

MCKINLAY SHIRE COUNCIL

2014/15

Annual Report





*Council would like to thank Jade Lyons and Jo Thieme
Photography for their contributions to images used in this Report.*

Welcome

to the McKinlay Shire Council 2014/15 Annual Report

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Our 2014-15 Annual Report is an important component of Councils performance management process. This is an essential document that will inform the community how McKinlay Shire Council has performed over the 2014/15 financial year. It captures the achievements, hopes, aspirations, priorities and goals of our community.

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ANNUAL REPORT Objectives

Council is required under the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulation 2012 to prepare an Annual Report of its operations each financial year. Our 2014-15 Annual Report reflects our commitment to achieving effective corporate governance through openness and accountability, ensuring resources are used efficiently to provide value for money service to the McKinlay Shire community.

Our communication objective is to provide ratepayers and other stakeholders with:

- An account of our revenue and related policies and how we have used public funds.
- An insight into the challenges and opportunities that have influenced our actions and delivery of strategic outcomes.
- Our priorities for the year ahead, and
- An accurate, balanced and transparent assessment of our achievement in implementing our Community, Corporate and Operational Plan.

Vision and Mission

A great place to live with a well connected, strong, healthy and friendly community, McKinlay Shire will continue to sustain and grow as a place that represents the best aspects of outback living.

McKinlay Shire supports our population to meet the key thresholds for social, health, education and commercial services and also underpins a sustainable, diversified rural economy.

The community welcomes new industries that contribute to its overall vision and sustainability. Ongoing improvements to infrastructure, amenities and services will continue to improve the healthiness and quality of life for residents and make McKinlay Shire an increasingly attractive and connected place for residents, tourists and visitors.

Through good governance and partnerships, we strive to achieve quadruple bottom line outcomes that maximize the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits of all our future actions.



CHAPTER ONE / At a Glance

Councils approach to integrated reporting

Profile of our Shire

McKinlay Shire is the gateway to the Gulf of Carpentaria. The Shire spans some 41,000 square kilometers and embraces the townships of Julia Creek and Nelia on the Flinders Highway, and McKinlay and Kynuna on the Landsborough Highway.

A rural and regional Shire, McKinlay is home to a productive and innovative pastoral industry, as well as the world's richest single mine producer of silver, lead and zinc, at Cannington, and a copper mine in Eloise. The world's largest natural aquifer, the Great Artesian Basin, underpins and supports our community and the diversity of the rich grazing lands and unique animal life that the Shire has to offer. McKinlay Shire has a proud history, industry and is a close family community. Looking into the future, the Shire will shortly enter a steady growth phase as more people discover this little gem of the North West.



Scale

Size	40 818 sq/km
Population	1000
Land Reserve	32421.91 ha
Administration Centers	2
Budget - Operational	\$23,000,000
Budget - Capital Works	\$12,052,304

Recreation Facilities

- Julia Creek Indoor Sports Centre
- Julia Creek Swimming Pool
- Julia Creek Participation Space
- Bike Safety Park
- Kev Bannah Oval
- McIntyre Park
- Tennis Courts
- Nerida Currin Skate Park
- George Sills Park
- Peter Dawes Park
- Centenary Park



Infrastructure

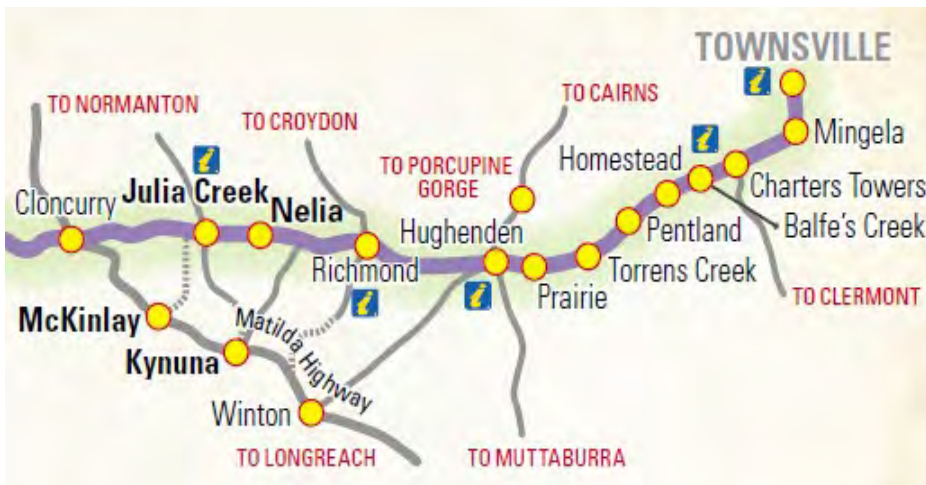
Road lengths total (including 408.91 km TMR controlled roads)	2088.17 km
Council owned road Rural (13.5% sealed)	1669.76 km
Council owned road Town (85% sealed)	9.50 km
State roads	408 km
Aerodromes	3
SES buildings	3
Medical Centre	2
Amenities block	6
Aged persons unit	8
Caravan Park	1
Cattle Yards	1

Community Centres

Julia Creek Civic Centre
CSA Building
Julia Creek Library
McKinlay Library
HACC Centre
Jan Eckford Memorial Centre
Crafty Old School House
Fr. Bill Busuttin Centre

Workforce

Employees	66
Permanent	40
Permanent Part Time	3
Contract Executive and Managerial	5
Contract Other	2
Casual	16



Leading the way towards a future that can sustain growth and economic development, while retaining a lifestyle that is uniquely "Outback".

Mayors Overview

Situated in North West Queensland McKinlay Shire spans over 41,000 square kilometres. The shire sits on top of the world's largest natural aquifer the Great Artesian Basin, which underpins our significant beef and mining industries and supports our community of over 1000 people.

Unfortunately drought has had a hold of our Shire since April 2013 with only small isolated storms up to now. This immensely trying time for all our residents and our neighbours across the region has been difficult to be a part of but the resilience, generosity and spirit of people never fails to impress. From a Council perspective we have worked hard to ensure we can provide for our community on many levels not just standard service provisions.

The function area of Engineering continues to be stable and provide not only improved roads for residents but ongoing work for employees and local businesses alike. Funding through the State Governments Royalties to Regions program has seen over 11kms of the McKinlay end of the Gidgee By Way sealed as well as other road improvements across the Shire. Focus on replacing the Punchbowl Bridge has been constant and all designs are completed with applications for the \$3.5 million project submitted awaiting approval in 2016/17.

Economic Development crosses many areas of Council with unique projects completed such as Stage 1 of the McKinlay Shire Business Solar project and significant funding totalling \$1.6 million secured from State Government and South32 Cannington Mine towards the upgrade of McKinlay Shire's Community Precinct. Once complete in 2016, this \$2.2 million upgrade will not only serve our community well but will allow economic stimulus long term through the ability to attract regional events. Council has also ensured we continue to participate as part of the region through collaborations and memberships of the North West Regional Organisation of Councils, Regional Roads Group, MITEZ and Overlanders Way to name a few.

Community Services is such an important area for our local government and with support from community, is an area where we thrive and I feel a significant difference is made. Many services such as Meals on Wheels, Home and Community Care, Community Health Nurse Agreement, Sport and Recreation Officer position have been provided for some years now. This year has seen our work on delivering Year 7 and 8 at the Julia Creek State School come to fruition and Council moved forward to investigate operations of the Julia Creek Kindergarten and Childcare in conjunction with the committee to ensure this vital service remains in our community.

The McKinlay Nurse led clinic operations with collaboration of community, Council and The North West Hospital and Health Service has seeing funding stability emerge and provide ongoing services in the southern part of the Shire.



Large and small community infrastructure was delivered with the opening of the much anticipated Seniors Living Complex and Father Bill Busuttin Community Centre. This centre has already proven its worth beyond measure for residents of units and community alike.

On a smaller scale, was the completion of the first 24/7 exercise and participation area named after former Mayor and Councillor of over 17 years Mr Daren Ginns. This hub provides an air conditioned space for community of all ages delivering on health and wellbeing initiatives. Work also begun on reconstruction of parts of the Julia Creek Swimming Pool to ensure safe operations for many years to come.

Tourism again has been an area of focus for Council due to the significant impact on local business and the Shire in general. In this area I believe we have excelled with our positive integration of “guests” to our community through the RV Site, Caravan Park and At the Creek VIC.

Initiatives such as the Bush Dinners and cruiser bikes at the Caravan Park and RV Site have become staples for us. Council's strategic approach to new projects this year such as Paddock to Plate Lunch, Town Tours, new Tourism Coordinator position and the additions of Fat Tail dunnarts have capitalised on previous years. Additional infrastructure at the Julia Creek Caravan Park with new office and on site residence has enabled us to attract and retain good managers for the Park. Additional works in the future such as new amenities block to increase capacity and artesian spa to increase visitation will enhance viability of the park which will return to rate payers over time. The continued support of local business and community working with Council in tourism and events is integral to the level of success that we are seeing.



Communication is always important and we have embraced the online era even more through constant updates through Facebook, the website, twitter and direct community emails.

This has seen a drop in our mail outs however we have continued to do targeted mailings as part of our communication strategy as this still is important to many community members who are not as connected online.

New ways of engaging people have been embraced with the set up of Council and Community represented Roads Strategy Committee that has worked on the higher level plan for roads in our Shire.

The new Shire Roads Strategy will be released later in the year and the committee will continue to meet biannually at least to revise the strategy and ensure it is always relevant.

Council once again managed cash flows and allowed the second rates levy issued at the beginning of the calendar year an extra 5 months for all residents to pay whilst maintaining the discount.

It is strong financial management that allows important support mechanisms such as this one occur. Along with an excellent auditors report, strong financial result and a projected debt free position by 30th June 2016, Council is in a strong position for the future.



Looking forward there is significant focus on Northern Australia. The past year has seen many papers, submissions, meetings and forums. Council has been engaging on all these levels however development of any sort particularly greenfield developments takes time, patience and vision.

There have been many opportunities identified for our Shire and our region over the last 12 months and local government certainly has a role in keeping pace and facilitating these future opportunities.



Finally I wish to thank our Councilors and all our staff for their continuing efforts and commitment to the Shire during difficult times in our region.

Cr. Belinda Murphy
Mayor

CEO Overview



It is with pleasure I report on a very successful 2014/2015 financial year. I would also like to recognise the hard work and dedication of Council's staff who have achieved a great deal over the last 12 months under sometimes difficult conditions.

Whilst no report can fully document 12 months worth of achievements it is clear that 2014/15 has again been a year to remember for McKinlay Shire Council. Details of Council's activities, achievements and financial performance over the year are outlined within this Annual Report and I encourage all to read the report and engage with Councillors or myself on matters of interest.

In line with last year, Council continues to be in a sound position with a net operating surplus of \$1,840,000 for the 2014/15 financial year.

During the 2014/15 year we have moved forward in developing and improving our organisational governance and strategies whilst at the same time delivering community beneficial projects and programs.

Council's capital works program expenditure for the year was \$5,458,000 this included \$2,584,000 on roads and also included projects such as the Daren Ginns Participation Space, completion of the sealing of the Gilliat McKinlay Rd including an additional 2kms, a new caretakers residence at the Julia Creek Caravan Park and the Julia Creek Bike Safety Park all of which goes towards enhancing and improving community facilities and lifestyle.

In conjunction with these capital works, Council also completed \$7,680,000 in NDRRA Flood damage works as well as \$1,011,000 in RMPC works for Department of Transport and Main Roads. None of these would have been possible without significant partnerships and relationships with South 32 and the State and Federal Governments.

During the year Council was successful with funding applications for \$1,600,000 to go with Council's own \$600,000 contribution to upgrade the Civic Centre, and have already started work on the final design of this \$2.2m upgrade, with construction planned to commence in late March early April 2016. With completion due around September 2016, this project will breath a breath of fresh air into a necessary community asset and provide a very practical and aesthetically pleasing hall for years to come.



In 2014/15 financial year, recognising the economic benefit tourism has brought to the Shire, especially during this prolonged period of drought, Council took the strategic step of adding a new position to the organisation structure – the Tourism Coordinator. The Coordinators role is to raise the profile of tourism within the Shire through strategic planning, marketing, events and initiatives in order to capture and make the most of visitors to the Shire, especially during our peak season. Tourism numbers have continued to grow, which is a reward for the efforts put in not only by Council and staff but the community as a whole. Council was recognised for their contribution to Tourism by the Outback Queensland Tourism Association, taking out the Local Government Award for tourism in 2014.

The Community Services team has continued to deliver diverse, quality programs for the benefit of the entire community. A few examples include, Men's Day with a visit from cricketing legend Andrew Symonds; Regional Arts Development Program which enabled visit from author Rachel Johns; Sport & Recreation activities seen a Superheroes & Villians Bike Muster; and the community health team were instrumental in Council receiving a Highly Commended Heart Foundation Local Government award for the programs delivered to the Shire residents.

Council's Environmental Department undertook various feral pest management programs throughout the year including the scheduled two baiting programs which delivered about 25 tonne of prepared 1080 meat baits to deal with Wild Dog and Feral pigs throughout the shire. Once again the program was well received throughout our Shire, and these programs are something Council regards highly and require ongoing community support to make these baiting programs as effective as possible.

Whilst an extremely demanding year I believe our Organisation has performed admirably and positioned ourselves well to continue to provide strong, responsive service to the McKinlay Shire Community. In finishing I would like to thank all the people who worked for and work with Council throughout the 2014/15 year, and recognise the achievements and progress that is detailed in this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Childs'.

