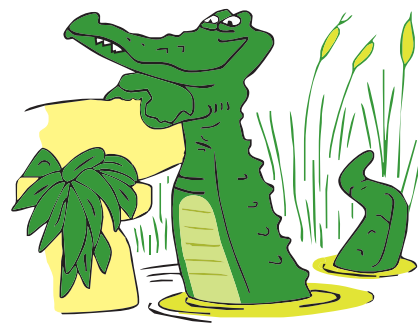


# BURKE SHIRE Council Newsletter



Edition 35 : December 2012

## Burketown Health Clinic Opening



Article by the Queensland Country Life, 24th October 2012

The new \$3.95 million Burketown Primary Health Clinic is officially open for business following a visit by Queensland Health Minister Lawrence Springborg.

The Burketown Primary Health Clinic project comprises a new clinic building with an adjoining new four-bedroom residence for the Director of Nursing and a separate adjoining one-bedroom unit for relieving staff.

"The new clinic includes a resuscitation room, two consultation rooms, reception and waiting area, an undercover ambulance bay as well as various utility and storage rooms and staff offices," Mr Springborg said.

He said Burketown was the second new primary health clinic to be officially opened in the North West this year. The \$2.41 million Dajarra Primary Health Clinic was officially opened in February.

Both the Dajarra and Burketown project were funded through Queensland Health's \$297.5 million Area Health Services Demand Management Program. Mr Springborg said Queensland Health was committed to delivering improved health services to North West Queensland residents.

"All these works that are under way in this region, are a clear indication of Queensland Health's commitment to delivering quality services to all residents of the North West," he said.

"We recognise that the increasing demand for health services is a decentralised State like Queensland requires the expansion of health care services so more patients can get treatment closer to their homes."

Mr Springborg also visited the Cloncurry, Mount Isa and Mornington Island hospitals on the tour day tour of North West Queensland.

At Cloncurry he saw progress on the \$6.86 million, 10-bed, residential aged care facility at the local hospital, due to be completed in early 2013. Mount Isa's hospital is currently more than half-way through a \$65.2 million redevelopment.

\*Queensland Country Life's Mark Phelps and Rodney Green accompanied Lawrence Springborg on his two day tour of North West Queensland.

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*Images courtesy of Burke Shire Council, Tourism Queensland and various local photographers.*



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# Message from the Mayor Ernie Camp

The storm season is once again upon us. There have been some good falls accompanied by good lightning strikes and so fires. Now is a good time to do a good back yard cleanup – in preparation for further storms, cyclones and mosquitoes.

It has been great to see the bitumen making its way towards Burketown. By the end of 2013 we should have bitumen access all the way to town thus reducing the periods cut off over the Wet and improving the community's wellbeing. It has been a long time coming and I thank all levels of government for their efforts in the last couple of years to make this a reality.

Our roadworks staff have been hard at work on the local roads ensuring they are in as good a shape as possible in the lead up to the Wet. The Parks and Gardens are also looking great and I often hear compliments on the green and clean spaces in both Burketown and Gregory. The office staff have also been toiling away ensuring that all legislative requirements are met and sourcing all available funding opportunities.

With the imminent closure of MMG Century and the impact this will have on the region I welcome the decision by the State Government to allow the recommencement of uranium mining. Given the potential resource reserves within our Shire this may be the potential opportunity to fulfil some of the gap left by the shutdown of Century and maintain jobs and investment in our region.

The Shire has seen the official opening of the new Burketown Health Centre by the Minister for Health Mr Lawrence Springborg and Paul Woodhouse Chair of NW Hospital Board and the opening of the revamped Gregory Health Clinic by Dr Don Bowley OAM. Both these facilities will now offer greater opportunities to access allied health professionals closer to home.

The new facilities are wonderful – they are a great asset but not as great as the staff these assets were built to support. After two recent incidents involving 10 stitches, 3 missing teeth, a busted lip and an evacuation I can personally vouch for the usefulness of the new clinic and the fantastic nursing care provided in Burketown.

I was honoured to be made chair of Gulf Savannah Development (GSD). Even though this takes more of my time away from my family and business, and is an added responsibility, I think it is worth it. I believe the Gulf's strength lies in regional unity – we do have common problems but not always common solutions. However, together we have a better chance to achieve the best possible outcome for the majority.



Recently Council provided the community with the opportunity to see "Chasing the Lollyman". It was an enjoyable play and Council hopes to be able to provide further cultural opportunities in the future.

Council is also busy, along with community volunteers, organising this year's Community Christmas in the Park event. I look forward to seeing you and your families in December for an evening of carols, the jolly man in the red suit and relaxation in the Morning Glory Park.

Congratulations to the Gregory/ Lawn Hills SES Group who were announced as the State winner of this year's Unit/Group of the Year and awarded the Director General's Cup.

It is great to see a remote area group recognised for the hard work they do in often trying weather conditions and without the infrastructure/service backups eg mobile phones that many others are able to utilise.

Congratulations also to all those students graduating from schools in the Shire this year. Nine young people will be off to boarding school next year, spreading their wings, learning new things and being proud ambassadors for all that is great about this Shire.

This year the Council has instigated a Young Ambassador's Pack which it will be presenting to all primary school graduates. Thanks to all those who generously donated towards the pack's contents.

I wish you and your families all the best for the Festive Season. Stay safe and enjoy your time together.

## Message from Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Poole

Eight months has passed since the local government election. It has been a testing time in many respects with a lot of catch up. Hopefully, the business carried over from the previous years will be finalised by the end of 2012 and the new council will be able to steer its own course.

I am pleased with the fresh approach this council is taking and enjoy working with the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, Council Staff and fellow Councillors in advancing the Shire.



