

BURKE SHIRE *Council* Newsletter



Edition 46 : December 2015

Recent Events in the Shire

Burketown Wharf Pontoon Opening

On Friday 30th October 2015 the Burketown Wharf Pontoon was officially opened by LNP State Representative Senator Ian MacDonald.

The project was well supported by the community, council, traditional owners and local emergency response and rescue groups. We were also fortunate enough to have Captain Michael Barnett, Regional Harbour Master attend on the day and inspect the new facility.

Thanks to the generous funding supplied by the State Government through the Royalties for the Region Program, the Commonwealth Government's National Stronger Regions Program, as well as contributions from the Burke Shire Council, the Burketown Volunteer Marine Rescue Unit and Marto's Fishing. Burketown can now lay claim to the best pontoon in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The project which commenced in November 2014 and was completed in October 2015 represents an investment in the quality of life of local residents, in the tourist experience of those who come to Burketown to explore the Gulf rivers and Wellesley Island Group, in the development of local businesses catering to those tourists and in the quality of infrastructure available to our emergency services. It is definitely a facility that will be well utilised and a great addition to Burketown's infrastructure.



The Official Opening of the 'Burke Shire Nijinda Durlga' Community Centre

Burke Shire residents celebrated the official opening of the \$3.7 million Burke Shire "Nijinda Durlga" ("Our Place"), a brand new community centre which derives its name from the local Gangalidda language.

The Official Opening and cutting of the Ribbon for the Nijinda Durlga was a joint effort by the Burke Shire Mayor Cr Ernie Camp, and Terrence Taylor and Lenny Booth. This historical event was witnessed by the wider community of Burketown.

The Burke Shire Nijinda Durlga is an amazing facility that is open for hire by all community members and community groups. The facility comprises of a number of multi-purpose spaces such as an amazing hall space, smaller sized meeting rooms, outdoor deck area, bar and commercial kitchen, to which provide the perfect setting for a wide range of Council and community run events and fundraisers, as well as being a great resource to be shared with other commercial and government.

Burke Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Phil Keirle noted that the new facility was receiving "rave reviews" and had "attracted a great deal of local and regional interest in terms of bookings."

In concluding this event there was the cutting of the cake.



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Message from the Mayor

Ernie Camp



Now is the time to prepare for the Wet season. Valuable tips were given at the recent Get Ready Queensland event at the Nijinda Durlga regarding preparation, emergency service response and how to deal with post event traumas. I'd like to acknowledge ABC radio for its coverage and updates during times of extreme weather events.

Now is the time to get in extra food supplies, ensure you have access to sufficient medical supplies, batteries and a battery operated radio and have important documents readily available if necessary. Make a plan in case of emergency.

The Shire is very busy at the moment with Council initiated projects – the Hall at Gregory, the Tourist Information Centre, road works, collating the social history of our Shire including a side project on the Shire's involvement in WW1, developing a project to honour those who have defended our nation in both Gregory and Burketown, developing Burketown North and community service infrastructure, pest management – and Council staff and Councillor involvement in meetings / workshops.

Since the last meeting I, along with my fellow Councillors if relevant, have been to the annual LGAQ conference, two Economic Summits convened by the Premier, meetings with Deputy Premier's Department staff, local disaster management meetings, meetings regarding land development / tenure in Burketown and Gregory with various stakeholders, meetings with Auditors regarding our annual reporting requirements, LGAQ workshops, town planning workshops, and teleconferences with Government Departments. Council staff have also been very busy as the demands of legislation and policy require reporting, updating reporting, training and paperwork, paperwork, paperwork. As a small, remote Shire we have to work hard, both locally and away, to gain administrative and operational notice by government, corporates and investors to attract vital funding and investment thus ensuring growth and sustainability in our corner of Queensland.

It was an honour to host Senator Ian Macdonald recently and have him officially open the Pontoon. Council and community service groups as well as private individuals worked together to deliver this wonderful facility

that improves the enjoyment and safety of locals and travellers in the waterways around Burketown. The large crowd in attendance was testament to how much this facility is appreciated and welcomed. Whilst Senator McDonald was in town he was taken on a tour and we spoke with him regarding our plans for development and our need for supporting infrastructure, for example energy and telecoms, to increase the appeal of our community and therefore encourage investment.

Council has been successful in securing \$1.5m through the Drought Communities Program to undertake further sealing on the Gregory to Lawn Hill Road. Funding will be targeted so as stimulate local community spending, use local resources, businesses and suppliers, and/or provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend. A grant application to the Stronger Communities Program for the Gregory Community Hall Upgrade project has been confirmed as approved by the Department of Infrastructure and the \$20,000 grant will assist towards the cost of renovations.

A GSD media release as well as information regarding the Small Business Advisory Service (SBAS) program are also included in the newsletter. I am pleased to report that Annie Cork, who was our Small Business Support Officer, is back on board, albeit from afar, helping with the SBAS. Many of you know Annie and many consultants from the original panel are back as well to deliver advice and support. Please contact GSD for program information.

Local government elections are being held on 19 March next year. A ballot box will be available in Burketown and postal voting available for those unable to make it to town. Additionally, an information session has been held for interested parties to learn about local government and the role Councillors play and it was good to see plenty of interest. If you are interested in being on Council and serving the Shire there is plenty of information online and any of the current Councillors would be happy to speak with you. Being a Councillor is very rewarding but can also be very challenging professionally and personally. However due to the support of Council staff and, even more importantly, family we are able to attend meetings, travel and focus on the tasks at hand.

The past four years has seen much accomplished though not all may be visible to even the most observant for much has been done in policy/plans, reporting, modernising our archiving strategy and document processing. Council has had to respond to the changes required by two differing State Governments. We have had to compete for a much smaller funding pot whilst assuming increasing responsibility for servicing community needs and wants as a result of devolving duties from other Governmental and corporate tiers. Despite this we have been extremely successful in gaining funding and due to our longstanding fiscal responsibility have reserves for investment in Shire projects.

What have we accomplished?

- Building of the Nijinda Durlga – a hub of meeting rooms, Council Chambers, emergency management, community gathering spaces.
- Expansion of the Burketown Wharf Precinct – with a pontoon, floating gangway, increased parking spaces, installation of flood mapping equipment.
- Instigation of The Morning Glory Festival – as a showcase event for the Shire, along with continuance of the Arts and Craft Show and Order of the Outback Ball.

Recent Events in the Shire

Get Ready Queensland Event

Following the openings of the Burketown Pontoon and the Burke Shire Nijinda Durlga the day continued with it the residents attended this year's Get Ready Queensland event.

