

BURKE SHIRE *Council* NEWSLETTER



EDITION 51 : AUGUST 2017



LADIES DAY LUNCHEON

The outback can often feel like a man's world, but one of the wonderful things about running a roadhouse like Hell's Gate, is having the opportunity to meet so many brilliant and inspiring women holding their own along the Savannah way. That's why we love bringing people together for our annual Ladies Day Luncheon in June. This year, local women from Doomadgee could speak with hardy bush wives, and women who've lived their lives in the outback could share their stories with backpackers and nannies who have just arrived.

Strawberry daiquiris greeted our guests, and stalls selling handmade goodies from all over the state. We were also lucky to have two guest speakers sharing their very different experiences, one of blogging from a remote station, the other the challenges and victories of growing up as a strong and ambitious aboriginal woman in Queensland. All this enjoyed alongside fresh, homemade salads and cold meats, followed by delicate cupcakes and orange brownies, and washed down with cocktails at the bar.

We were so thrilled by the great turn out of people who'd driven so far to make the day what it was, and hope to see everyone again soon here at Hell's Gate Roadhouse.

Kate Cameron

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK



SHARON DAISHE

So much has happened at Burke Shire Council in the half-year since I last put pen to paper for our newsletter. Usually we publish quarterly; this longer gap reflects a busy year with many staff changeovers.

Cheryl Portch recently returned to Burketown to take up the long-vacant community position – and is happily chasing us all to ensure that the newsletter is back on track. With a focus on employing local whenever we can match a role to available skills and experience, I am delighted to welcome Cheryl back to town as Burke's CDTO (community development and tourism officer). As the former community role was expanded to include tourism, Cheryl will be out and about in the coming months getting to know the needs of our tourism operators. Cheryl has hit the ground running with her inimitable enthusiasm – including reviving nightly tennis comps on the courts that were resurfaced last year.

Works for Queensland has been a wonderful state government initiative that has provided funding to maintain and renew community assets, whilst stimulating the local and regional economy. The timeframe of less than a year to select, plan and deliver projects is keeping us all on our toes. Like all funding, W4Q comes with rules on how it can be spent. However unlike nearly all other funding opportunities, a co-contribution is not required. We sought your opinion in February, and will soon begin to deliver some of the projects that you told us were important. The HACC hall refurbishment has commenced with repairs to the roof; a playground will be installed at Morning Glory Park; and niche walls will be built at Gregory and Burketown cemeteries. Others such as a water park were not eligible due to the more complex development process and timeframes.

A second round of W4Q has also been offered. Council has sought approval for variations to round one, and nominated projects for round two. If approved, these will deliver a number of community outcomes including upgrades to the oval at Burketown; expanded scope for the playground (shade, fencing, softfall and gym equipment); a new spectator

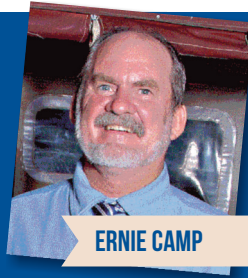
facility at Gregory showground; shade and signage at Gregory cemetery; and a storage shed at Gregory airstrip to house the RFDS gurney and airstrip items. Overdue maintenance and improvements will continue at the Burketown and Gregory Water Treatment Plants, and the Burketown and Gregory works depots.

Council's signature economic development projects are largely on track, with tenders awarded for construction of the new treated water tanks and solar array at Gregory. This project was made possible through the support of the Waanyi people with whom Council negotiated an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) to secure tenure over the land on which the solar array will be built. Significant savings are predicted with the reduced reliance on diesel power, which in turn generates an environmental benefit. Once the upgraded facility is fully functional Council plans to review options for the raw water intake and raw water storage to improve service delivery of treated water at Gregory.

