on 1 December 2005)

Welcome to the first publication of the Burke Shire Council Newsletter. We hope this will be a regular publication issued every two months informing you of all the events/happenings within the Shire, Council and Community. The next newsletter will be published at the beginning of February 2006, if you have any community news or events you wish to include in the next issue please give your details to Cheryl Portch at the Council by mid January 2006. We hope you enjoy our newsletter and we welcome all feedback. All correspondence regarding this newsletter can be addressed to Cheryl Portch at the Council Office.

Key Council Dates

Pre Cyclone Cleanup - Burketown	6/12/2005
Pre Cyclone Cleanup - Gregory	8/12/2005
Council Meetings	15/12/2005 & 19/1/2006
Council Christmas/New Year Shutdown	17/12/2005 – 2/1/2006
Nominations close for Australia Day Awards	9/1/2006
Australia Day BBQ (subject to weather)	26/1/2006
2005/06 Rates Notices Issued	12/12/2005
2005/06 Rates Discount Due Date	11/1/2006

CURRENT PUBLIC NOTICES

All public notices are displayed at Nowlands, Burketown Post Office, Burketown Pub, Burketown Health Centre, Gregory Downs Hotel and the Council Office.

Preseason Cyclone Cleanup
Calico Bag Give Away
2006 Australia Day Awards Nominations
Council Meeting Dates for 2006



RANGER'S REVIEW



Now the mosquito season is fast approaching and with the disease risks mosquitoes can bring we (the council and residents) now need to be vigilant and have in place a mosquito control strategy. Local government authorities are responsible for the control and management of mosquitoes in their area but receive no Government funding to provide this service therefore all costs of mosquito control are directly funded by Council. An effective local mosquito control strategy combines a variety of methods which will reduce mosquito-borne disease risk and mosquito numbers, with minimal impact on the environment at large and in the most cost effective manner for residents of the Shire.

Burke Shire Council's Mosquito Management Strategy

Burke Shire uses two direct mosquito control methods:-

Larvicide or mosquito growth regulator. This comes in the form of briquettes inserted inside an onion bag suspended in the water so the briquette does not get covered by mud or vegetable matter and will last for 150 days (it is too cost prohibitive to treat large bodies of water). Larvicides used by the Burke Shire are specific for mosquitoes and have a minimal impact on the environment; they target and kill the mosquito larvae before they can develop into adult mosquitoes (these Briquettes have been now been approved by the Queensland Health to be inserted into drinking (rain) water tanks to control mosquito larvae).

Thermal fogging – Mosquito Adulticide. A thermal fogger is used to distribute a mix of adulticide and diesel into a fog medium to control adult mosquitoes. This adulticide is effective in the control of mosquitoes but is very expensive and labour intensive to administer.

Some disadvantages of using an adulticide are:

- Treatments are not specific for mosquitoes so non target insects can be effected (that's why we fog before dawn when these insects are not active).
- Treatments may need to be repeated at short intervals.
- For maximum effect treatments have to be precisely timed to the mosquitoes active period.
- For maximum effect treatments have to be made when winds are light and when air temperature inversion occurs, usually dusk and dawn.
- Equipment used to generate large volumes of insecticidal fog is expensive.

These services are available to Rural Properties on request.

Residents Control Strategy – what you the householder can do!

Mosquitoes need water to breed – get rid of surplus water and you may eliminate the problem. Any receptacle that can hold water should be drained. Animal water dishes should be emptied and cleaned regularly. Drain saucers under pot plants – have sand in them or do away with saucers during mosquito problem periods. Store old tyres so they can't hold water. Keep roof guttering in good repair and clear of leaves. If there is a water tank, make sure it is securely screened with mosquito mesh. If there is fish pond, make sure it is well stocked, preferably with native fish. If there is a bird bath, make sure it is drained and cleaned at least once a week. Ensure household insect screens fit tightly and are in good repair. If outside after dark use an insect repellent containing DEET.

Morning Glory Park Redevelopment

The Morning Glory Park development has been what may appear to the passer by as progressing slowly but a lot of the ground work has been completed and equipment has been purchased and we are only waiting for the Council crews to become available to install. Listed below are some of the activities that have been initiated:-

- New automatic sprinkler system installed into the new section of the park and a new sprinkler control system and an upgrade of sprinklers has been installed into the old section of the park, the park grass is already starting to show the results of having a competent watering system.
- Lighting was restored to the old park picnic shelter and toilet block
- The old army depot carport will be painted over the wet and will become an additional shaded picnic shelter.
- The park toilet block will also receive a much needed coat of paint.
- Footpaths are complete.
- Fencing around the Council office and house is now complete.

