



Mayoral Message

Welcome everyone to April edition of Keeping You Posted. It was certainly a busy month for the Shire with both Julia Creek Dirt and Dust Festival and the first ever Outback Bushwhack event. I would like to congratulate the Dirt and Dust Committee and the volunteer base who once again delivered a great event for the region. Thank-you to all Council staff and Workcamp who were involved and helped make the weekend a success. We all look forward to a big one next year for 25 years. Following on from an active event McKinlay Shire ran our take on Tough Mudder, with Outback Bushwhack. The 7km course had lots of obstacles and saw 52 competitors take part. Thank you again to everyone involved in this inaugural event which we hope will become part

of our annual calendar.

Council staff are out and about on our roads with McKinlay- Gilliat Road getting 8kms of new seal which should be completed by mid June leaving approximately 40kms only left of dirt. Due to the rain event in March and significant damage to our Shire road network we were activated for NDRRA Program, better know as flood damage. All pick ups of our network have been completed and a submission for a total of \$20 million for repairs will be submitted in the very near future for approval.

The start of May will see Council begin the budget process for 2018/2019. Councillors and staff will work together with the current proposed adoption date 27th of June. During April and start of May I travelled to Brisbane for a number of meetings for Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Policy Executive, Outback Tourism Association (OOTA) Board and the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Council's (NWQROC) meeting which we held a parliament house for the first time. The day with Mayors and CEO's across North West Queensland was extremely valuable and we meet with a number of Ministers, Director Generals and Opposition members. Cr Walker along with CEO Peter Fitchat attended the Federal Senate Enquiry into Rural and Regional Airline Services to present Council's submission.



Council is working very closely with the State Government with support from community, notably the MPHS CAN, to address a current shortfall of approximately \$1.5million towards the proposed new Julia Creek Hospital Build. Discussions are progressing very well and are positive. I would anticipate a resolution to this matter by the time you are reading this newsletter.

With the weather cooling visitors are starting to trickle in and our famous Bush Dinner program has started for the year. Whilst numbers are low at the moment we expect to see our normal steady increase from here on in. The Julia Creek Campdraft will have all the action from Friday the 18th of May in Julia Creek so go along for a look it is always a great weekend.

**Julia Creek
Campdraft**

Save the Date!

Save the Date!

**18th, 19th & 20th
May 2018**

Anzac Day

On Wednesday 25th April 2018 community members from across the Shire and visitors, gathered for both the Dawn and Day Service held in Julia Creek. The township of McKinlay also hosted a Dawn Service, followed usual ANZAC Day traditions of Breakfast and Two-up.

Council wish to personally acknowledge the support of community groups and individuals in both Julia Creek & McKinlay for making their traditional contribution to the commemorations that took place across the Shire:

JULIA CREEK:

Lions Ladies for putting on a wonderful morning tea
Julia Creek Queensland Country Woman's Association for hosting a great lunch
Philip & Wendy Alexander for donating soft drinks & ice cream
Stephen & Linda Malone for providing breakfast at the RSL following the dawn service
Julia Creek Police Service, Constable Joshua Woodfeild & Seargent Catherine Purcell for their input organising
The Currin Family for their input organising
Cr. Neil Walker for being the MC at both the Dawn & Day Services
Calum Searl for play the bag pipes at the Dawn & Day Services

MCKINLAY:

Queensland Police Service, Senior Constable Des Hannson for his input organising
Frank & Debbie Wust for providing the Gun Fire Breakfast
Linfox Yurbi for providing breakfast
McKinlay Queensland Country Womans Association for hosting Two-up

All other community members also involved in ANZAC Day are also sincerely thanked for their efforts. ANZAC Day commemorations that took place across the region were well attended and a respectful way to honour the fallen soldiers.



McKinlay Shire hosts first 'Outback Bushwhack'

In a 7km extreme obstacle course challenge they; ran rings around rubber tyres, scaled their way up netting 2.5 meters high, floundered through a flooded mud pit, showered in paint all the colours of the rainbow, clambered over hay bales, balanced on low ropes above the creek, crawled through pipes, attacked a series of fitness drills & finally took a rinse in the slip n slide. On Saturday 28th April 2018, 52 participants from across McKinlay Shire took part in the first ever Julia Creek Outback Bushwhack, testing the endurance, guts and determination of all who took on the contest.



