

BURKE SHIRE Council Newsletter



Edition 37 : July 2013

ANZAC Day 2013

Burke Shire has a long history of active community participation in Anzac Day activities and this year was no exception.

Approximately fifty people in Burketown and twenty-seven at Gregory Downs Station braved the crisp Autumn predawn and watched the flags unfurl at half mast, listened to prayers and national anthems as well as the haunting lament of "The Last Post" while reflecting on the sacrifice of not only the armed servicemen but the families who selflessly let their loved ones answer the "call to duty".

In Burketown after a delicious breakfast at the Hall attendees took the time to look at the various displays and the children's artwork on display before going home. Attendees at Gregory also enjoyed a hot sunrise breakfast.

Many of the early service attendees returned, along with more community members, to watch the march of community groups and excited children down Musgrave Street. Upon arrival at the cenotaph the official ceremony, an extended version of the dawn service, began.

The Honour Rolls were recited as were the Ode of Remembrance, the Lord's Prayer and the poem "My Brother George" written about the late George Smith of "Brookdale". Wreaths were laid by various community groups, children and family members to honour those who have protected this nation and the freedoms of its citizens and who continue to do so.

The Mayor, Cr Ernie Camp, addressed the crowd highlighting the appreciation for the servicemen's efforts and the generosity of their families to let them go knowing they might not return and the fact that Anzac Day is not an attempt to glorify war but to honour and show respect to those aforementioned people and the sacrifices made. He made special mention of the children who marched today and their contributions to the reading of items on the programme and laying of wreaths and commended them on their enthusiastic participation.

All then walked across the street for a delicious barbeque lunch followed by Anzacs, lamingtons and freshly made damper and syrup.

Winners of the children's art competition were announced and prizes were presented to Terrance Taylor for the Kindy, prep and year one, Lah-Leejah Yanner received an Achievement Award for the Kindy, prep and year one, Clarice MacNamara for the year two to four's and Yellagunjimurra Yanner for the year five to seven's.

Thanks to all who contributed to ensure the success of this annual event and also to those who attended. It is great to see that Anzac Day remains relevant and all are committed to ensuring that this Day remains important in our community.



Sergeant Wayne Rickerby laying a wreath for the Queensland Police.



Dawn Service at Gregory Downs Station.



Anzac Day March in Burketown.

Burke Shire Council PO Box 90 BURKETOWN QLD 4830

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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*

It's hard to believe that another year is halfway over. The Wet this year was most unimpressive as it was in much of Northern Australia. Drought declarations have been made for several Shires, including Burke.

The dry conditions have a negative effect on our rural residents and also on the funds allocated to Council for road works maintenance.

It has been a busy few months with the annual Barra Comp, Gregory Horse and Canoe Races and Anzac Day. Thanks to all the volunteers who assist in the preparations and on the day to make those events the success they are.

These events not only create opportunities for locals to enjoy themselves but also attract visitors from near and far and showcase our great Shire.

With the imminent closure of MMG Century Mine looming, and the potential of new mining opportunities emerging, Council has been busy working with these companies to ensure that the Shire can receive the maximum benefits possible and at the same time minimise the impacts to our natural environs.

Century will be around for some time yet as it goes through the close down process and there here will be a gradual projected scaling down of works at Century.

However Century should not be completely ruled out as it continues with an intensive exploration phase to try and extend its life be it with zinc or some other mineral commodity.

Council recently had the opportunity to visit the Armour Energy site and were amazed at the technology and equipment in place and the potential it has, far beyond our initial expectations should the project bear fruit.

GSD recently had the pleasure of hosting, at his request, the Premier, his wife and staff for a whirlwind tour of the region.

This is a result of a GSD delegation meeting with the Premier at a Community Cabinet in Cairns last year at which he stated he did not know enough about the region and committed to visiting in the near future.

Students from Burketown Kindergarten and School greeted them at the airport and presented various items, much to the Premier and his wife's delight.

They did a fantastic job as ambassadors and we should all be proud of their conduct. Due to the short notice and limited time available it was not possible to organise an opportunity to mingle with the Shire residents. Council will endeavour to entice the Premier to return for a longer visit.

The following day, along with the Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Poole, Burke Shire CEO John Page and GSD CEO Rob Macalister, I travelled in conjunction with the Premier as he visited MMG Century Mine (whom I am pleased to announce have come on board and taken up Corporate membership of GSD and their input and support have strengthened the organisation) and Doomadgee.

The day ended with a GSD mayoral meeting with the Premier and his advisors in Karumba. The Premier kept a consistent message to all Shires: that due to the State's financial situation he couldn't commit large funds but he could commit to supporting Local Government by giving back control to them and letting them take the lead, assist with red tape reduction and appropriate legislation.

