



BURKE SHIRE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Edition 5 August 2006 / September 2006
(Issued on 3 August 2006)

There is plenty happening in our Shire over the next couple of months so please keep your eyes open for notices on our public notice boards which are situated at Nowlands, Post Office, Mounigibi, Hospital, Shire Office, Burketown Pub, and soon Gregory (in front of public amenities building). Events to watch for include Arts & Craft Show, Gregory Horse Sports, QRL Games, Census Night, Variety Bash, Papercraft Workshop & more.

Cheryl Portch



Congratulations to the people of Burke Shire for
Burketown winning the "MOST FRIENDLIEST
TOWN" (Western Queensland Section)
in the 2006 Tidy Town awards announced recently.



Key Council Dates

Arts & Craft Show	12 August 2006
Ordinary Meeting of Council	17 August 2006
Ordinary Meeting of Council	21 September 2006
Deadline for contributions to next newsletter	24 September 2006
2006/07 Rates Notices to be issued	2 October 2006
Payment Due Date for 2006/07 Rates Discount	1 November 2006

CURRENT PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Arts & Craft Show
Mosquito Fogging
Calico Bag Give Away
Fines for Dogs Found at Large
Council Meeting Dates for 2006
Update on Road Closure of China Wall



RANGER'S REVIEW



DEFEATING THE WEED MENACE – WEED AWARENESS

There are several declared noxious weeds growing and established in the Burke Shire, they have the potential to adversely effect the environment and/or health of people and animals. The development of our Burke Shire Pest Management plan will detail the level of involvement and responsibility by Burke Shire Council, other Government departments and private landowners, in the control of declared and undeclared plant pests identified in our shire.

What is a Declared Plant?

Pest plants targeted for control under state legislation are species that have, or could have, serious economic, environmental or social impacts. Pest management legislation aims to help protect Queensland's economy, biodiversity and people's lifestyles by:

- ♦ Preventing the introduction and establishment of new pest plants in Queensland.
- ♦ Preventing the spread of established pest plants into new areas.
- ♦ And reducing the extent of existing infestations where feasible.

Declaration under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* imposes a legal responsibility for control by all landowners on land under their management. This includes all landowning state agencies. Large landowning state agencies are also required to develop and implement pest management plans.

Declared Pest Plant Categories

Class 1

A class 1 pest is not commonly present in Queensland and, if introduced would cause an adverse economic, environmental or social impact. Class 1 pests established in Queensland are subject to eradication from the state. Landowners must take reasonable steps to keep land free of Class 1 pests. Other powers of the Act apply.

Class 2

Class 2 pests are established in Queensland and have, or could have, an adverse economic, environmental or social impact. The management of these pests requires coordination and they are subject to local government, community or landowner led programs. Landowners must take reasonable steps to keep land free of Class 2 pests. Other powers of the Act apply.

Class 3

Class 3 pests are established in Queensland and have, or could have, an adverse economic, environmental or social impact. A pest control notice can only be issued for land that is, or is adjacent to, an environmentally significant area. Thus, the impact of species in this class is primarily environmental. Only some of the other powers of the Act apply. It is illegal to sell a declared plant or its seed in Queensland without permission from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Species not declared under the Land Protection (Pests and Stock Route Management) Act may still be declared at a local government level under local laws. Species declared as Class 3 may be subject to local legal control outside environmentally significant areas.

List of Declared / Priority pest plants in the Burke Shire Council

<u>Species</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Control</u>
Rubber Vine	Class 2	Well established & widespread	Control and aim for eradication – also some biological control
Prickly Acacia	Class 2	Widespread but not well established	High level of monitoring as early stage of establishing control and aim for eradication, which is highly achievable
Mesquite	Class 2	Moderate (patchy but heavy in a couple of areas)	Monitor, control infestations For eradication.
Calotrope	Undeclared	Widespread	Control and aim for eradication
Belly ache bush	Class 2	Isolated	Control and aim for eradication
Parkinsonia	Class 2	Widespread	Control and aim for eradication
Chinee Apple	Class 2	Isolated	Control isolated populations
Noogara Burr	Undeclared	Widespread (on river systems)	Monitor (biological control)

Rangers Review Continued-

How are weeds spread?