All of these additional projects create a challenging workload for a tiny local government that has the same legislative and governance requirements as the largest regional and city local governments. In this vein, elected members and Council's executive staff have a conversation open with government departments and Ministers to make them aware of how over-governance impacts on delivery of infrastructure and services in the bush. Burke for instance has over 30 legislated plans that it must develop, maintain, review, report on, audit and generally comply with along with the Auditor-General's stringent financial management and reporting requirements. Burke is compliant in all of its business-critical functions – but this comes with a need for resourcing. We might have operated effectively once upon a time on a skeleton staff, but we now require high level expertise and a range of administrative support to manage governance and compliance. We are working on being the best that we can in this area; whilst tailoring to our small size and resources and seeking further evaluation and support from government.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



ERNIE CAMP

It has been a busy start to the year for Council and our communities. Plenty of local events organised by busy community volunteers have come and gone and, as always, were much enjoyed by locals, participants and travellers alike.

Council recognises and appreciates the countless hours given and efforts made by these volunteers as the events bring a lot to the region for us to enjoy. These groups would welcome your assistance in putting these events on, so consider helping them out when an event is next on in the Shire – even an hour of your time could be a big help.

The State Government developed a programme called Works for Qld (W4Q) to help local governments repair or enhance existing infrastructure and/or develop community infrastructure whilst stimulating the local economy. Community consultation was held, earlier this year, to assist Council in determining projects for submission. Round one projects are currently being rolled out and, with an announcement of further funding, a list of round two projects has been submitted for approval. The W4Q initiative is much welcomed not just because of the benefits that flow to the community through the completion of these projects but also because, unlike most funding streams, it requires no co-contribution from the local government entity.

Drought Communities Programme funding has seen key roadworks being undertaken with other roadworks also underway. So, keep an eye out for signage indicating roadworks and drive according to the signage and conditions. We want you to arrive safely at your destination as well as ensuring the safety of Council and contracting staff.

Our Shire-wide drought declaration was revoked earlier this year. Whilst much of the region received a good drenching there were areas that missed out. I would encourage producers whose properties are still affected by drought to seek independent drought declarations if they have not already done so in order to access available support.

Congratulations to Sgt Francis Smith, Burketown OIC, who received a 15-year clasp medal at a presentation ceremony in Mt Isa last week. Congratulations also to the Burketown Health Centre DON, Di Phillips, who was recently recognised at a morning tea hosted by the NW Hospital and Health Service for her length of service to our community.

LIBRARY NEWS

AUDIO BOOKS

Burke Shire library has received over 30 audio books currently available to be loaned out.

KID'S WALL

Come in and see what the kids of Burketown have been colouring in and drawing on the kids wall in the library!

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We had a number of kids come in and visit the library during school holidays to watch DVDs, colour in, and play board games in our kids section of the library. It was great to see so many coming in and enjoying the kid's area.

NEW ARRIVALS

The library has received some new books and DVDs. Come and check out our new arrivals section to see what we have!

NEW MINORS IN THE LIBRARY POLICY

Burke Shire Library has adopted a new Minors in the Library Policy. For information regarding the new policy, please see our lovely Admin staff at the front counter.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH





PAUL DAWES
DIRECTOR OF OZ OUTBACK ODYSSEY

Oz Outback Odyssey

BASHES ITS WAY INTO BURKETOWN

The 'OZ Outback Odyssey Bash' consisting of 25 to 30 cars all built pre 1985 rolled into Burketown on Wednesday 19 July.

They left Adelaide on July 14 and finish at Port Douglas on Saturday 22 July. Founded in 1992, the Bash initially was run by the Port Adelaide football club, but has been run privately since 2014. This year's bash will raise \$150,000 for RFDs and will raise a further \$500,000 over the next four years.

The Bash's timely visit coincided with P&C's mission to raise money to send the Burketown school kids off to Cairns for school camp. By providing breakfast and raffling Burketown T-Shirts, over \$1,000 was raised for the school camp. P&C wish to thank the members of the community for getting up early to cook breakfast for the Bash and to the Post Office, Pub and VMR for donating T-shirts for the raffles.



FIBRE OPTIC LINK

A SUCCESS IN THE OUTBACK

- New fibre optic link between Doomadgee and Burketown has gone live.
- Improved connection speeds to the internet will improve the lives and economic standing of the region.
- The Coalition Government invested nearly \$2 million through the National Stronger Regions Fund.

Mayor of the Burke Shire Council Ernie Camp said the fibre optic link will be a real boost for business, health, education, emergency services and tourism opportunities in Burketown. "Burketown will now enjoy comparable and in some cases better connectivity than our urban and coastal counterparts," Cr Camp said.