As always, the key theme of the event focused on Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery and the role and responsibilities that individuals and emergency services have in the lead-up to, during and after disaster events.

Residents had the opportunity to hear from Kevin Andersen from Fire & Rescue, Troy Crompton – Queensland Police (How to respond in an emergency situation), Cath Walker – RFDS who talked about the Psychological effects from disasters and how to deal with them.

Burke Shire Council CEO Philip Keirle with the Councillors then handed out Survival Kits as give-aways. That concluded a very busy and fulfilling day for the community of Burketown and the Burke Shire Council as a whole.

Message from the Mayor

Ernie Camp



- Finalisation of the Burketown ILUA with Traditional Owners (TO's) and State Government – seeing the security of public service assets, the expansion of land availability for commercial, residential and rural residential purposes necessary to ensure the future sustainability of Burketown.
- Commencement of ILUA process at Gregory – to ensure land tenure is best fit for purpose, secure public service assets, allow for future development.
- Further sealing on the Doomadgee West Road, the Lawn Hill Road and Truganini Road.
- Four further dwellings in Burketown for our staff, one extra dwelling at Gregory following negotiations regarding the school closure at Gregory.
- Maintenance on Council owned dwellings, office buildings and the heritage listed Tourist Information Building, Gregory Community Hall.
- Constructed and erected unique Town Signage and undertook town beautification works.
- Continued to support community events – Fishing Comp, Gregory Races, Burketown Sprint Races, Gregory and Burketown Drafts, Gregory Horse Sports.
- Purchased banners to inform community and travellers of significant local and national events.
- Supported School of the Air Students and Burketown State School with annual camps, ANZAC Day celebrations in Townsville, Young Ambassador Packs for Graduating Primary School Students.
- Successfully applied for a mobile phone tower for Gregory under the Mobile Black Spot Funding Programme.
- Land Sales both in Burketown and Gregory.
- Participated in the Queensland Music Festival.
- Upgraded and maintained Council's fleet of vehicles, plant and machinery.
- Honour board restoration, HistoryPin Project to collate Burke Shire's WW1 history, commenced planning for ANZAC memorials for both Gregory and Burketown.
- Commenced Cultural History Book for Burke Shire.
- Installation of new Gregory Ablution Facility in conjunction with DTMR.

STOP THE PRESS!

Council has just received word that in the last week we have been fortunate to receive funding from the Federal Government's National Stronger Regions Fund and the State Government's Building our Regions Fund for the Fibre Optic Project.

In addition to Telstra's and Council's contribution it will mean Fibre Optic Cable to Burketown for Data and Telephony – to improve governance, business, health, education, safety outcomes as well as personal usage experience.

What is in the Planning?

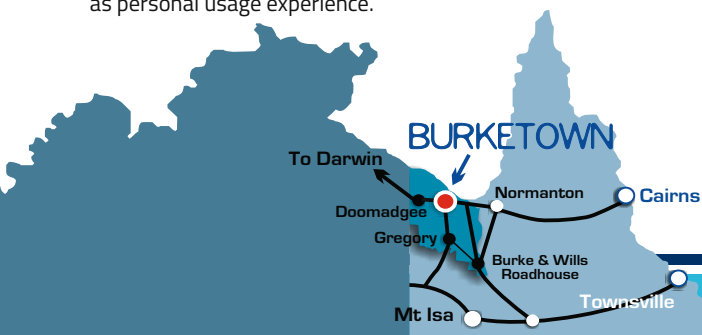
- Hot Water Baths Precinct at the Flowing Bore.
- Green Belt around Burketown town perimeter to include walking paths and shade areas.
- Further Development of Burketown North in readiness for sale.
- Solar power project at Gregory for Council depot and dwellings and Water Treatment Plant.
- Further sealing of Doomadgee West Road and Lawn Hill Road.
- Installation of Fibre Optic Cable to Burketown for Data and Telephony Usage now that funding has been sourced.
- Further development of Burketown Wharf precinct with car parking and upgraded 2 lane boat ramp in conjunction with Transport and Main Roads (TMR).
- Complete Cultural History Book Project.
- Secure Funding to enable ANZAC memorial planning to be completed.
- Redesigning Burketown Sewerage Plant.
- Waste Transfer Stations for Burketown and Gregory.
- Completing the Burke Shire Town Planning Scheme with Support from Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP).
- Working with Economic Development Qld (EDQ) to develop economic, tourism and events strategies.
- Fit for Purpose land tenure for town services, residential and commercial areas and completion of ILUA at Gregory.

The Federal and State government funding for the Fibre Optic Project in combination with Economic Development Queensland's commitment to Burketown ILUA related developments as well as Council's own contributions to the Fibre Optic Project and the Mobile Blackspot Program at Gregory highlight the commitment of all levels of government to our Shire as well as advancement towards reinvigorated development of North Australia.

Welcome to new staff: Hayley-Anne Croton, Karen Meyers, Doug Bruce and Sam Bismark and farewell to Fuzzy Bob Sinclair and Hayley Booth as they set out on a new journey in life. Farewell and Bon Voyage also to Patricia Prior as she continues her travels with her husband.

At this time of year, we often express our thanks and appreciation to others. Given this is possibly the last newsletter before the elections the need to say thanks is even more pertinent. Firstly, I would like to thank you the community for giving me the opportunity to represent you. I would like to give my thanks to Council staff for the expertise and hard work that goes behind the message that I take as Mayor to meetings or showcases our Shire whether here or outside the region. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment to our communities, for sharing their ideas and for working with me to deliver real outcomes. I'd also like to thank ABC radio Mt Isa and Longreach as well as the NW Star for helping Council to get the message out on events important to Council. I would like to thank my staff at "Floraville" for their efforts to keep the work plan moving forward in my absence. I would like to thank my family who accept my extended absences, don't begrudge my focus elsewhere and give me the unending support necessary to do my Mayoral job.

*I wish you and yours all the best for the festive and the coming year.
Please stay safe.*



Burke Shire Councillor Updates

Cr Paul Poole

The holiday season is upon us again. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2016.

It is heartening to see how our current staff now perform. The whole operation is running very smoothly. In particular, I would like to thank the supervisors for their contribution. Without their commitment we would go nowhere.

To the council staff that have left us this year I wish them well. I must say a special farewell to Fuzzy who will be missed in spheres of the shire. To all the new staff with the Shire I welcome you and trust you will make a valuable contribution to the council and enjoy your time in the Shire.