Unfortunately, the majority of weeds are spread by human intervention or activity including:

- ♦ Transport by machinery and vehicles across properties, districts and even state borders
- ♦ Contamination of stock feed
- ♦ Illegal dumping of plant material

Preventing the spread of weeds is difficult. Machinery, equipment, garden waste, livestock, grain, produce, fodder, landscaping material, extractive materials, native animals, wind, water, and humans are just some of the potential carriers for hitchhiking weed seeds. Many weeds have physical characteristics that allow them to be easily transported over long distances. Vehicles can readily spread the small seeds of Athol Pine, Calotrope and Rubber Vine. Just a few seeds can easily colonize and dominate new areas. Water weeds can get caught up on a boat or trailer and be transported to another river or dam. The seeds of a prickly acacia can survive eight days inside a cow and still germinate once defecated.

What you can do to stop weeds spreading-

There are many ways to fight and reduce weed spread, many are voluntary, based on good practice; and some are required under legislation. Everyone has the potential to spread weeds. You can help prevent this by:

- ♦ Get to know the weeds in your area and be able to identify them
- ♦ Find out how our weeds are spread
- ♦ Don't buy plants that are weeds
- ♦ Pull out garden plants that can be weeds in the bush
- ♦ Making sure you can identify and control any weed that might contaminate garden material you obtain
- ♦ Not dump garden waste in the bush
- ♦ Controlling weed infestations before they spread and become a major problem
- ♦ Cleaning your vehicle at the earliest opportunity after taking it off road or scrub dashing, wash it on the lawn so detergents don't travel down the drains into our water ways as some detergents feed weeds
- ♦ Get involved in any future community weed programs

Morning Glory Park Development

The lawns are looking good and help make the town look cool, neat and tidy. The footpath garden beds have now been planted. BBQ shelter lighting upgraded and a timer installed.

Work arranged to be completed:-

- ♦ Mural on Park toilet block exterior walls designed and painted by Burketown school children - materials have arrived and the project is ready to proceed
- ♦ Upgrade park lighting, change 5 current park lights to 400 watt watchman lights and install a further 3 along Sloman Street to adequately illuminate the park at night. These have arrived and are waiting on Ergon to install.
- ♦ Pond water feature has commenced installation.
- ♦ Designing/ planning is currently being undertaken on the kids park water feature.

Improvements to Public areas

The 6 metre 6 sided Gazebo has been erected at the Burketown cemetery and contains 4 bench seats. Signage is being organised and is to be included. This will have history of the town, a plan of the site, grave details/cemetery register. With graves dating back to 1866 this fixture will help put in perspective the age of the cemetery.



TENNIS



Gregory tennis is well underway with 9 teams participating in the competition. Winners of this tournament will play against the winners of the Burketown tournament (Damien Forsyth & Caroline Strathdee) in September (date to be decided). Keep your eyes open for notices on this play off match as there will be a community BBQ and games for all on the day as well.

Australian Government

CENSUS

Stand up and be counted
Tuesday 8 August 2006



Burke Shire Community Ball 2006



The ball was considered a great success with 151 people attending (141 Adults, 10 Children). Congratulations to the community for making this a trouble free enjoyable night. Thank you to all those that filled in their surveys - the feedback received will help Council & the Community plan any future balls.

Cr Ernie Camp presented "The Order Of The Outback" award to our emergency services personnel including Police, Health Centre Staff, SES, RFDS, Rural Fire Brigades, VMR & Burke Shire Council Employees. This was received on behalf of these services by Sgt Paul Griffiths (Police); Ian Forshaw (SES); and Brett Harris (VMR).