Council found the Premier willing to engage, prepared to come forward with solutions and willing to commit to working together to achieve best possible outcomes.

He acknowledged that Local Government was best placed, and needed to be enabled, to lead and deliver projects as they knew best the needs and wants of their communities.

On behalf of Council I wish to offer congratulations to Cr Murray and family on their recent arrival of J'maiMaudie.

This year we have lost too many young and young at heart from our lives.

As I stated at Gregory Races it is important to make the time to tell those you work with that you appreciate them and to tell those near and dear to you what they mean to you as you never know how much time you have with them.

So in closing I would like to say to all Shire residents that I appreciate your efforts and commitment as volunteers, community members and contributors to this unique region.



From the Chief Executive Officer's Desk *John Page*



Council is continuing to move forward to achieve its objectives with the provision of infrastructure etc to cater for the needs of the community Council serves as well as encouraging additional business development.

On the infrastructure side these include road works, water and sewerage upgrades and improvements. I would like to extend congratulations to our staff who have excelled themselves in the performance of their duties.

I congratulate Geoff and Leah for their new Butchery and Bakery business and wish them well and I am certain that the community will also support this new business venture. There are other proposals in the planning stage for expansion of existing businesses.

Council continues to work with Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation in order to overcome the land shortages in Burketown and it is pleasing to see that there is progress in this area.

We believe that with the availability of land both residential and industrial will see Burketown progress.

Burketown residents will be able to avail themselves of Digital TV from the middle of July with the conversion of the retransmission to digital. Council is also obtaining quotations for a similar facility in Gregory.

Council is working with other Gulf Councils in order to develop the potential of this region further.

To this extent the North West Queensland Regional Organisations of Council has been formed incorporating the Councils of Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Etheridge, Flinders, McKinlay, Mornington Island, Mount Isa and Richmond.

Whilst in its infancy I believe that this ROC will be able to promote and progress the Gulf region for the benefit of this community.

It was pleasing to have the Premier visit Burketown and both his wife Lisa and himself were impressed at the welcome they received from the students of the Burketown Kindy and Burketown State School.

Council had the opportunity to discuss many issues relating to power and energy, infrastructure, land availability as well as other State issues during his time in Burketown. The Premier gave a commitment to follow up on the issues raised.

Message from Councillor Tracy Forshaw

Winter is sneaking up on us and so is the time to prepare a new budget for Council.

I look forward to a progressive year ahead with a budget that will advance the Shire as a whole.

I am always willing to listen and where possible to help our local residents and rate payers. Please do not hesitate to contact me via phone 4748 5521 or email cr.t.forshaw@burke.qld.gov.au.

Take care, kind regards, Tracy.



Premier Campbell Newman and the Burke Shire Councillors.

Staff Familiarisation Trip

Recently seven enthusiastic staff members from the administration office ventured on a trip to Adels Grove and the Riversleigh Fossil Fields.

The Familiarisation trip was organised to give these staff an opportunity to see what is on offer for visitors to the shire and be able to confidently pass on this information. This was enjoyed by all who attended.



L to R: Frederick Aqvilin, Philip Keirle, Hayley Booth, Madison Marshall, Karen McGrath, Pam deJoux and Jenny Williams.

Website Information

Burke Shire Council has a new website – 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...

Positions Vacant

If you would like to apply for work with Burke Shire Council please contact Council on 07 4745 5100 or email office@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

Sunday School & Night Gospel

by Doug and Faye Jones

14th July, 28th July, 11th August, 25th August, 8th September, 13th October, 27th October, 10th November, 24th November.

Library Update

The library has recently received an upgrade to its operating program.

Rural Libraries Queensland (formerly known as The Country Lending Service) represents a collaboration between local governments and the State Library of Queensland to provide high quality public library services to rural Queensland.

RLQ is your gateway to resources and services provided by your local council and State Library of Queensland for the rural community.

The RLQ online catalogue provides 24/7 access to the resources and services of the 28 participating councils in the network. Library members can access over a quarter of a million books, music, movies and more.

Every RLQ library user has a password or PIN that allows items to be ordered directly from the RLQ catalogue. Come into the library to receive your library user number and pin.

You can access RLQ at any computer connected to the internet. Visit www.auroracloud.com.au/OPAC/QPIL

Freegal Music Site

All library members have access to Freegal Music.

How Freegal Music Works:

Library users have a weekly download limit of three (3) songs. You will be able to keep track of your downloads in the upper right corner of the site. Every song has a sample clip you can listen to before you download.

