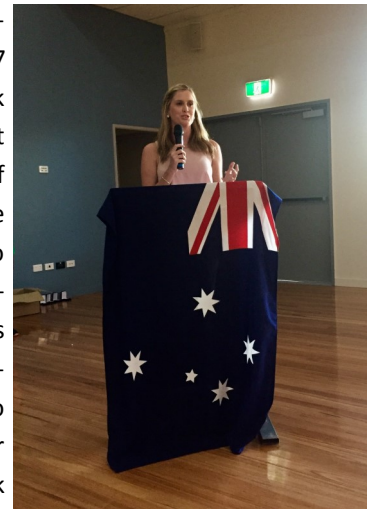


# Keeping you posted

## Mayoral Message

Christmas and New Year now feels like distant memory and I hope everyone had an enjoyable festive season with their family and friends. Council reopened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 kick starting a busy year ahead. Rain has been welcomed across the North West and I think most of our Shire has seen some good falls although I'm sure we would all like to think that more is to come in February and March. Councillors and I have been busy working with staff on our Mid year Budget Review which will be adopted alter this month and a productive Roads Committee Meeting was held to start the year off on the right foot when it comes to our biggest assets. Australia Day Celebrations were held in Julia Creek at the new Community Precinct and also McKinlay held its annual cricket match. I would like to thank Ms Jordyn Archer and her husband Ben who travelled to Julia Creek as our Australia Day Ambassador this year. Jordyn is an inspirational young woman who is dedicating her life to help people who are in some of the most vulnerable positions. It was a privilege for our community to have her at our celebrations. To all the nominees and award winners ,thank you for everything you do and achieve in our community.



The recent State Government announcement of funding for 60 local governments through the Work for Queensland Program has been extremely welcome. The timeframes are very tight and we will announce where Council will be spending our \$1,070,000 allocation prior to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 which is the closing date. The guidelines are for small infrastructure and maintenance projects currently not budgeted for by Council with a completion date prior to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Council will certainly be ensuring a good result across the Shire for community and local business as much as possible within the guidelines.

If you are not already aware, rates notices are on their way to you. Council has reverted back to the normal timeframes and parameters for the payment of rates which will be due on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. In the previous two years, we have allowed an extra four months for payment of this second rates levy with no discount penalty. This was an extraordinary measure for Council to achieve and manage cash flows however, we did feel it was necessary in the hardest part of the drought for everyone. We are still under drought declaration however, feedback to Councillors and information from the Corporate Services was to return to the status quo. Having said that, we still have payment measures in place so if you are struggling with your rates please contact Council to discuss other options that are available to you.

Unfortunately we have seen some wonderful people move on from our community recently who will be missed but I would like to acknowledge Senior Constable David McNab, his wife Linda and their two children Scotty and Claire. With a change in role to the Stock Squad, the family is relocating to Longreach. We wish them all the best and acknowledge the significant contributions made to our community over the last five years both within their professional roles and in community groups.

February is going to be a busy month and 2017 will see an exciting year for our Shire with many projects underway and more to be announced. Please keep up to date via our website, Facebook page or speaking with Councillors or me at any time.

## Australia Day Celebrations



Australia Day 2017 was another huge success with locals enjoying a free BBQ dinner and a fireworks display. Jordyn Archer travelled to Julia Creek as our 2017 Australia Day Ambassador. Jordyn's passion is to activate young people into using their talents and energy to help those in need. Jordyn uses her diverse background and experience to motivate and influence younger generations to understand the significance they too can have.

\*\*\*

Citizen of the Year – Aileen Gabbert

Volunteer of the Year – Ellen Sills

Junior Sports Award – Toby Fitchett

Junior Cultural Award – Sam Pratt

Sports Administration Award – Calem Fegan

Large Event of the Year – Crocodile Dundee 30 Year Celebrations in McKinlay

Senior Sports Award – Tanya Parry



## Early Learning Centre

The Julia Creek Early Learning Centre re-opened on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 with 19 enrolments. Emma Daniels continues to lead the team, with support from Assistant Educators, Jody Davis, Stephanie Krogh and our newest team member Karen Pilchowski. Karen brings with her over 20 years of experience in the early learning industry. The joy of being part of the lives of so many wonderful children and families is why Karen has dedicated her years to the industry. Karen has made North Queensland her home (in particular the Townsville region) for the most part her life and now looks forward to the new life adventure in the west and becoming a part of the Julia Creek community. Karen is a Great Aunt to a lively 22 month old and an Aunt to a very tall niece and two nephews. Outside of work, Karen's interests include line dancing, reading, music and supporting her favourite football and basketball teams.