## Message from Councillor Tonya Murray

As we move into the silly season and get ready to farewell 2012, I'd like to say thanks to everyone who helped make possible all that has been achieved this year!

Progress is being made in many areas and we hope to see even more exciting things happening in 2013. I hope everyone enjoys safe and fun filled holidays spent with family and friends. Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Cheers.



## Message from Councillor Tracy Forshaw

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone and their families in the Burke Shire.

The year is nearly finished, and shortly the kids will be home from school for the holidays and getting ready to do their Christmas shopping. The Council Crews have been working very hard in bringing the Shire Roads back up to a good standard.

I have been busy being "re-trained" as a Councillor and attending different meetings and conferences on behalf of the Council and Regional Development of Australia Board. At a recent conference we were told never to refer to ourselves as JUST or ONLY a labourer or receptionist or grader driver or ringer, but as an AMAZING labourer or receptionist or grader driver or ringer, so I pass this on to you – as everyone is a valued member of our community and shire and if we all worked together we will achieve amazing results.

It was lovely to see the many faces at the ANZAC Day parade. Congratulation to all the children and adults that proudly marched up the street.

The Barra Fishing Competition and Gregory Downs Races over the Easter and May Day weekends showcased our wonderful shire. The Gregory Campdraft, the QCWA Gregory Horse Sports and the Burketown Campdraft & Horse Sports were great family fun days.

Again we proved that the Burke Shire can put on a "do" with the Outback Ball – what a magical night. A big thankyou to all the volunteers, helpers and organisers for putting on these enjoyable events and great weekends for the benefit of all the shire residents and visitors.

The Gregory/Lawn Hill SES recently received the EMQ Director Generals Cup for the State Award Winner "Unit of the Year" in recognition of the outstanding overall level of Group efficiency and the provision of the effective emergency response by the Gregory/Lawn Hills State Emergency Service Group. Congratulations to all the SES volunteers in the Burke Shire.

Take care and drive safely.



# From the Chief Executive Officer's Desk

## John Page



Where has the year 2012 gone and where are we heading in 2013 I ponder in writing this article.

A new era is underway in Burke Shire with the encouragement and assistance with business development following the upgrading of MR78A, Burketown to Gregory Downs Road. The potential for additional businesses in both Burketown and Gregory Downs will provide an immense benefit not only to our community but all that transgress our Shire.

Whilst recognising that there are differing views on Uranium mining Council sees the immense benefit to our Shire through these mining ventures. The availability of shale gas and the potential for the provision of additional power supplies will also provide benefits to our community

Council recognises that without available land for both residential and industrial development the potential for additional business and growth is curtailed. You would be aware of the prices paid for land at the recent auction conducted and Council is working with Native Title Groups so that more land can be released and prices will stabilise.

In order to improve the facilities available to our community Council has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$1 million from the State Government for a Community Centre incorporating a new hall, library and disaster coordination centre utilising Council chambers and building onto and utilising the existing administration building.

Council has made application for the required licences to retransmit digital television to Burketown and it is believed that the decision should be known in February. Investigations and quotes are being obtained for similar services to Gregory Downs.

There have been the following staff movements:

Mr Neil Klemola commences as Works Manager on 2nd January, 2012. Neil comes to Burke Shire from South Australia with a wealth of experience in the private sector and new ideas to work with Council in the provision of new Burke Shire infrastructure whilst maintaining existing infrastructure. Council is committed to ensuring the infrastructure is maintained to the required level and not let run down.

Ms Kahleela Marshall, Ms Nakischa McKean, Mr Earl Marshall and Mr Jeremy Booth have commenced duties also.

A new Enterprise Bargain Agreement has been developed and will be voted on by staff next week. The Agreement, whilst a long time coming, will be of benefit to the Shire by increased productivity and efficiency gains identified by staff and management. One of these measures has been the closing of the cross strip at the Burketown Airport.

Council is exploring other ways of increased productivity and efficiency gains with the Value for Money concept. Council believes that there will be savings which will ensure the sustainability of Burke Shire Council.

Council's Annual Report for 2011/2012 has been adopted and is available for viewing on Council's website and I recommend it to all residents as it gives an overview of Council's operations and achievements during the year.

In closing I thank the Mayor, Councillors and staff for the support and assistance in 2012 and look forward to an exciting year in working with Council and staff in leading Burke Shire into the future and extend best wishes to everyone for a safe and enjoyable festive season.

## Positions Vacant

If you would like to apply for work with Burke Shire Council please contact Hayley Booth on 07 4745 5100 or email [phr@burke.qld.gov.au](mailto:phr@burke.qld.gov.au) to obtain an Employment Application.

## Public Notice Distribution

It is easy to obtain copies of Councils Notices and information, request to be added to the Burke Shire Council Notice Distribution List by sending an email to [office@burke.qld.gov.au](mailto:office@burke.qld.gov.au)

## New website

Burke Shire Council has a new website –  
**[www.burke.qld.gov.au](http://www.burke.qld.gov.au)**

**You can find information on:-**

- Current Tenders
- Positions Vacant
- Council Meetings
- Add in your event information
- Notices and much more...

## From the Burke Shire Ranger's Desk

(by Russell Cunningham)

**Use of SODIUM FLUOROACETATE (1080) to Control wild dogs, feral pigs and feral cats in the Burke Shire.**

Burke Shire Council like all Local Government authorities are responsible under the Land Protection (Pest and stock Route Management) Act 2002 to ensure that a responsible and effective Pest Management plan is in place to target priorities for pest management of declared pests identified within the Shire.

Land owners also have an obligation under the Act to take reasonable steps to keep land free of declared pests unless the owners hold declared pest permits allowing the pests to be kept on their land ie. deer farming.