The downloads on this site are all in the MP3 format with no DRM. This service will work with any MP3 player, including iPod, and can be loaded into iTunes. It works on both PCs and Macs. Check out our new mobile apps for iOS and Android devices!

Be sure to check out the browsing areas, especially Artists A to Z (on the "see all genres" page) and the genre lists (menu bar). Click on see all genres to view dozens of categories.

Enjoy the site!

Burke Shire School Updates



C&K Cape and Gulf ECA Will Jones [curriculum co-ordinator] presenting Bob with a Certificate on behalf of the Burketown Community Kindergarten and C&K Cape Gulf FNQ.

Burketown Kindy

National Volunteer Week:

Gulf Country - Burketown Community Kindergarten:

On Tuesday evening May 14th the Burketown Community Kindergarten held a 'Meet and Greet' to Welcome the new 2013 Committee and Farewell the Outgoing 2012 Committee.

At the 'Meet and Greet' Burketown Community Kindergarten honoured dedicated, long-time Volunteer Committee Member Robert Marshall for his incredible and compassionate service unto the Children, their Families and his Community for over 40 years.

C&K Cape and Gulf ECA Will Jones [curriculum co-ordinator] presented Bob with a Certificate on behalf of the Burketown Community Kindergarten and C&K Cape Gulf FNQ.

Will reminisced on the professional and personal integrity that Bob has brought to the Kindergarten, long after his Children had journeyed on to school.

Will affirmed Bob's leadership of the Burketown Kindergarten remains the spirit and touchstone for the whole Burketown Community and had been

since its inception. His Legacy has inspired the entire Burketown Community to feel personal ownership of the Kindergarten.

Bob explained that "There were times that it looked like the Kindergarten would close and I had to go down with my 'ship'... that is my way... I couldn't desert it... but now as I retire I can see that little light at the end of the tunnel..." everyone wholeheartedly agreed with Bob.

He passed the charter of practice onto us that we could not let the Kindergarten close, because if it does it will never open again and this is such a crucial beginning of belonging before our little ones move on...

Burketown State School

by Joey Campbell, Principal

Burketown State School Athletics Day Thursday 11th July 2013.

Burketown State School would like to invite all School of the air students in the area to our annual athletics carnival.

If your child would like to attend and participate please contact the school on 4745 5124.

Little Birung

Inside the darkened hall a lone spotlight illuminated a screen. The audience sat and waited. As the title "Little Birung" appeared a lone voice, full of honest emotion, pierced through the silence. Later a strumming guitar added another layer to the performance. And so it began.

For the next ninety minutes Megan Samardin led the audience on a personal journey, tracing the generations of women on her family tree. As she talked and sang of love, loss and her family's personal battle for recognition and acceptance in the face of social and legal conventions of the time she drew the audience into her family and its story.

Being a North West girl her stories brought back memories for many of the audience of people, places and events. There were a few chuckles when grabbing a greasy treat from Burger Chef was the norm after spilling out from the pubs and clubs in the early morning was mentioned as many could recall doing the same in their youth.

Images and videoed conversations of Megan's family played on the screen behind her between her songs and added to the tale and continued to ensure the audience was drawn into her family and its story.

All in attendance were touched by her story, enthralled by her beautiful voice and appreciative of the obvious skill of her accompanist.

Burke Shire Council is proud to have sponsored this Arts Queensland performance and looks forward to presenting further acts of this calibre for the community's enjoyment in the future.

Council Meetings

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:-

June	Tuesday 18
July	Thursday 18
August	Thursday 15
September	Thursday 19
October	Thursday 17
November	Thursday 21
December	Thursday 12

Burke Shire Calendar of Events

See more information on the Burke Shire Council website – www.burke.qld.gov.au

- 22nd & 23rd June - Gregory Campdraft & Horse Sports
- 17 August - Arts and Crafts Show
- TBA - August - HACC Awareness Week
- TBA - September - Burketown Campdraft & Horse Sports
- TBA - September - Gregory Mini School
- 14 September - HACC Trash & Treasure
- TBA - September - Gregory CWA Horse Sports

Home & Community Care Update

by Pam deJoux

With Gregory clients participating in our HACC Program, we now enjoy a variety of structured group activities together. Our fortnightly HACC meetings in Gregory are held at the Sports/CWA Hall where the clients participate in various crafts and card games. Crafts include pine cone pin cushions, butterfly collage and glass decorating along with bead making, art and sewing.

Fishing is still a popular outing with all and a day trip to Sweers Island is always the highlight of their fishing excursions. Flying with Savannah Aviation they enjoyed a morning tea before hitting the beach. Before lunch they had caught several fish so once lunch was over, they were keen to get back into it. With the many species caught that day they still managed to bring home twenty three keepers (bream).