Aaron Childs
Chief Executive Officer



PERFORMANCE Summary

Highlights - Infrastructure

Official Opening of Seniors Living Units and Fr. Bill Busuttin Community centre

On Thursday 21st August 2014, the Grand Opening of the Julia Creek Seniors Community & Supported Living Precinct and the burying of the 25 year time capsule took place.

Catholic Church representatives Fr Bill Busuttin (who the Community Centre was named after), Fr Michael Lowcock and Mrs Ellen Warner assisted in the official engagement, giving us an insight into the history of the project from its beginnings. The \$4.4 million precinct was officially opened by the Hon Bob Katter MP and Cr Murphy. Once the Precinct was officially opened community members were welcomed to inspect the Fr Bill Busuttin Community Centre and the living units, followed by lunch and refreshments.

There were around 60 community members in attendance. Shortly thereafter, our first residents moved into the independent living units, which was an exciting time.

The Fr Bill Busuttin Community Centre contains the offices of our Community Nurse and HACC Coordinator and there are also consult rooms for visiting services. The main area has a full AV suite with adjoining kitchen suitable for a range of functions.





Julia Creek Participation Space

After several attempts Council secured funding to construct the Julia Creek Participation Space. The \$367,000 project was funded in partnership with South32 Cannington (\$175,000), the Queensland Governments Local Government Grants and Subsidy Program (\$100,000) and Council (\$92,000). Construction took place this financial year and was named in honour of the late Mr Daren Ginns who served the McKinlay Shire community as a Councillor from 1976-1983 and then as Mayor from 1985-2000.

The Centre is a 24/7 gym and fitness area, furnished with equipment including treadmills, stationary bikes, free weights and assisted weights stations and is fully air-conditioned with televisions to keep you motivated.



Highlights - Awards



Outback Queensland Tourism Association

- Winner of Local Government Award for Tourism
- Winner of Tourism Marketing Award (Overlander's Way)

Queensland Information Centre Association

- Winner - Signage
- Runner Up - Statistics
- Runner Up - Professional Development and Involvement



OQTA Deputy Chair Stuart Mackenzie, Georgia Fleming, Belinda Murphy and former Minister for Tourism Jann Stuckey with the 2014 Local Government Award for Tourism

Highlights - Community



Community Benefit Assistance Scheme 2014-2015

The Community Benefit Assistance Scheme offered dollar for dollar funding to local community groups under the categories of infrastructure, equipment and volunteer support. In 2014/15 the Program funded \$10,532.60 towards community organisations, enabling local groups to deliver their events and activities to a high standard, ensuring longevity for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Applicant	Description	Amount
Julia Creek Combined Sporting Association	kids netball and soccer equipment	\$395.75
Julia Creek Western Riding Club	draft drag	\$2650.00
Sedan Dip Sports & Recreation	tables and chairs and gymkhana enclosure	\$7026.40
Julia Creek Turf Club	laptop, office software, printer and hard drive	\$460.45



Community Donations 2014-2015

The Community Donation Program assists non-profit community groups and organisations to make positive contributions to the quality of life of McKinlay Shire residents through the provision of donations towards for a range of purposes and causes.

Council made a donation of \$15,000 to the North Queensland Rescue Helicopter.

Community Sponsorship Program 2014-2015

Throughout 2014/2015 a number of not-for-profit community groups were assisted in making positive contributions to the quality of life for McKinlay Shire residents with the provision of sponsorship via the Community Sponsorship Program. Below is an overview of the successful applicants:

Applicant:

Julia Creek Rugby League
 Julia Creek Kindy
 Western Riding Club
 Hughenden Country Music Festival
 Julia Creek Pony Club
 McKinlay Race Club
 Saxby
 McKissa
 Julia Creek Turf Club

Sponsorship:

\$450.00
 \$800.00
 \$2,200.00
 \$300.00
 \$5,000.00
 \$4,350.00
 \$5,000.00
 \$942.60
 \$3,409.07

Dirt N Dust Festival

The Shire's biggest community event, the Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival, celebrated its 21st year in 2015.

Council is a long term, proud partner of the event that raises the profile of Julia Creek in particular, and brings visitors to the region from all walks of life. Council has an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding with the Festival committee that outlines Council's support of the event.

In 2015 Council sponsored a cash component of \$15,000 and provided \$20,000 of in-kind support which includes a combination of staff time, use of Council plant and resources, accommodation, hire fees of venues and administration fees in preparation and running of the event.



Highlights - Events

Community Christmas Tree

The McKinlay Shire Community Xmas Tree was held on Friday 5th December 2014. The event was supported by Medicare Local and Centacare with drought assistance funding from the Australia Government. These funds were put towards kids rides, kids presents, catering - reducing the costs for parents by allowing the kids to eat for free and the adult prices were reduced. Our local emergency services crew escorted Santa into the Robert Lord Shed.

The family friendly event consisted of a variety of market stalls both non for profit and private. The evening entertainment included a tug of war competition won by Sedan Dip. Cr Batt donated \$200 to the prize pool with the winning team taking home \$400. A live band provided the music - Mothers Second Choice. The Julia Creek P&C ran the bar, profited around \$4100. The group fundraising for Bravehearts organised the catering and profited \$988. An estimate of around 200 people attended the event.

Mens Health Day Event

The McKinlay Shire Men's Day took place on Saturday 30th May from lunch time into the afternoon. The special guest for the day was former Australian cricketer Andrew Symonds. Andrew answered lots of questions about his cricket career through to what he is doing now. Andrew brought along his baggy green cap which he happily showed attendees who were allowed to wear the cap and pose for photos etc. Corrina provided a lovely BBQ lunch and Brosos Condiments had a wide range of sauces, beef jerky and condiments for taste and sale.

BCF and Bike & Rider from Mt Isa brought a range of fishing and camping gear along with quad and two wheeler motor-bikes along for display. The crew from Sollitt Racing also brought along their dune buggies prior to leaving for the Fink Desert Race. BCF ran a fish casting competition and we also had two golf roles set up. The day was enjoyed by all who attended - around 60.



Julia Creek Bike Safety Park



The \$55,000 project was funded through the Join the Drive campaign by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, a Safer Queensland Community Grant thanks to Suncorp Insurance, the Queensland Police Service and Council. The Bike Safety Track was constructed to include a range of mock traffic scenarios including solar traffic lights, railway crossing effects, intersections and some great signage including a Julia Creek dunnart crossing in reference to local endangered species, the Julia Creek dunnart.

Local Police Officer Senior Constable Dave McNab will run bike safety education courses through the school to ensure our children have a greater understanding of road rules.



Australia Day

The McKinlay Shire Australia Day Awards held in Julia Creek captured the true spirit of Australia Day. The crowd was treated to a rendition of the National Anthem by Junior Cultural Award Winner, Rachel Fels. A Julia Creek local, Ms Fels, has recently won a six month mentorship with Fretfest on the Gold Coast.

Australia Day Ambassador, Anthony Ryan AM, acknowledged that the recipients' accomplishments and actions, often in the face of adversity, exemplifies what it means to be Australian. McKinlay Shire Mayor, Belinda Murphy said the Australia Day Awards Ceremony provides an opportunity to recognise the quiet achievers in our midst. None more so than the 2015 Citizen of the Year, Laurie Blacklock, who was incredibly humbled by the accolade.

Mr Blacklock was recognized for 50 years of dedication to the iconic outback rodeo and campdraft, Julia Creek's Saxby Round-Up. He has injected a lot of pride into the Saxby Round-Up and President, Philip Curr, concedes that the event simply would not run without his tireless efforts. Other Award-winners include: Clay Malone (Junior Sports Award), Naomi Smith (Sports Administration), Rachel Fels (Junior Cultural Award), Ellen Sills (Cultural Award), Julia Creek Pony Club Youth Camp (Small Community Event), Sedan Dip Sports and Recreation (Large Community Event), Desmond Hansson (Volunteer of the Year) and Elizabeth Batt (Young Citizen of the Year).

Anthony Ryan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Edmund Rice Foundation where his work takes him to many development projects throughout the world. Mr Ryan has also been honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and a 2009 Queensland Great by the Queensland Government.

Proudly sponsored by Woolworths, the Ambassador Program has sent over 200 Ambassadors to local Australia Day festivities statewide. Australia Day activities in Queensland are proudly supported by the Queensland Government in partnership with the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council.



ANZAC Day—Centenary

McKinlay Shire residents commemorated one of the most significant events in our national calendar with services in both Julia Creek and McKinlay. With an ever increasing sense of pride within in the community, school students, local residents and visitors marched and gathered at the dawn and day service led by a full catafalque party from the Australian Army Townsville Barracks.



McKinlay War Memorial

Council was successful in obtaining a grant through the ANZAC Centenary Local grant program which enabled a new war memorial to be created listing the names of our First World War soldiers in McKinlay. The McKinlay Community along with Medicare Local also raised money for this project from their fundraising cricket match. It is the first time the diggers have been acknowledged on a public memorial within the Shire.

The local community have well supported the new tribute, holding their first ANZAC Day service with support from the 4th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery and Sapper Kurt Hansson - 2 Combat Engineer Regiment, based at Enoggera, one tour of Afghanistan. The service also included the reading of some of the soldier profiles that are now on display, along with the original honour roll, in Centenary Museum.



WW1 Diggers Tribute Project

In 2012, an old community building in the town of McKinlay was being cleaned out to be refurbished for a celebration of explorer John McKinlay, that being 150 years since he had passed through the district. Amongst the clutter and dust a large black board and frame was found in a back room, having no love for what looked to the eye like decades. It was discovered that the board with textured inscriptions was made of copper and that the face had oxidised over time causing the piece to look totally black. The board was carefully cleaned by a community member and a little treasure was brought back to life. The gem turned out to be an old war honour roll recognising the soldiers of the area that served in WW1. Each of the soldiers names are marked with a symbol showing those who were wounded, died of illness or made the ultimate sacrifice.

From this major discovering, Council was successful in obtaining a grant through the State Government's Anzac Centenary grants program to conduct research into each of soldiers to find out more about their sacrifice. War historian Brendan O'Keefe was engaged to perform the duties and over several months of hunting through the archives, he was able to write 24 magnificent profiles that gave a touching and sometimes graphic insight into their war lives. Not surprisingly, many of the soldiers were horseman and served in the light horse brigades. There are still four soldiers that we have been unable to 100% identify. The profiles are framed and on display at the Julia creek RSL Hall and Centenary Museum in McKinlay. O'Keefe was also able to find a number of photographs, and from these, an outdoor display was created in the grounds of the Julia Creek RSL in a memorial walk.

Also in the grounds is the centrepiece, a statue created by sculptural artist Sue Tilley. Sue spent 7 weeks in our October climate creating 'Spirit of the Light Horse' out of scrap metal sourced from local cattle properties. The grand opening on the WW1 Diggers Tribute project, fittingly took place on Anzac Day 2015.



Drought Declaration and Relief

McKinlay Shire was drought declared on 1st April 2013 by the State Government, enabling helping primary producers manage their business through a range of drought services including financial assistance, livestock nutrition and animal welfare information, and business-management strategies.

Council partnered with local health service providers and charity organisation BlazeAid to ensure our residents were supported in this on-going time of hardship. Council also secured funding from the Queensland Government to assist with social cohesion to ensure our local annual events and activities were supported when sponsorship dollars from business became much tighter.

Funding from the Department of Communities, Child Safety & Disability Services was distributed as follows:



EVENT	AMOUNT
Dirt N Dust Festival	\$7,000
Saxby Round-Up	\$7,000
Julia Creek Campdraft	\$7,000
Sedan Dip Sports and Recreation Association	\$7,000
Julia Creek Turf Club annual races	\$7,000
Julia Creek Combined Sporting Association - Town V's Country	\$7,000
McKinlay Races	\$7,000
McKinlay Shire Cultural Association Cultural Capers	\$7,000
Julia Creek Western Riding Club Challenge	\$3,000*
Julia Creek Pony Club Gymkhana	\$3,500
North West Pony Club camp	\$3,500
McKissa athletics	\$2,000
McKinlay Shire Community Christmas Tree	\$5,000
Local Buy Campaign	\$13,000
Julia Creek Mini School	\$4,000*



* These contributions were changed at the August 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting.

CHAPTER TWO / Performance Reporting

Delivering a level of Service

SERVICE Overviews

Corporate

The objective of Corporate Services is to implement financial strategies to bring about financial stability for current and future generations and maximize and develop the potential of Councils human, physical and

Human Resources

The objective of human Resources is to promote the harmonization of the organisations people and councils values to ensure that staff are provided the support and development necessary to achieve job satisfaction and deliver quality and innovative services to all customers by ensuring that the Shires assets and the organisations people are appropriately managed.



Policy Review

Our Policies are available for download from our website or a hardcopy can be viewed at Councils administration office.

This year a number of policies were reviewed and established, including;

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Revenue Policy

Expenses and Reimbursement Policy

Entertainment and Hospitality Policy

Procurement Policy and

Councillor Remuneration Policy

Employees Departed

Employee Initiated separation	28
Employee turnover rate	42%

Employees recruited

Internal	4
External	20
Total	24

Gender Balance

	M	F
Executive and Managerial	4 (80%)	1 (20%)
Professional	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
Community and Personal Services	1 (8%)	11 (91%)
Clerical and Administrative	1 (11%)	8 (89%)
Machine Operators	11 (76%)	2 (24%)
Labourer/Unskilled	12 (75%)	4 (25%)
Trades	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Team Leaders/Supervisors	5 (83%)	1 (17%)
Total	37 (56%)	29 (44%)

Employees at a Glance

Workforce/Total number of employees

Permanent	40
Permanent Part-Time	3
Contract—Executive & Managerial	5
Contract—Other	2
Casual	16
Total	66

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

Councils 2012/2015 Enterprise Bargaining Agreement was certified by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission in January 2013. Council are in the process of developing a new Agreement.