As part of Councils activities in the management of declared pests together with local pastoral property owners/managers, under take coordinated 1080 baiting campaigns twice a year to control Wild dogs, Feral pigs and Feral cats in the Burke Shire.

These campaigns are also coordinated with baiting in neighbouring shires to get a more consistent coverage and to maximize baiting results. Baits are injected at three central baiting points within the shire.

Burke Shire council's second round of 1080 baiting for 2012 concluded on the 5th of November, during which a total of 6650 kg of meat was injected.

Properties that have participated in the baiting program will have warning signs posted at all points of entry to their property.



# Library Update

Burke Shire Library provides a variety of materials to borrow including: books, videos, DVDs and music CDs.

A selection of new books have just arrived for both adults and children. The selection includes a number of Christmas books. There are new DVDs as well. So kids come to the library and watch a movie or maybe read a book. If you need help in selecting a book see Karen who will be pleased to help you.

Computer and internet is available to the public for a small fee. Broadband for Seniors is still available for free of charge for people aged 50 years and over.

Below are some of the great books and DVDs we have on the shelf in the library. If there is a particular book you would like I can order it for you.

Happy Reading, Karen.

## Adult Book of the Month

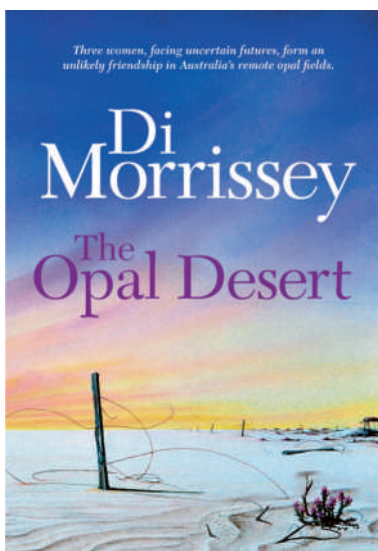
The Opal Desert is the story of three women from different generations with unresolved issues in their lives who meet in the fictitious NSW town of Opal Lake.

Kerrie, in her 40s, has just lost her famous sculptor husband who had been the centre of her existence and for whom she made many sacrifices and she now finds her life has lost direction.

Shirley, approaching 80, was betrayed by her lover many years before and has retreated from the world, becoming a recluse living in an underground dugout.

Anna, 19, has a promising athletic career but is torn between the commitment to her sport which could carry her to the Olympics, or enjoying life like other young people.

The friendship that develops between these three women, who meet in the strangely beautiful but desolate landscape of the opal fields, helps them resolve and come to terms with the next stage of their story.



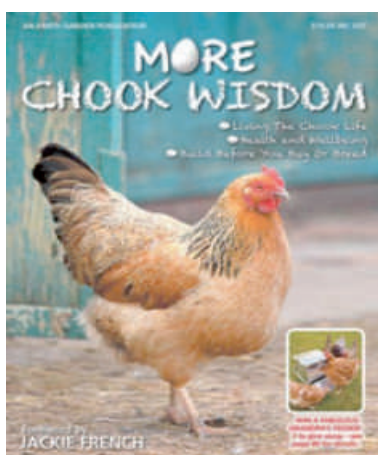
## Non-Fiction Book of the Month

More Chook Wisdom is the new full colour guide to backyard hens, published by 'Earth Garden'.

It's the companion volume to the highly-successful 'Chook Wisdom'.

In 'More Chook Wisdom' you can expand on your knowledge, inspiration and ideas for keeping chooks.

There's natural health care, tips on chook pens to build or buy, and best of all, loads of user experiences from people living the chook lifestyle right here and now.



## Children's DVD of the Month

Morgan Freeman, Harry Connick Jr and Ashley Judd star in this family drama based on the true story of a dolphin who is given a new lease of life after being badly injured in a trap off the Florida coast. When a young dolphin loses her tail after becoming caught in a crab trap, she is rescued and taken to the Clearwater Marine Hospital, where she is given the name of Winter.

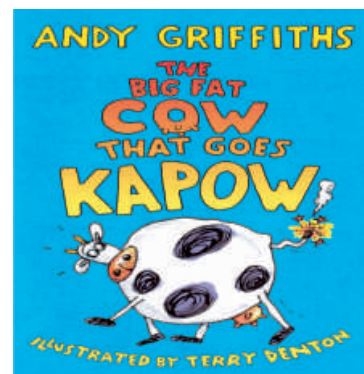
There, a marine biologist joins forces with a brilliant prosthetics doctor to create a new tail for Winter, who is also befriended by a young boy, Sawyer (Nathan Gamble).



## Picture Book of the Month



## Junior Fiction Book of the Month



# Burke Shire School Updates

## Burketown State School

(by Finn Buckley, Principal)

Burketown State School has established a productive partnership through the "XO-OLPC Project" this year, with Doomadgee State School. One Laptop Per Child is a National initiative to put internet enabled laptops into the hands of students in remote parts of Australia.

Doomadgee students have travelled to Burketown this year to lend their expertise as "XO Champions and Mechanics". The XO Laptop program has taken off at Burketown State School this year, with all students finally receiving their laptops.

XO Mechanics not only possess all the skills necessary to competently operate the laptops, but furthermore have the skills and knowledge necessary to reinstall software, replace screens and keyboards and run hardware tests to diagnose problems. This in turn gives these students the opportunity for pathways into higher education and employment that they did not have exposure to a few years ago.

The first "XO Mechanics" from Burketown State School have been selected to complete the training based on attendance, behaviour and quality work in the classroom. These students will take the skills and expertise they have learnt today and pass it on down to all the students at Burketown through peer tutoring.

The peer tutoring between students at Doomadgee and Burketown State School is also impacting on the skills and confidence of Doomadgee State School students. Neil Ewing, who has successfully trained many of the XO Mechanics at Doomadgee State School, says that "not only is it a great partnership between the schools, it is also great relationship building for our students. Our students form great friendships through the coaching of their skills and in turn become more confident with their own ability."