The gardens are flourishing with new plants being added when plants need replacing. The gardens are tended regularly with hosing and weeding done by all. A disabled garden setting will be installed soon to complement and complete the HACC gardens.

In July we will be down in Adel's Grove for two days of R&R as well as joining the Outback Queensland Music Tour for their country music nights with John Howie (Howie Brothers) and Stephen Cheney. This Tour comes through Burketown but is not on their schedule for a stopover.

In August we will be making our annual five day Drovers Camp Trip to Camooweal with several of our clients. This time our trip will be more relaxed as we will have an overnight in Mt Isa on our way back so that they can enjoy a morning of shopping.

We now have a portable wheel chair for the bus which the clients requiring a wheelchair will be able to make use of when on excursions. Participation in light exercises is slotted into the program as part of the HACC Reform with "Living Longer, Living Well".

Other activities included:

- International Women's Day Luncheon which was held in April with a good attendance.
- On May Day Weekend we attended a Luncheon and Races at Gregory.
- Prior to Anzac Day we laid wreaths on three graves at the Cemetery.
- Trash & Treasure was held in April with a Mother's Day raffle won by Cheryl Portch.

Services available:

CENTRE BASED DAY CARE: This service provides structured group activities designed to develop, maintain and support the capacity for independent living conducted in or from a centre based setting. It also includes excursions/ conducted by CBDC staff but held away from the fixed centre.

SOCIAL SUPPORT: Is primarily directed towards meeting the people's need for social contact and/or accompaniment in order to participate in community life. It includes friendly visits, chats, shopping or appointments and those who are socially isolated on stations.

Arts & Crafts Show

Burke Shire Council will be presenting their annual Arts & Craft Show on Saturday 17th August 2013.

Programmes are now available at the Burke Shire Council Administration Office, on the Burke Shire Council website – www.burke.qld.gov.au or can be email/faxed to you upon request. Should you have any queries regarding this event please contact Madison Marshall via email on events@burke.qld.gov.au or via telephone on 07 4745 5100.

Cr Tracy Forshaw Nominated for Award

Cr Tracy Forshaw was nominated by State MP for Mt Isa, Robbie Katter for The Inspiring & Pioneering Queensland Women's Award for her work with the Health Clinic and other Community Organisations in Gregory and the Burke Shire.

Mr Katter said "It was tough deciding between eight strong contenders, but Tracy Forshaw is an absolute stand-out in her community and she thoroughly deserves the nominations"

Tracy said "She was truly honoured and proud to be able to representative the Mt Isa Electorate at the Breakfast Awards at Parliament House in Brisbane on Friday 8th March"

There were over 200 attendees with 48 women that were awarded the inaugural award. The Honourable Madame Speaker, Fiona Simpson present each Award Recipients with a certificate and a handmade Cooktown Orchid pin.

The awards day was made extra special as it was held on International Day for Women and Tracy's sister, Katrina, was able to partner her to the ceremony.



Madame Speaker Fiona Simpson, Katrina Byrd, Cr Tracy Forshaw and Rob Katter.

Burketown's (Australia's) Biggest Morning Tea

Once again we had a fantastic turn up for "Burketown's Biggest Morning Tea" held at the Deck at Savannah Lodge on Saturday 11th May.

Since Cancer Council's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea began in 1994, thousands of hosts and millions of guests have come together in the fight against cancer and collectively raised millions of dollars.

In that 20 years the survival rate for many common cancers has increased by 30% - but there is still more work to be done and more progress to be made.

Burke Shire residents who have supported our "little" Biggest Morning Tea can be proud of their contribution. This year we are sending a cheque off for \$1460.50. A great effort!

Thank you to the following business and individuals who kindly made donations and helped towards this event:

Carrol Cunningham, Jenny Williams, Burketown Nursery, Savannah Butchery and Bakery, Morning Glory Restaurant, Nowland Engineering, Burketown Convenience Store, Savannah Lodge, Fuzzy Bob, Cas Carruthers, Lisa Anderson, Amanda Wilkinson, Ian and Kerre Taylor.

A big thank you to the Burke Shire Council for their contribution of \$500.00. The raffle was popular with 650 tickets sold, with 12 great prizes to be won. Thank you to those that could not come along on the day that



sent along their good wishes and request for raffle tickets etc.

Come along next year in May (date to be set) to enjoy a great couple of hours knowing that your donation is making a difference to those affected by cancer. Every Cup Counts!

Local Family Wins at Gregory Races

The Annual Gregory Downs Jockey Club Races was held on Saturday 4th May.