The pace has come off new projects in the Shire as we move into the completion of projects on the books already.

A huge amount of administrative time is now required to bring the already started projects to finality. For example:-

1. Burketown north residential
2. Industrial and commercial lots to the west of Burketown
3. Burketown south rural residential lots
4. Waste transfer station
5. Additional capacity of Burketown sewage plant
6. Burketown wharf, car park and commercial area
7. Burketown spa baths and Artesian Bore area
8. Elevated walkways around the Bore and town area and bike tracks
9. Burketown town planning scheme

The above is not a complete list however it gives some idea of the jobs ahead. It is good to be able to advise that the negotiations with the traditional owners in Gregory are going smoothly at this point.

The town plan is being thrashed out with the help of the Department of Local Government and looks like Gregory will finally have the ability to develop in a sensible and orderly manner. The plan will only succeed with the input of all interested parties in the Gregory area.

Road construction has continued at a steady pace. I would like to say that there is never enough money spent on the roads, but the budget available is rarely sufficient to meet all expectations.

I acknowledge the tough year pastoralists have had in the Shire and I just hope it rains. I welcome the new owners of Cliffdale and Wentworth to the Shire. As always, there were some things that did not get done during this term of council. These include the construction of a skate park and the installation of additional footpaths, just to mention a couple.

I would like to thank the Mayor and Councillors for their efforts over the last 3 plus years and I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Zac Duff, in his term as councillor. Ex Councillor Duff played an important role in putting the Shire on the level footing which it is now upon.

Have a good break and see you in the New Year.

Cr Tracy Forshaw

This is my eighth year as a Councillor for the people of Burke Shire. I have been honoured and privileged to be able to represent the community on many issues.

Next March there will be Council elections and I encourage anyone with a passion for Local Government to "put your hat in the ring" and have a go. I have found it at times very hard, especially when you want something to happen NOW and it doesn't because of the rules, regulations, policies and procedures that must be followed. However if you persist, change can happen eventually, and this is your reward.

Good luck and best wishes to all the Candidates that are putting their names forward. I will not be standing next year for re-election, so to all the Councillors I have served with, THANK YOU, we might have had different opinions on various issues; however you were willing to stand up and be counted.

It's that time of year again when friends and family think about the Christmases of the past and plan for the coming holiday with their loved ones in mind. As we reflect on this wonderful holiday, we must keep in mind that Christmas is not just any holiday but may be the most important one of the year for some people.

It is a time for remembering, a time to share the goodness of your heart with others, and for expressing with words and gifts what someone means to you. Please be careful these holidays, as we want everyone back home safe and well.

Enjoy the festive season and BRING ON THE RAIN!!!!!!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything. Phone 07 4748 5521 or email cr.t.forshaw@burke.qld.gov.au

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Everyone.



Merry Christmas

from the Burke Shire Council

Christmas

Greetings

From the Chief Executive Officer's Desk

Phil Keirle

Telecommunications

Council identified the improvement of telecommunications in Burketown and Gregory as key priorities when adopting the Corporate Plan for 2014-2019. As previously announced, Burke Shire's application for a 4g mobile phone base station in Gregory was given the green light through the Mobile Black Spot Programme.

On 9 December 2015, the Federal Government announced the allocation of \$2.2m in funding to the Doomadgee to Burketown Fibre Link Project. This project will see Burketown become part of the nation's fibre optic network.

Connecting to this infrastructure will enable Burketown to upgrade to high-speed broadband connections, access 4g mobile and benefit from new Wi-Fi infrastructure. Both projects will be of long-term benefit to residents, businesses, government service providers (health and education), emergency services and the increasing numbers of tourists travelling through the Shire each year.

Grants

The recent announcement of the NSRF funding caps a very successful year for Council in attracting grant funding. Given expected downturns in revenue from the mining sector in the years ahead, it is not just good news that Council is bringing in competitive grant funding; it is entirely necessary. The below funding programs will provide Council with an additional \$6,823,500 of funding for key Council projects.

- Salute their Service: \$4,400 in 2014-2015 (Restoration of World War Honour Boards).
- HistoryPin Grant: \$9,100 in 2014-2015 (World War I Commemoration project).
- Mobile Black Spot Programme: \$750,000 in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 (4g mobile phone base station in Gregory).
- Drought Communities Funding: \$1,500,000 for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 (sealing of Gregory to Lawn Hill Road).
- National Stronger Regions Fund, Round 1: \$160,000 in 2015-2016 (Burketown Pontoon Project).
- Royalties for the Regions, Round 4: \$180,000 in 2015-2016 (Burketown Pontoon Project).
- Stronger Communities Program: \$20,000 in 2015-2016 (Gregory Hall Renovations).
- Economic Development Queensland: (unannounced sum) in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 (Burketown ILUA-related development).
- National Stronger Regions Fund, Round 2: \$2,200,000 in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 (Doomadgee to Burketown Fibre Link Project).

The Audit

Burke Shire Council sailed through its most recent end-of-year financial audit, once again delivering an unqualified set of Financial Statements. The Financial Statements provide an overview of Council's financial position. They also represent the quality of Council's financial data and internal processes.

Over the past two years, Council has placed significant emphasis on improving both and has made significant progress in this endeavour. Accordingly, the current Financials are based on the best data and processes that Burke has had in place for many years.

Future projects, future initiatives

2016 promises to be another exciting year for the Burke Shire Council, with a range of projects scheduled to commence and/or conclude.

- ILUA-related development: Burketown North residential, Burketown South rural residential, Burketown West light industrial.
- Development of Burketown North Residential; DeveBurketown Sewerage Treatment Plant Redesign: conversion to a passive lagoon treatment system, with the aim of reducing ongoing operational, maintenance and renewal costs by \$100,000+ per annum.
- Gregory Solar Array and Energy Storage System: provide solar and solar generated battery power to the Water Treatment Plant in Gregory, reducing diesel costs of up to \$100,000 per annum.
- Installation of 2 x "off-grid" houses: installation of energy self-sufficient housing in Burketown.
- Doomadgee to Burketown Fibre Link Project: as above.
- Gregory 4g mobile phone base station: as above.
- Road renewals and upgrades: Doomadgee West, Doomadgee East, Floraville and Wills Road (Gregory to Lawn Hill Road).
- Burketown Mineral Baths: installation of mineral baths, bird-hides, decking, shade and signage at the artesian bore.
- Asset Management Planning: adoption of most detailed operational, maintenance and renewal modelling for Council's long-term financial planning.