"Telecommunications connectivity may be taken for granted in urban areas but for us, this is a critical piece of enabling infrastructure.

This fibre optic link will mean that the phone tower in Burketown will be upgraded to 4G, and the local telecommunications exchange will be able to deliver ADSL 2+ services to end users in the area, promoting economic development in the region.

The project was jointly funded by the Coalition Government and the Queensland Government, both providing \$1,927,430 towards the project.



Mayor Camp presented key personnel involved in the fibre optic project with an Akubra hat, decorated with data cable at the recent opening of the communication cable ceremony in recognition of their efforts.

L-R: Mayor Ernie Camp, Senator Ian McDonald, Martin Blennerhasset (Telstra), Phil Keirle, Minister Coralee O'Rourke

NEW STAFF

APRYL FORD

Apryl joined the office team in March this year. She arrived in Burketown with her siblings and parents who happen to be the teachers at the Burketown School. Her previous positions were Crew Trainer at McDonalds and Senior life guard. Not only will she be an asset to Council she will also be handy at BBQ's and around the pool. If Apryl had one wish it would be to be a famous movie star.



ERIN BROWN

Erin arrived from Townsville to work in the Burketown Pub as a bar maid. She started with Council as a casual admin officer between bar maid duties but was soon progressed to a full time position as admin officer. When asked about what she liked about Burketown the most the reply was "The people." Great answer Erin. Erin's dream is to travel the world.



SCHYNAYNE PORTCH

Schynayne is our front desk super star and although working casually for now hopes to be made permanent in the near future. Schynayne has very strong ties to Burketown, having many family members in the area. Although Schynayne enjoyed working as a station hand at Seven Emus, she wanted to broaden her horizons and chose to seek work on Council. Hunting and fishing is in her blood and thoroughly enjoys both. If Schynayne had one wish then it would be to wish for more wishes.



CHERYL PORTCH

Cheryl has returned home to work in the role as Community Development & Tourism Officer. This is a role that she is passionate about and is looking forward to the challenge of delivering the many projects Council have in their agenda. Travelling and softball is her passion and is extremely lucky to be able to combine the two and play softball in the World Masters Games every four years. Cheryl's one wish is for mental illness not to exist in our world.



BOOK LAUNCH



"Gulf Women" official book launch will be held on September 30th at the Morning Glory Festival. Come along and get your copy signed.

THE MORNING GLORY FESTIVAL

BURKETOWN QLD 29 & 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

- Friday Feature -** *Mini Rodeo
Saturday Features - *Mornington Island Dancers
 *Burketown Gift (historical foot race)
 *'Gulf Women' book launch

displays, games, competitions, live bands, food, indigenous art, markets, tag-a-long tours, fireworks & loads of fun

The Morning Glory is an unique cloud formation occuring in the Gulf of Carpentaria from August to November

FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Contact the Event Manager Email: events@burke.qld.gov.au Mob: 0438 974313



Floraville Station



PHOTO COMPETITION

Supported by Southern Gulf NRM



Theme: **MORNING GLORY** (cloud formation)

ENTRIES OPEN
1 AUG 2017—18 SEPT 2017

ENTRY FORMS AT
COUNCIL WEBSITE
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
EMAILED OR FAXED UPON REQUEST

Photos must be submitted electronically. Enter up to two photos.

1ST PRIZE: Canvas print of your winning photo +
\$100 gift voucher

Runners Up: \$50 gift voucher

*All entries will be displayed at the Morning Glory Festival.
Judging will be Peoples Choice on the day.*

For more information contact **Cheryl Portch** on
07 4745 5100 or email: events@burke.qld.gov.au



QCWA GREGORY BRANCH

SUPPORTING DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

On Sunday 14th May, the Gregory Branch organised and facilitated a Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Domestic & Family Violence Awareness and Support Event for women in the Burke and Doomadgee Shires.

The event was held at the PCYC Building in Doomadgee and we were over-whelmed with the response to our flyers, posters and verbal promotions around the lower Gulf - 110 ladies flooded through the doors!