Former Assistant Director General for Indigenous Education and Training, Mr Ian Mackie, who is currently working with both schools on attendance and leadership strategies, says "this is a wonderful partnership that is seeing students in the remotest part of the state using cutting edge technology."

The XO Laptop project is establishing and consolidating partnerships with schools where distance and remoteness have always been issues.

The students from our school who have completed their training will receive certificates and an XO toolkit on a school parade in the weeks to come.



## Gregory Educational Facility

(by Tracy Forshaw)

The Gregory Education Facility closed its doors for the last time on Friday 30th November. The kids will now be enrolled with School of the Air Mt Isa. A small Christmas Concert and break-up party was held on Friday 30th November to celebrate over 10 years of the School being in Gregory.

## Mount Isa School of the Air

(by Liz Armstrong)

2012 has been a busy yet rewarding year for Mount Isa School of the Air. Mini school is a wonderful time for both our students and our Home Tutors as it provides opportunities for isolated children to mingle and socialise with their peers.

We will be working throughout the week in completing various activities centred on the theme 'The Orient Express' where we will be looking at a range of cultural aspects of Asian countries. We have a PCAP artist joining us for the week and he will be getting the children to release their inner artistic skills in creating visual art on the Oriental theme. Our mini schools would not be complete without the support of our hardworking families.

## Burketown Kindy

(by Leonie Florence)

Has anyone noticed our sunflower displays at Kindy?

As part of our children's responsibility for the planting and caring of our gardens, the easy to grow sunflower seeds gave them the chance to understand the very basics of nature and observe the life cycle of the sunflower.

We would like to thank the community who donated funds to the Kindy collection tin at Nowlands Engineering. The proceeds have been spent on a bird feeder, garden ornaments and shrubs to beautify our flower garden.

We would also like to thank all those who have generously donated items, money or their time throughout the year. And we wish Terrence Taylor and Jagama Yanner well in their transition to prep next year at Burketown State School.



# Gregory Landcare

(by Megan Munchenberg)

The Gregory River Landcare has had another busy year for 2012. We were successfully funded by Southern Gulf Catchments to undertake the Healthy Food Gardens Project at the Gregory Educational Facility and also Burketown Primary School.

The children really enjoyed themselves and had a great couple of days planting and preparing the gardens for the vegetables. We would like to thank all of the volunteers for their assistance with this project.

We were also successfully funded through the Landcare initiative through Southern Gulf Catchments to undertake a workshop for local glaziers. This workshop was presented by the Future Beef and DPI staff. It was a great day and everyone learnt a lot about Pasture management, wet season spelling and forage budgets.

We have also tackled some of the weeds in the Gregory Township again this year. Weeds targeted included Belly Ache Bush, Mesquite and Rubber Vine. These weeds have returned vigorously in 2012 post wet season and it was important that follow up control was undertaken to manage these infestations.

We were funded through the Southern Gulf Catchments/ Xstrata Urban Natural Resource Management funding. We would also like to thank our co-contributors for their funding and donations: Burke Shire Council, MMG Century Environment Committee and Paraway Pastoral Company Gregory Downs Station.

For more information on the Gregory River Landcare Group or if you would like to find out how to become a member please contact Megan Munchenberg on 07 4748 5522.



# Burketown Barramundi Restocking Facility

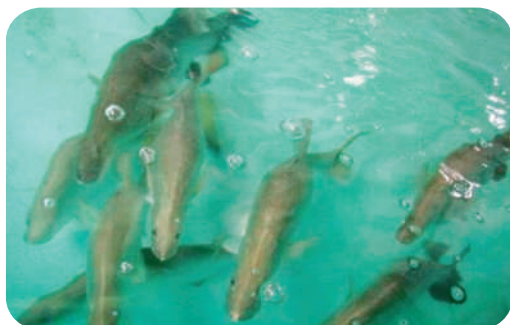
(By Garry Jefferies, President Burketown Barramundi Fishing Organisation Inc.)

Through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Burke Shire Council and the Burketown Barramundi Fishing Organisation Inc., I am happy to report a successful season of rearing barramundi fingerlings obtained from the Gulf Barramundi Restocking Association hatchery at Karumba for release into our local waters.

With the generous help of many volunteers and the financial support of the Council, approximately 5,000 barramundi fingerlings were raised over a period of about three months from as small as 2cm weighing only a few grams up to 22.5cm and 130+ grams before they were released into the Albert River.

The fingerlings were released over the two weekends of 29th April and 4th May into the Albert River making the brackish water at the Eight Mile their new home.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to all those volunteers, the Council and the VMR for supporting this project and we look forward to another successful season next year.



# Home & Community Care Update

(by Pam deJoux)

In October we expanded our HACC meetings to Gregory. This was to provide the opportunity for outer cattle stations and Gregory clients to attend and participate in structured group activities. Our meetings are held at the CWA/Sports ground in Gregory every second Thursday on Clinic Day weather permitting.

Our first two meetings brought us one new client with another possible one early next year. A visit into Bidunngu sparked interest in what HACC does in communities and although there were no eligible clients at present, I will be calling regularly and keeping them up to date on what's happening.

With the wet season fast approaching and roads becoming messy, the meetings at Gregory will be held over until next year. The clients that we have out there will be kept in touch by regular phone calls and sent DVD's/ audio books and crafts to keep them occupied throughout the wet months.

Crafts have been ongoing from painting to sewing and games. A new "Rose Garden" has been established next to the HACC hall using the remainder of the sleepers from their other gardens. Ten roses have been planted and are doing well with all flowering at present. Their gardens were entered in the Tidy Gardens Competition recently and won a place so they were thrilled. Clients spend a lot of their time tending to the gardens so an outdoors table and benches are planned to complete the setting.