Local Government Election 2016

Burke Shire Council will host a hybrid voting system for the upcoming Local Government Elections (19 March 2015). This means that there will be ballot voting in Burketown and postal voting for the remainder of the Shire.

The ballot will be based at the Burke Shire Nijinda Durlga and Karen McGrath will be the Returning Officer for the election. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead.

All the best for the rest of 2015. I hope that 2016 sees you frolicking in Mineral Baths, navigating the internet at super-high speeds, rejoicing in a more operationally efficient Council and delighting in a decent wet.

Library Update

School Holidays

With the school holidays now upon us, we wish to remind you that children and young adults are able to be in the library unsupervised to read, borrow a book, or watch a DVD.

We do ask that they do not eat or drink in the library and remain quiet while they are utilising the library.

There is an assortment of DVD's available for children to watch and colouring in pencils and pictures can be requested from the front desk.

Christmas books are available for both adults and children to read during the school holidays.

Burke Shire Works and Services

By Chris Rohan

Rural and Urban Roads

The majority of roads maintenance works have now wrapped up for the year as we await (hopefully) the wet season. The crew have completed maintenance works across the entire network of the Shire's rural road network and have more recently focussed on repair and maintenance works of the town streets in Burketown.

This has seen some significant works on the road shoulders that should help to protect the seal through the wet months. We would also like to remind anyone travelling through the Shire to always obey road signs and take care on causeways and floodways.

Remember, road conditions can change at short notice during the wet months. Please keep yourself informed through the Burke Shire or the Department of Transport and Main Roads web pages regarding road closures.

Gregory Hall

Works are progressing at the Gregory Community Hall and should be complete by mid December; this will include the replacement of the hall floor, new servery doors and new double door access from the existing ramp and stairs.

Council has also approved a new deck and the raising of the existing external roof to cover the deck and servery areas. We would also like to acknowledge the input from the Gregory District Sporting Association, Country Women's Association and the Jockey Club who have assisted with design suggestions for the hall.

Parks and Gardens

Over the Christmas break, we would like to remind everyone that only critical services will be manned. Rubbish collection will occur on Thursday the 24th and 31st of December prior to each of the public holidays.

Barring the public holidays, any requests that you have pertaining to works and services may be addressed through the depot during normal working hours. There are no changes to REX services during the council break.

Ranger Services

Although there has been a decrease in the reported number of dogs roaming around town, we would like to remind residents that dogs are to be suitably restrained at all times. This means either within your property or on a lead.

We would also like to remind residents that dog registration is free for the current year (up until June 2016) and that it is a council requirement that all dogs are registered.

Mosquito Misting

As the wet season approaches please be aware that council will continue to mist properties as requested. The chemical used is quite harmless to domestic pets and has a residual effect (away from the rain) of up to six weeks. Misting will include deck and patios and will eliminate mosquitoes that come into contact with the treated area.

Although misting is a great tool in helping to mitigate the seasonal mosquito problem, you can assist by emptying water or removing containers that may provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Fleet Manager: Work Health and Safety

New additions to Councils Fleet are:

- #588 - the Isuzu FXR1000 hook lift making this truck versatile to carry the septic pump out unit, bulk rubbish bins and a tipping tray that can be removed to load and unload the skid steer.
- #589 - NPR65/45 Truck with crane and auger for RMPC and sign work.

Recently at the November Council meeting a resolution was passed for the purchase of a new SR Hilux with tipping tray for the Gregory Caretakers. Their current vehicle #534 was advertised locally and congratulations to Peter and Ann Woollett of Nardoo for winning the tender.

Plant to be offered for local tender soon are #479 Water Truck, #469 Multi Tyred Roller and #544 Mitsubishi Canter Job Truck as part of this years plant replacement program.



Gulf Savannah Development AGM held in Normanton

Gulf Savannah Development recently held its Annual General Meeting at the Shire Chambers in Normanton. Cr Ernie Camp, from Burke Shire, was re-elected as Chair. Cr Will Attwood stood down from his position as Vice Chair and will be replaced by Cr Alan Gurney the Deputy Mayor of Carpentaria Shire.

Oliver Pring from Carpentaria Shire takes on the Treasurer's role and the incoming Executive Officer Gillian Teague will perform secretarial duties. Joanne Jacobson, CEO of Croydon Shire joins the aforementioned Executive to round out the Management Committee.

Gillian Teague comes on board as Acting Executive Officer following the departure of the previous executive. She brings with her a wealth of experience with client service, senior management and governmental department interactions. She will lead the organisation forward and provide valuable support to local small business through the coordination of the Small Business Advisory Service and continue in the role until a permanent Executive Officer is appointed.

In the coming year, GSD plans to focus on tourism, agricultural diversification opportunities as well as continuing to deliver the high quality, tailored small business support that is synonymous with GSD.

Finishing touches are being made to a video infographic that will be able to be used by each member shire, participating business and GSD to promote the region and showcase our unique part of Queensland. A grant has been received for promotional signage to be placed throughout the region.

Even though there are some new faces on the Management Committee and in the office, it is business as usual with GSD, moving forward discussions, plans, projects for the benefit of our communities and our residents and working to create a foundation of sustainability into the future.

Rodeo and Races

In October this year Burketown Rodeo and Sporting Association held their Annual Rodeo and Races. Due to the dry weather and condition of stock, we were unable to hold our annual Campdraft however it was still an awesome weekend with attendance of 200+ people. Nominations were full and some great talent was uncovered. Congratulations to all competitors, connections and owners.

The 5 race sprint racing program saw some stiff competition and the fashions of the field brought some much needed colour to the day. The main race, the Mounigibi Morning Glory Cup was a tough one and was fought out between Normanton owned horses Casey, Arrow and Chick Ching Cash. 'Arrow', owned by Paula Edwards and ridden by local jockey Jeremy Booth proved too strong in the finish and cruised home to take the honours. The rodeo also provided some great entertainment. We saw some up and coming talent in the calf ride, novice mickey ride and barrel races with both the gals and guys. The open saddle bronc saw Colin Fry narrowly outscore brother Gavin to take home the money.

This was accompanied by an exciting finish in the open bull ride with Terry Nimble and Jeremy Booth having a ride off for first place. Both riders were exceptional but local cowboy Jeremy Booth dug deep to take home the buckle with a strong ride.

A massive thank you to the sponsors whose generosity makes our event possible!! A huge thanks also to our committee and volunteers who spent many, many hours building the new arena, preparing the track, running the bar and coordinating the weekend, without your time and effort there would be no show.