Prizes were awarded to the following for their outstanding dress attire and were judged by the band's (Take Five) partners that attended:-



Belle of the Ball - Jackie Yanner
Matron Of the Ball - Lynette Clemments
Beau of the Ball - Murradoo Yanner
Bull of the Ball - Paul Poole



Princess of the Ball - Zara Camp & Natasha Camp

Prince of the Ball - Oscar Griffiths

Best Couple - John Logan & Alex

Anyone who attended the ball and would like a copy of their photo emailed to them please contact Cheryl Portch on Ph: 47455100.

ARTS & CRAFT SHOW

on 12 August 2006 in the Shire Hall, Burketown

Public access from 12:00noon to 6:00pm

Entry is **FREE!**

A wide variety of arts & crafts exhibits from local people will be on display (with some exhibits being available for purchase). Categories include:- *Photography; Poetry; Horticulture; Needlework; Painting; Jewellery/Beading/Leatherwork; Pottery; Cooking; Scrapbooking; Metalwork & Woodwork; Best Yard/Garden; Indigenous; School Projects; Inventions & Best Decorated Bike.*

Various skills & crafts will be demonstrated throughout the day.

Presentation of ribbons & trophies will be from 5:00pm, including an auction of donated exhibits. A selection of wines & cheeses will be available for sampling during the presentation.

Various community fundraising stalls, including raffles, will be operating.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME!

For more information contact Cheryl Portch at the Shire Office on (07) 4745 5100.



2006/07 BUDGET “HIGHLIGHTS” STATEMENT

Council at their Special meeting on 31 July 2006 adopted the 2006/07 budget and set the rates & charges for the 2006/07 financial year. The following comments provide a summary of the 2006/07 budget (for those that are interested a copy of the 2006/07 budget document will be made available at the Council office by 31 August 2006):-

- ⇒ Total cash budget of \$18.4 million, consisting of operating expenditure of \$9.2 million and capital expenditure of \$9.2 million. All of this is done with rates income of \$1.4 million. The \$18.4 million expenditure is funded through \$1.4 million in rates; utility (water, sewerage & garbage) charges of \$0.3 million; \$2.4 million in capital grants; cash reserves of \$7.1 million; internal charges (such as plant hire) of \$1.9 million; estimated flood damage repair grant of \$3.5 million; and financial assistance grant of \$1.8 million.
- ⇒ Rates & utility charges increases have been kept to a minimum as much as possible when the revaluations undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines & Water were taken into account. Due to anomalies in the revaluations capping of the rates increase have been removed. With the significant range in the valuations increases Council has reviewed all rating categories and developed new ones for rural properties based upon their size. Urban properties in Burketown and Gregory have now been included in the same category. Due to the revaluation increases and their significant variances amongst like properties (the valuation increases ranged from nil % to 2,700% with an average of 754%!), the range of the rates increases over the 2005/06 levels vary from a decrease of 58.6% to an increase of 507.3%. These two are the extremes and apply in a single case - the average rates rise is around 7.0%.
- ⇒ Council remains debt free (i.e. has no loans and/or borrowings), all liabilities such as creditors and employee provisions remain fully funded and ending 2006/07 with financial cash reserves of \$3.3 million.
- ⇒ Major capital works projects include (those projects that are currently not active are all subject to final Council approval):-
 - working with Zinifex Century Mine to seal upgraded sections of the Gregory-Lawn Hill Road (\$1,150,000)
 - Complete upgrade and sealing of the Gregory Airstrip (\$1,086,448) and new access road (\$125,000)
 - Sealing works at Gregory either side of the WDR outside the Gregory Hotel (\$125,000)
 - Complete the widening of Beames Street in Burketown (including car park area at the Health Clinic (\$90,103)

2006/07 Budget Cont.