Attendance was up, and the fashions of the field was highly contested.

Local family from Mellish Park Station had amazing wins in Race 4, The Forshaw Contracting / Niverak Smash Repairs Class 3 Plate 1300m, with two of their horses coming First and Third.

Keith Ballard rode No Identity into first place, followed by Bandidas coming in third, ridden by Dan Ballard.

Owners Bev Webber, Anne Webber and Ethleen Burnett said trainer Denise Bollard and the Jockeys did an astounding race.

This year all 5 races were hotly contended and with an average of 6 horses per race.

Burke Shire Mayor, Ernie Camp was also presented a trophy.

The new TV system was very much appreciated, with special thanks to Burke Shire Council to contributing toward part of the costs.



Websites of Interest to the Community

Regional Development Australia www.rdatanwq.org.au/newsletters

RDA Charter - The key focus of RDA Townsville and North West Queensland Committee is uniting communities around economic, social and environmental issues and opportunities. RDA will:

- Support informed regional planning;
- Consult and engage with the community on economic, social and environmental issues, solutions and priorities;
- Liaise with governments and local communities about government programs, services, grants and initiatives for regional development; and
- Contribute to business growth plans and investment strategies, environmental solutions and social inclusion strategies.

MMG (Mineral Mines Group) www.mmg.com

Century - Located in north-west Queensland, Century is Australia's largest open-cut zinc mine. Century produces zinc and lead concentrates at its mining and processing operation at Lawn Hill, located about 250 kilometres north-west of Mount Isa.

Concentrates are then transferred via a 304-kilometre underground pipeline to Century's Port facility for shipping to smelters in Australia, Europe and Asia.

CNWQML (Central & North West Queensland Medicare Local) www.cnwqml.com.au

CNWQML has a long and proud history of delivering effective, integrated primary health care services in the region previously as North and West Queensland Primary Health Care.

Tourism Queensland tq.com.au/marketing/australian-tourism-data-warehouse/australian-tourism-data-warehouse_home.cfm

This is a free way for all events to get major promotion on websites including the new Gulf Savannah website and Drive North Queensland phone app, TTNQ website and over 50 more.

All local events should be on this – you just need to register then keep updating your event year after year for free promotion. Hope you can be on ATDW.

Burketown Tennis Mixed Doubles

Burketown Autumn Tennis Competition came to a close with the finals being played on Tuesday 28 May with a presentation BBQ.

10 teams battled it out over 7 weeks. Playing off in the grand final was Debbie & Joey defeating Jasmin & Jeremy in a closely contested match. Final score being 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

Thank you to CLCAC and staff for helping out with the set up at presentation and to Norm Welsh for cooking the BBQ.



L to R - Runners up Jeremy Booth and Jasmin Matters and Winners Debbie Harris and Joey Campbell.

Articles for the Burke Shire Council Newsletter

Do you have something you would like to promote in our newsletter?

Send through your information to **events@burke.qld.gov.au**

Articles will be approved at Council's discretion



Photo Competition 2013

ENTER NOW!

Win a gift voucher and/or a prize....

Entries close at 4.00 pm on Friday 2nd August 2013.

Entry forms can be obtained from the following places:-

- Burke Shire Council Administration Office
- Burke Shire Council Depot
- Nowlands Engineering
- Burketown Post Office
- Burke Shire Council website – www.burke.qld.gov.au
- or an entry form can be email/faxed to you upon request

What type of photograph can be entered?

Burke Shire Council is looking for a photo of a Burke Shire Sunrise/Sunset to be displayed on the Burke Shire Council website.

Photos must be entered electronically and as hard copy print.

You can enter up to two photos, with the hard copy printed as 8.3 x 11.7" (210 x 297mm) in size.

You could win some great prizes - so get snapping!

Entry categories and prizes

Entries must be taken within the Burke Shire area.

Open section – open to everyone aged 18 years and over as at 1 July 2013

1st prize: \$100 gift voucher

2nd prize: \$50 gift voucher

Intermediate section – for those aged 13 to 17 years as at 1 July 2013

1st prize: \$100 gift voucher

2nd prize: \$50 gift voucher

Junior section – for those aged 12 years or under as at 1 July 2013

The junior section is especially good for primary school students.

1st prize: \$50 prize

2nd prize: \$25 prize

Judging

All entries will be displayed and judged at the 2013 Burke Shire Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday 17th August 2013 in the Burketown Shire Hall.

For more information please contact Madison Marshall via phone on 07 4745 5100 or via email events@burke.qld.gov.au.