Thanks to funding received from the Department of Communities for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month and support received from Regional Express Airlines, Doomadgee Roadhouse, Doomadgee Retail Store and the Doomadgee Police Social Club, we were able to present a well catered event with a guest speaker, therapist and hypnotherapist, Susan Jones, from Melbourne.

Other guest speakers during the afternoon were Constable Cass, from the Doomadgee Police, Belinda Huxley and Karen Jupiter, from the Doomadgee School and our thanks to Aunties Ada, Eva & April for singing "A Mother's Prayer"

Many thanks also to the members and non members that baked up a storm and / or helped on the day! It was a lot of work, but well worth it!

Every lady received a gift bag with information about Domestic and Family Violence plus a fresh red rose. We had several women comment that they had never actually ever seen a fresh red rose!

We also released a plastic credit card sized information card with local contact numbers for help and support. This was very gratefully received and additional cards were given to service providers who could hand out as required.

All in all, a very positive experience that not only helped women in our area but also helped us understand domestic and family violence and it's many guises.

If you would like to join our dynamic group of women, please feel free to get in touch with Annie Backhaus, Secretary and Publicity Officer, on 0400 737 666.

Dates for the Calendar:

QCWA Horse Sports & Family Fun Day
17th September, Gregory Sports Reserve



EXCERPT FROM

THE BURRUNJOR OF AUSTRALIA

BY SARA FAWLEY

SPECIAL INTEREST

When we think of dinosaurs, one of the first to come to mind is Tyrannosaurus Rex. A terrifying two legged 40 foot killing machine. He has been brought to life by fossils in museums and into our nightmares by movies like "The Lost World" and "Jurassic Park". The king of the dinosaurs leaving a path of destruction in his wake. Thank goodness he died out 65 million years ago. In the case of the Burrunjor, the Aboriginal tribes of the Arnhem Land region of Australia will disagree with you.

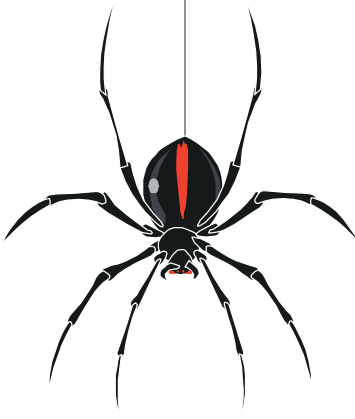
Among the Aboriginals, stories of Burrunjor have been around for centuries. There are even ancient Aboriginal cave drawings of the creature. 25 to 30 feet tall walking on hind legs with two small, useless looking front legs, this reptilian appearing cryptid certainly sounds like a Tyrannosaurus. They are said to roam across the Gulf country and Cape York.

It is not just an Aboriginal myth however. Many cattlemen, explorers, and vacationers have claimed to have encountered these creatures.

In 1950, cattlemen lost many cattle to a mysterious predator that left half eaten carcasses in a path from the border country to Burketown. Searchers on horseback set out to investigate. They found huge three-toed tracks, measuring 2 to 3 feet wide around the kill sites. They followed the tracks through some jungle type terrain into a swampland area. When they reached the swampland area, the cattle dogs and horses refused to go any further. Most of the searchers heeded the advice of their animals and turned back. Two men decided to press forward on foot. When they came to an open swampy area one of the men saw a huge 30 foot reptilian creature in the timber a little ways away. The men quickly retreated.



<http://national-paranormal-society.org/the-burrunjor-of-australia/>



Spider Bites

IF YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE BEEN BITTEN BY A SPIDER

SYMPTOMS

A Redback Spider bite though highly venomous is rarely serious for a healthy adult but can be life-threatening to pregnant women, the elderly or a child.

The bite of the Redback Spider is characterised by intense localised pain around the bite site. Some people liken the initial bite to that of a localised electrical shock. Other common symptoms of a Redback Spider bite include sweating, rapid pulse, rapid or shallow breathing, muscular weakness, loss of coordination, headache, nausea, vomiting, and/or convulsions (in serious cases).