While the course presented as a gruelling physical challenge, many Outback Bushwhack goers embraced the situation with community spirit and light hearted humour. Participants dawned high-vis tutus and wigs which weren't aero dynamically favourable, however added a fun component to the event and comedic value for bye standers and cheer squads who were present. "The atmosphere was a true highlight of the event", said CEO Peter Fitchat who also took part in the Outback Bushwhack.

Julia Creek Outback Bushwhack Senior & Junior Champions were fiercely competitive Mother and Son combination Sheree & Sam Pratt. Sheree took home a double pass to Tough Mudder, along with a medal and cold beverage, while son Sam was awarded a \$50 local buy voucher and a medal for his efforts. Sheree completed Julia Creeks' 7km Outback Bushwhack in a time of 1:05:37, which she modestly joked as being even faster than she can run 7km.



Locals exploded with enthusiasm for the event funded by the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games – Queensland Government's Embracing 2018 Legacy Program for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. McKinlay Shire Council have indicated that they are eager to continue this event in the future and hope that it will attract competitors from far and wide to take part in the Outback Bushwhack.

#SHARETHEDREAM

*Royal Flying Doctors
90th Pilgrimage visit to
Julia Creek
11am-12pm
17th May*

*Labour Day
Public Holiday
7th May
COUNCIL ADMIN
CLOSED*

*Australian Government
Mobile Service Centre -
at Peter Dawes Park,
Julia Creek from 9-4pm
14th May*

*Paint Your Town
Paint n Sip night
5-8pm
20th May*

*Queensland Day
Photo/Video Competition
Entries
Close
26th May*

What's on IN May

*Community
Consultation
Meeting
Kynuna - 11am
McKinlay - 2pm
8th May*

*Under 8's Day
at Julia Creek Early
Learning Centre
9am
21st May*

*Julia Creek
Campdraft
18th, 19th & 20th May*

Julia Creek Tennis Court Opening



Thursday 5th of April 2018, marked the official opening to the upgrade of the Julia Creek Tennis Court facilities. The Tennis Court is a highly valued sporting venue that provides health and fitness, plus social benefits to the McKinlay Shire community. The opening drew a crowd of around 30 people, all eager to witness the opening of the wonderful new upgrade.

The Tennis Court was put to use immediately, with a Tennis Coaching Clinic taking place in conjunction with the official opening. McKISSA President Jodi Keough lead the way in organising the coaching clinic that attracted around 20 participants ranging from tiny-tots to adults. The clinic facilitated by 'Singles Tennis' from Charters Towers was held over two days. "Seeing the progress people have made and the enjoyment we have all had I am keen to create some more opportunities like this". Mrs Keogh has expressed her enthusiasm towards creating further opportunities where the Tennis Courts are sure to be utilised.



Mayor Belinda Murphy said, "we are thrilled to see the finalisation of improvements to such a valuable community facility that I know will be used by both residents and people travelling through Julia Creek".

The Queensland Government provided \$100'000 to Julia Creek Combined Sporting Association (CSA) to the Julia Creek Tennis Court upgrade to enable Queenslanders to participate in sport and recreation activities. The generosity of Queensland Government Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing - Get Playing Places and Spaces Funding Program, combined with McKinlay Shire Councils investment of \$20'320 has seen the replacement of two Synthetic Grass Tennis Courts in Julia Creek. The Julia Creek CSA expressed their gratitude for the improvements by acknowledging the facility as a place for community to meet, be active and stay fit.

Council is pleased with the work completed by Advantage Sports & Leisure for this contract.

From the Sport & Rec Desk. . . .

Greetings to members of the McKinlay Shire! A few of you might have seen me around, but for those who haven't met me yet, my name is Kalan Lococo and I've taken over from Renae as the new Sport and Recreation Officer for McKinlay Shire Council.

I have relocated from Charters Towers and have been involved in sport in one way or another for as long as I can remember. Whether it was going along with dad to stack fridges or mark the footy field, participating in local and representative junior sport all year round, going to the race track to watch the horses, playing cricket or footy in the back yard or on the weekend with my mates, organising junior coaching programs (In2Cricket, 'Mini League', Active After School Care) and coaching North Queensland Cricket teams, among lots of other things. I think its safe to say sport has been a big part of my life. Being from a small, regional community, I understand the day-to-day challenges schools, clubs and organisations are faced with and I am willing to help out in any way, shape or form to allow community sport to flourish and to allow the children to share some of the same great experiences I was fortunate enough to have growing up.

If you need any help or advice, I'm usually floating around town somewhere so don't be afraid to say G'day or give me a call on 0437 044 181.

Looking forward to meeting you all.

Regards,

Kalan Lococo