Small Business Business Growth Project 2012 -14

Gulf Savannah Development (GSD) is pleased to advise that our Gulf Savannah Business Growth Project currently has two programs available to small businesses (that includes grazing or fishing businesses) or aspiring entrepreneurs in the Gulf Shires of Burke, Carpentaria, Doomadgee, Etheridge and Mornington.

Our **Business Boost** program provides high quality & low cost support to Gulf businesses looking to grow or increase their productivity. Eligible businesses can get up to 12 hours of professional support

Our **Business Start Up** program provides high quality & low cost support to help establish new businesses in the Gulf Savannah Shires. Eligible businesses can get up to 20 hours of professional support.

We can link you up with LOW COST advice from specialist consultants on our Panel in a range of areas, including:

- Mentoring
- Sales & Marketing
- Legal Advice
- Tourism Development
- Business Planning Advice/ Strategic Planning
- Financial Planning
- HR and Staffing
- Insurance Advice
- Succession Planning
- E-Commerce, Websites

Funds are limited so register your interest soon!

Please contact Annie Cork:

Email: smallbusiness@gulf-savannah.com.au

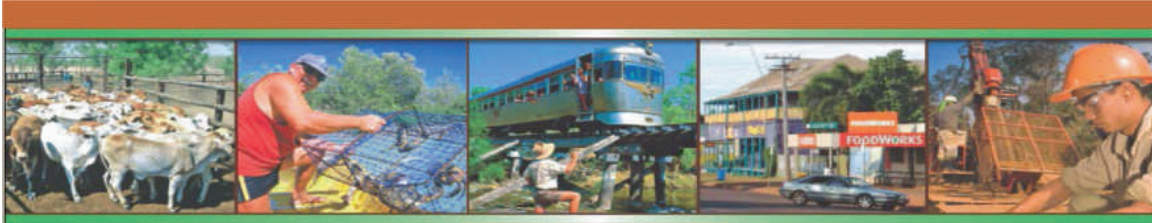
Tel 0437 029 668 or Free Call 1800 630 119

Or check out our website under the 'Business Support' tab

www.gulf-savannah.com.au



The services provided by Gulf Savannah Development Inc. are funded by the Australian Government. Additional financial support from the local governments of the Gulf Savannah & Skytrans.



Media Release: 18 March 2013

Gulf Savannah Tourism Industry a National Leader

The Gulf Savannah has received one of the highest satisfaction ratings of any tourism region in Australia, with 74% of visitors 'Very Satisfied' with their Gulf Savannah experience.

"This is an outstanding result and demonstrates the quality of tourism attractions throughout the Gulf Savannah region," said Gulf Savannah Development (GSD) CEO, Rob Macalister.

A visitor survey conducted by GSD and its partner, Savannah Way Ltd, attracted over 1750 responses and is the most comprehensive survey of its type conducted in the region.

"Our research showed that 58,000 people visited the Gulf Savannah for holiday or leisure in 2012 and that the value of the region's tourism industry is now estimated at over \$65 million per annum," added Mr. Macalister.

"The research also shows that the Gulf Savannah tourism industry has grown significantly in the last ten years and is now the third largest industry behind mining and grazing. Most of that growth has come from interstate visitors, particularly from NSW and Victoria."

"Locals have always known what a great place the Gulf Savannah is," said Savannah Way Ltd Manager, Russell Boswell. "Tourism operators such as Undara Experience, End of the Road Motel and Cobbold Gorge are well established and consistently win tourism awards, but the survey also shows there is demand for a broader range of tours in response to a growing and a more diversified tourism market."

The most popular new tour options were visits to historical sites and buildings, cattle station tours and aerial tours of the Gulf including to Mornington Island.

"The survey also showed that the Gulf Savannah is attracting significant numbers of family groups as well as groups of friends. These results provide a solid basis to grow the tourism industry further," added Mr. Boswell.

Tourism Research Australia data shows that the average 'Very Satisfied' rating across Australia is 51%. The tourism survey received financial support from the State Government through the Queensland Regional Development Initiative.

Media Contact: Rob Macalister CEO, Gulf Savannah Development 0447 167 092/ 40 311 631.

Russell Boswell Manager, Savannah Way Ltd 0408 772 513.