FIRST AID

- Keep casualty calm and under constant observation or seek medical assistance.
- Apply an ice pack or a cold compress to lessen the pain.
- If the casualty is a young child, a pregnant woman, an elderly person or if collapse occurs and/or pain is severe, transport the casualty to emergency medical treatment.
- **DO NOT** use the Pressure Immobilisation Technique

The bite site is likely to remain red and itchy for a few days after the bite occurs. If symptoms are still present after 7 days, revisit your doctor.



LGIA SUPER UPDATE

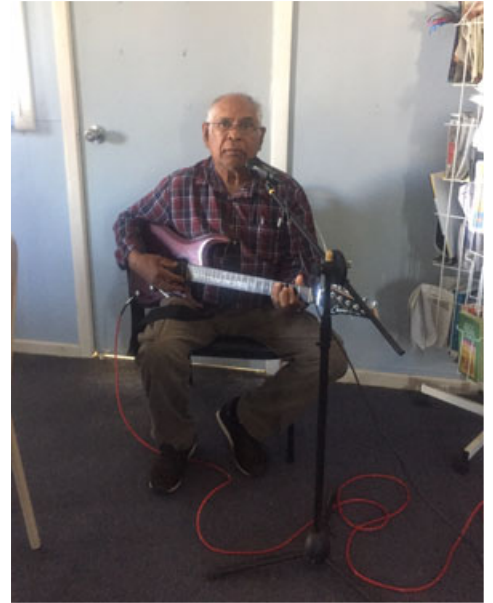
Jennie Blazley (Education Services Officer) conducted information sessions for any Council Staff who were interested in the changes to LGA Super. Jennie then followed up with one to one meetings for those who needed more information pertaining to their circumstances.

t 1800 444 396 | f 07 3244 4344
lgiasuper.com.au

Level 20, 333 Ann Street,
 Brisbane Q 4000

GPO Box 264
 Brisbane Q 4000

Erin Brown, Shannon Moran & Cheryl Portch with Jennie Blazley at the LGIA Super information session.

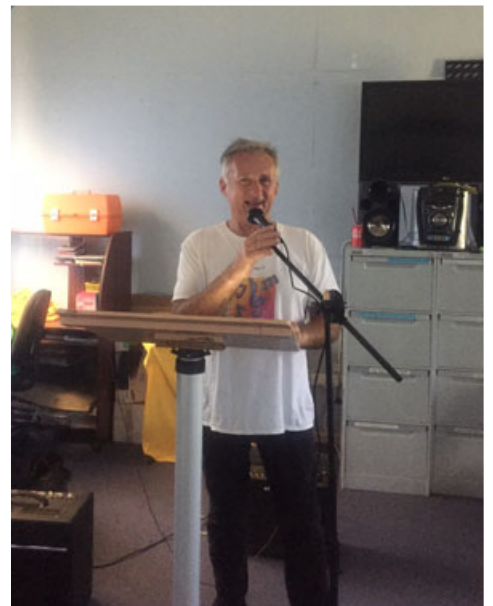


Celebrating OUR SENIORS

Our Seniors were treated to a fun morning with local entertainment and morning tea with the Burke Shire Councillors and Council executive staff.

Mayor Ernie Camp & Cr Paul Poole were good sports and battled their way through 'Celebrity Heads', much to the entertainment of the seniors.

Bob Marshall, on guitar, picked his way through our memories with some old time country tunes, whilst Steve Meskell crooned his way through the hits of the 60's & 70's.





POLICE BEAT

Please be advised, the National Firearms Amnesty will operate for a period of three (3) months, from 1 July to 30 September, 2017.

This means any person, including licence holders, will have the ability to register or surrender unregistered firearms at a firearms dealer or police station without fear of prosecution.

During the firearms amnesty the costs associated with registering a firearm will be waived, meaning, persons wishing to register unregistered firearms will not be charged any permit to acquire fee to register the unregistered firearm.

In Queensland, there are four (4) options available regarding the surrendering or registering unregistered firearms in their possession.

These options are:

Registering the firearm to an existing firearms licence (subject to the categories and conditions of the licence);

Surrendering a firearm at a firearms dealer for commercial sale;

Surrendering a firearm at a firearms dealer or police station for safekeeping, pending the issue of a firearms licence; or

Surrendering a firearm at a firearms dealer or police station for destruction.