Christmas craft have been made with clients making decorations, some of which are to be used to decorate the Community Christmas tree in the park. With having a bus now to get around, we have had a couple of shopping trips to Doomadgee so that the clients could stock up for the wet.

Adel's Grove was our destination for our Christmas outing with three relaxing days enjoying ourselves. Some played cards or went for short walks while others read or painted. A short trip to Lawn Hill was enjoyed although the heat was a bit much for some.

Fishing at Sweets Island was enjoyed by all with several fish being caught and shared amongst them. As usual the huge groper put on a show for us – a fitting end to a wonderful day.

With Christmas fast approaching we held a "special" Christmas Lunch at Gregory with all the HACC clients. It was a fun morning with the Medicare Local Health Workers joining us. The day was special for Ethleen from Mellish Park as we also celebrated her 91st birthday. Prior to Ethleen's birthday we had a morning tea for George's 89th birthday with the clients at HACC.

Another Christmas Luncheon followed in Burketown with Frontier Services joining us. With only a handful of clients left in town now we will be closing for the Christmas break on Thursday, 6th December. HACC will resume in Burketown on Tuesday 15th January 2013 with Gregory meetings commencing shortly afterwards depending on the roads.

On behalf of all our clients I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for a wonderful New Year.

# Council Meeting Dates

Burke Shire Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in the Council Chambers in the Shire Office, Musgrave Street, Burketown, and are scheduled to commence at 9.00am.

Meetings for 2013 will be held on:-

January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 12.

# Burke Shire Calendar of Events

See more information on coming events on the Burke Shire Council's new website – [www.burke.qld.gov.au](http://www.burke.qld.gov.au)

# Gregory Health Clinic Redevelopment

On the 2nd of June at 3pm the people of Gregory Downs and surrounding region came together to open the Redevelopment of the Gregory Health Clinic. Over 70 attended to mark the event. The MC was Sue Clarke who introduced RFDS Senior Medical Officer Dr Don Bowley who delivered a speech retracing the history of the clinic and thanked all the organisations and people who supported the project.

The building was then opened by Gregory CWA Clinic Coordinator Tracy Forshaw. Local Member Rob Katter and Burke Shire Council Mayor Ernie Camp then congratulated the community on their achievement. The building was then blessed by Sister Irene followed by the official cake cutting.

The original clinic building was officially opened on the 17th August 1996 by the Reverend Fred MacKay who was the Reverend John Flynn's successor as Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission. The building consisted of a small donga with 2 consulting rooms, a small toilet and an old generator which was erected thanks to the support of Qld Health and Burke Shire Council.

At that time it was decided to name the clinic building after the legendary Qld RFDS Doctor Tim O'Leary (1925-1987). He joined the RFDS in 1953 and tragically later that year his first wife Renee was killed in an RFDS aircraft accident which also seriously injured him. Undeterred following his recovery he continued to work for the RFDS and cared for the people of Queensland's outback for the next 27 years working from RFDS bases in Cloncurry, Mount Isa, Charleville, Cairns, and Charters Towers. So when it came to naming the redeveloped building it was decided unanimously that it would remain the Tim O'Leary Building in his memory.

By 2009 the building was showing its age and leaked in the wet season and was too small to accommodate the increasing number of health providers wishing to service the people of Gregory and Bidunggu.

The Gregory CWA and RFDS decided to address this problem and with the wonderful support of the Australian Government, Qld Government, many organisations, and the people of Gregory the building was successfully redeveloped. The redeveloped Tim O'Leary Building has 4 air-conditioned



consulting rooms, a kitchenette, a toilet with access for disabled people, a great covered waiting area, and a brand new modern generator.

The people of Gregory would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their generous support which made this redevelopment possible:

- Australian Government- Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health: \$120,000
- Qld Government- Qld Community Foundation's Gulf Area Community Social Development Trust: \$97,500
- R & M Williams Building Contractors Cairns: \$27,000
- RFDS Qld Section: \$16,000
- Gregory QCWA, North West Qld Primary Health Care, Qld Health, Burke Shire Council, Paraway Pastoral Company, Forshaw Contracting, Ringrose Transport, Edge Architecture, Century Mine, and Betty Kiernan.

## Gregory QCWA News and Recipes

(by Kylie Camp)

On 2nd June we had the pleasure of QCWA State President Mrs Jenny Hill and NW Division Treasurer Mrs Naomi Douglas visiting and celebrating with us the reopening of the Gregory Health Clinic and the branch's 50th anniversary.

We were also delighted to have in attendance Ethleen Burnett, who has been a member of our Branch for its entire life, and past members Beryl Murphy and Jenny Tait travelling from Julia Creek and Bundaberg respectively. Robbie Katter, local MP, attended both functions as did Burke Shire Mayor and CEO, Barry Riddiford, MMG and members of the community.

We were delighted that representatives from several of the organisations/businesses who donated funding/expertise towards the clinic were also able to be in attendance at the afternoon function.

The clinic refurbishment is the culmination of concerted efforts of RFDS SMO Don Bowley and Branch member Tracy Forshaw as well as generous grants and donations from various parties. The upgrade means that the clinic can now cater not just for the usual clinic/allied health days but for dental, breast screenings and heart clinics and do so in a modern, spacious facility.

The dinner was a wonderful event - with about 90 in attendance - members, past members and families, community members and invited guests. Letters were read from QCWA patron Ms Penelope Wensley as well as from members, now sadly passed, recalling the birth of the Branch along with those from past members unable to attend but wanting to convey their best wishes.