Executive Summary

In 2012 Gulf Savannah Development & Savannah Way Ltd undertook a major tourism research project which included a visitor survey. Some of the key findings are:

- 67,000 visitors came to the Gulf Savannah in 2012. 58,000 of these came for holiday or leisure and 9000 for business or employment.
- Leisure visitors came mainly from Queensland (36%), NSW (27%) and Victoria (19%). 5% came from overseas.
- Australian couples are the main type of travel party (59%), however groups of friends (16%) and families (9%) are also significant.
- Normanton was the most visited town by leisure visitors (69%) followed by Mt Surprise (63%) and Karumba (62%). Only 46% of visitors made it into western parts of the region.
- 69% of all leisure visitor nights were spent in caravan parks or commercial camping grounds including National Parks. 24% of visitor nights were in bush (or 'free') camps.
- The average length of stay for leisure visitors was 11.5 days.
- The Gulf Savannah tourism industry was worth \$65 million in 2012, including business visitors (but not including airfares). The average spend for leisure visitors was \$79.11 per day, or on average \$910 for their trip into the Gulf Savannah. Groups of friends & international visitors were the highest spenders.
- Karumba captured the most tourism dollars, followed by Mt Surprise and Normanton.
- The Gulf Savannah has one of the highest satisfaction ratings of any region in Australia, with 74% 'Very Satisfied' with their trip. The factors that gave most satisfaction were the friendliness of locals, Visitor Information Centres and customer service. The factors causing most dissatisfaction were mobile phone coverage/ internet access, roads and the quality of fishing.
- New tour products that visitors expressed the most interest in were visits to historical sites or buildings, day trips to Mornington Island and cattle station tours/farmstays.
- 19% of survey respondents were interested in casual work or volunteering opportunities, with half of that number willing to work for more than a month.
- There has been significant growth in tourism numbers to the Gulf Savannah but most of that growth has come from interstate visitors and not from FNQ locals or international visitors.
- Key needs identified include better marketing to FNQ residents, addressing the free camping issue, a more diverse and targeted range of products to capture more tourist dollars, development of the western Gulf Savannah tourism industry, further infrastructure development, and more initiatives to access visitor labour supply.

Department of Education, Training and Employment



2013 Premier's reading challenge

Prep to Year 7, 15 April to 6 September

www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge

Books read for MS Reading can be counted for the Premier's Reading Challenge too!

Great state. Great opportunity.








Proudly brought to you by:



Gregory Downs Jockey Club 2013

An excellent gathering was on hand to enjoy the Annual Gregory Race Meeting on May 4th. The ladies looked stunning and the local stockman scrubbed up well for the occasion.

The 18 -25yrs Fashion of the Field winner was Rachel Arnold and runner up was Claire Brennan. 25yr and over winner was Megan Munchenburg and Runner up was Stephanie Eckford. Burketown identity "Colin" won the over 25's best dressed male.

Local Mt Isa Trainer Denise Ballard and her husband and son jockey team were victorious with 3 winners, Snakehips, No Identity and Abdicated, and 2 third placings to be best of the day. 3 local Mellish Park ladies had a share in No Identity so it was a very popular winner. Julia Creek trainer Tanya Parry also had a winner and 3 minor placings. George Tipping took out the first race with a new galloper in his stable, having his first start on a dirt track.

A huge thanks from the committee to all the sponsors, volunteers and participants for making it a great day out.



Under 25 Ladies Fashion of the Field Runner-up Claire Brennan and winner Rachael Arnold with Sponsor Jo Start.



Over 25 Ladies Fashion of the Field winner Megan Munchenburg and runner-up Stephanie Eckford with Sponsor Jo Start.

Gregory Grapevine

CWA – Gregory Branch

- How Many Grids To Gregory cookbooks are available for sale - \$10 each contact Treasurer Sue Clarke, Phone 4748 5575

Gregory QCWA Horse Sports & Family Fun Day

- Date Claimer – Sunday 21st September

Gregory Campdraft & Horse Sports

- June – 22nd & 23rd
- Contact Campdraft President Ian Forshaw 4748 5521 or Secretary Stephanie Eckford on 4748 5556

RFDS Clinic Gregory (Doctor & Child Health Nurse)

From 9am Thursday Fortnightly

- 6th & 20th June
- 4th & 18th July
- 1st, 15th & 29th August
- 12th & 26th August
- Health Nurse will also be doing talks at the clinics on topics about eyes, hearing, heart & lungs, flu shots etc.