Professional Development

Council recognises that the ability to deliver the required standard of service to it’s community is highly dependent upon the skills and capabilities of it’s staff. Council offer training and development assistance to employees to provide long term benefits to both Council and the employee in terms of competence, satisfaction and efficiency.

Councils Employee Professional Development and Training Policy outlines the framework in which Council supports employees to achieve competence and best practice service standard as well as the guidelines in which Council supports employees in further educational development such as undergraduate or postgraduate studies. During the year we have provided assistance to employees for the following professional development and training;

- ⇒ Advanced CPR
- ⇒ Senior First Aid
- ⇒ Cert III Civil Construction
- ⇒ Traffic Control
- ⇒ Cert III – Engineering – Mechanical Trade
- ⇒ Industrial Relations Workshop
- ⇒ Caterpillar 140M Motor Grader Course
- ⇒ Cert III Landscape Construction
- ⇒ Diploma of Local Government – Administration
- ⇒ Authorised Persons Asbestos Training
- ⇒ Lead Auditor Training



Community

Community Services aim is to deliver a broad range of community based programs, services and facilities to meet community needs and expectations.

These services include the provision of aged care services, the operation of sport and recreation facilities, to support community organisations achieve heritage and cultural activities, supporting festivals and events, promoting tourism, providing for library services, operating community infrastructure including a caravan park and to ensure at all times the appropriate engagement and consultation of the community on issues affecting individuals, specific interest groups, or the community itself.



Health

Community Nurse Position

With the resignation of our Community Nurse, Council struggled to find a suitable candidate to fill the position. Some feedback received was that there would be a greater chance of finding the right suitor if the position was transferred to employment under Queensland Health, where nurses could easily move around the system and keep their entitlements.

The position has always been half funded by Council and Queensland Health, hence, Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the North West Hospital and Health Service to transfer employment while retaining the operations of the position within Council to ensure duties meet the needs of our community.



McKinlay Bush Nurse Clinic

The McKinlay Community Clinic celebrated the completion of the facility upgrade and start of a weekday nurse led service with a public open day held on Thursday 11 September, 2014. In January 2014, Health Minister Lawrence Springborg confirmed the Queensland Government would fund \$200,000 towards establishing a nurse led service to provide both emergency and community healthcare during business hours in McKinlay.

The funding enabled recruitment of a full time nurse, as well as replenishing clinical supplies. Additional funds were contributed by McKinlay Shire Council, community members of McKinlay and the North West Hospital and Health service to upgrade the clinic building and staff residence.



Health Promotion

Baking our Blues Away

The 15th July 2014, was an annual day of goodwill, where people were encouraged to bake for someone to show they care. We held a morning tea at the Julia Creek Library, offering some baked goods, a cuppa and a chat. Twenty five people attended the morning, including a few members from Blaze Aid.

I Can Eat Rainbows Book Launch

I Can Eat Rainbows is book aimed at mothers and children to promote healthy eating habits. The Community Nurse read the book to the huge crowd, with both the Kindy and Prep to Grade 2 invited. The children were involved by showing them various coloured fruits and vegetables and discussing them at the end of the session. There was a wonderful array of beautifully inviting fruit for morning tea. It was interesting to see how many kids had not tasted some fruits. A healthy book display was put up for the week which lead to an increase in children's loans.

National Stroke Week

Three information sessions were held for Council employees and a session for the community. Out of the 39 attendees, 8 people had their blood pressures checked after the presentations.

Mother and Daughter Information Morning

In November 2014, the Community Nurse hosted a Mother & Daughter Information Morning targeting pre-teens (9-13 years), with twelve girls and their mothers attending the session. The session covered puberty, body image, relationship and looking after your body. The feedback from the session was extremely positive from the mothers, and the girls all responded well to the information presented.



Blood Pressure Clinics

Every Wednesday the Community Nurse held a morning Blood Pressure Clinic. It was hoped that this regular time slot becomes well known amongst the community and that will build rapport with the nurse. These clinics were for the whole of community, and can be for blood pressure, blood sugar level and/or weight monitoring.

Heart Foundation

Council was awarded a Highly Commended Heart Foundation Local Government Award for Councils with populations of 15,000 or less category. The winning initiatives included:

- McKinlay Cycle Way and Bike Hire: Free bike hire encourages locals and visitors onto popular cycle way tracks, to enjoy the country sights.
- Anyone can get active: Councillors in training for the local Julia Creek Dirt and Dust Triathlon organised to compete against neighbouring councils raising funds along the way for the winners. As a result, the council won, and donated significant funds to their local sports association to host fitness classes for the community.
- Community Health Nurse: A joint initiative with Queensland Health, the Community Health Nurse works to support the provision of aged care services, acute care, in the home care and health promotion within the McKinlay Shire.

The award was presented at the Town vs Country Footy match on September 19th 2014 by the Heart Foundation who brought out an old truck for the festivities. The Community Nurse and the Heart Foundation's Tanya Morris conducted free blood pressure checks during the first half of game, as well as handing out information packs and goodies. Seventeen blood pressure checks were completed, and 3 referrals made back to the weekly blood pressure clinics.

The Community Nurse also completed blood pressure checks at the Julia Creek Western Riding Club Challenge event in October 2014, targeting country people.



Sport and Recreation



Indoor Sports Centre

It has been another busy year at the indoor sports centre. We have played mixed netball – on several different occasions throughout the year, indoor hockey and tennis in block format depending on feedback from community members.

Strengthen and Lengthen

The Crack Up Sisters delivered strengthen and lengthen classes via Skype late in 2014. The classes were well attended and provided the opportunity for community members to participate in some yoga type exercise. The program stopped when a local community member started to deliver a similar program.



Music

Music lessons have continued through 2014/15. The guitar players have continued on with their lessons, and recorder has also been taken up.

This year the students built up a repertoire to allow for busking.

They had a great time performing down the main street and at the Bush Dinners held at the Caravan Park on Monday nights



Kindy Visits

Each Wednesday sees a visit to the Kindy. We have done all sorts of fun things to improve gross and fine motor skills. We've played outdoor games, used lego to build musical instruments, worked little fingers hard with paperclips, had a mini athletics carnival and created canvas paintings with paint filled egg shells.





School Holiday Programs

What a year we've had during the school holiday programs. There was the loud and exciting week learning marimbas and the week where everyone came out of their shell learning the art of theatre sports.

The Christmas build up was as exciting as ever, where our Elf on the Shelf spent a month hiding around Julia Creek, keeping an eye on the children. We enjoyed an all night movie marathon, with some kids managing to stay awake their entire night.

We have also been lucky enough to head to the movies in Mount Isa on several occasions. There were tennis lessons and triathlon training and a week learning all sorts of instruments from guitars and ukuleles to singing and performing. And to finish off a great year of school holiday programs we all went to camp...at the Julia Creek Caravan Park.

The camp was a huge hit! We were lucky enough to have The Crack Up Sisters come back and teach new and extended skills each morning of camp, before we returned to the park to cook damper, toast marshmallows and play camp games each afternoon.



Netball vs Richmond and Hughenden

It was Julia Creek's turn to host netball vs Richmond and Hughenden in October 2014. It was another great day, with teams from all towns enjoying the format.

Bike Muster

Our little bike muster continues to be popular three years in. Each Monday during terms two and three, kids are ridden to school and returned home at the end of the day. The kids learn the road rules, get some exercise to start their week and enjoy riding with their mates.



Jobs Plan

Over the past three years, the Sport and Recreation Coordinator position was funded by the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, with the contract ending in June 2015. The aim of the position was to provide additional support to local sporting groups to improve club governance, increase club membership and community participation, improve event management, assist with grant writing and long term planning, and any other areas of support that the club could identify. The Coordinator worked with five identified groups over the term and provided informal support to other groups if needed on a smaller scale. The position saw the Clubs make great improvements in skill building and club membership.



North Queensland Sports Foundation Bursary

The BHP Billiton Cannington Mine North Queensland Sports Foundation Bursaries were awarded to Ben Smith and Melody Smith to recognise their individual sporting achievements.

Each athlete received an embroidered jacket and \$750 to go towards assisting the future development of their skills and attending competitions.



Library



Kindy Kids

The Julia Creek Kindergarten kids were regular visitors to the Library when weather permitted. The kids really enjoyed playing and listening to story telling every week. We also had fun getting involved with story-books that use puppets to tell the story, joining in with screams, shouting and much laughter.

Summer Reading Club

The Summer Reading Club is a national annual reading program designed to encourage kids to read over the summer school holidays in December and January. This year's theme was Adventure. The State Library provided reading, writing and computer based activities that encouraged children to explore adventure fiction, a genre of fiction in which an adventure, an exciting undertaking involving risk and physical danger. There were a total of 36 children registered as participants.



School Holiday Program

The year started off well with the school holidays where the kids learned how to grow seeds in egg cartons that were decorated into caterpillar's and robots. By special request the kids wanted to have another Teddy bears picnic and invited Mr Cuddles to come and see all their teddies again. We all enjoyed the Christmas activities and decorating the library in a festive theme. We also made goodies to take home to share with our families.

After School Care at the Library

Friday afternoon's during the school term, students were able to attend the group session at the library where the kids could read, colour-in and use computers for digital literacy. As a group the kids completed small craft projects such as making and decorating wearable art for Cultural Capers, some of the hats would have not looked out of place at fashions of the field.

Statistics

The number of visitors to the library increased by 321 to 23,115 and the number of loans were steady at 5,537.

New Position

Recognising the economic benefit tourism has brought to the Shire, especially during this prolonged period of drought, Council took the strategic step of adding a new position to the organisation structure – the Tourism Coordinator. The Coordinator's role is to raise the profile of tourism within the Shire through strategic planning, marketing, events and initiatives in order to capture and make the most of visitors to the Shire, especially during our peak season.

Statistics

The Julia Creek Visitor Information Centre, At the Creek, had 9438 visitors throughout the 2014-15 financial year compared with 7810 in 2013/14 – representing a healthy 20.84% increase in visitors.

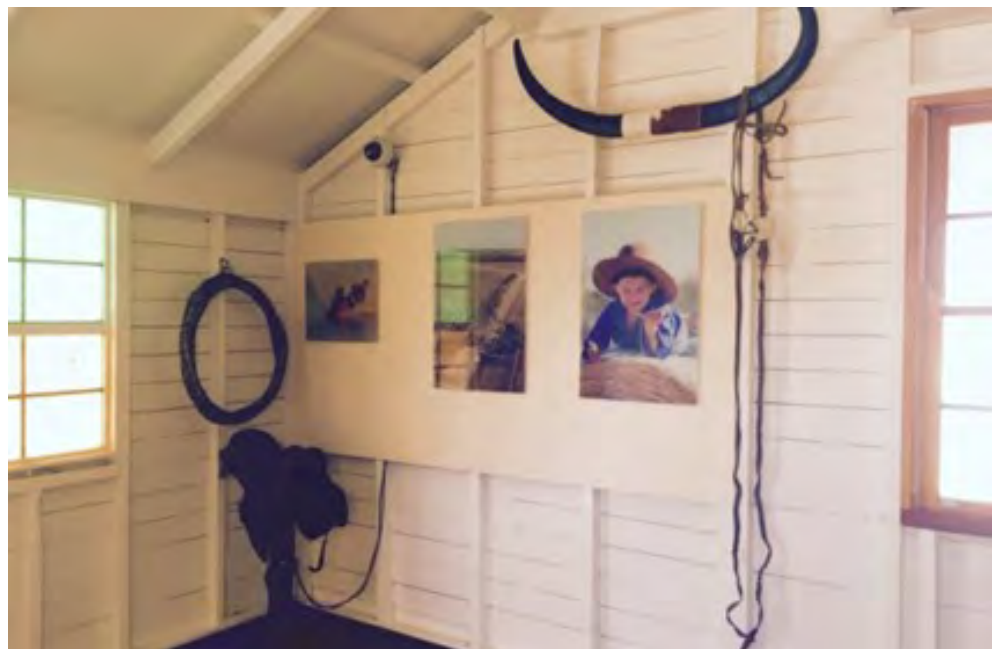
Whilst it is hard to compare financial years at McKinlay as the centre only opened in April 2014, there were 822 visitors in the 2014 calendar year and 1283 in the 2015 year to date – a 56% increase.

Tourism

At the Creek

At the Creek received an overhaul to update some of the interactive technology in April 2015. In the same month, At the Creek took possession of two Fat-tailed dunnarts on loan from the University of Queensland. A naming competition in the community saw the pair named 'Duncan' and 'Donald' after the McIntyre brothers who were explorers/early settlers in the area. The old reception area was updated with photograph prints from a local competition and relics from the area.

This display will continue to evolve as more items are loaned from the community. The objective is to provide our guests with a tactile and 'real' representation of McKinlay Shire. In May 2015, At the Creek had free Wi-Fi installed for its guests which is proving to be popular amongst the travelling public. The signage at the Visitor Centre was also updated.



At the Creek Visitor Statistics

Month	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Jul	1134	939	1177	2054	2172
Aug	897	743	1050	1503	1731
Sept	540	427	496	813	915
Oct	167	220	231	262	203
Nov	106	69	94	125	120
Dec	47	34	78	58	81
Jan	48	71	92	50	230
Feb	51	66	65	85	108
Mar	101	105	55	105	234
Apr	182	240	509	523	553
May	328	381	857	844	1044
Jun	459	638	1371	1388	2047
Total	4060	3933	6075	7810	9438

McKinlay Visitor Statistics

	2014	2015
Apr	51	20
May	204	230
Jun	207	244
Jul	198	343
Aug	162	281
Sept	n/a	165
Total	822	1283

Bush Dinners

Julia Creek Caravan Park Bush Dinners continued to grow from strength to strength with 1581 meals served through the 2015 calendar year. The Bush Dinners were well-supported by the local community who did a wonderful job catering, speaking and entertaining the large crowds. The positive feedback about the dinners and Council's tourism effort was overwhelming.

