

# McKinlay Shire Council

## Mayoral Message

Welcome to the September edition of Keeping You Posted. There has been an obvious change in the weather, with a number of days starting to reach high temperatures. Hopefully that is an indication that rain isn't too far away and with any luck the wet season may even pay us a visit.



As the hot weather moves in, our visitors move on for another year. I would like to acknowledge the extremely successful tourism season again in 2017. Council is proud to share a few statistics that reflect great results for tourism this year:

- ▶ The RV Friendly Site issued a total of 2,745 permits which is a 33% increase on last year.
- ▶ Extrapolate spend figures from the survey conducted at the RV Friendly Site show a local spend estimated at \$475,000.
- ▶ The Julia Creek Caravan Park saw 6,410 people stay which is an increase of 10% on 2016.
- ▶ From January to September 10,164 people visited "At the Creek" VIC, a 10% increase on the previous year.
- ▶ "Beneath the Creek" Julia Creek Dunnart display attracted 3,322 people, which is a 19.84% increase on last year.
- ▶ Bush Dinners saw 21 Community groups serve 1,909 meals, with revenue of \$30,000 (including raffles) for the groups. This indicates a positive impact on local businesses that benefit from ingredients and goods for meals being purchased.

We are proud of these statistics and the positive impact that tourism is having on our local economy. Council takes pride in making our visitors feel welcome however, acknowledge that without valued local businesses providing quality services and products this wouldn't be possible. An innovative Tourism Plan will be presented to Council in October, which will see new product in the near future. The new Plan will encourage Council to continue to progress within the tourism industry and therefore further benefiting the local economy for McKinlay Shire.

Road works are in full swing with Council planning to complete the 2016 Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Flood Damage Program by December, along with some new seals and upgrade works. The Gidgerly Creek Crossing works have finally been approved by Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA). The contract has been awarded, with works to be finished by December. The scope of the Julia Creek Airport upgrade is being finalised. All the stabilisation and reseal will be completed through Local Buy Pre Approved procurement. Any other works required will be completed through Council's standard offer arrangements with local businesses.

On the subject of roads, the State Government released a Tourism Connections Program last year allowing Council's to apply for funding on a 50/50 basis, for roads that have a proven and direct tourism benefit. Council proposed to seal and extend Shaw Street to create all weather access to the RV Friendly Site. Council also proposed to seal the road to Combo Waterhole as a joint project with Winton Shire Council. The Combo Road project was to the value of approx. \$1.2 million, and unfortunately due to the funding criteria that required Council to commit 50% or approx. \$650,000, this project was not approved. Council did not identify the Combo Waterhole Road as a priority road crucial for residents and was therefore unable to justify committing our own revenue for that particular project. Council's request to the Department regarding the Gilliat-McKinlay Road, to receive support from the Regional Roads Group to reallocate approved State funds to match existing Council budgeted funds has also been successful. The "Gidgee Bug Way" is identified in Council's Tourism Plan as a significant link road in our Shire. We are awaiting final approval that will see up to 10kms of new seal. Moving forward the significance of the Combo Waterhole site is still considered to have tourism potential and historical value to the State. Council is in the process of writing to both the Tourism Minister and Minister for National Parks, in an attempt to ascertain full support for funding in the future.

I wish to congratulate the Julia Creek Combined Sporting Association for a wonderful Town vs Country event which is fast becoming embedded in our annual calendar. I would also like to commend the Julia Creek Turf Club on the success of their most recent race meet held in McKinlay.

In October Cr. Neil Walker, CEO Peter Fitchat and I look forward to attending the annual Local Government State Conference held in Gladstone. I will also be kept busy this month by attending a number of regional meetings. There is another wonderful social event on the agenda in our Shire, with the Julia Creek Amateur Swim Club hosting the Secret Garden Ball in conjunction with the Julia Creek Campdraft School and Novice Draft on the 14th & 15th of October 2017. It is shaping up to be another wonderful weekend, which I am sure everyone who can attend will enjoy.

 SEDAN  
DIP

# Sedan Dip Pony Camp

Around 40 children and their families from across the region and surrounding areas came together in the school holidays from 16th-17th of September 2017, to take part in the Annual Sedan Dip Pony Camp. Renowned campdraft icon Ben Stanger came along to coach participants of varying skill levels of campdrafting. Patrick Hick introduced the older more, confident riders to polocrosse. All coaches had great support with many of the parents stepping in as group leaders. River trail rides along the Cloncurry River were a great way for younger riders to build confidence with going up and down steep banks, as well as navigate their horse along small ledges. The river bed is also a wonderful training ground for young riders to gain pace, with many participants getting into a trot and even canter for the first time. For the older children a game of Cowboys & Indians is one of their favourite ways to enjoy the river. The talent quest organised by Megan Folker is a highlight for many of the children and a great way for the whole family to be involved in the evening. Meals throughout the weekend were communal, with Holly Stevens the official meal co-ordinator and her helpers putting on a great spread for the weekend. Sedan Dip Pony Camp is a truly memorable experience embedded in the history of our Shire being held on the school holidays for over 50 years. Along with all of the organisers of this great event, the Department of Communities is to thank for their sponsorship of \$3,500 allocated to Sedan Dip Sports and Recreation Incorporated from their Community Drought Support Package. Council wish to acknowledge the Department of Communities and the organisers for the contribution they have made to our community through this event, aimed at building confidence and horsemanship in young riders.