We are continuing to improve the facilities and are applying for funds so that next year we'll hopefully have some new permanent shade structures, a new and improved kitchen, our own chutes and permanent back yards. We have another exciting year ahead and we're looking forward to 2016!

Burke Shire Young Ambassador Program

The Burke Shire Young Ambassador Program aims to acknowledge students who are graduating from primary school and have shown a high level of attendance at school for the year.

Burke Shire Council encourages businesses and organisations in the shire to donate items that can be of use to the students at high school to make the packs. Burke Shire Council would like to thank the following sponsors for their contribution towards the 2015 Young Ambassador Packs.

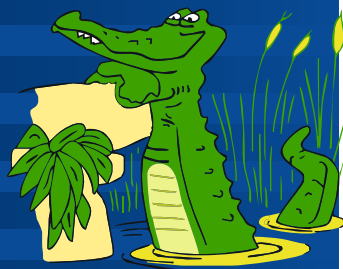
- Adels Grove ▪ Burke Shire Council ▪ Burketown Caravan Park
- Burketown Police ▪ Burketown Post Office and Convenience Store
- Burketown Pub ▪ Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Clemments Electrical
- Gangalidda & Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
- Gregory CWA ▪ Kylie & Ernie Camp
- MMG ▪ Morning Glory Restaurant
- Nowlands Engineering ▪ Paraway
- Peter Cooling Transport
- Savannah Aviation ▪ Stanbroke
- Tirranna Springs Roadhouse



2016 Council Meeting Dates

Pursuant to Section 257 (1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012 Chapter 8 Administration, Part 2, Frequency and Place of meetings*, the following is a schedule of dates for the Ordinary Meetings of the Burke Shire Council 2016:-

January	Thursday 21
February	Thursday 18
March	Thursday 17
April	Thursday 21
May	Thursday 19
June	Thursday 16
July	Thursday 21
August	Thursday 18
September	Thursday 15
October	Thursday 20
November	Thursday 17
December	Thursday 08



All meetings are to be held in the Boardroom in the Nijinda Durlga, Sloman Street, Burketown, and are scheduled to commence at 9:00am.

MMG Century Mine

A historic image was captured in early November with the last of Century's ore being processed. Extensive work has gone into retrieving as much Century ore as possible from the ROM pad (background) to put through the Processing Plant before the scheduled shutdown that will see 450,000 tonnes of Dugald River ore processed at Lawn Hill.

The Dugald River ore will be the last material that be processed at Lawn Hill and piped 304km to Karumba before all operations cease in late January 2016.

Century's workforce is continuing to transition in line with the end of production. This process has been underway over the past 18 months. A small workforce will be retained for rehabilitation activities and to look after Century's infrastructure and equipment as the site enters a period of Care and Maintenance.

Monday 9th November marked the processing of the last ore from Century's open cut pit. This is the last ore after 16 years of operation at Australia's largest zinc mine. Processing employees formed a guard of honour along with conveyor for the last ore. The empty conveyor behind the ore illustrates the end of an era.



MMG Century Mine

Availability of flight assistance

The end of production at Century also means a reduction in the number of aircraft that will be flying in and out of Lawn Hill.

For an extended period, the Stakeholder Relations team at MMG Century has been keeping Lower Gulf residents informed about the reduced availability of seats on Century commute flights as the end of production approaches.

Mining has now ceased at Lawn Hill, and processing of the ore stockpile will be completed by the end of 2015. The last shipment of product from Karumba will be in the first quarter of 2016. With the ongoing reduction in Century's workforce, the number of flights to and from Century Mine needs to align with business needs. This means that Century no longer has the capacity to offer travel assistance to non-employees, except when they are travelling for reasons related to MMG business.

During the 16 years of operations at Lawn Hill and Karumba, Century has offered widespread community support in the form of flight assistance. In that time, the number of flights for community members can be counted in their tens of thousands. Century has provided flight assistance as a gesture of goodwill, particularly for people in the Lower Gulf whose reasons for travel were urgent and their travel options were limited.

We are glad that, while the mine has operated, so many people in the Lower Gulf Century have benefited from Century's flight support in times of need. These flights have been a major community investment by Century during its period of operation.



Century's community investment in the Gulf

Even though this is Century's final year of operations, the company has continued to invest in community initiatives in the Lower Gulf.

In addition to major projects in the Lower Gulf to which MMG Century is contributing funds, Century's sponsorships program has provided financial as well as in-kind support to a large number of local events and programs. In addition to sponsorships and donations for community groups, MMG Century is also working with Lower Gulf Shires on major Legacy Projects that will benefit the region long after Century's closure.

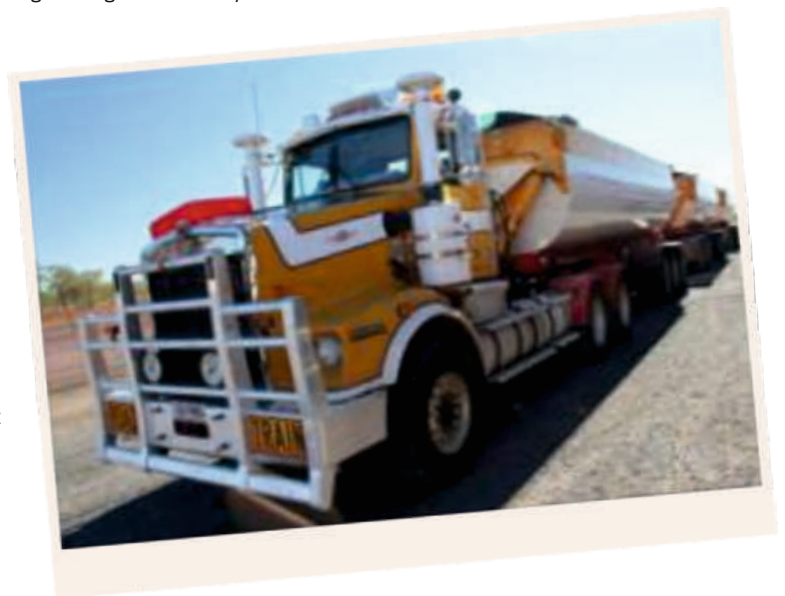
Trucking Program: Dugald River to Lawn Hill

The six month trucking program that will see 450,000 tonnes of ore transported from Dugald River to Century Mine is at its half-way point. This is a one-off trucking program, and MMG has no plans to transport ore on an ongoing basis from Dugald River for processing at Century.