- Sealing roads around Burketown (including proposed sealing of Cemetery Road, first 1.5km of Truganini Road, extend Burke Street to the north and extend Gregory Street to the west) (\$555,900)
- Upgrade and sealing works Doomadgee East Road (\$900,000)
- Upgrade and sealing works Doomadgee West Road (\$475,000)
- Further upgrade of the Nicholson River Causeway at Doomadgee (\$150,000)
- Complete the Gregory water supply (\$600,000)
- Complete the seniors' housing development (\$214,453)
- Complete upgrade of Burketown Sewerage treatment plan (\$50,000)
- Complete parks & gardens improvements at Burketown (\$69,386)
- Parks & gardens improvements at Gregory (\$50,000)
- Shade structure over the Burketown multipurpose courts & extend shade structure of Gregory playground (\$62,273)
- Hit up walls at the Burketown & Gregory tennis courts (\$30,000)
- Further staged footpaths at Burketown (\$50,000) & Gregory (\$25,000)
- Security fencing & lighting upgrade works at the Burketown Airport (\$65,215)
- New & replacement plant (including a third grader) (\$695,211)
- Bulk fuel tanks (\$125,000)
- Dumping points for portable caravan & camping van toilets contents – one in Gregory & one in Burketown (\$20,000)
- Shire Hall upgrade works (75,000)
- Proposed swimming facility in Burketown (\$700,000)
- Proposed kids water feature in the Morning Glory Park (\$245,000)
- Rubbish tip improvements at Burketown & Gregory (\$175,000 in total)
- Water main to the Burketown Airport (\$42,750)
- Improvements to Burketown water supply infrastructure (\$92,610)

⇒ Some major operational works projects include (those projects that are currently not active are all subject to final Council approval):-

- Estimated flood damage repairs January/March 2006 event (\$3,500,000)
- Sealing an off-street parking area in Bowen Street outside of the Mounigibi office (\$9,000)
- Improvements to Station Access Roads (\$200,000)
- Improvement to street drainage around Burketown (\$138,083)
- Completion of the WDR "Burketown to six mile" sealing job for Main Roads (\$454,981)
- Weed & pest control initiatives once the Pest Management Plan is adopted (\$82,737)
- Regional Arts Development Fund activities (\$13,274)
- Establishment of fingerlings growout tanks (\$74,622)
- Recording of verbal history (\$40,000)
- Home & Community Care program (\$70,312)
- Waste management & recycling program (\$50,000)

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

An Active After School Program will be starting on 7 August 2006 for school age children from 4pm - 6pm every Monday & Tuesday evenings at the tennis courts. Nadine Cameron will be running this program with Cheryl Portch offsideing. This program is free & will be focusing on developing tennis skills as well as building overall sporting skills through fun interactive games. Anyone in the community willing to help with this program can contact Nadine at the Information Centre.

Council Meeting Minutes

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

Library News

When was the last time you read a good book? Why not come to the Library and see what we have to offer. Come in and check out our new sporting equipment, we have new DVDs and heaps of great books.



2006/07 DOG REGISTRATIONS

are now due

Only \$2.20 per dog.

Registration forms are available at Burke Shire Council Office.



RECYCLE YOUR OLD MOBILE PHONES

Burke Shire Council, as part of our Waste Management Plan, will now accept all obsolete mobile phones for recycling. For more information contact the Council office.

You can also RECYCLE OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES

by putting them in the box provided at Burketown Post Office or by contacting Planet Ark on
Ph: 1800 242 473 or
Website: www.planetark.com



Variety Bash

in Burketown
15 August 2006



Rainfall in Burketown for
June - nil
July - 31.6mm

TV TIMES

A copy of the TV Times is available to be picked up from the Council office every Friday after 10.00am.
Also available on website - www.ourguide.com.au



QLD RECREATIONAL FISHING RULES & REGULATIONS GUIDE

is available at the Council Office and the Tourist Information Centre.

For more information on this guide please contact
Caroline Dalton Ph 3225 1038
or email: Carine.Dalton@dpi.qld.gov.au

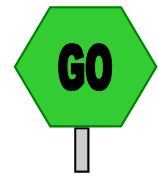


TIDE TIME CHARTS CAN BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE AT THE COUNCIL OFFICE





COUNCIL NEWS & ACTIVITIES



CURRENT MAJOR WORKS

Beames Street widening , Bowen Street parking area & Health Clinic parking area will all be sealed with the WDR roadworks in early August

Morning Glory Park Development - Pond feature nearing completion

Construction of Gregory Water Supply

Upgrading & sealing of Gregory Airport

Upgrading & sealing a further section of Doomadgee East Road

Seniors Housing Development - 4 new units have been installed - construction of driveways, verandahs & services will progress over the next 4 weeks.