Calendar Year	Meals Served	Money Received for Community Groups
2013	384	\$3,462.40
2014	1484	\$15,629.90
2015	1581	\$16,091.00





RV Site

There were 1607 RV permits issued in 2014/15 compared with 1228 in 2013-14 representing a 30% increase in RV Site guests. We can extrapolate from surveys collated from RV Site guests that their estimated spend in McKinlay Shire from April to June 2015 was more than \$93,000 for the three month period, a huge boost for local businesses, especially during this prolonged period of drought. An additional set of cruiser bikes were purchased so that the RV Site and Caravan Park could both have a set.

Camp Host Program

"During our 23 day stay, we gained a real insight into how a community, struggling with drought, pulls together. The Shire provides the free RV Site which is a credit to all involved while travellers have nothing but praise for the area. We will never forget Julia Creek and would love to return in the future to spend more time in this small but vibrant community."

- Rob and Lyne Lewis

The Camp Host program continued with great success throughout 2014/15. Camp Hosts volunteer their time to run the free RV Friendly Site, a popular spot for self-contained campers to stay for up to 96 hours. Throughout 2015 there were seven couples who volunteered at the site from 14th April until 21st September. Some of the couples were repeat hosts and have indicated that they may return in 2016 – testament to the strength of the program. The program is a huge success for Council as it has improved morale amongst the campers and has mitigated the need for Council staff to monitor the location daily. The Camp Hosts also become advocates for our area and have provided basic tourist information to fellow travellers, which encouraged guests to stay on for local events. The Camp Hosts received a thank you pack and a certificate of appreciation signed by the Mayor.



Local Tourism Business Meeting

The Local Business Tourism Meeting was held on the 2nd May, 2015 in the Civic Centre Supper Room. There were 14 attendees. The atmosphere in the room was very positive and the attendees showed their support towards a number of initiatives including the Buy Local Campaign. The business meeting is an opportunity for Council to educate business owners and staff on our message for the year and to ensure they are up to date with basic tourist information to ensure we are collectively delivering the same helpful information. Council also showed the group statistics on the previous year. This is an initiative Council will continue to run prior to the start of every tourism season.



Eventures Campaign

Contestable funding obtained through the Outback Queensland Tourism Association for the Outback Eventures program saw five community events receive funding to assist in the promotion of their 2015 events. The McKinlay Races, Julia Creek Campdraft, Saxby Round-Up, Sedan Dip and Julia Creek Turf Club utilised this funding to promote their events through a variety of means e.g. print, radio and social media channels.

Julia Creek Markets

Julia Creek Markets were held in February, May, July and September typically planned to coincide with another community event to give Shire residents and people living further afield more than one reason to travel to Julia Creek. The markets were typically held in Peter Dawes Park and yielded good crowds, it was nice to see so many home made goods on show.



Tourist Buy Local Campaign

The inaugural Tourist Buy Local Campaign commenced mid June 2015. With a minimum spend of \$20, visitors were able to go into the draw for \$100 Coles Group voucher to spend once they arrived home. The campaign ran until the end of September and provided another way of gauging visitor expenditure.

Tourism Social Media Insights

With the changing Facebook algorithms making it more difficult for organic (free) posts to be seen by our audience, we experimented with paid Facebook advertising to promote local community events on the McKinlay Shire Council Facebook page. For an investment of \$200, we were able to reach 28,400 people. When comparing that to advertising in local newspapers, an advertisement costing \$300 would only reach 2,800 people. The paid Facebook advertising also helped to generate more page likes for Council's Facebook page as illustrated in the above table.

	Likes as at 30/06/14	Likes as at 30/06/15	Increase
At the Creek Facebook Page	350	588	68%
McKinlay Shire Council Facebook Page	704	1267	80%
@juliacreekqld Instagram Account	0	500	500%

Julia Creek Dunnart

Council has built a relationship with the University of Queensland (UQ) over a number of years following the addition of live Julia Creek dunnart animals, the star attraction of the visitor information centre.

As some time had passed since the 2007 and 2008 release of animals into the Julia Creek Aerodrome, Council supported a UQ team lead by the Manager of Native Wildlife Teaching and Research Facility, Trish O'Hara, to conduct a trapping program to establish the number of dunnarts within the protected area.

At the time of writing official results had not been presented however, a number of dunnarts of varying ages were trapped and released, which is an exciting prospect for the species.



Julia Creek Caravan Park

Statistics

2014-2015 saw an increase of 226 visitors to a total of 6377 for the year. Overwhelming, guests are mostly from Queensland itself. Managers Sue and Steve Ash joined our tourism team in August 2014 and have continued the culture of excellent customer service and maintaining the aesthetics of the Park to a high standard. With the Park full during peak season, Council has worked to accommodate as many travellers as possible, with the overflow directed to the free RV Site of McIntyre Park, ensuring all visitors have a positive experience whilst in the Shire.

New Residence

The major change to the Caravan Park this year was the removal of the existing residence and having a new one transported and fitted to site. The new residence was necessary in order to attract and retain Managers for the Park now, and into the future. It also enabled the previous space to be more functional as a Park, with the construction of new powered sites.



Middle School

The 2015 school year started a little differently in Julia Creek, with the addition of a Middle School at the Julia Creek State School grounds. Council worked in consultation with Education Queensland, Mount Isa School of the Air (MISOTA) and the Julia Creek State School to create an education model catering for Year's 7 and Year 8 delivered via distance education. Students were supervised by a Teacher's Aide employed through MISOTA. The service is important for our community as the children don't have to go to boarding school at such a young age and it ultimately keeps families in the area longer, which has flow on effects to community groups, business and employment.



Social Media

Council have continued to be very active online with its Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts used in an official capacity delivering Council and community information, as well as dedicated tourism accounts targeting the regional and travelling market. Social media has become the most instance method of communication with the end of publication of the Prickly Post and adhoc messages in regional newspapers, due to the expense of advertising.



Duncan McIntyre Museum Reopening

The official re-opening of the Duncan McIntyre Museum on 15th July 2014, saw many local attendees including students from the state school who were privileged enough to be shown through some of the show case rooms by Julia Creek Historical Society members Shirley Eckford and Ellen Sills. The Museum was originally opened in 1988 yet for this current day and age some major improvements were required to address accessibility and safety issues. Council invested financially towards the project and Ellen Sills invested significant volunteer hours reinvigorating the indoor and outdoor displays. The Museum is open seven days a week as a self-guided tour.



McKinlay Dump Point

A partnership between Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA), the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Council saw the installation of a new dump point and relevant signage at the McKinlay Truck Stop.

Dump points are important for the grey nomad tourism market and it is hoped the addition will encourage more visitors to the McKinlay township.



McKinlay Library/Tourism

The McKinlay Library has been given a face lift with new flooring, windows and paint work. Queensland's smallest library is certainly well resourced with a large section of donated books from community members as well. With Council also operating tourist information from the Library five days a week during tourist season, this increased the opportunity for local residents to have greater access to the libraries resources. Council was also successful with an NBN application and the library made the move from dial-up to satellite internet.



Regional Arts Development Fund

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a highly successful state and local government program that supports professional and emerging artists and arts practitioners living in regional Queensland. The RADF program focuses on the development of quality art and arts practice for, and with, regional communities. RADF is a partnership between the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Councils to support local arts and culture.

Funded Projects

Council administered the RADF program with a total of \$48,390 worth of community based projects being funded. These included various workshops for leather plaiting, music, writing, patch work and embroidery, plaster casting, photography to name a few. Other projects included theatre productions, training for individuals and cultural tourism projects. Statistics show that children and women are the highest participants if RADF delivered programs. Arts Queensland has shown great interest in what McKinlay Shire is achieving through its program.

Major Changes to Come

Throughout 2014-2015 Council's were encourage to review their existing RADF program and put forward a locally tailored approach to decision making and program delivery for the next financial year. The new program is to be focused on local priorities, needs and aspirations, and ensure best return on investment. The significant change will only add to the already successful partnership between Council and Arts Queensland as the program will be more flexible and will not be bound by guidelines that affect country and city counterparts differently.

The RADF Committee consists of:

Helen Lynch (Chair)

Jade Lyons (RADF Liaison Officer)

Catharine Charlish

Sharon Fayars

Julie McAuley

Cr Edwina Hick



Julia Creek Home & Community Care

Julia Creek Home and Community Care (HACC) is funded for a variety of social based services that support independent living for seniors in our community.

Our Centre-Based Day Care activities include a weekly luncheon and catch up themed for Easter, Halloween, Melbourne Cup and St Patrick's Day to name a few. We also went to Gannons for a lunch once a month before it burnt down. Other activities include card games, exercises, craft days and excursions to Mount Isa, Kynuna and McKinlay.

Other services available included Social Support, Meals on Wheels, Transport, Home Maintenance, Domestic Assistance, Personal Care and Nursing Care funded by the Commonwealth Government. These services are important for the seniors to ensure they can continue to live independently in their own home and the community.



Environmental Health & Regulatory Services

The Environment and Regulatory Services Department delivers a wide and diverse range of services to the McKinlay Shire community. These services include;

- Pest Animal and Plant Control
- Live Stock Operations
- Stock Route and Reserves
- Julia Creek Swimming Pool
- Corporate and Community Facilities
- Building and Development Control
- Disaster Management
- Julia Creek Work Camp



Livestock Operations

The Julia Creek livestock facility is a combined, cattle yard and weighing facility operated by Council with a neighboring Dip and rail head operated by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Aurizon respectively. McKinlay Shire Council coordinates the rail loading on behalf of Aurizon.

The facility has again seen a large amount of cattle through the facility due mainly to the drought conditions and property owners destocking their properties.

At the end of June 2015, over 29,500 head of cattle were weighed at the Councils livestock facility and 44,600 head loaded onto trains out of the Julia Creek Rail head. These numbers don't include those cattle transported by road.



Pest Animal and Plant Control

Council continued to provide support to property owners in delivering two very successful feral pest baiting programs during the year. Council coordinates these programs which are run in October/November and late April early May of each year.

The baiting allows property owners to deliver prepared 1080 baits in and around their properties to control declared feral pests such as Wild Dog and Feral Pig. For the year 2014/15 approximately 26 tonne of 1080 baits were prepared and delivered by a combination of air and vehicles. Council also provides a number of commercially available 1080 baits such as "Doggone" and "Deko" factory baits for use by property owners throughout the year.

Another successful program was the wild dog scalp bounty which seen over 50 scalps presented.



Council continued to control pest weeds around the Shire, focusing mainly on Council owned or controlled facilities.

This year a number of sites were targeted, including the McKinlay Shire Town Common located to the west of Julia Creek and Julia Creek from the Flinders Highway downstream to the rear of the Sewerage Treatment Plant and a number of stock route and water facilities. This has been an ongoing program.

Stock Route and Reserves

Council has the overall responsibility in maintaining over 1000 Km of the States primary, secondary and minor or unused stock routes along with numerous stock and water reserves throughout the shire on behalf of Stock Routes Queensland.

Maintenance demands on these facilities are very high with regular inspections to ensure water is available, cleaning of troughs, maintenance of bores and turkey nests etc. Council, in conjunction with Stock Routes Queensland and water agreement holders upgraded a number of facilities by replacing the old wind mills with new solar powered pumps.

Another key maintenance need is the continued control of weeds in and around the facilities. This necessitated regular spraying of weeds in a number of areas is in order to maintain access to the facility.

Stock Routes Queensland implemented a new web based Stock Route Management System (SRMS) throughout Queensland and successfully implemented within the current shire operations. The SMRS also allows the coordination of stock movements between shires and manages various assets on behalf of the state.



The continuation of pest weed control at the Town Common has shown a significant reduction in pest weed and a subsequent increase in land availability for agistment.

Julia Creek Swimming Pool

The Julia Creek Swimming Pool continued to provide aquatic services to the McKinlay Shire Community with the pool catering for all ages with areas for children, adults, those dedicated to fitness and those who just want to cool off.

Regular fitness sessions including lap swimming lanes and water aerobics are provided and a facility for the well patronized Julia Creek Swimming Club's regular meetings. In May the facility was closed for major upgrade works to replace the concourse and filtration systems.

Building and Development Control

There were a number of planning and building applications for the year. These generally consisted of minor upgrade works and the like.



Corporate and Community Facilities

Council owns and maintains a wide range of corporate buildings and community housing to meet the needs of the McKinlay Shire community. These facilities are under constant review in order to deliver the most appropriate level of services to the community and ensure they are ready for use.

In the 2014/15 financial year, Council constructed a number of community facilities including;

- A new three (3) bedroom caretaker's residence and office at the Julia Creek Caravan Park. These works included the construction of new permanent van sites, the commencement of power upgrades to the park and other minor works;
- The construction of a 144 sq. meter gymnasium in Shaw Street. Named after Mr. Daren Ginns a former Mayor of McKinlay Shire, the center is air-conditioned and open 24 hours a day for those who enjoy either a gentle workout or those who are more focused on physical fitness.

Disaster Management

The McKinlay Shire community needs to be prepared for any event either natural or manmade. The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is there to provide that overall control in those situations.

The Group is chaired by the Mayor and supported by a wide range of Council, Emergency and supporting services. The Group meets on a regular basis in order to ensure that should the community be challenged by a local disaster, we are in a position to deal with the moment and get the community back to or as close to as normal as soon as possible.

McKinlay Shire Council has the primary responsibility for managing the impacts of disasters and emergencies within our boundaries. The McKinlay Shire Council Disaster Management Plan outlines our disaster management system roles and responsibilities, and provides a framework of sub-plans for our most likely threats, and for the recovery phase following an event.