Those in attendance reminisced about the Branch and an interesting display of memorabilia was perused by all. Branch member, Annie Clarke, made a cake to celebrate the occasion and members put on a 3 course feast which was enjoyed by all. A great night and wonderful memories were made.

### Fresh Tomato Relish (serve with crumbed steak)

Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in pan. Add ½ thinly sliced red onion. Cook 5 mins until soft and light golden. Add 1 crushed garlic clove. Stir until aromatic. Add 4 coarsely chopped ripe tomatoes.

Turn heat to low and simmer uncovered 10 mins or until mix reduces and thickens. Add 2 teaspoons brown sugar and 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar. Stir until sugar dissolves. Season with salt and pepper and serve hot.

### Roma Quiche

**Ingredients:** 3 grated zucchini, 1 large chopped onion, 3 rashers bacon, chopped. 1 cup grated cheese, 1 cup sr flour, half cup oil, 5 eggs beaten, salt, pepper, mustard.

**Method:** Combine all ingredients and pour into a well greased dish (16cm x 26 cm). Put in oven for 30 - 40 minutes.





# Order of the Outback Ball



Ernie Dingo reached into the bag taking a moment to comprehend then looked up perplexed at the crowd who were quietly waiting for a familiar acknowledgement. Then in a loud voice Ernie broke the silence: "Ha-ha I know what's going on here," shaking his finger at the crowd accusingly and nodding his head. "Yeah I know, I've got all you LOSERS tickets," and with that he tipped the bag of raffle ticket butts over the nearest person.

The crowd could see the Dingo was a larrikin, and they joined in the laughter. The stage was set for the night. It wasn't hard to see the 200 partygoers at the annual Burketown Ball were in for a night to remember. Ernie was then presented with the correct bag and received many gifts of appreciation for his one of a kind performance as MC for the night.

He also accepted the Order of the Outback award on behalf of Ian 'Macca' MacNamara, host of ABC's Australia All Over, who was unable to attend, however he did send an acceptance speech through in which he stated that he was thrilled and honoured to receive such an accolade. This prestigious award acknowledges an individual who is passionate about, and promotes the Outback.

With the official business over Burke Shire residents showed everyone that outback folk know how to party. Dressed in the finest suits and gowns to die for they celebrated what Aaron Mathew from Floraville Downs Station described- "as a ball with a difference".

"There was even a professional photo booth, complete with a wagon, hay bales and a wine barrel as backdrops, where Melissa North was kept busy with extended families who haven't had the opportunity to update their personal album for some time here,"

"I don't know of any other Ball that has ever had one of those," said Aaron.

In true outback fashion the ball was celebrated with tables set amongst three tall white gum trees decorated with fairy lights and delicate butterflies hanging from the branches. Lanterns were placed throughout the yard giving off a soft warm glow adding to the gloriously warm outback winter night.

Children ran in and around tables wearing bow ties and tutu's laughing and playing chasing games. The band perched on a semi-trailer tray playing classic rock songs which nearly everyone could sing-along too. The dance floor became a stage not only for some funky moves but for the best-dressed competition where men and women of all ages were keen to parade their fashion trends in the hope of being crowned the winner.

It was a tough call for the judges who knew most of those on the floor and had to split their personal and professional judgements to choose the winners! Numerous other prizes and raffles were presented on the night including a 12 month subscription to Outback magazine which was won by Zach Duff, manager of Paraway Pastoral Co's Armynald Station. As always the bar was busy selling a record amount of rum and coke - obviously the Outback's preferred drink.

The success of the night is a credit to Burke Shire council's staff member Hayley Booth and her hardworking committee; they really gave Burketown a night to remember.

They did a wonderful job organising and getting the shire hall and yard ready for this event. We couldn't believe how awesome it looked! The Order of the Outback Ball was unique and definitely an unforgettable testimony to country hospitality and warm friendly fun.





# Burketown Tennis

(By Cheryl Portch)

A mixed doubles tennis tournament was held in Burketown on Saturday 18 August. Fourteen people braved the strong winds and nominated to play.

As there were more women players, 2 of the stronger women players chose to play as men so the teams would be evenly matched. The games rules were modified to allow the finals to be played on the same day. Most games were highly contested making some matches play for up to two hours.

The finalists had to play three matches which meant that they played over four hours of tennis. (There were some sore bodies the next day).

The finals were held after a free BBQ lunch. \$59 was raised for Burketown Kindy through soft drink sales.

Karen McGrath & Jasmin Matters defeated Jenny Williams & Jeremy Booth 10-6 in the grand final.

Thank you to the following people and organisations for their help and sponsorship on the day.

- Zac & Kerry at Armynald Station for supplying meat for the free BBQ for players & spectators.
- CLCAC for supplying meat, setup & admin.
- Kev Anderson & Shane Bailey for setting up the pergola, BBQ & eskies.
- Norm Welsh for cooking the BBQ.
- Burke Shire Council for preparing courts & putting up the nets.
- Nowlands Engineering for supplying the ice.
- Nawamba House for Community Sports Funding for racquets & balls.
- And last but not least the players & spectators that made this such a great day.



L to R: Karen McGrath, Jasmine Matters, Jenny Williams & Jeremy Booth.



# Police Beat

(By Sergeant Wayne Rickerby)

On the first of March this year Queensland Transport increased the penalties for learner drivers. If you drive a vehicle as a Learner without a supervisor the demerit points have increase from 1 to 4.

Learner drivers also no longer have the option of a good driving behaviour period.

This means learners driving without a supervisor:

- Will have their licenses suspended for three months.
- If you accumulate 4 or more demerit points in a 12 month period your license will be suspended for 3 months.
- As a result the date that the learner can apply for their provisional license will be delayed.

A Supervisor is any person who has held an open license for the class of vehicle the person is learning to drive for a least one year.