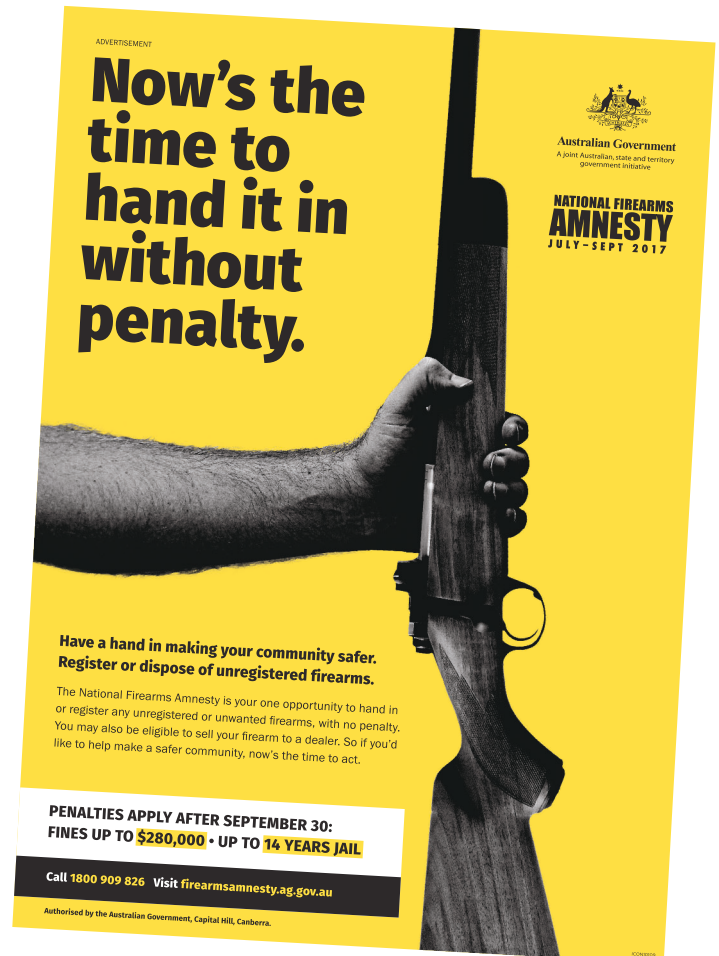
Each police district has an appointed 'District Liaison Officer'. By now, these liaison officers' have disseminated 'Information Guides for Police' to all Officers'-in-Charge within their respective districts. These guides will provide valuable assistance when members of the public surrender weapons for destruction, registration or for safekeeping.

Persons surrendering firearms are encouraged to attend their local firearms dealer, rather than a police station.

The reasons for this are:

- To reduce police time and resources (i.e. storage of firearms); and
- To minimise any potential alarm to QPS personnel when persons approach and enter the station to surrender/register the firearm.

Persons attending a police station to surrender weapons are required to make an appointment to ensure officers are available to receive the firearm.



A person is only required to supply their personal details when they wish to register a firearm to their firearms licence.

The Firearms Amnesty Team comprises of six members (one inspector and five staff members) and are located at Level 5/46 Charlotte Street, Brisbane.

Firearms Amnesty posters will be sent to district offices this week for disseminating to police stations within their district.

Contact details for the Firearms Amnesty are:

Email: firearmsamnesty@police.qld.gov.au

Telephone: 30157887

National Firearms Amnesty Information line is: 1800 909826

Fax: 30157822

Should you have any questions please contact your district liaison officer or the Amnesty Team.

Q.C.W.A GREGORY BRANCH PRESENTS THE 55TH



SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

8.00 A.M

HORSE SPORTS & FAMILY FUN DAY

GREGORY SPORTS RESERVE

* Food * Drinks * Great Prizes * Fun Events for the Whole Family

Tess Arnold Ph 4748 5584 or Annie Backhaus Ph 0400 737 666



Thank you to our sponsors including: Burke Shire Council, Paraway Pastoral Co, Savannah Lodge & Savannah Aviation, Allan & Bev Webb, Clemments Electrical Pty Ltd, the Clarke Family and many more...