McKinlay Shire was fortunate not to endure the full wrath of Mother Nature during the 2014/15 year, although a few events caused some damage to housing due to high winds and the shire did experience some damage to the road network due to the impacts of flooding.

The major events were in February 2015, the Shire experienced major power outages due to storm damage to the main power transmission lines east of Nelia. This caused disruption to power supplies to the entire Shire and thanks goes to Ergon staff that with the aid of generators had power back on to Julia Creek in less than 24 hours. A number of the residences in the townships and rural areas were without power for a number of days.



Julia Creek Work Camp

McKinlay Shire Council is proud to be part of a joint initiative between Council and the Department of Community Services, Queensland Corrective Services.

Work Camp continued delivering a wide range of projects in and around the McKinlay Shire area. This includes regular mowing and maintenance of community group facilities such as the CWA and churches.

Work Camp also delivered a number of other projects in support to the McKinlay Shire Community including;

- valuable support to the annual Dirt and Dust Festival;
- maintenance and upgrade works at the Julia Creek Cemetery;
- assistance and support to various community related projects across the shire; and
- upgrade of the Julia Creek RSL display.

Engineering and Works



Objectives

The Engineering and Works Services unit of any rural Council is the greatest creator of employment within the organisation. They deliver many facets including disaster resilience programs and town beautification. Our Engineering and Works department plans, develops and maintains key infrastructure for its communities, including roads, bridges, aerodromes, water and sewerage, stormwater drainage, waste disposal and parks and recreational facilities.

The Engineering and Works Services also provides utilities that deliver a level of service that will meet community expectations and legislative requirements.

The largest asset managed by the Engineering Department is roads with a total of 1633.26 kms of Shire Roads and 408.91 kms of Main Roads. Roads are critical to the economy and social fabric of the Shire.

Road infrastructure works including construction and maintenance account for 67% of the Council's Annual budgeted expenditure. All gravel roads were graded at least once during the year and some of the more heavily trafficked roads received additional maintenance.



Shire Road Maintenance and Construction and other Works

The following works were undertaken for the 2014/15 financial year:

- Julia Creek bike safety track
- 9 Grids replaced on – 3 Gilliat-McKinlay Road, 2 Taldora Road, 1 Punchbowl Road, 3 Bunda Bunda-Maxwelton Road
- Road signs and property signs installed throughout the Shire
- Drainage and sealed parking area for the new Gym
- Parks and gardens activities continued throughout the Shire
- Details design completed for new Punchbowl Bridge and funding submissions prepared and presented for approval
- Extension of the tie down area at the Julia Creek Aerodrome as well as the installation of two illuminated wind indicators

Traffic counts commenced on four principal shire roads. Data collected included total number of vehicle by classification, vehicle speeds and average daily numbers.



Achievements

2013 NDRRA Flood damage restoration works were completed and final claims submitted.

2013 Betterment works were completed on Gilliat-McKinlay Road - final claim was submitted and full acquittal completed.

2014 NDRRA Works commenced and are expected to be completed early in 2016. 2015 NDRRA event was activated and funding has been approved.

Emergent works were carried out on:

Taldora Rd
Ivellan Road
Beenfield Road
Dalgona Millungra Road
Punchbowl Road

Current approval for the 2015 NDRRA event is \$9.2 Million.

Main Roads RPC

Flood Damage repair works on Julia Creek / Richmond and Julia Creek / Wills Development Road and Julia Creek / Kynuna Road.

Main Roads Maintenance (RMPC)

Ongoing maintenance activities including pothole patching, shoulder grading and slashing were carried out on the Flinders Highway, Kynuna Road and Wills Development Road.

Kynuna Water Supply

New 50 KL Storage and refurbished bore to improve capacity and quality of supply.

Cannington Road Works

Repairs and reseal to various sections of this road from McKinlay to Cannington Mine were undertaken during this period.

Bitumen Sealing

10 kms of bitumen sealed roadworks were completed on the Gilliat McKinlay near the McKinlay township

CHAPTER THREE / Our Council

Commitment and Passion for our Shire

Governance

The role of Councillor is a strategic role within Council similar to that of a board of directors for a company.

The analogy between councils and companies would see councilors main responsibilities include:

- Establishing Corporate culture
- Setting and approving strategy
- Setting Policy
- Monitoring Risk
- Ensuring Compliance
- Monitoring executive performance, and
- Accountability



Elected Representatives

McKinlay Shire Council, comprising the Mayor and four Councillors, is the elected body responsible for McKinlay Shire. The elected body has legal obligations requiring members to represent the current and future interests of the residents. They are democratically elected and accountable to their communities for the decisions they make and the services they provide. Their role also includes other responsibilities such as providing high quality leadership to the community, participating in Council meetings, policy development and making decisions that are in the interest of the whole community.

The Mayor and Councillors are bound by a Code of Conduct, which is the Council's public commitment to open, accountable and ethical standards of behaviour. The community also plays an important role in contributing to good democratic governance by participating in Council elections, active involvement in community engagement programs and providing feedback on current issues and the services provided.

In addition to attending Council meetings, Councillors participate in external and internal committees. These committees are an additional opportunity for Councillors to have a say on issues that are important to their communities. Committees with McKinlay Shire Council representatives are:

- Middle school Committee
- Waste Management Committee
- Health Advisory Panel
- McKinlay Shire Multipurpose Health Service CAN
- Seniors Housing advisory Committee
- Agforce - Julia Creek branch
- McKinlay Shire Economic Development Group
- Local Disaster Management Group
- Livestock Facility Committee
- McKinlay Shire Events Committee
- Museum Management Group
- Isolated Children and Parents Association - Julia Creek branch
- Julia Creek Advisory Committee of the Julia Creek Work Camp
- Saxby Round-Up



Mayor Belinda Murphy



Born in Tasmania, Belinda completed year 12 at St Michaels Collegiate Girls School and trained as a commercial pilot and grade 3 flying instructor in Hobart. Belinda moved to Queensland in 1998 and spent the following years working as a pilot on various stations in the North West Qld and Northern Territory for cattle company's such as Stanbroke Pastoral, NAPCO and McDonalds Pastoral Company.

Belinda met her now husband Wayne Murphy and moved to Julia Creek in 2004 as the Branch Manager for the Queensland Country Credit Union and then became a Senior Manager for McKinlay Shire Council from 2005 - 2010. During this time Belinda completed a graduate degree in Public Sector Management and various Local Government training programs. Belinda has been on many community organisations since moving to Julia Creek and enjoys triathlon training and camp drafting in the North west. Belinda is passionate about the Shire and the lifestyle that it provides which is only enhanced by the people who reside here. Belinda and Wayne have two children , daughter Madeline and son Liam.

Deputy Mayor Anthony Batt



“Council is committed to delivering services and initiatives that promote a sense of well being and belonging within the community. We are responsible for planning and providing a diverse range of community and recreational services with the aim of continuing to improve our quality of life.

I hope to continue to represent the interest of our community and look forward to what is in store for 2016”.

The first 30 years of my life was spent at "Plainby" Richmond district to then making the move to " Malvie" in 1987. First job out of school was in the shearing industry for 10 years. I have also been heavily involved in the trucking industry. I am married to Gayle and we have four children; Elizabeth, Rhianna, Neil and Jessica.

Cr. Philip Curr

Philip has lived in the district all his life apart from going to boarding school, a few trips overseas and working on other cattle properties. The cattle industry has been the main part and focus of his life.

He lives on Arizona Station with his wife Tania and has 3 girls , Charli , Chloe and Mackenzie. Philip has been the president of Saxby Roundup for 12 years and in his spare time likes to read and go to a few campdrafts.

“Council is still progressing with the things we can effect which is a challenge in this tough economic climate and with the frustrations of bureaucracy.

Council is always looking for opportunities and ways to grow the region. I think with a decent season there will be good times ahead.”



Cr. Neil Walker

Born in Gordonvale, I completed secondary education at the Southport School. Moving then to the Shire in 1981. Managing the Millungera Santa Gertrudis Stud at Crowfels since 1984 , a qualified JP and past president of the local Pony Club and ICPA, my involvement within the community is important. I am currently involved with a number of Campdrafts throughout North and Central Qld as an announcer.

Any spare time is spent making saddlery items or plaiting. My wifes name is Susan and I have two children Kate and Callum.

“With some major Council projects about to start and a strong positive community spirit I look forward to the future”.



Cr. Edwina Hick

Edwina Hick has been a resident of the McKinlay Shire for the past 15 years, when she moved to the Shire from South Australia, upon marrying her husband Patrick. Edwina lives at Argyle Station, just north of Julia Creek with Patrick and their two children, who do school via distance education, through Mount Isa School of the Air.

Edwina is currently the Chair of the Health Advisory Panel and is secretary for the Sedan Dip race club and Agforce locally. She is a member of the Isolated Children's Parents association and has previously been involved with the Julia Creek Arts council. In her spare time Edwina likes to read, play tennis, ride horses and spend time with family and friends.



“At a time when the life blood of small towns is being sucked dry by the economic and emotional stress of drought, I believe we in the McKinlay shire community can stand proud. I believe our community is a very connected one, and we have all worked together to achieve some great things of over the last 12 months.

We saw the reopening of the Duncan McIntyre Museum which was a collaboration between council and community. The long held goal of the Daren Ginns Centre was finally realised, and the work put in by council and community, saw the bike park opened, creating a safe environment for children to learn their road rules safely. We finally saw the opening of the Father Bill Busuttin Centre and the seniors living units, which has been a long held dream of the community to create somewhere for our senior residents within our own community, so they don't have to leave family and friends.

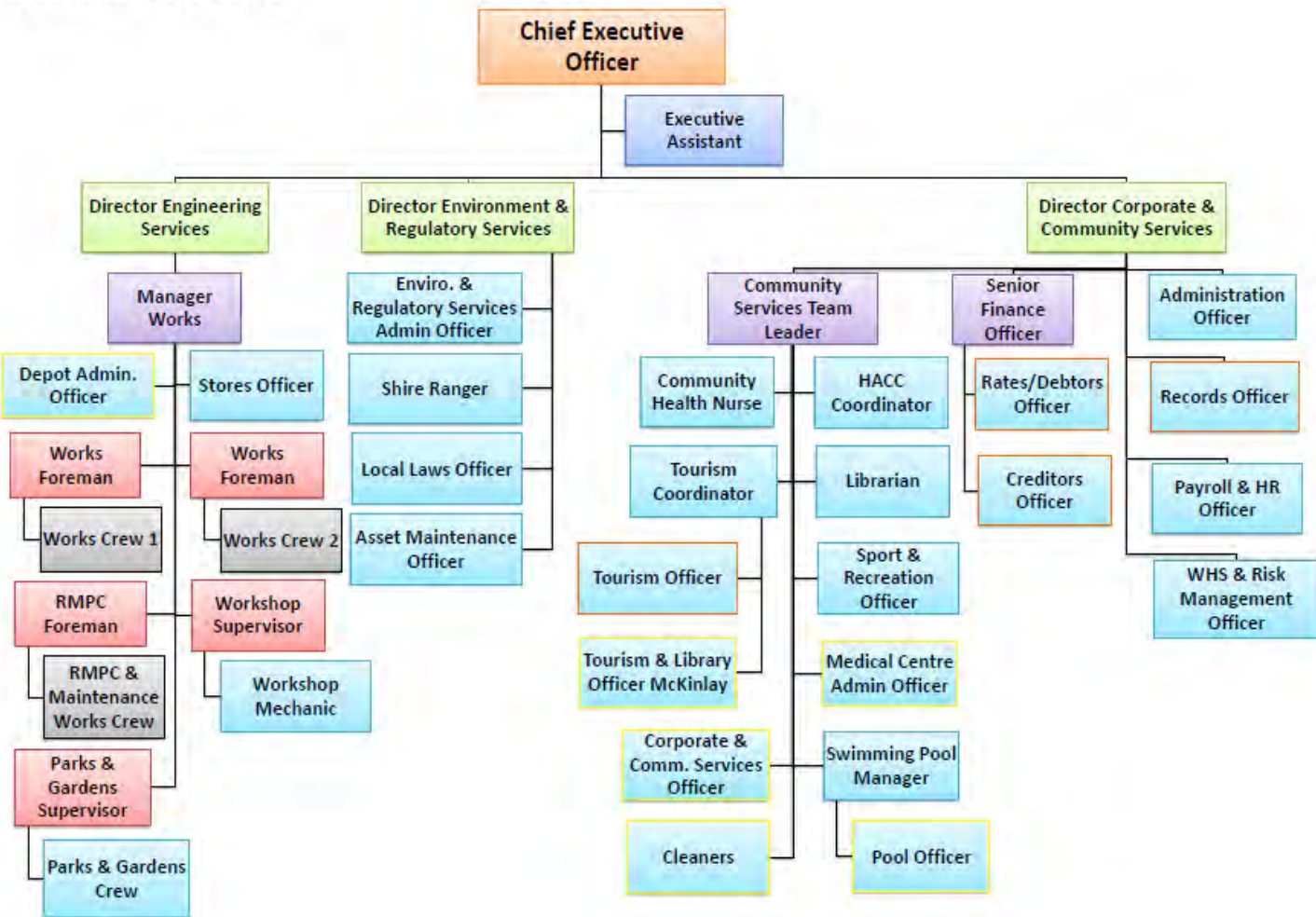
It has been a pleasure to work with the council and community in my role as a councillor.”



Corporate Structure



Our Corporate structure consists of various departments that contribute to McKinlay Shire Council’s overall mission and goals. Works, Tourism, Finance, Accounting, Human Resource and Community Services are just a few departments that work within this structure that contribute to a successful Local Government.