The School has a speed restricted School Zone on Beames Street. The speed limit is 40km during the hours of 7am to 9am and 2pm to 4pm. Please be mindful of your speed during this time.

As the Christmas Holidays draw near, it is timely to remind everyone to travel safe and be aware of their speed, fatigue and seatbelts.

# Christmas Carols

(by Doug and Faye Jones)

7.30pm Sunday 23rd December 2012, at the Burketown Hall. All welcome. Contact D. Jones for more information 07 4745 5058.

# Vocational Care

(by Trudy Stevenson)

December 2012 - Monday 10th – Friday 21st.  
January 2013 - Monday 21st – Friday 25th.

Gulf Sport and Recreation Association has a wonderful program planned for the children of Burketown this December and January.

In December we have a mechanical bucking bull – who goes by the name of Roy! Roy will be part of the team for the first week only of the program in December, and coming with him will be a jumping castle.

We are pleased to have Soraya helping us out once again. Joining her will be a couple of new faces - Ian McIntosh will be joining our team for the first week of the program and he is a man of many talents.

Christmas of course is not far away, and perhaps Santa may deliver an early sack of presents to children! - He is checking his list, so be sure to be good and nice! We are planning the program now and are planning some new activities along with some old.

For the week of January we have Shane Froling, who is a basketball professional and he will be teaching the kids some mean moves on the basketball court.

GSRA is looking for staff to help out with our programs next year. If you are aged 15 years or older, have an interest in working with children, and can work as part of a team, please contact me for further information.

For further information or any queries regarding the program or GSRA, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0428 451 717.

# Burketown Annual Campdraft & Rodeo a Great Success

The Burketown Rodeo and Sporting Association (BRSA) is pleased to announce the annual Campdraft and Rodeo was another great success.

The weekend kicked off on Friday night with an action packed Bullride, with Normanton Bullrider, Terry Nimble taking out first place.

The competitors were off to an early start on both Saturday and Sunday having the days filled with campdrafting, with Julia Creek local, Even Acton took out the major prize in the Open Draft. A list of all place getters can be seen at the conclusion of the article.

The BRSA would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who assisted with the preparation for the weekend, activities during the weekend and the clean up afterwards. Without your input the weekend would not have been the success it was.

## Event Placegetters

EVENT	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>
<b>BULL RIDE</b>	TEO NIMBLE	GEORGE CHONG	COLIN FRY
<b>PODDY RIDE</b>	ELI DONOVAN	MIBBI YANNER	SHAKIAH DOUGLAS
<b>SADDLE BRONC</b>	COLIN FRY	LEE BOWKER	QUINTON JURD
<b>CALF SCRUFFING</b>	DUKE PHILLIPS & COOPER HIBBARD	JARROD CAMPBELL & ROBBIE AH WING	NATHAN KEYES & KASEY MCGRATH
<b>JACKPOT BARREL RACE</b>	JEREMY BOOTH		
<b>MINI Draft</b>	HOPE DOYLE	BEAU DOYLE	
<b>JUNIOR Draft</b>	SOPHIE KENNEDY	SOPHIE KENNEDY	AMELIA McMILLAN
<b>JUVENILE Draft</b>	COURTNEY McMILLAN	COURTNEY McMILLAN	NICOLE FORSHAW
<b>STOCKMAN'S WORKOUT</b>	KENNY BOUGHTON	COURTNEY McMILLAN	NICOLE JANSEN
<b>LADIES Draft</b>	JUNE BALLARD	STACEY HAUCKE	CHLOE GRANT
<b>MAIDEN Draft</b>	LAUREN RYDER	LAUREN RYDER	ADAM WREN
<b>NOVICE Draft</b>	PAUL EVERINGHAM	CALVIN GALLAGHER	= 3 <sup>RD</sup> EVAN ACTON & STEPHANIE ECKFORD
<b>OPEN Draft</b>	EVAN ACTON	ANTHONY McMILLAN	EVAN ACTON

# SES Awards...



(By Elliott Dunn - EMQ)

As part of SES week each year we recognise the work performed for the community by the volunteers in the State Emergency Service. One element of this recognition is the state awards for outstanding achievement as a Group, an individual and in operations across Queensland.

The award for Unit of the Year is in recognition of a group that stand out from the rest through achievement and support to the community. There are 339 SES groups in Queensland that are able to be nominated, each year over 50 nominations are received, in 2012 the award for unit of the year was won by Gregory/Lawn Hills SES.

Gregory/Lawn Hills SES was nominated for the outstanding work they do in supporting a community that has no access to the emergency services that larger towns and cities take for granted. The SES in Gregory under the leadership of Ian and Tracy has managed to greatly increase the membership of the unit despite the trend in Queensland of smaller towns losing SES members at a dangerous rate. The group is active in Road accident rescue, searches, assisting with resupply, assisting the RFDS at any hour of the day or night and any other response the community needs.

I believe it is important that as an organisation we recognise the work the SES performs in rural Queensland, the SES is merely a mechanism to harness the community's willingness to help others in times of need. State and Local Government can supply the equipment, accommodation and training but without the volunteers willingness to assist the community we have nothing.

Having the Gregory/Lawn Hills unit recognised and represented by Tracy at the state awards ceremony lets the rest of Queensland see the great achievements and community spirit we often take for granted in western Queensland.

I am certain I echo the sentiments of the community in congratulating the members of the Gregory/Lawn Hills SES for receiving this well deserved recognition.



Skytrans have introduced student fares on gulf services to and from Cairns and Mount Isa. Fares are offered at a reduced rate to anyone over 12 years that goes to high school, tafe or university. You must present sufficient and current full time student ID at time of booking. A faxed copy of the id must be sent to reservations centre to obtain the fare. All fares subject to availability.