Up to 16 trucks operated by contract partner Wagner can be on the 700km circuit each day between Dugald River and Lawn Hill. MMG Century is very appreciative of the assistance given by a large number of organisations and individuals in the Gulf in helping us communicate important messages about the trucking program.

The ore from Dugald River is being stockpiled onsite at Century. It will be the last ore to be processed through the Century processing plant, which has operated since 1999. The trucking of ore between Dugald River and Lawn Hill was safely and successfully completed on Tuesday 8th December.

As part of the de-mobilisation process, empty Wagner trucks will be on the road between the Burke and Wills Roadhouse and Cloncurry up to the 16th of December. No further ore trucking will be occurring between Dugald River and Lawn Hill.



Any enquiries about Century can be directed to the Stakeholder Relations team: centurycsp@mmg.com
Freecall 1800 098 721



New Employee Profiles

Burke Shire Council welcomes the following new additions to its team.

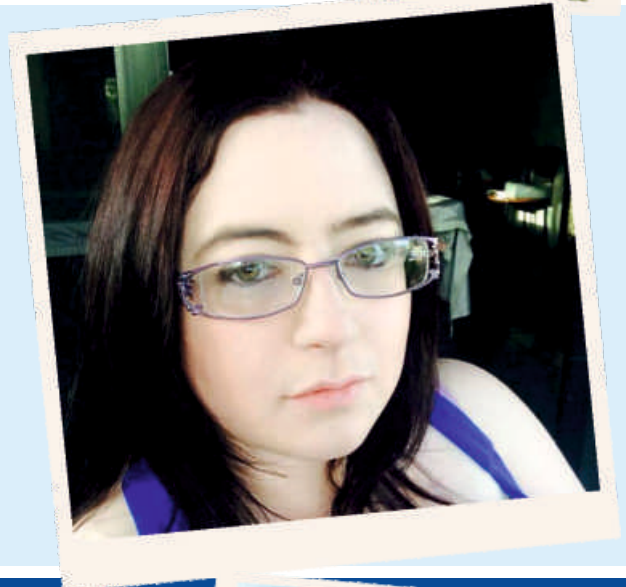
Sam Bismark Parks and Gardens Cleaner

1. **Hometown:** Burketown.
2. **Family:** Partner is Anthony MacNamara, Council's Roads and Construction Supervisor. They have 2 girls (11, 9) and 1 boy (6).
3. **Previous position:** Nowlands Engineering.
4. **Location of previous position:** Burketown.
5. **Favourite thing about the Burke Shire:** The fishing.



Hayley-Ann Croton Administration Officer

1. **Hometown:** Townsville for 13 years, Cloncurry and Hughenden before that.
2. **Family:** Single.
3. **Previous position:** Administration / Reception at Rowans Body Works and before that Administration at Blue Care.
4. **Location of previous position:** Townsville.
5. **Favourite thing about the Burke Shire (so far):** The friendly people and the quietness of the town.



Karen Meyers Administration Officer

1. **Hometown:** Was born in Melbourne, but grew up in Brisbane until 17, moved around a lot due to military service. Moved back to QLD, spent 9 years on the Gold Coast, with just moving back to Brisbane, I have moved up here.
2. **Family:** In a relationship. I do however have a 25 year old Daughter, who lives in Brisbane.
3. **Previous position:** My previous position was as the Security Coordinator for AEG Ogden.
4. **Location of previous position:** The Brisbane Entertainment Centre.
5. **Favourite thing about the Burke Shire (so far):** I actually have 3 favourite things so far about Burketown: the people, the weather, & the quiet.





New Employee Profiles

Burke Shire Council welcomes the following new additions to its team.

Doug Bruce

Parks and Gardens Crew, Gregory

1. **Hometown:** Cloncurry.
2. **Family:** Wife, nine children – three boys and six girls.
3. **Previous position:** Mount Isa Mines / Glencore R62 – Lamp Room Attendant.
4. **Location of previous position:** Mount Isa.
5. **Favourite thing about the Burke Shire (so far):** I love the country up here; it's not all hard and rocky like Mount Isa.



Long Serving Staff Moving On...

In addition to the new starters, Burke Shire Council has also farewelled two long-serving team members in recent months.

Hayley Booth and 'Fuzzy' Bob Sinclair have both moved on from Council and Burketown itself – with Hayley moving across to the Northern Territory and Fuzzy entering semi-retirement down in Tasmania. Council would like to thank them both for their long and dedicated service, and wish them both well with their future ventures.



Top Tourism Honours for Adels Grove

The prestigious 2015 Outback Queensland Tourism Awards were hosted in Barcaldine on Saturday night and the North West's very own Adels Grove went home two time winners, taking out the 'Hosted Accommodation' and 'Tour and or Transport Operators' awards.

Recognising excellence in and the advocacy of tourism in Outback Queensland, Adels Grove part owners Michelle and Rod Low Mow attended the gala evening amongst hundreds of other industry representatives.

"It was a fantastic evening with hats going off to the Barcaldine Regional Council and Outback Queensland Tourism Association.

It was really great to catch up with so many other operators and representatives in the industry and then to take home both of the awards we were nominated in we couldn't be happier" said Michelle.

The second year in a row taking out the Tour and or Transport Operator award Michelle attributed the successes to hard working staff and a true passion and dedication to what they aim to offer at Adels Grove.

"We are really passionate about our little piece of paradise and the experience we aim to offer all of our visitors, and we are truly fortunate to have such accomplished business partners in Gary and Alan and work with staff that understand this passion and are dedicated to helping us deliver a memorable Outback experience".

Situated just 10 kilometers from the picturesque Lawn Hill Gorge, Boodjamulla National Park and offering visitors a range of accommodation, camping, tour and activity options awards Emcee Dean Miller from Creek to Coast summed up the Adels Grove experience to a tee stating "It's a mystical, magical place that everyone should visit at least once".

Image: Adels Grove Directors Rod Low Mow, Gary Murray, Michelle Low Mow and Alan Mathieson with the 2015 Outback Queensland Tourism awards for Hosted Accommodation and Tour and or transport Operators.



CWA Gregory Branch

Eileen Bailey - 98th Birthday

On the 4th September our most senior member, Eileen Baily, turned 98 years old! We were very lucky to be able to celebrate Eileen's birthday with a lovely cake provided by Annie Clarke at our General Meeting held on the 8th September. Congratulations Eileen!