Repair of China Wall Culvert

FUTURE MAJOR WORKS

Gregory - Lawn Hill Road - upgrade and seal some sections

Wills Developmental Road upgrading (Main Roads are planning 20 kms of gravel (between Running Creek and Brookdale) and then seal in 2006)

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

Water Treatment Plant - Complete upgrade works

Sewerage Treatment Plant - Complete upgrade works

Shade structure over the Burketown Multipurpose Courts

WORKS IN PLANNING STAGE

New Albert River Bridge

Barramundi Fingerling Growout Facility

Albert River Boat Ramp & Pontoon

Swimming pool facility for Burketown

CURRENT TENDERS & QUOTATIONS

Quotation 06/10 - Airport lighting—Burketown & Gregory

Quotation 06/11 - 2 replacement 4WD utes

Quotation 06/13 - Plumbing works for seniors units

Quotation 06/14 - Electrical works seniors units

Tender 06/18 - Proposed Burketown Aquatic Facility

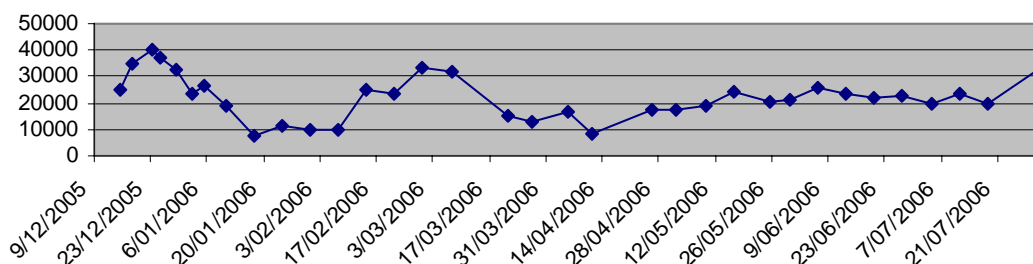
PLANT & EQUIPMENT—PENDING DELIVERY

- ♦ New 15T Vehicle Hoist for Workshop
- ♦ New Grader
- ♦ New Rubbish Truck

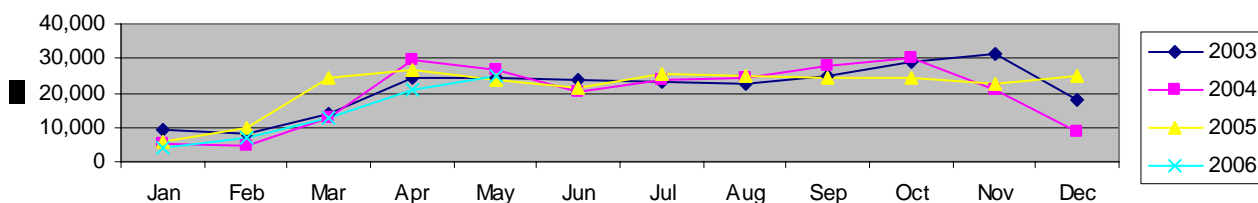
GREGORY WATER CONSUMPTION

Date	Daily Consumption	Meter Reading
	<i>litres</i>	<i>litres</i>
26-Apr-06	17,706	2,787,609
02-May-06	17,472	2,892,439
09-May-06	18,970	3,025,228
16-May-06	23,987	3,193,138
25-May-06	20,427	3,376,982
30-May-06	21,119	3,482,576
06-Jun-06	25,980	3,664,434
13-Jun-06	23,719	3,830,469
20-Jun-06	21,866	3,983,533
27-Jun-06	22,956	4,144,225
04-Jul-06	19,426	4,280,207
11-Jul-06	23,487	4,444,615
18-Jul-06	19,361	4,580,139
01-Aug-06	33,722	5,052,241
Total Consumption		5,012,350
Average Daily Consumption		21,329