OUR PEOPLE

Directors



Brian Wood Director of Engineering

Brian started with Council October 2014 and permanently contracted April 2015. Previously he worked for with AECOM Consulting Engineers in Mackay as the Program Manager for Isaac Regional Council NDRRA, in the design of roads, water and sewerage infrastructure for Mackay and Whitsunday Councils. Main areas of expertise and interest is in the upgrading of road networks and water and sewerage infrastructure.

Brian's main highlight in the past financial year is joining our Council and discovering the positive approach by Community and staff to improve Council assets and facilities.

Brian sits on the McKinlay Shire Council Roads Strategy committee; Counter Disaster committee and the North West Qld Regional Roads Group. Brian oversees Asset Management; Roads Construction and Maintenance; NDRRA Flood Damage Rehabilitation programs for Council and TMR; Water Supply and Sewerage Services; Workshop and Fleet Services and Parks and Gardens. Outside of work Brian enjoys Fossicking for gemstones and Lapidary and Faceting of gems.

Geoff Rintoul Director Environment and Regulatory Services

Geoff Rintoul commenced work in April 2013 appointed as Director of Environment and Regulatory Services. Geoff's experience in Local Government includes managing the engineering and operations with Northern Peninsular Area Regional Council and the planning, development and water and sewerage management with Townsville City Council. Geoff has a strong environmental and engineering background including undergraduate and post graduate qualifications in business, construction, environmental and civil engineering.

Geoff is currently involved with QLD DOG (Wild Dog Offensive Group) and the Southern Gulf Pest Taskforce.

Planning and Development, Feral Pests Management, Refuse Management, Stock Routes and Reserves, Environmental Health, Corporate Building Asset Management, Project Delivery, Work Camp, Funerals and Cemeteries AND Disaster Management are areas that Geoff oversees here at Council.

He enjoys mentoring staff in developing skills and knowledge to assist them in their roles and develop professionally and personally and states *"That it what leadership is all about."*

A highlight for Geoff in the past financial year was delivering a number of corporate and community building projects and looks forward to the same again for next year.

Tenneil Cody Director Corporate and Community Services

Tenneil Cody commenced with McKinlay Shire Council as Senior Finance Officer in 2009. In March 2010 Tenneil was appointed to the position of Manager of Corporate and Community Services. Tenneil started her career in local government with Croydon Shire Council and with this she brings six years of experience to McKinlay Shire, along with a broad range of executive management, finance and community service skills. As part of her role in Council Tenneil oversees the Corporate & Community Service areas. Corporate, inclusive of HR, Finance, WH&S, Governance, Economic Development. Community – Community Health, HACC, Sport & Recreation, Libraries, Swimming Pool, Tourism, Caravan Park, Arts & Culture, Community Support (Sponsorship & Grants).

She is also on the Health Advisory panel and also assists with the McKinlay Shire Response Group (Drought Group). Outside of Council Tenneil is involved with the Sedan Dip Sports & Recreation Inc organisation.

"I enjoy the diversity of my role, always dealing with new issues/challenges or exciting project like the solar project. Particularly like the fact that I understand and know how the programs we deliver (whether it be through successful funding or Council contributions) impact and benefit our residents as I have a personal connection with the community as I was born and bred in the district I know what it means to them."

Highlight for 2014/15 financial year was successfully obtaining funding for the 'Participation Space' and the construction of providing a 24 hour gym for the community. She looks forward to the year ahead with the addition of new Council delivered community service, childcare and the completion of the Solar Project which is an exciting out of the box initiative helping to sustain local business in the community.

OUR PEOPLE

Staff



Brad McCormick Maintenance Officer

Brad commenced work for Council May 2015 as Asset Maintenance Officer. Previously he started with Smedley Plumbing & Draining, went on later to Richmond Shire Council to undertake a Plumbing Apprenticeship. After completing the Apprenticeship Brad realised he enjoyed this line of work. Where after he gained local employment with Greg Lonsdale and Crawford Plumbing.

Brad enjoys the variety of work at Council and assisted with the upgrade of the Kynuna Bore and he also obtains a certificate in First Aid/CPR but would like to finish his current Certificate 4 in Plumbing & Drainage. After work he likes to Socialise with a cold beer in the afternoon, Play guitar and water ski.

Brad not only supports the Combined Sporting Association and more recently as a coach for the Junior Saints Football Club but is also a member of the local Fire Brigade. Brad looks forward to the Beach Races because it's best going to a race dressed down and also next years DND where he wishes to participate in the triathlon .

Chris Hewlett Workshop Manager

Chris was self employed for 7 years in the Cloncurry/Julia Creek Region before commencing with Council in February this year as Workshop Supervisor. Chris was always interested in maintaining plant & equipment. and completed his apprenticeship in 1991.

Chris enjoys the day to day challenges that get's thrown at him and in particular took pride in getting the street sweeper operational before the Dirt & Dust Event in 2015. It had taken months for this to become operational. Chris also has his First Aid/CPR certificate. In his leisure time he enjoys Camping & Motorbike riding with his family and assisting family and friends with their vehicle repairs. He also looks forward to the Dirt & Dust Festival stating is an awesome get together with the community & visitors.





Enan Schreiber-Blattner Works Foreman

Enan started with McKinlay Shire Council in 2010. Previous to this he worked for a Landscaping company in Port Douglas before moving to Julia Creek where he is now Works Foreman. He always had an interest to work with earth moving machinery and felt Council was a good place to start along with the opportunity to complete relevant training. He has completed a variety of qualifications such as first aid, chemical training and traffic control level 1 & 2. Also obtaining Certificate III in Civil Construction and grader and loader tickets.

Enan helped Supervise the RMPC Contract on the Flinders Hwy, Kynuna Rd and the Beef Rd and takes pride in looking back on well completed work and what has been achieved. Outside of work time Enan enjoys anything outdoors, camping, fishing, off-road 4x4 and riding motorbikes. He looks forward to end of year celebrations at the Council Christmas Party as it is a good night with family and friends with great food and free beer.

Georgia Fleming Tourism Co-ordinator

Georgia is McKinlay Shire Council's Tourism Coordinator and started employment in October 2014. Previously Georgia was working on local cattle stations prior to working at Council and her first job out of university was working in Brisbane in a marketing role. Georgia states, *"Through being involved with local events for a number of years, I realised the value that tourism and events bring to our community. There is also a strong link between tourism and marketing (my qualifications and experience). In the same way you would market a product, you need to identify destination attributes and market these on how they will make our guests feel."* Her job satisfaction comes from meeting new people who all have a different story to tell and feeling rewarded when a guest to our Shire says that they are visiting because they heard from another traveller that it was a great place to visit.



Her highlights for the past financial year would be obtaining two Fat-tailed Dunnarts 'Duncan' and 'Donald', updating the Visitor Centre in a number of ways and working with local community groups to roll out an exciting events calendar. Whilst employed with council Georgia has undergone her First Aid certificate and Life Guard Course and Bronze Medallion so she can work at the Julia Creek Swimming pool on weekends.

Georgia is highly involved with the community and was the Rodeo Secretary for the Saxby Round-Up, a swim instructor at the Julia Creek Amateur Swim Club, Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Fashions on the Field Co-ordinator, Sedan Dip Ladies' Wine Bar Co-ordinator and assisted the Julia Creek Turf Club and Western Riding Club on their event weekends. Out side of work she enjoys riding her horse, walking her dogs, gardening and attending local community events.

Chris Rae Library Administrator/ Funeral Administrator



Previously Chris was a Quality Control Manager at a factory in Brisbane producing Printed Circuit boards. She has since then given Council 10 years of service as the Librarian starting in 2005. She stated she is an avid reader so it was like putting a kid in a candy store and throwing away the key working as the Librarian.

Chris loves many aspects of her position including the interaction with the community expressing that the library is well used as a social gathering point and somewhere to go when you either want five minutes to yourself or you need to fill in the day whilst waiting for your car to be serviced.

Chris also took on the role of Funeral Administrator and feels there is no greater reward than to help a family in their greatest time of grief, to take some of the weight off their shoulders and provide a smooth and stress free day. Chris stated *"I feel that this is my town and my community and I wouldn't have it any other way. Its my way of saying thank you for accepting me into the fold."*

Whilst working for Council Chris has completed a Diploma in Local Government /Library Administration, obtained her first aid/CPR certificate and also a LR drivers licence which enables her to drive the council bus. Apart from reading Chris enjoys sewing, and spending time with her Grand Children. Her favourite event is the Dirt and Dust Festival in which she is also a Dirt and Dust Committee member. She feels it has something for everyone and your very hard to please if you don't enjoy at least one aspect of that weekend. Her other favourite is the McKinlay Shire Cultural Association's event Cultural Capers.

Tanya Parry HACC Coordinator

Tanya originally started with Council in February 2013 and in August 2013 was appointed the position as Administration officer. She then moved on as HACC Coordinator where she finds great reward from those she works with.

She stated the best thing about her job is that she looks forward to going to work every day and enjoys the clients company.

Tanya has her First Aid & CPR certificates and is actively involved in the community. Tanya is on the Julia Creek P&C committee, Dirt and Dust Committee and the Julia Creek Pony Club Committee.

Tanya actively trains Race horses which is her other full time job before and after work. She always attends Saxby and Sedan Dip every year as they are both great family weekends. She has been attending both events since a child and her children have not missed out on a weekend yet. Tanya also attends the Gregory Races on May Day weekend and stated it is a great time with good people.



CHAPTER FOUR / Statutory Information

Transparency and accountability

Reporting against Legislative Requirements

A local government must prepare an annual report for each financial year. The Local Government Regulation 2012, sets out the reporting requirements for the annual report of a local government.

Resolutions made under Sections 250 (1) and 206 (2)

The following resolution was made under section 250(1) Local Government Regulation 2012 during the financial year at the 2014 August Ordinary Council Meeting.

Moved Cr. Hick

Seconded Cr. Curr

That Council adopt the Expenses and Reimbursement Policy Version 2.1 as presented.

CARRIED

Resolution No 46/1415

McKinlay Shire Council did not make any resolutions under Section 206(2) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 during the financial year.

Information relating to Councillors

The Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 186 requires Council to report;

- the particulars of the total remuneration, including superannuation contributions, paid to each councillor during the financial year; and
- the expenses incurred by, and the facilities provided to each councillor under Council Expenses and Reimbursement Policy, during the financial year; and
- the number of local government meetings each councillor attended during the financial year.

	Cr Belinda Murphy Mayor	Cr Anthony Batt Deputy Mayor	Cr Edwina Hick	Cr Neil Walker	Cr Philip Curr
Councillor Remuneration	\$95,487.96	\$55,089	\$47,743.92	\$47,743.92	\$47,743.92
Facilities and Equipment Provided	Office Laptop, Printer				
Facility Communication Equipment Provided	\$ 2,851 Mobile Phone, Ipad	\$ 697.56 Ipad			
Secretarial Support	\$21,754.37				
Conference & Workshop Expenses	\$ 7,912.80	\$0	\$ 4,994.55	\$0	\$0
Travel (Flights & Accommodation)	\$ 15,543.91	\$ 2,826.91	\$2,532.42	\$ 895.09	\$3,276.46
Mileage Allowance*	\$2,017.40	Nil	Nil	Nil	\$2,250
Total	\$ 145,567.44	\$58,613.47	\$55,270.89	\$48,639.01	\$53,270.38

A Council car is made available to all Councillors for their use to travel to any Council meetings or functions held outside of Julia Creek.

*Mileage Allowance is reimbursed to Councillors at the Australian Tax Office Rates (cents per kilometre) where a Councillor uses their private vehicle for Council business or commuting to official Council meetings or functions from their place of residence.

There were no orders or recommendations made as referred to in section 186 (d) and (e) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Furthermore, there were no complaints during the financial year to report as required by section 186(f) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Councillor Meeting Attendance

Attending council meetings is not only about achieving good outcomes for the community and constituents, but contributing to the good governance of council overall. Elected representatives are expected to attend the relevant Council and committee meetings as part of their commitment and responsibility to their role. Section 186 (c) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council is required to report on the number of meetings attended by each Councillor during the financial year.

Councillor	Ordinary Meetings Held	Ordinary Meetings Attended	Special Meetings Held	Special Meetings Attended
Cr. Belinda Murphy	12	11	1	1
Cr. Anthony Batt	12	12	1	1
Cr. Neil Walker	12	12	1	1
Cr. Philip Curr	12	12	1	1
Cr. Edwina Hick	12	12	1	1

Administrative Action Complaints

McKinlay Shire Council is committed to providing an open and accountable local government. To assist Council achieve this Council has endorsed a General Complaints Process Policy to ensure an effective and transparent method of responding to complaints regarding its services, actions and conduct of Councillors and Council officer's to better enable Council to undertake this role. Council is committed to dealing fairly with administrative action complaints. A summary of complaints as required by section 187 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* is detailed below:

Administrative Actions Complaints Made 2014/15	0
Administrative Action Complaints resolved 2014/15	0
Administrative Action Complaints Unresolved 2014/15	0
Administrative Action Complaints Unresolved (from above) made in 2013/14	0

Council's Expenditure

Council provides support to the local community by providing financial assistance to various community organisations. Grants are provided under Councils Community Grants Policy, which offers support under three funding programs; Community Donations, Community Sponsorship, and Community Small Grants. A total of 14 Community Grants were approved for the reportable period at a total amount of \$82,534.27.

McKinlay Shire Councillors do not have a Councillor Discretionary fund for community grants.