The following items have been purchased and are in storage and will be installed as wet weather jobs by the Councils work crews:-

- Electric park BBQ
- 4 picnic table and chair sets
- 10 park benches
- Toddler play equipment
- Intermediate kids play equipment
- Water drinking fountains.

Ergon Energy has been approached to upgrade the current park floodlighting and to install additional flood lighting as required. Lawn seed, fertilisers and soil conditioners have been purchased and are to be utilised in the park.

A list of trees and shrubs that have been proved suitable for our area has been made and are presently sourcing availability from suitable suppliers and therefore landscaping with trees, shrubs, etc ,will occur during the wet.

BURKE SHIRE COUNCIL'S CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE THE USAGE OF PLASTIC BAGS WITHIN BURKE SHIRE



Council has initiated a campaign to reduce the usage of plastic bags in the Burke Shire by giving every Burke Shire household 5 calico bags for free to do grocery shopping or carry goods in. It is well documented that plastic bags have a very bad impact on our wildlife and especially marine life. By issuing these calico bags Council encourages you to get behind this campaign and help make a difference. An informative talk has also been conducted at both the Gregory and Burketown schools where all the school children present received a calico bag.



Photo courtesy of Ron Prendergast, Melbourne Zoo



Presenting Burketown
School children with
calico bags



PROPOSED COMMUNITY BALL



Burke Shire Council would like to host a "COMMUNITY BALL" next year, most likely around the middle of the year when its cooler. If you would like to have input into this event or if you have some good ideas on a theme then don't hesitate to contact Cheryl at the Council Office We will soon be calling for people to form a committee to help organise this event.



New Bus

Council has just recently taken delivery of a new Mitsubishi Rosa bus from Trucks North in Cairns. Boasting a 25 seat capacity (including driver) it will become a handy people mover for the Burke Shire residents. It is expected that the Schools and community groups will take advantage of this facility and can approach the Council to hire and make use when they require an efficient people mover. Council is putting in place a procedure and policy guideline and it is anticipated that the bus will be ready to hire in the near future.

CYCLONE SEASON — BE PREPARED

The following is provided on behalf of the Burke Shire Local Disaster Management Group for Burketown residents' information and action during the upcoming cyclone season:-

- ⇒ **LISTEN TO YOUR RADIO (OR TV IF AVAILABLE) FOR CYCLONE UPDATES OR RING THE COUNCIL OFFICE ON 4745 5100. PLEASE NOTE THAT A WAILING SIREN BROADCAST ON YOUR RADIO OR TELEVISION MEANS THAT AN URGENT SAFETY MESSAGE IS ABOUT TO BE MADE**

IN THE EVENT THAT IT IS DECIDED TO EVACUATE RESIDENTS TO "CENTRALISED LOCATIONS" THE FOLLOWING WILL APPLY:-

- ⇒ **THE FIRE TRUCK WILL SOUND IT'S SIREN THROUGH THE STREETS TO INDICATE THAT IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL RESIDENTS SHOULD MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FOLLOWING CENTRAL AREAS. (IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNCIL OFFICE).**
- ⇒ **THESE LOCATIONS ARE THE COUNCIL BUILDING, SCHOOL TOILET BLOCK AND THE POLICE "LOCK UP". (IF YOU ARE ON MEDICATION PLEASE GO TO THE COUNCIL OFFICE AS THE HEALTH PERSONNEL AND AMBULANCE WILL BE BASED THERE). DOGS ARE ALLOWED AT THE SAFE AREAS BUT THEY MUST BE ON A CHAIN.**
- ⇒ **EACH CENTRE WILL HAVE A SUPERVISOR - PLEASE REPORT TO THEM ON ARRIVAL.**
- ⇒ **PLEASE BRING AN EMERGENCY KIT – IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THIS CONSIST OF A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, SOME TUCKER (DON'T FORGET BABY FOOD, MILK & DISPOSABLE NAPPIES IF NEEDED), TORCH, BLANKET & ANY TABLETS OR MEDICINE YOU MAY NEED.**
- ⇒ **BEFORE LEAVING YOUR HOUSE PLEASE TURN OFF POWER AND GAS.**

EACH SAFE AREA WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND BASIC SUPPLIES, INCLUDING DRINKING WATER.

Arts & Crafts Show

Council would also like to conduct an Arts & Craft show next year. Awards will be given for the best entries in each category. We hope to make this an annual event. If you have any ideas and suggestions or if you need more information for this event please contact Cheryl at the Shire Office. As with the proposed Community Ball, expressions of interest will shortly be invited for a committee to organise this event.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2005 CHRISTMAS/NEWYEAR SHUTDOWN

Burke Shire Office and Works Depot will be closed for the Christmas/New Year period from the end of the day on Friday 16 December 2005 and reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2006. A "skeleton" crew will be working, and on call, through this period to ensure water, sewerage and airport services are maintained in Burketown and water and airport services are maintained in Gregory.