Friday Night Tennis

- Family fun night
- BYO food to share on the BBQ
- Starts at 7pm

Gregory Races 2013 Results

Start Construction "Kevin from Heaven" Class B H'dcap 800M

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Horse:	Windsplitter	Ellainah	Kissergarni
Jockey:	Keith Ballard	Tim Brummell	Terrance Hill
Trainer:	George Tipping	Joseph L Wright	Tanya Parry
Owner:	M Michael, J Teague, F Campbell, G Tipping	O Laffin, JL Wright, WF Jenkin	Ms T Parry
Margins:	2 1/2 L x 1/2 L	Time: 46.91 sec	

Brodie & Co QTIS Class 1 H'dcap 1000M

Snakehips	Delay	Masataka
Dan Ballard	Rodney Sue-San	Steven Galvin
Denise Ballard	Philip Miller	Gareth Smith
L Huddy, D Ballard, B Peters, L Atkinson, S McCay, N Edge, L Schodel, V Anderson, G Andersen	PR Miller	D W Smith
3/4 L x 1 L	1.06.8	

B&L Earthmoving/Columba Catholic College Benchmark 70 H'dcap 1000m

Lagason	Surpasser	Chokktorque
Rodney Sue-San	Dan Ballard	Keith Ballard
Tanya Parry	Tanya Parry	Denise Ballard
Ms T Parry	Ms T Parry	SJ Royes
Hd x 2 3/4 L	1-02.23 min	

Forshaw Contracting/Niverak Smash Repairs Class 3 Plate 1300m

No Identity	Wayne	Bandidas
Keith Ballard	Terrance Hill	Dan Ballard
Denise Ballard	Tanya Parry	Denise Ballard
L Huddy, M Tully, S Clauson, B Anderson, D Ballard, L Atkinson, A Webber, B Webber, E Burnett	Ms T Parry	L Huddy, M Tully, L Atkinson, D Jones, S Clauson, A Webber, B Webber, E Burnett
Hd x 1 1/2 L	1-20.91	

Gordon Smith Memorial Open H'dcap 1300M

Abdicated	Threatened Danger	Rapid Leica Jacko
Dan Ballard	Terrance Hill	Tim Brummell
Denise Ballard	Tanya Parry	George Tipping
L Huddy, B Anderson, JJ Ward, D Jones, D Ballard	T Parry	F&S Brophy, P Hoken, M Ballin, B Murphy, J Beer, P Trefry, G Tipping
1L x Sht Nk	1-20.97	



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 Races 2013



Schedule effective 9 December 2012

Monday Westbound					Eastbound				
Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #	Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #
CNS	NTN	12:05	13:35	Q654	ISA	DMD	09:05	10:05	Q655
NTN	ONG	14:05	14:55	Q654	DMD	ONG	10:25	11:05	Q655
ONG	BUC	15:15	15:55	Q654	ONG	NTN	11:25	12:15	Q655
BUC	DMD	16:15	16:40	Q654	NTN	CNS	12:45	14:15	Q655
DMD	ISA	17:00	18:00	Q654					
Tuesday Eastbound					Wednesday Westbound				
Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #	Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #
ISA	DMD	09:05	10:05	Q653	CNS	NTN	12:50	14:20	Q656
DMD	BUC	10:25	10:50	Q653	NTN	ONG	14:50	15:40	Q656
BUC	ONG	11:10	11:50	Q653	ONG	DMD	16:00	16:40	Q656
ONG	NTN	12:10	13:00	Q653	DMD	ISA	17:00	18:00	Q656
NTN	CNS	13:30	15:00	Q653					
Thursday Westbound					Eastbound				
Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #	Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #
CNS	NTN	12:50	14:20	Q656	ISA	DMD	09:05	10:05	Q655
NTN	ONG	14:50	15:40	Q656	DMD	ONG	10:25	11:05	Q655
ONG	DMD	16:00	16:40	Q656	ONG	NTN	11:25	12:15	Q655
DMD	ISA	17:00	18:00	Q656	NTN	CNS	12:45	14:15	Q655
Friday Westbound					Eastbound				
Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #	Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #
CNS	NTN	12:05	13:35	Q654	ISA	DMD	09:05	10:05	Q653
NTN	ONG	14:05	14:55	Q654	DMD	BUC	10:25	10:50	Q653
ONG	BUC	15:15	15:55	Q654	BUC	ONG	11:10	11:50	Q653
BUC	DMD	16:15	16:40	Q654	ONG	NTN	12:10	13:00	Q653
DMD	ISA	17:00	18:00	Q654	NTN	CNS	13:30	15:00	Q653
Saturday Eastbound					Sunday Westbound				
Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #	Origin	Dest.	Dep.	Arr.	Flt #
ISA	BUC	12:05	13:00	Q657	CNS	NTN	09:20	10:50	Q658
BUC	ONG	13:20	14:00	Q657	NTN	ONG	11:20	12:10	Q658
ONG	NTN	14:20	15:10	Q657	ONG	ISA	12:30	13:40	Q658
NTN	CNS	15:40	17:10	Q657					
NTN = Normanton ISA = Mount Isa					ONG = Mornington Island CNS = Cairns				
					BUC = Burketown KRB = Karumba				
					DMD = Doomadgee				