Summary of Expenditure on Grants to Community Organisations

Organisation	Amount	Grant Type
Julia Creek Kindergarten & Childminding Association	\$800.00	Sponsorship
Julia Creek Western Riding Club	\$2200.00	Sponsorship
Hughenden Country Music Festival	\$300.00	Sponsorship
Julia Creek Pony Club	\$5000.00	Sponsorship
McKinlay Race Club	\$4,350.00	Sponsorship
Saxby Round-up	\$5000.00	Sponsorship
McKissa	\$942.60	Sponsorship
Julia Creek Turf Club	\$3,409.07	Sponsorship
Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival	\$35,000.00	Sponsorship
Julia Creek Combined Sporting Association	\$395.75	Community Benefit Assistance Scheme
Julia Creek Western Riding Club	\$2650.00	Community Benefit Assistance Scheme
Sedan Dip Sports & Recreation	\$7026.40	Community Benefit Assistance Scheme
Julia Creek Turf Club	\$460.45	Community Benefit Assistance Scheme
North Queensland Rescue Helicopter	\$15,000.00	Donations

Current List of Registers kept

Council is required by Section 190(1) (f) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to detail a list of registers kept by Council. The registers open to public inspection include:

Register of Interests (Councillors)
 Delegations Register
 Local Laws Register
 Register of Roads
 Policy Register
 Regulatory Fees and Charges
 Asset Register
 Fees & Charges Register
 Register of pre-qualified suppliers

Council also make available other information to the public which can be downloaded electronically from Councils Website www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au

The information available includes:

- Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
- Operation Plan
- Community Plan 2010-2020
- Infrastructure Plan
- Tourism Plan
- Corporate Plan
- McKinlay Shire Planning Scheme
- Revenue Statement
- Annual Budget
- Publication Scheme (Right to Information)
- Financial Statements



Code of Conduct

No breaches or alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct for Councillors were reported from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. No complaints were received through Council's General Complaints Process relating to alleged breaches by Councillors.

As required under the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994, McKinlay Shire Council developed and implemented a revised Code of Conduct, in line with the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994 ethics and principals and values. The Code of Conduct is a set of standards and behaviours that guide and direct all Council employees, consultants and contractors. It puts a responsibility with the individual to use sound judgment in the workplace. All Council employees are given access to appropriate training and education on the revised Code and its content, as well as their rights and obligations in relation to contraventions of the Code. The Code of Conduct is included in the employees induction and a copy provided on commencement of employment.

Council's Code of Conduct is available on Council's website and a hardcopy is available at Council's administration Office.

Total number of orders and recommendations made under section 180 (2) and (4) of the Local Government Act 2009	Nil
Total number of orders made under section 181 of the Local Government Act 2009	Nil
The name of each Councillor in relation for whom an order or recommendation was made under section 180 of the Local Government Act 2009 or an order made under made under 181 of the Local Government Act 2009.	N/A
A description of the conduct or inappropriate conduct engaged in by each Councillor (related to the above)	N/A
A summary of the order or recommendation made for each Councillor (from above)	N/A
The number of complaints referred to the department's Chief Executive under section 177 (5) (a) of the Local Government Act 2009	Nil
The number of complaints referred to the Mayor under section 177 (5) (b) of the Local Government Act 2009	Nil
The number of complaints referred to the departments' Chief Executive under section 177 (6) of the Local Government Act 2009	Nil
The number of complaints assed by the Chief Executive Officer as being about official misconduct	Nil
The number of complaints heard by a conduct review panel	Nil
The number of complaints heard by the tribunal	Nil
The number of complaints dealt with by the Chief Executive Officer under section 177 (8) of the Local Government Act 2009	Nil

Particulars of other issues relevant to making an informed assessment of the Local Government's Operation and Performance for each financial year.

There are no contingent issues which have affected McKinlay Shire Council's performance for the reportable period.

Annual Operations report for each commercial business unit

There are no Commercial Business Units operated by McKinlay Shire Council for the reportable period.

Details of any action taken for expenditure on a service facility or activity

- Supplied by another local government under agreement of conducting joint government activity, and
- For which local government levied special rates or charges.

McKinlay Shire Council did not have any matters to report for the financial year in this regard.

Neutrality Complaints

There are no complaints in relation to competitive neutrality for the reportable period.

Number of Invitations to change Tenders under Section 228 (7) (Change of Specifications)

McKinlay Shire Council did not issue any invitations to change tenders during the reporting period.

Report of any overseas travel taken by a councillors or Local Government Employee in an official capacity

No Councillor or local government employee of McKinlay Shire Council has represented the Council in an official capacity while travelling overseas.

A Summary of all Concessions for Rates and Charges granted by Council

Rates rebates and concessions

Under section 190 (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council must provide a summary of all concessions for rates and charges granted by Council. Councils Revenue Policy was adopted in July 2014 and set out the principles used by Council for:

- Levying rates and charges
- Granting of concessions for rates and charges
- Recovery of overdue rates and charges
- Cost-recovery methods

McKinlay Shire Council exempts religious organisations, and other charitable organisations from general rating in accordance with the Local Government Act and Regulation.

Granting Concessions for Rates and Charges

In accordance with *Section 119 of the Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may grant a rate payer a concession for rates or charges.

Section 120 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, provides Council authority to grant concessions only if it is satisfied:

- The land is owned or occupied by a pensioner
- Transparency by making clear the requirements necessary to receive concessions

Communication by raising awareness to the community of concessions.

Rebates and Concessions on Rates and Charges

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012 Part 10* Council granted a remission equal to 55% of gross rates and charges to property owners who qualified for the current State Government pensioner rate remission scheme. This policy only applied to ratepayers in categories 1 - 4.



Discount

In accordance with *Section 130 of the Local Government Regulation 2012*, a discount of 10% was allowed on all rates and charges (excluding Fire Services Levy) if paid in full including overdue rates and charges before the end of the discount period. Further, the maximum discount allowed on the general rate only is \$3,500 per levy or \$7,000 per annum. The discount period is a period that ends on or before the due date for payment.

Concession	Cost
Pensioner Concession	\$24,917.00
Discount	\$250,336.00

Internal Audit

The Local Government Act 2009 requires Council to have an internal audit function. The purpose of an internal audit is to add value and improve Council’s operations. It provides a systematic approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, and governance processes.

The scope of work for each financial year is set out in an Internal Audit Plan which is endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Audit Committee.

During the 2014/15 year an Internal Audit Plan was developed covering three financial years. Audits were carried out of the following function areas during the year:

- Credit Card – Guidelines & Compliance
- Plant Operations – Hire Rates and On-cost rates

In 2014/15 Council was required to establish an Audit Committee. The Audit committee is comprised of two Councillors and one external member.

The Audit Committee membership is comprised of:

- Councillor Belinda Murphy – Chair
- Council Anthony Batt – Member
- Mr Neil Warner – Member

The committee met twice during the financial year.

CHAPTER FIVE/ Financial Performance Report

Community Financial Report

For the year ended 30th June 2015

The Community Financial Report is a plain English summary of Council's Financial Statements prepared in accordance with Section 179 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

1. 2014/15 Snapshot

Key highlights of the 2014/15 financial year include:

- 10 kilometres of bitumen sealing completed on the Gilliat McKinlay Road.
- Upgraded the runway equipment at the Julia Creek Airport.
- Replaced 3 rural grids as per the Grid Replacement Program.
- Purchased new plant items; grader and a multi tyre roller.
- Installed new water line south of Julia Creek.
- Installed two new water pumps for the Julia Creek town bores.
- New shade structure at the Julia Creek George Sills Lions Park.
- New house/caretaker residence at the Julia Creek Caravan Park.
- Repairs and additions to the McKinlay Library.
- Constructed children's traffic park near the Julia Creek Indoor Sports Centre.
- New Participation Space (Gym) next to the Julia Creek Indoor Sports Centre.
- Refurbished the Julia Creek SES building.
- Repairs completed at the Kynuna River Paddock.



2. About Council's End of Year Financial Statements

What you will find in the Financial Statements

The Audited Financial Statements of Council set out the financial performance, financial position, cash flows and the net wealth of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

About the Management Certificate

The Financial Statements must be certified by both the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer as "presenting fairly" the Council's financial results for the year, and are required to be adopted by Council - ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the Financial Statements by management and elected representatives.

About the Financial Statements

The Financial Statements incorporate 4 "primary" financial statements and accompanying notes.

1. A Statement of Comprehensive Income

A summary of Council's financial performance for the year, listing both regular income and expenses and other comprehensive income which records items such as changes in the fair values of Council's assets and investments.

2. A Balance Sheet

A 30 June snapshot of Council's Financial Position including its Assets and Liabilities.

3. A Statement of Changes in Equity

The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's "net wealth".

4. A Statement of Cash Flows

Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent.

5. Notes to the Financial Statements

Provides greater detail to the line numbers of the 4 "primary" financial statements.

About the Auditor's Reports

Council's Financial Statements are required to be audited by the Queensland Audit Office. The audit of many Queensland Councils is contracted to Audit firms that specialise in Local Government. The Auditor provides an audit report which gives an opinion on whether the Financial Statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position.

Where to find a complete version of Council's 14/15 Financial Statements?

A complete version of Council's Financial Statements for the 12 months to 30 June 2015 is contained in this annual report and can also be found at our website:

www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au/council/annual_report.shtml

or at Council's administrative office at:

29 Burke Street

JULIA CREEK QLD 4823

3. An Overview of this year's Financial Result and Financial Position

3.1 Council's Statement of Comprehensive Income (Profit and Loss) for 2014/15

Council's headline "profit/loss" result for the 2014/15 year was a \$1,840,882 surplus.

This included the following key financial performance highlights:

- Completion of the Shire Roads flood restoration works for the 2013 flood event.
- Commencement of the Shire Roads flood restoration works for the 2014 flood event.
- 70 kilometres grading works completed on the Malpas Trenton Road, Taldora Road and Gilliat McKinlay Road.
- Flood restoration and maintenance works completed on the Flinders and the Wills Development State Highways.

Rehabilitation and maintenance works completed on the Toolebuc (BHP) Road.

Council's Result

\$ '000	Actual 2015	Budget 2015	Actual 2014
Expenditure	20,999	22,431	19,662
Revenues (excl. income for capital purposes)	13,090	13,150	17,616
Net Result before Capital Grants and Contributions	- 7,909	- 9,281	- 2,046
Capital Grants and Contributions	9,750	10,397	5,002
Net Result	1,841	1,116	2,956

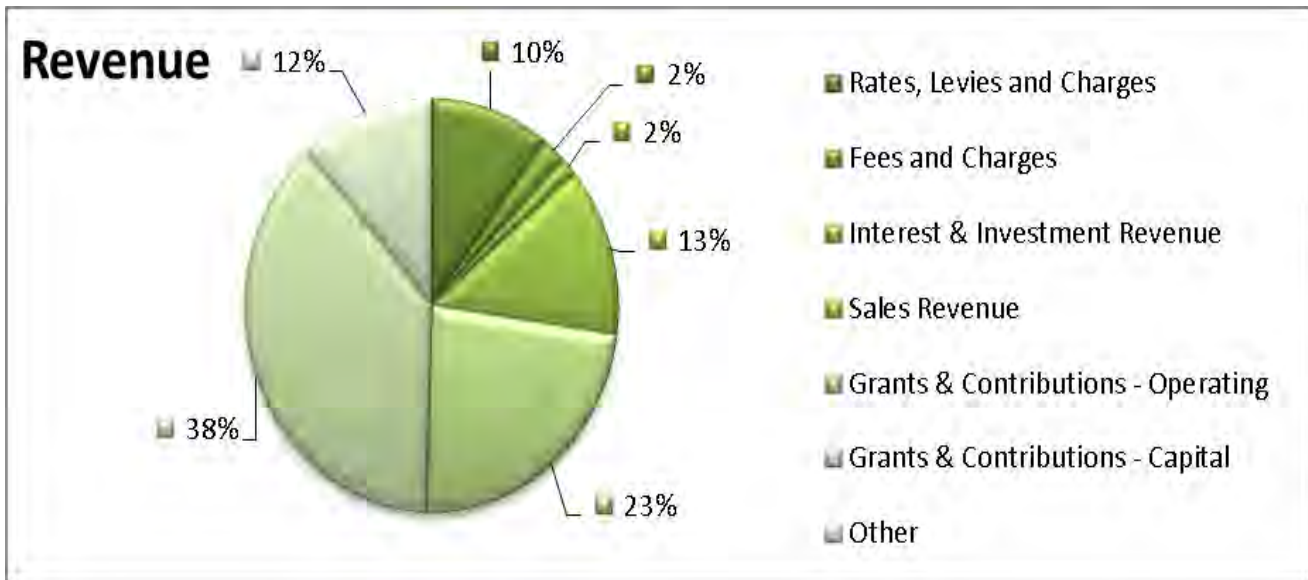
The budgeted "profit/loss" for 2014/15 was \$1,116,319 - meaning Council came in better than was budgeted. The main reasons relating to this difference between the actual result and the budgeted performance was:

Council's increase in the valuation of non current assets by \$3mil.