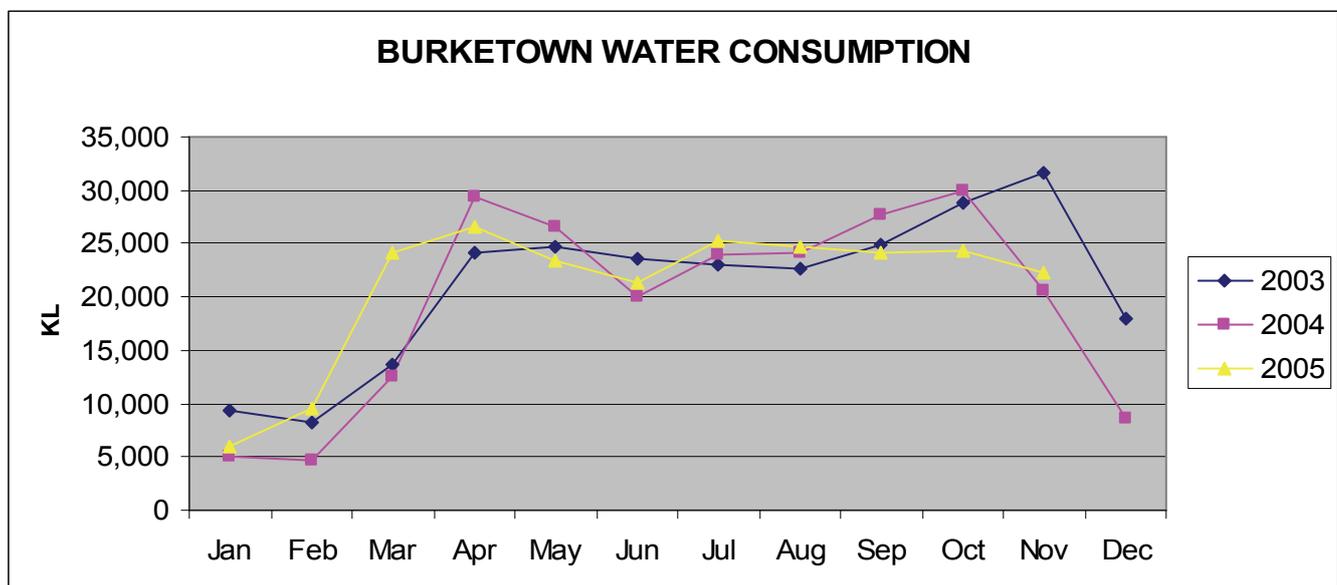
During the period that the Office and Works Depot will be closed, in the event of water, sewerage and/or airport associated emergencies please contact Bob Marshall on 4745 5153.

For other Council related matters, that are urgent in nature, please contact Craig Turnour on mobile 0439 945 709.

Garbage collection arrangements for Burketown residents over this period will continue as normal i.e. on Fridays (in this case Friday 23 & Friday 30 December 2005). As per usual practice residents are requested to place their garbage bins at the edge of the bitumen seal by 7:00am on the scheduled collection day.

BURKETOWN WATER CONSUMPTION (KL)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2003	9,319	8,173	13,696	24,222	24,614	23,518	23,092	22,661	24,888	28,854	31,575	17,894	252,506
2004	5,007	4,700	12,470	29,295	26,660	20,017	23,989	24,081	27,720	29,942	20,591	8,669	233,141
2005	5,923	9,569	24,149	26,580	23,482	21,419	25,317	24,683	24,143	24,295	22,289		231,849



SES News

Please note All floodboat operators licences run out in November. Make sure you update your floodboat handbooks and pass onto David Marshall so as to retain your licence. If anyone needs a logbook see David Marshall.



LIBRARY NEWS

New books have arrived! Library is free to join and we also have public internet access. When you join our sports library (free of charge) you can then use our equipment such as tennis racquets, basketballs and much more.

VMR Training Exercise

This upcoming weekend VMR Burketown will be hosting training exercises as well as holding a Gulf Zone meeting in Burketown. Coming into town will be the squadrons from Mornington Island, Karumba and Weipa. The range of exercises will include radio operations, EIRPB tracking, rescue simulations and also a demonstration on knot tying. Everyone is welcome to come along and see first hand what VMR Burketown has to offer and learn at the same time. Those wishing to register their interests please contact Jacque on 4745 5124.

Council Meeting Minutes

Council meeting minutes are produced within 10 days following each Council meeting and are available free of charge to all ratepayers and residents. If you are not on the mailing or emailing list for minutes and want to be, please contact the Council Office and let us know.