53rd Horse Sports and Family Fun Day

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Horse Sports and Family Fun Day. We would also like to thank our sponsors, judges, competitors and members - without you all, the event would not be possible. As usual it was a great day, the weather being not too hot and in our favour. Always a fun day and an opportunity for everyone to catch up with each other for a chat.

MMG Century Mine Tour

On the 8th October, eight members, their children and two guests participated in a tour of Century Mine. It was a very early morning for most, travelling to Adels Grove to be on the bus by 8am but all enjoyed the tour, learning things we had not known before about the operational side of Century. The tour was followed by a swim and lunch at Adels Grove. Our sincere thanks goes out to Shane Lui, our MMG guide, Martin Powley at MMG for organising everything and Michelle and Rod Low Mow of Adels Grove for donating the bus and driver.

Vale Ethleen Burnett

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of one of our founding branch members and friends, Ethleen Burnett, on the 12th October. Ethleen, who lived with the Webber family on Mellish Park Station, was not far from celebrating her 94th birthday. Our thoughts and sympathies are with her family, extended family and friends.

"Ethleen was a mentor to many, including myself, a critic of poor social behaviour, a lover of all things family and a loyal and valued friend," Annie Clarke - Brinawa Station.

Melbourne Cup Day Event

It was our pleasure to host a Melbourne Cup Day Event at Gregory Downs Station on Tuesday 3rd November. Thank you to all the community members who supported the event and to those who bravely dressed up despite the warm weather. We had Calcutta, Sweeps, Fashions of the Field, Bar, Smorgasbord Lunch and even a pool for the kids!

If you would like to be involved, please do not hesitate to contact Tess Arnold, President, Gregory Downs Station on 4748 5584, Annie Backhaus, Secretary, on 0400 737 666 or Rose-Marie Newton, Treasurer, Talawanta Station on 4745 3526.

Leisurely Lunches and Brunches

With the holiday season upon us it is time for sleep-ins, late breakfasts and extended lunches.

Recipes by Kylie Camp

Here are a few recipes to enjoy...

POSH SAUSAGE SANGERS

Caramelised Onion – heat 2 tbsps. olive oil and cook 4 sliced medium brown onions over low heat until soft – about 10mins.

Add 1 tbsp. brown sugar and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup red wine vinegar.

Cook stirring for 10 mins or until caramelised. Cool.

Fry 8 thick sausages until cooked through.

Cool then halve lengthways.

Cut 1 turkish bread loaf in half. Spread top with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup tomato relish. Spread base with caramelised onion and top with 2 cups watercress sprigs/baby spinach/rocket and then sliced sausages. Press bread top on firmly. Wrap in plastic wrap or foil. Let sit for $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. Slice into 8 and serve.



EGGS BENEDICT

Hollandaise Sauce – Bring 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsps. white wine vinegar, 1 tbsp. lemon juice and $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp black peppercorns to the boil in a small pan. Reduce heat and simmer until reduced to half. Strain into a heatproof bowl and cool for 10 mins. Whisk 2 egg yolks into the mixture. Set bowl over a small pan of simmering water but do not let water touch the bowl.

Whisk mix constantly until thickened and then remove bowl from heat. Gradually whisk in 125g melted unsalted butter until the sauce is thick and creamy. Poach 8 eggs in a pan of shallow, simmering water with a tbsp. of white vinegar added, lid on, until done to your liking. Remove with a slotted spoon and place on paper towel. Keep warm. Toast 4 halved English muffins. Top muffins with either cooked bacon / sliced ham / smoked salmon, eggs and sauce. Sprinkle with finely chopped chives and serve. Can place baby spinach under bacon.

BIRCHER MUESLI

Combine 2 cups rolled oats, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups apple juice and 1 cup yoghurt in a bowl and refrigerate overnight.

The next morning coarsely grate a peeled apple and stir into the oat mixture with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup each toasted slivered almonds, dried fruit e.g. currants / cranberries and toasted shredded coconut. Stir in 1 tsp. ground cinnamon.

Serve with extra yoghurt and sliced fresh fruit.



ROAST BEEF ROLLS

Preheat oven to 200°C. Sprinkle 1 tbsp. cracked black pepper over a sheet of baking paper. Roll 2 x 500g beef eye fillets in the pepper, pressing pepper into the meat. Heat 1 tbsp. of oil in a flameproof baking dish over high heat and seal/brown fillets.

Transfer to the oven and roast for 20mins, turning after 10 for medium rare or until cooked to your liking. Remove beef to dish, cover tightly with foil, let cool. Spread $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped parsley and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped chives over a sheet of baking paper.

Spread cool fillets with 2 tbsps. dijon mustard and firmly roll in herbs. Slice thinly and place in crusty bread rolls which have been spread with butter and extra dijon mustard. Add salad greens if desired and serve.

Stanbroke Three Rivers Irrigation Project

Stanbroke Pty Ltd is the proponent for the Three Rivers Irrigation Project. Stanbroke employs a total of 650 staff, and operates 1.6 million hectares of prime cattle country in the Gulf region including the following properties:

- Miranda
- Glenore
- Warren Vale
- Donors Hill
- Mc Allister
- Augustus
- Kamlaroi
- Fort Constantine

Stanbroke also operates a feedlot in Chinchilla and meat processing and packaging facilities in Grantham near Toowoomba.

Three Rivers Irrigation Project

The Project aim is to sustainably grow cotton for the export market and utilise the cotton seed by-product as supplementary feed for beef cattle in the dry season. The latter is a key limiting factor for profitability of the cattle industry in the region.

The Project will result in the establishment of irrigated cotton fibre and seed production at a scale which will support the construction of a ginny, and drive development of support industries in the region.

Key Project features are:

- Water extraction from the Flinders River, via pumping from a diversion channel
- Off-stream storages with a total capacity of approximately 150,000 ML
- 15,000 ha of irrigated cropping area
- Cotton ginny
- Associated infrastructure including: landing strip; workers accommodation; power generation and workshops

The Project is located approximately 90 km south of Normanton on Glenore property.

Project benefits

The Project will be staged in four phases over approximately five years to full production. Key benefits of the Project either directly or indirectly:

- Diversification of regional agricultural products
- Increased output from irrigated agriculture in North Australia
- Increased security of and profitability from beef cattle production
- Increased diversity of regional support businesses
- Increased port throughput and possible expansion

- Increased utilisation of regional employment
- Development of Northern Australia.

Water resources plan

All extraction of water will be in accordance with the Gulf Water Resources Plan. Stanbroke currently hold an allocation of 28,000 ML per annum and will be seeking a further allocation of water under the next release of allocations.