## RDA Workshop

On Wednesday 18th January 2017, Council and community members participated in a workshop organised by Regional Development Australia (RDA). The workshop was extremely well received with insightful presentations delivered from representatives of AusIndustry, Department of State Development, Townsville Business Development Centre, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and RDA. The take away message from the day was that there are many funding and subsidy opportunities available for small businesses, e.g. Back to Work regional employment package. For more information please visit this website <https://bactowork.initiatives.qld.gov.au/youth-boost-payment/>



## Playground Upgrade

In Council's 2016/2017 budget, funds have been set aside to upgrade the Peter Dawes Park playground and install a playground at McIntyre Park. The first community consultation meeting about the refurbishment was held on Thursday December 12th 2016. Suggestions from the meeting included; the addition of jumping bags, a flying fox, swings and misting fans to cool the area.

## Council Funding Available

### Community Benefit Assistance Scheme (CBAS)

\$ for \$ funding of up to \$5,000

For equipment, infrastructure and volunteer support.

Closing Monday 13th February 2017 at 12:00pm

Quick response opportunities following closure may be available, if funds permit.

### Regional Arts Development Fund (RADE)

Funding to support arts and cultural activities such as cultural tourism, workshops, performances and exhibitions.

Closing Monday 20th March 2017

### Community Sponsorship

Financial and in-kind support for local not-for-profit groups to host community events and activities.

Requests to be made four (4) weeks prior to event.

## ROADS STRATEGY MEETING

On 23rd January, the first Roads Committee meeting of 2017 took place. Items discussed included the potential concern about Flood Damage and not having a multi agency activation to trigger a Flood Event that would allow us to submit a claim. Current road damage from recent rains and these concerns will drive discussions with the QRA Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Moon, on his visit to the Shire on 7th February 2017. Areas that also become hazardous during the wet season were discussed at length and the Shire staff and Flood Damage officers were present to explain the issues regarding flood damage pickups and the planned future works.

Current Flood damage updates were presented and future capital works and construction priorities were discussed on LRRS roads (Taldora, Nelia Bunda, Punchbowl, Gilliat-McKinlay, Byrimine) or other roads (Pelham Road, Oorindi Road and Julia Creek Yorkshire Road). Drainage improvements such as culverts, floodways, causeways and bridges, on all Shire roads were discussed and are a focus point for future budgets and funding opportunities.

General Road concerns was raised and an order of response was agreed on and established to address these issues when the next meeting is scheduled.



## Satellite Internet Users

If you rely on a satellite service including Sky Muster, please keep an eye out for Councils survey regarding rural and remote internet services. We would really appreciate it if as many people could participate in the survey to enable us to be better informed about the current status of internet for our community. This information will be collated and presented at the upcoming North West Regional Organisation of Councils (NWROC) meeting which will be held in March at Julia Creek.



## Christmas Celebrations

The Julia Creek Christmas Tree, held on 2nd December at McIntyre Park, was a well enjoyed occasion despite the inclement weather. There was an exciting guest appearance from swimmer Meagen Nay, Santa arrived at 7:00pm with some wonderful presents and the children were entertained with an array of rides throughout the night. Entertainer Colby Wilson, put on an excellent performance for everyone, battling the rain and winds to keep playing for the whole event.



Both Nelia and McKinlay townships enjoyed similar events and visits from Santa, held on November 26th and 10th December, respectively.



### Rates Update

Rates for the period 1st January to 30th June 2017 will be levied on the 15th February 2017 and due on 17th March 2017 to obtain the discount. In the past few years, Council has extended the payment period as goodwill during the drought however in 2017, Council will revert to the standard payment terms.



Follow us on social media

[facebook.com/mckinlayshire](https://www.facebook.com/mckinlayshire)

@McKinlayShire

[youtube.com/mckinlayshire](https://www.youtube.com/mckinlayshire)