**GREGORY
DAILY WATER CONSUMPTION**
(litres)



BURKETOWN WATER CONSUMPTION
(kilolitres)



BURKETOWN WATER CONSUMPTION (kilolitres)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2003	9,319	8,173	13,696	24,222	24,614	23,518	23,092	22,661	24,888	28,854	31,575	17,894	252,506
2004	5,007	4,700	12,470	29,295	26,660	20,017	23,989	24,081	27,720	29,942	20,591	8,669	233,141
2005	5,923	9,569	24,149	26,580	23,482	21,419	25,317	24,683	24,143	24,295	22,554	24,655	256,769
2006	4,283	6,876	12,879	20,685	24,684	24,267	23,567						117,241

BURKE SHIRE



HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

CELEBRATING HACC AWARENESS WEEK 20 -26 AUGUST 2006

**THERE WILL BE AN INFORMATION SESSION AT THE OLD
CHURCH HALL IN BURKETOWN**

22 AUGUST 2006 AT 10:00AM

**HOSTED BY OUR HACC COORDINATOR
AMANDA DOUGLAS**

**COME AND FIND OUT WHAT OUR HACC
PROGRAM IS ALL ABOUT
MAYBE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE OR KNOW
SOMEBODY WHO MAY BE?**

**ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT AMANDA DOUGLAS AT THE
BURKE SHIRE COUNCIL**

PH: (07) 4745 5100 ~ Fax: (07) 4745 5181

Fire Project Officer
FIRE PROJECT UPDATE

The fire mitigation for Burketown has been carried out and we ended up with some good patchwork burns. There were a couple of areas still a little green so we are leaving them for next month before we put fire to them.

We have also put in place mitigation fire around Doomadgee with some more coming up in early August. We will also be doing mitigation fires around Clifdale and Westmorland properties and also along the DPI fence from the Savannah to the coast.

The Burketown Rural Fire Brigade is also holding training nights every second Tuesday nights with the next training night being the 1st of August at the emergency service shed.

If there are any queries or issues, please feel free to contact either myself or Atlanta Taylor who is my new administrator for the office, on (47 455 132).

Regards

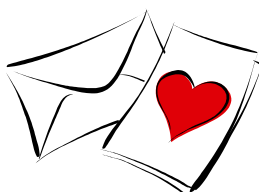
Kevin Anderson
Fire Project Officer.

Burke Shire RADF

PAPERCRAFT WORKSHOP

A Cardmaking/Stamping workshop will be held at Burketown Shire Hall on Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 September 2006 from 8am - 4:30pm each day. The workshop will cover basic cardmaking technics showing participants how to make simple but very effective cards for all occasions from birthdays to babies to Christmas.

Through RADF funding participants will be supplied with a basic papercraft toolkit and all materials will be supplied. Participants will need to supply their own lunch. For those who wish to undertake the workshop but are unable to attend on the week-end, four evening workshops will be held also on dates yet to be finalised. If you are interested in participating in this workshop please call Karen on 47455093 to reserve your place. Places are limited to 20 participants so be quick to register.





Gregory Grapevine

RFDS Clinic Gregory

- JULY - Thursday 27th
- AUGUST - Thursday 24th
- SEPTEMBER - Thursday 21st

Gregory School

- WEDNESDAY - Qld Active After School Sports Programme - It is run every Wednesday afternoon from 2:30pm to 4:00pm. Student will receive a small healthy snack and will participate in activities run by the Gregory Teacher (Rebecca), Parents and Community Members. Activities will include fishing, tennis, cooking, painting & bush walking. Anyone willing to help please see Rebecca at the School or ph: 47485652.
- FRIDAY - 2:00pm - every week this term the school kids are performing a play. Everyone is welcome & afternoon tea is provided. Please come along and support the kids.
- SCHOOL CAMP - Proposed school camp to Adel's Grove Tuesday 19th September to Thursday 21st September.

School of the Air - Mini School at Gregory

- SEPTEMBER - From Monday 11th to Friday 15th September.