Environmental impact statement

The Project is a 'coordinated project' for which an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (Qld), and a controlled action under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Final terms of reference for the Project have been issued by the Coordinator-General.

The Project EIS will address the terms of reference, focusing on critical matters including:

- Water resources
- Terrestrial ecology
- Aquatic ecology
- Land use and soils

And also addressing other matters including:

- Air and noise
- Hazards, biosecurity & waste management
- Transport and infrastructure
- Social and economic
- Cultural heritage

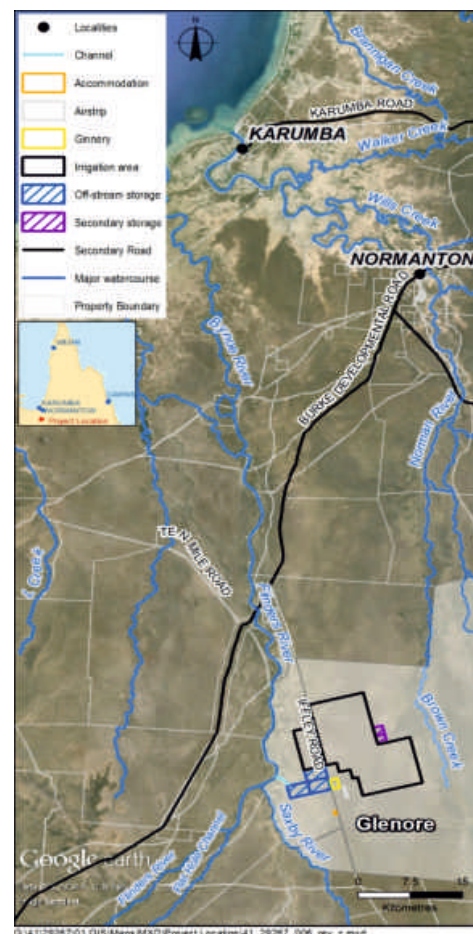
To date Stanbroke has conducted baseline environmental studies for terrestrial and aquatic ecology; undertaken sampling of soils and extensive hydrological/hydraulic modelling to quantify the potential environmental impacts associated with the Project.

The assessment of potential impacts associated with the extraction of water from the Flinders River will include site specific and downstream environmental values.

Preliminary findings of modelling indicate that the environmental flow objectives set by the Water Resource (Gulf) Plan 2007 will be achieved within the context of the Project operations. Ultimately water extraction limitations will be determined by the conditions associated with the water tender, which is yet to be released. Stanbroke is currently working to finalise the design of the Project layout.

Project timing

It is expected that the draft EIS will be released for public notification and comment in mid-2016 with construction of the Project expected to commence in mid-2017.



Information on our 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.

Follow us on Facebook

Burke Shire Council has a Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/BurkeShireCouncil

Positions Vacant

If you would like to apply for work with Burke Shire Council please contact Council on 07 4745 5100 or office@burke.qld.gov.au to obtain an Employment Application.

Public Notice Distribution

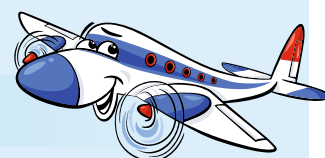
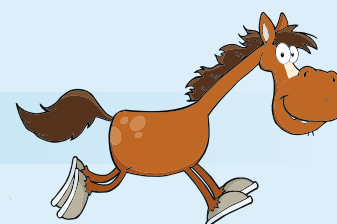
It is easy to obtain copies of Councils Notices and information, request to be added to the Burke Shire Council Notice Distribution List by sending an email to office@burke.qld.gov.au.

Articles for BSC Newsletter

Do you have something you would like to promote in our newsletter? Send through your information to our email: events@burke.qld.gov.au. Articles will be approved at Council's discretion.

Burke Shire Calendar of Events

26th January	Australia Day
8th March	International Women's Day
25-27th March	Easter & Barramundi World Fishing Championships
25th April	ANZAC Day
TBA	Gregory Downs Race Day
TBA	Gregory Downs Canoe Race
TBA	Gregory Campdraft & Horse Sports
TBA	Burketown Campdraft & Horse Sports
4th July	Tackling Tough
25th July	Queensland Music Festival
September/October	Burke Shire Tidy Yard Competition
6-11th September	Gregory Mini School – School of the Air
September	Gregory CWA Horse Sports
September	Burketown Ball
1st November	Melbourne Cup Day / Burke Shire Council Holiday
11th November	Remembrance Day
Nov/December	Young Ambassador
Nov/December	Dux – Burketown State School
Early December	Staff Christmas Party
Early December	Community Christmas Tree



Web Pages of interest...

Regional Development Australia

www.rdatanwq.org.au/newsletters

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

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.

Tourism Queensland

http://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.

CNWQML www.cnwqml.com.au

(Central and North West Queensland Medicare Local)

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.

The Savannah Way www.savannahway.com.au

The Savannah Way is Australia's Adventure Drive, linking Cairns in Tropical North Queensland with the historic pearling town of Broome in Western Australia's Kimberley, via the natural wonders of Australia's tropical savannahs and the Northern Territory's Top End. The 3700 kilometre route links 15 national parks and five World Heritage areas.

You can explore just a section or cross the continent enjoying its wide horizons, ancient gorges and abundant wildlife, connecting with Aboriginal and pioneer heritage in today's friendly outback. This website can help you plan your journey on the Savannah way with maps, safety information and much more.

Gulf Savannah Development

www.gulf-savannah.com.au

The Gulf Savannah region in North Queensland is an exciting and vibrant area of investment growth and economic opportunity, and a unique tourist destination in its own right. This website is presented by Gulf Savannah Development Inc., the development agency for the region. Gulf Savannah Development's voting members are the Shire Councils of Burke, Carpentaria, Croydon, Doomadgee, Etheridge and Mornington and industry partners, MMG Century and Ports North.

Cloud Appreciation Society –

Morning Glory Cloud Information

<http://cloudappreciationsociety.org/mgmoreinfo/>



Tourist Information

Burke Shire Council – www.burke.qld.gov.au

Burketown Caravan Park –
www.burketowncaravanpark.net.au

Burketown Pub – www.burketownpub.com

Savannah Lodge – www.savannah-lodge.com

Morning Glory Restaurant –
www.morninggloryrestaurant.net.au

Adels Grove – www.adelsgrove.com.au

Kingfisher Camp – www.kingfisherresort.com.au

If you would like your information added to this page,
please email your request to office@burke.qld.gov.au