**Rainfall in Burketown
for November
was
27 mm**

CURRENT TENDERS

Tender 05/17 - 3 Tonne 4 WD Single Cab Truck
Tender 05/18 - Tandem Drive Truck & Dog Trailer
Tender 05/19 - Demountable Water Tanks
Tender 05/20 - New Prime Mover

HACC TALK



Burke Shire Home & Community Care Program is a new service that has now been running successfully for approximately three months. The purpose of the program is to provide assistance, support and care to those people in the community that are eligible for the program. Amanda Douglas is the appointed HACC co-ordinator and organizes social activities and events for the clients, these activities may include a trip to Normanton, Gregory and Doomadgee. Please contact Amanda Douglas at the Council Office if you have any questions about the program.

TV PROGRAMME

A copy of the TV Programme is available to be picked up from the Council Office every Friday after 10am.



POSITION VACANT

WARDSPERSON (OO1/2)

**Burketown Primary Health Centre
Permanent Full-time**

\$19 298 - \$34 391 per annum

The position requires:

- ☺ The ability to participate in on call roster for ambulance.
- ☺ Good communication and operational skills and knowledge of patient care.

To obtain an application package regarding the position contact

**Dianne Phillips (07) 4745 5133 or
Human Resources (07) 4744 4865**

Applications must be in writing and include:

- ☺ A letter expressing your interest in the position
- ☺ A resume or details of previous work history
- ☺ Names and contact details of two referees.
- ☺ Written responses to the Assessment Criteria

Applications must be forwarded to:

Human Resource Officer
PO Box 27 Mount Isa Qld 4825
Fax: (07) 4745 4584
Email: mtisa_recruitment@health.qld.gov.au



COUNCIL WORKS NEWS & ACTIVITIES



CURRENT WORKS

Doomadgee East Road—Formation & gravel works of a 9.7 km section

Floraville Road—Sealing, concrete floodways & signage completed

Wills Development Road—Grading works on sections prior to Christmas (weather permitting)

FUTURE WORKS

Beames Street— Construction of widening/bitumen sealing between Sloman and Gregory Streets

Seniors Housing Development—4 new units due in April 2006

Waste Management—Introduction of a Waste Management Plan, including recycling

Gregory Water Supply—complete upgrade works

Burketown Water Treatment Plant—complete upgrade works involving constant water pressure pumps

Burketown Sewerage Treatment Plant—complete upgrade works

Morning Glory Park—complete upgrade works

Burketown Multipurpose Courts—construction of a sail shade structure

Gregory Playground—extend sail shade structure

Submission for NDRA assistance from December 2004 flooding event

Council has received advice that our application for Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA) assistance to repair flood damage arising from the declared “North Queensland Flooding from December 2004” event, has been approved by to the Department of Local Government & Planning.

The following table provides a summary of the assistance:-

Asset	Total Estimated Damage
	\$ (excl. GST)
Floraville Road	269,339
Doomadgee East Road	1,214,254
Doomadgee West Road	1,058,711
Escott Road	95,137
Truganini Road	85,906
Punjaub Road	74,656
Morella Road	85,473
Total	\$2,883,476

Police Beat

To the residents of Burketown and the Burke Shire,

My name is Paul Griffiths and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am Sergeant in Charge of the Burketown Police Division replacing Mark Dwyer. I have been stationed at Cloncurry for the past three years, before being promoted to Burketown. I am married with four children.

I hope to visit in the near future, weather permitting, as many outlying properties as I can. So far I have been very impressed by the friendliness and courtesy of the community. It is clear that Burketown has a great deal of pride when it comes to its appearance and presentation.

I encourage everyone to come and speak with either Dean or myself, especially if you are in town visiting or from outlying properties.

The police station, as you probably know, is situated in Gregory Street. Attached to the police station are two residences, one in Gregory Street and one in Sloman Street. Please direct any inquiries to the police station by attending the front door or by using the telephone. The police station phone number is 4745-5120, or in an emergency 000. I ask that people do not walk down the side entrance to the station or enter the residences in Gregory or Sloman Streets, as they are private property. In some instances the police station may be unattended for operational reasons. If this is the case please phone the above number and we will respond as soon as we can.

For all Queensland Transport matters such as licensing and registration please come to the station between: 9am-12pm Monday and Tuesday. Consideration will of course be given to residents and workers on properties and stations. Outside these times are by appointment only please.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Dwyer, Cian Jacobs and Dean Flannery for the outstanding job they have done whilst in Burketown. A Senior Constable has been appointed to replace Dean who will return to Mt Isa in December.

I look forward to working with you and intend to provide a regular article for the council newsletters to keep you up to date with police related issues in Burketown. Until next time, stay safe.

Paul Griffiths
Sergeant
Burketown Police

Trash & Treasure

Would you like to see a regular Trash & Treasure day where you can sell off all your unwanted goods as well as pick up some bargains? If so please register your interest with Cheryl at the Council Office.