# Gregory Campdraft

## DISTRICT MAIDEN DRAFT

1	Dan Roselt	Shady	85
2	Peter Eckford	Patty	83
3	Richard Tait	Clickerty Clack	81
4	Nicole Jansen	Blackie	80
5	Zac Duff	Coal Miner	9
6	Peter Eckford	Gus	23
Highest Cut-Out: Peter Eckford			23

## MAIDEN DRAFT

1	Marcus Curr	Bellarosa	172
2	Anthony McMillan	Old Mate	170
3	Ben Stanger	Indent	169
4	Peter Hacon	Lacey	168
5	Ben Stanger	Eva	167
5	Dan Roselt	Shady	167
Highest Cut-Out: Peter Eckford			23
Highest First Round:			
	Evan Acton	Oliver	86
	Marcus Curr	Bellarosa	86
	Anthony McMillan	Old Mate	86

## NOVICE DRAFT

1	Leanne Imeson	Cloudy	172
2	Marcus Curr	Bellarosa	169
3	Ray Thieme	Jewel	163
4	Marcus Curr	Party Girl	110
5	Damien Curr	Sam	107
6	Dan Roselt	Rocky	106
Highest Cut-Out: Wayne Saunders			23
Highest First Round:			
	Marcus Curr	Party Girl	89
	Marcus Curr	Bellarosa	89
	Leanne Imeson	Cloudy	89

## OPEN DRAFT

1	Ben Stanger	Ricca	171
2	Danny Locke	Alley	168
3	Kerry Dollard	Tommy	167
4	Marcus Curr	Gitterbug	166
5	Anthony McMillan	Dakota	165
5	Anthony McMillan	Minnesota	165
6	Suzy Logan	Duet	105
6	Georgia Kiss	Barnum	105
Highest First Round:			
	Marcus Curr	Gitterbug	87
	Marcus Curr	Image	87
	Neil Hammond	Geronimo	87
Highest Cut-Out: James Coats			24

## LADIES DRAFT

1	Claire Murphy	Gitterbug	171
2	Kerry Dollard	Belle	106
3	Georgia Kiss	Barnum	85
3	Courtney McMillan	Denise	85
4	Riley Curr	Alias	82
5	Leanne Imeson	Nickalet	80
Highest Cut-Out: Cheri Stange			23

## JUVENILE DRAFT

1	Riley Curr	Party Girl	82
2	Courtney McMillan	Max	79
3	Courtney McMillan	Jungle Bunny	78
4	Adrienne Brady	Desray	77
Highest Cut-Out: Courtney McMillan			20

## JUNIOR DRAFT

1	Amelia McMillan	Cowley	82
2	Erin Imeson	Desray	79
3	Amelia McMillan	Dakota	75

## MINI DRAFT

1	Abbey Pratt	Banana	58
2	Grace Abdy	Snow	57
3	Sami Coates	Opera	55

## STOCKMANS WORKOUT

1	Geoff Finaly	Click	84
2	Holly Clarke	Geronimo	82
2	Caitlin Stone	Weige	82
Highest Cut-Out: Caitlin Stone			18

## DISTRICT TEAM CHALLENGE

1	BOOTH TEAM		
	Jeremy Booth	Hobo	85
	Hayley Booth	Mr Wannamarra	80
	Ken Booth	Leila	74
2	NARDOO TEAM		
	Dan Roselt	Charlie	20
	Patrick Donlan	Pippa	81
	Wayne Saunders	Fairdinkum	81
3	ARMRAYNALD TEAM		
	Zac Duff	Belle	79
	Kerry Dollard	Tommy	84
	Nicole Jansen	Joe	19



# Gregory Races

## Start Construction Class B H'dcap 800m

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Horse:	Houf	Basaltic Banne	Sheer Bedlam
Jockey:	Dan Ballard	Terence Hill	Rodney Sue-San
Trainer:	Neil Byrne	Tanya Parry	Tanya Parry
Owner:	Mrs. S M Byrne	Ms T Parry	Ms T Parry
Margins:	NK x Sh NK	Time: 46.08 sec	

## Brodie & Co QTIS Class 2 H'dcap 1000m

General Calm	Unswapt	Clanchy
Dan Ballard Keith Ballard	Lacey Morrison	
Ken Ford	Denise Ballard	Kerry Krogh
KH Ford	Miss A M Webber	KD Krogh
2L x 8 1/2 L	58.42	

## Forshaw Contracting Class 3 Plate 1300m

Sarabah Rose	Shadow Alliance	Belford Boy
Aaron Spradau	Terrance Hill	John Rudd
Robert Burrow	Kerry Krogh	Joseph L Wright
Mrs. A, P & P Mcleish	KD Krogh	J Wright, O Laffin, W Jenkins
M & S James, L Castellano		
1 1/2 L x 1 1/2 L	1 - 19.63 min	

## B & L Earthmoving/Columba Catholic College Class 5 H'dcap 1000m

Boris	Ready to Burn	Richart
Rodney Sue-San	Lacey Morrison	Michael Cullen
Gareth Smith	Jay Morris	Grant Wiles
DW Smith & M Burke	AN Saunders	Mrs FM Wiles, RL & RG Wiles
1/2 H x 2 1/4 L	57.99 sec	

## Gordon Smith Memorial Open H'dcap 1300m

Just a Touch Shudule Gee	Stellar Show	
Lacey Morrison	Keith Ballard	Dan Ballard
Jay Morris	Denise Ballard	Denise Ballard
AN Saunders	GL & Mrs. LF Huddy	L Huddy, DR Ballard,
		R Iraci, LL Williams,
		WG Knight, G Harris
		LJ McDonagh

1-18.60 min

2 1/2 L x 1 3/4 L

# Giving back to the Communities that give to us