## JULIA CREEK COMBINED SPORTING ASSOCIATION



# Town Vs Country

Julia Creek Combined Sporting Association's annual Town Vs Country attracted a crowd of over 250 people through the gates of Kev Bannah Oval. In true Town Vs Country spirit, there was something for the whole family. The events started out at midday on Saturday 30th September at the Indoor Sports Centre with a kids game of netball, followed by a non-competitive Oz-tag game. As the day cooled down the competition heated up with the official Town Vs Country Netball game, where Town defeated Country 36/28. Our local ambulance officer, Alice Acutt was named most valuable player for the match. The traditional 'Old Fogies' game was low in numbers this year seeing the players take a non-competitive approach to an adapted game of Oz-tag. Low numbers did not stop both 'Old Fogie' teams from enjoying themselves. A bumper crowd lined the edge of the field for the feature Town Vs Country Football match, where Town defeated Country 38/18. Visiting player Darcey Woods was named the most valuable player. Town teams for both netball and football dominated, however remained humble in their success as the celebration after the game kicked on.



# Community notice board



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@MCKINLAYSHIRE [YOUTUBE.COM/MCKINLAYSHIRE](https://www.youtube.com/mckinlayshire)



Save these dates in November 2017...

- 1st Lions Ladies Seniors Luncheon
- 1st Community Concert at Nelia
- 11th Endless Muster Performance
- 18th Beach Races

## Julia Creek Smart Hub Survey

Council is seeking community feedback in regards to a potential technology project: The concept is to create a space in Julia Creek with a high speed internet connection that would be available to use by individuals, businesses and students. The space could be equipped with computers, video conferencing facilities, study cubicles and other new technologies creating a digitally innovative Smart Hub. Council is seeking feedback in regards to your current technology position and the potential for such a project. Please follow this link to complete a quick five minute survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RKYN6WX>



Picture above: Julia Creek State School Year 5/6 class on their bi-annual snow camp.

McKinlay Shire Council were proud to support the students of Julia Creek State School on their bi-annual Snow Camp. Council provided monetary support to assist with student travel expenses. Council was delighted to see that everyone had a wonderful time!



### SAVE THE DATE

Friday 1st December  
McKinlay Shire  
Christmas Tree  
in Julia Creek



McKinlay Shire Council reached out to the community in September as part of "R U OK?" Day to raise awareness of mental health. Please know that our Community Health department is always there to assist you to find the help you need. Contact Community Health Nurse, Nicole Morris 0447773151.



# Who's Who



## AT COUNCIL

### Goodbye to:

- ★ **Janice Kilbourne** - Temporary Community Services Team Leader
- ★ **Cindy Clow** - Parks & Gardens Labourer

### Welcome to:

- ★ **David Sechtig** - Projects Manager
- ★ **Aimee Athorn** - Creditors Officer



In Term 3 at Julia Creek State School, the Prep to Year 6 students completed a unit where Recycled Art sculptures were designed and created by each student. The theme was “A Call to Love Our Planet Earth”. Each student also wrote an “Artist’s Statement” which stated the intended message communicated by their sculptures to the audience. Some very powerful messages were evoked about recycling, anti-pollution, the possibility of a healthy planet with humans and animals living together happily, including the possibility of creatures not yet discovered! The terms work culminated in an exhibition held at the Jan Eckford Centre Gallery, on Wednesday 13th September at 5pm. Every family who was in town attended along with many other members of the community. Students proudly discussed their art works and their messages with the audience. The exhibition will be on display for an extended time if you would like to come and see this high quality artwork by our young residents. Contact: Helen Lynch 0427 468 720.

# September School Holiday Program



A two week school holiday program was jam packed with movie making, a Mount Isa trip, swimming and fishing at Eastern Creek. Thank-you to Tarj Wiles from the Julia Creek Butcher Shop for donating the bait for our fishing trip. The fish loved it!

School holiday program participants also got to experience a week of survival activities with Rocky Instincts. Children did traditional fire making, stone tool creation, natural cordage, knotcraft, spear making and throwing and bush glue. The children enjoyed the visit from Rocky Instincts made possible through funding received from the Regional Arts Development Fund. The next School Holidays will run from December 4th 2017 through to January 19th 2018.