CWA - Gregory Branch

- HOW MANY GRIDS TO GREGORY cookbooks for sale - \$8 each or for local Burke Shire Residents and Business discount of 20 books for \$120 (a saving of \$2 per book) - ring either Sue Clarke ph: 47485575 or Tess Arnold ph: 47485584
- HORSE SPORTS - Sunday 24th September 9:00am (1st Sunday of School Holidays) - for programmes please ring Rosemarie Newton, Talawanta Station ph: 47453526

TRASH & TREASURE

A community Trash & Treasure Market will be held at the Gregory Downs Hotel on 27 August from 10:00am - 2:00pm. If you have goods to sell or want to do fundraising then please register your stall with the Hotel (Jo, Shona or Becky) on the following numbers. ph: 47485566 or fax: 47485501

Stalls can include the following:-

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| ♦ Raffles | ♦ Tools | ♦ Household Goods |
| ♦ Pot Plants | ♦ Lucky Dips | ♦ Arts & Craft |
| ♦ Clothing | ♦ Jewellery | ♦ Face Painting |
| ♦ Spare Parts | ♦ Cake Stall | ♦ Sausage Sizzle |

Police Beat

Police Beat

Sadly since my last article, the community has lost a young man in the prime of his life. Lester LIDGARD was from all accounts a hard working and honest young man who contributed to his workplace and community. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

This tragedy highlights the importance of road safety. No matter how old or young you may be it only takes one tragic incident to remind us how easy it is to have an accident and be seriously injured or lose your life. Please be aware of the fatal 4, (Speeding, fatigue, seatbelts and alcohol). If you are tired or have consumed too much alcohol to drive, there are plenty of places to stay or people who are able to assist you including the police. Remember, life is precious.

On a happier note, I am pleased to report that the School of the Air and Burketown State School children have all taken part in a bicycle safety programme and the children have now got "bicycle licences" and bicycle helmets. It is great to see the kids riding around town with their helmets on and in a safe manner. Next term Jim and I will be running similar programmes for the kindergarten and Gregory State School. Remember, it's not only the kids who are required to wear helmets when riding bicycles but adults as well.

Whilst Jim and I have been away, Chris MASTORGIO from Mt Isa has been in Burketown relieving. Thanks are extended to Chris for a job very well done while he has been here. I think most of you have met Chris and some may even have seen him at the pub every now and then.

During June, the Gregory Campdraft was held in Gregory Downs. Congratulations must be extended to the organisers, participants and the community of Gregory and Burketown. From a policing point of view the event was very well run and the spirit and behaviour of the crowd was very good which makes our job easy and enjoyable. Of course in more recent times the Order of the Outback Ball was held in Burketown. Once again the event organisers and attendees must be congratulated for an exceptional event where a good time was had by all. It was a great honour to receive the award from the Council along with Ian Forshaw and Brett Harris on behalf of the Emergency Services. The Ambulance, RFDS, Rural Fires, SES and VMR all provide an invaluable service to our community.

In recent weeks Jim and I have been approached about registration requirements for boat trailers, particularly those that are used by interstate tourists. Although the trailer may only be used to tow the boat to and from the boat ramp, it must be registered when driven on the roads. A monetary penalty applies to the drivers of vehicles towing a trailer that is not registered.

The Council is currently undertaking road works in the township and surrounds. Please reduce you speed and take care in and around the roadwork areas.

Stay safe

Paul GRIFFITHS
Sergeant
OIC Burketown Police



YOUNG ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



This program has been introduced by the Queensland Government to assist junior competitors realize their dreams of becoming sporting champions. An annual budget of \$500,000 has been set to meet the travel & accommodation expenses of young sportspeople who have been selected to compete in sporting events which are held 100km or more from their homes.

Three levels of assistance are available based on the distance an athlete has to travel, with \$500 for 100 - 500km; \$650 for 500 - 1,000km & \$800 for over 1,000km.

The program is open to all young queenslanders and I strongly urge young competitors who are eligible to apply.

Please contact Tony McGrady's Office on Ph 4743 5149 for more information or access details on the internet at www.sportrec.qld.gov.au