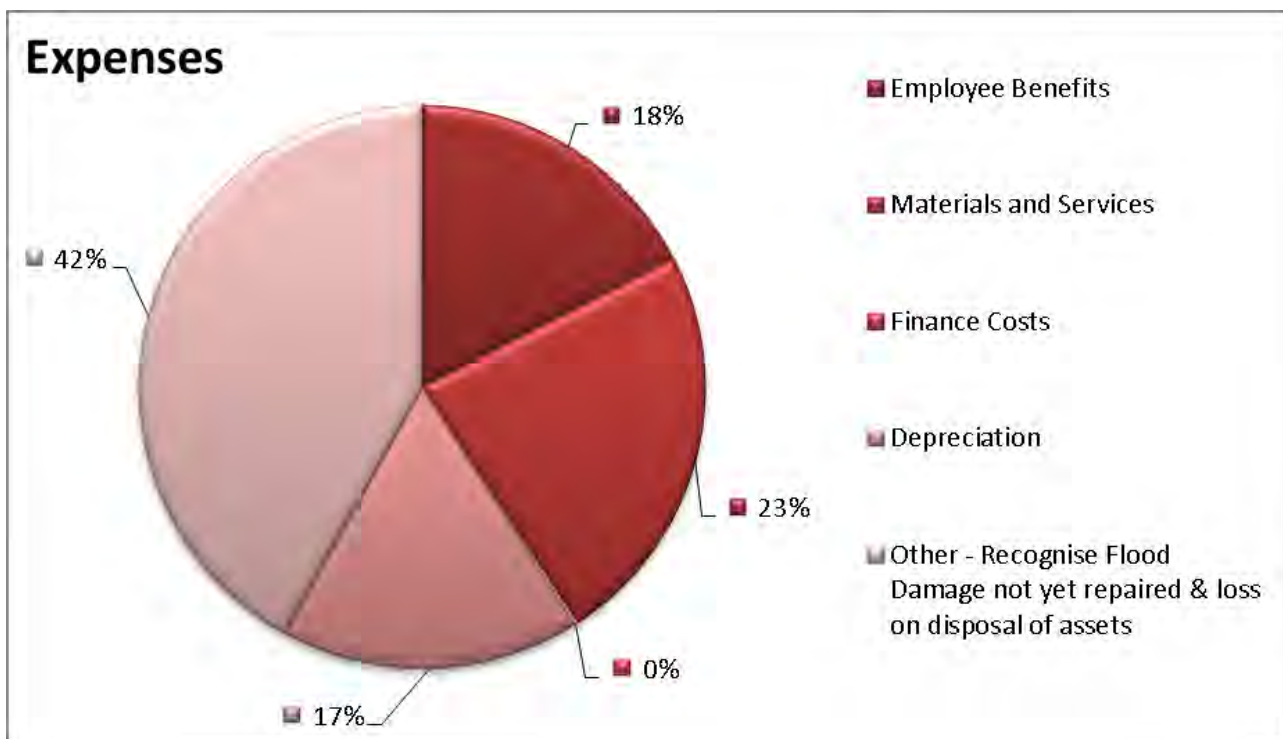
Overall Council and Management believe the financial result for 14/15 to be satisfactory.

The charts below summarises where Council's revenue and expenses came from:

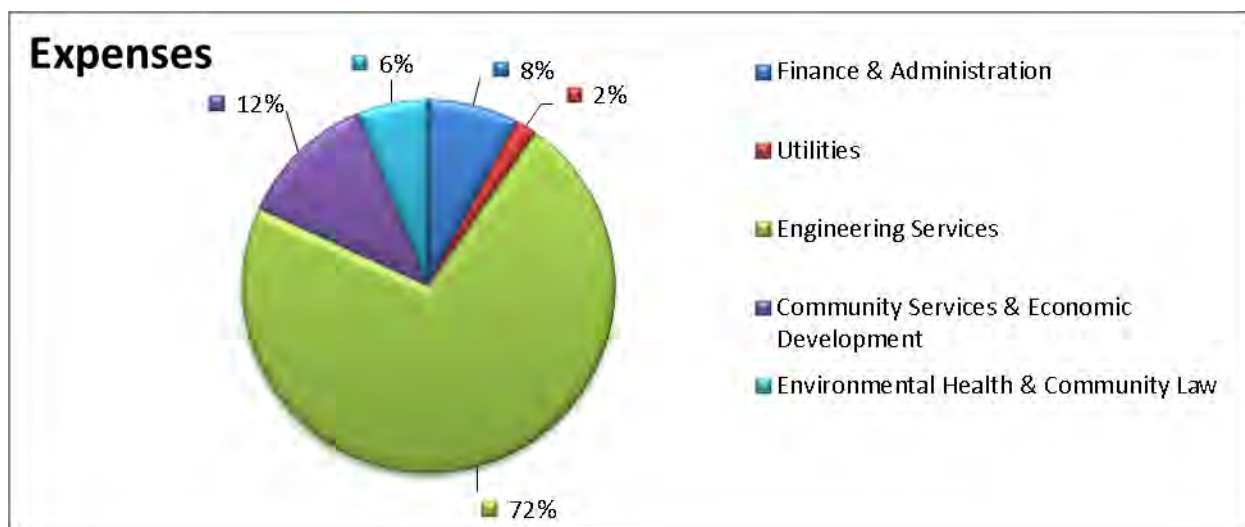
Council's Revenue Sources for the 14/15 year:



Council's total Expenditure's (by type) for the 14/15 year:



Council's total expenditure's (operating and capital) covered the following activities/functions:



3.2 Councils Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) for 2014/15

Council's Net Wealth

The Balance Sheet "bottom line" discloses the Net Community Equity of Council, which represents its wealth as measured by a dollar value of its asset less liabilities.

Community Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2015

Council's Wealth

\$ '000	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
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The major items that make up Council's wealth include the following assets:

Available Cash & Investments	11,406	11,321
Inventories (stores, raw materials & land purchased for development & sale)	281	1,415
Debtors	1,252	1,056
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment		
- Capital Work in Progress	1,401	8,001
- Land and Improvements	1,875	1,028
- Buildings	22,741	18,459
- Other Plant and Equipment	4,395	4,287

- Road, Drainage and Bridge Network	105,597	102,338
- Water	3,728	3,552
- Sewerage	3,632	3,670
- Other Infrastructure Assets	9,599	9,389
- Office Furniture and Fittings	276	78

Council has funded some of its operations and assets by the following liabilities:

Trade & Other Payables	1,741	1,824
Loans & Borrowings (refer Councils Debt Policy for further information)	368	549
Provisions	348	335
Net Community Equity	163,727	161,885

Council's Capital Expenditure for 2014/15

Council's Capital Expenditure by Asset Class was as follows:

• Water Infrastructure	\$0.138M
• Sewerage Infrastructure	\$0.014M
• Roads and Streets Infrastructure	\$2.584M
• Buildings	\$1.107M
• Other Structures	\$1.615M
Total	\$5.458M

Council's Major Projects for 2014/15 included the following:

10 Kilometres Bitumen Sealing \$1.940M

Bitumen sealing of 10 kilometres of the Gilliat McKinlay Road was completed continuously with the McKinlay town turnoff as the commencement point.

Plant Replacement \$1.309M

As per Council's plant replacement program a grader, mini road sweeper, scissor lift, multi tyre roller, 3 trucks and 8 utes were purchased with a value of \$340k worth of plant sold by trade in, auction or tender.

Participation Space (Gym) \$0.345M

A gym was constructed at the Julia Creek Sporting Precinct next to the indoor sports centre. The gym was opened and named the "Daren Ginns Centre".

Caravan Park Caretaker House \$0.345M

A new house and office was purchased and moved to the Julia Creek Caravan Park. This house will be for the caretaker and the new reception area. The old house was sold and removed via public tender.



These Expenditures were funded by:

- Grants & Contributions \$2.564M
- General Revenue \$2.894M

3.3 Council's Key Financial Figures - A Snapshot

A summary of some key financial figures over the past 5 years let's you see some overall trends.

Financial Performance Figures (\$'000)	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Inflows:					
Rates, Levies & Charges	2,672	2,594	2,501	2,380	2,249
Fees & Charges	551	493	438	343	286
Interest Received	362	372	533	477	374
Sales Revenue	3,451	10,733	3,749	14,870	21,254
Other Revenue	85	191	284	238	264
Grants, Subsidies, Contributions & Donations					
- Operating & Capital	5,969	3,233	5,004	5,716	4,117
Total Income from Continuing Operations	13,090	17,616	12,513	24,028	28,546
Grants, Subsidies, Contributions & Donations - Capital	9,750	5,002	4,567	11,369	1,455
Capital Income		2	-	-	-
Sale Proceeds from PP&E	-	4	598	437	415
New Loan Borrowings & Advances	-	-	-	-	2,500
Outflows:					
Employee Benefits	4,169	4,161	4,098	4,158	4,444
Materials & Services	5,576	10,851	5,129	18,540	18,463
Finance Costs	45	63	116	149	41
Depreciation and Amortisation	4,103	4,183	4,159	2,382	2,325
Inventory write-down	-	-	-	-	2,452
Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets	1,733				
Write-off Flood Damaged Roads	8,293	3,433	-	-	-
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	23,919	22,691	13,502	25,230	27,727

Total Cash purchases of PP&E	5,458	6,561	5,042	6,214	7,316
Other Capital Expenses	-	-	186	-	173
Total Loan Repayments (incl. Finance Leases)	181	564	720	1,098	47
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) (excl. Capital Income & Exps)	(10,829)	(5,075)	(990)	(1,202)	819
Financial Position Figures (\$'000)	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Current Assets	1,532	2,471	2,709	4,371	5,101
Current Liabilities	1,682	1,804	1,614	2,014	4,543
Net Current Assets	(150)	667	1,095	2,357	558
Cash & Cash Equivalents	11,406	11,321	12,639	15,207	11,538
Total Borrowings Outstanding (excl. any overdraft) (Loans, Advances & Finance Leases)	368	549	1,113	1,833	2,932
Total Value of PP&E (excl. Land & Improvements)	153,245	150,802	146,653	140,192	151,411
Total Accumulated Depreciation	4,103	4,183	4,159	2,382	2,325
Indicative Remaining Useful Life (as a % of GBV)	97%	97%	97%	98%	98%

Source: Published audited financial statements of Council (current year & prior year annual financial statements)



4. Financial Sustainability Measures

The Financial Sustainability of Councils is now a cornerstone of the Local Government Act and a core responsibility of individual Councils across Queensland.

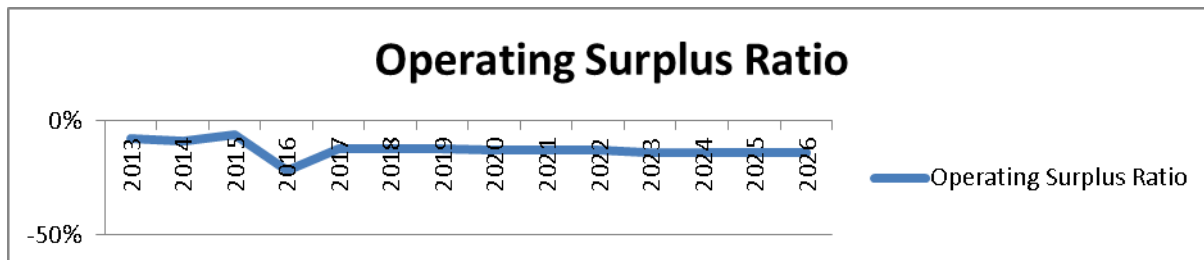
Financial Sustainability is defined as when a *"Local Government is able to maintain its financial capital and infrastructure capital over the long term"* [source: Local Government Act 2009 section 102(2)].

The Financial Sustainability indicators (in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*) that Council must publish are as follows:

Operating Surplus Ratio – Target 0-10%

Net Result divided by Total Operating Revenue

This is an indicator of the extent to which revenues raised cover operational expenses only or are available for capital funding purposes or other purposes.



Asset Sustainability Ratio – Target >90%

Capital Expenditure on the Replacement of Assets (Renewals) divided by Depreciation Expense

This is an approximation of the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by the local government are being replaced as these reach the end of their useful lives.

Depreciation expense represents an estimate of the extent to which the infrastructure assets have been consumed in a period.

Capital expenditure on renewals (replacing assets that the local government already has) is an indicator of the extent to which the infrastructure assets are being replaced.

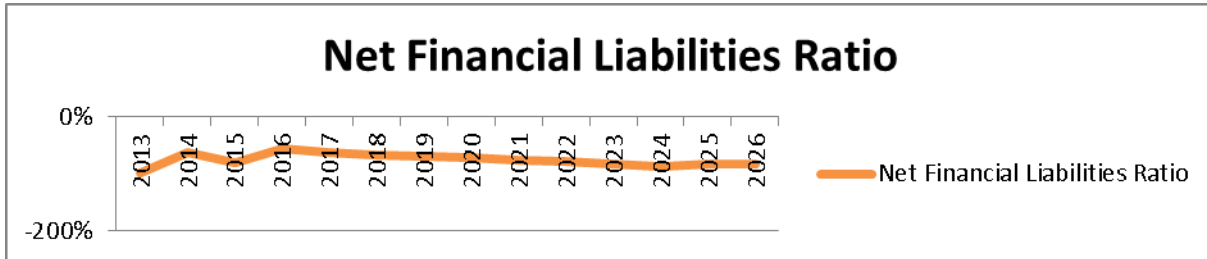
This ratio indicates whether a local government is renewing or replacing existing non-financial assets at the same rate that its overall stock of assets is wearing out.



Net Financial Liabilities Ratio – Target <60%

Total Liabilities less Current Assets divided by Total Operating Revenue

This is an indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of a local government can be serviced by its operating revenues.



	Target	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Long Term Financial Plan Projections									
						Yr 1 2017	Yr 2 2018	Yr 3 2019	Yr 4 2020	Yr 5 2021	Yr 6 2022	Yr 7 2023	Yr 8 2024	Yr 9 2025	Yr 10 2026
Ratio															
Operating Surplus Ratio	0 - 10%	-8%	-9%	-6%	-22%	-12%	-12%	-12%	-13%	-13%	-13%	-14%	-14%	-14%	-14%
Asset Sustainability Ratio	> 90%	221%	75%	121%	264%	83%	80%	95%	86%	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	< 60%	-98%	-63%	-80%	-55%	-62%	-67%	-68%	-72%	-76%	-79%	-83%	-86%	-83%	-83%



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MCKINLAY SHIRE COUNCIL

Sustaining a Diversified Rural Economy