

McKinlay Shire Council

Mayoral Message



Welcome to the August edition of **Keeping You Posted**. With the budget adoption now finalised, Council is implementing the program of works and activities across the Shire. The Julia Creek RV Friendly Site expansion and walking trail project unfortunately was not successful in this round of the Federal Governments Building Better Regions Program. A new round will be open towards the end of the year and Council will resubmit an application for this significant economic and liveability project. During August our CEO Peter Fitchat, Deputy Mayor Cr Walker, Cr Royes and myself joined our bush counterparts from across the State in Charters Towers, for the biannual Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Bush Councils Conference. Our issues, challenges and successes in many cases are all aligned. Topics of discussion covered anything from the new flood damage model, to effective tourism and innovative projects. In addition, Deputy Mayor Cr Walker represented our Shire at the North Queensland Local Government Conference in Atherton Tablelands, which was beneficial.

Tourism numbers continue to increase reflective of the great tourism season we have had as a result of high attendance at bush dinners, caravan park and RV site overnight stays and therefore spend in the Shire. Whilst our programs will continue into September we do expect to see the numbers to start to reduce in the drive market as we approach the end of the season. However with school holidays looming we hope to have a surge in family numbers travelling North West Queensland.

Our social calendar has been full this year. I would like to congratulate the Sedan Dip Sport and Recreation Club on hosting another wonderful weekend; thanks to the committee and volunteers. Sedan Dip lived up to it's great reputation, as a weekend that has it all once again; with everything from camp drafting, sprint racing and rodeo. Whilst our events calendar may be drawing to a close for the year, there are still many events to come from horse racing, a ball, dance concert and so much more, so no time to relax just yet.

The end of August and early September has also seen the start of community consultation process towards the Shire's new Economic Development Plan. If you were unable to attend any of the community meetings or individual face to face meetings during this time, there is still time to have input by contacting Jade Lyons at Council on either 47467166 or jadel@mckinlay.qld.gov.au. The plan will help inform Council drive priorities around policy and funding and will be a very important plan for our Shire. Council wish to encourage the community to have input into these important plans. Whilst on the topic of planning our new tourism plan is now in draft format and will be reviewed internally prior to being presented to Council for final adoption and release to public in October.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the sad passing of long standing community members Mrs Pam Woodhouse, Mrs Shirley Eckford and Mrs Norma Wheeler. Their contribution made to community across the years has been significant in so many different ways and will live on.

Finally, congratulations to the Julia Creek Turf Club hosting a race meet at McKinlay and Sedan Pony Club for their annual camp. Bets of Luck to the Combined Sporting Association for the upcoming Town vs Country match, 30th September. I look forward to seeing many of your there.

🍴 PADDOCK TO PLATE LUNCHEON 🍴



On Wednesday 16th August, 30 visitors to McKinlay Shire enjoyed a flavoursome two course 'Paddock to Plate' lunch on the Civic Centre deck. Locally farmed red claw and pasture-fed beef were the showpieces for the affair whilst local cattle producers, Bob Lord and Claire Downie provided insight into their daily lives running a beef cattle operation. It was a beautiful afternoon rounded off by good tunes and sunny winter weather.



BUSH COUNCILS CONVENTION

Cultivating Connectivity

On Tuesday 8 August 2017, Cr. Shauna Royes, Deputy Mayor Neil Walker, Mayor Belinda Murphy & CEO Peter Fitchat headed off to Charters Towers to attend the annual LGAQ Bush Councils Convention. The convention was held from 9th-11th August 2017 at the World Theatre in Charters Towers.

The first day of the convention was centred around exploring Charters Towers, along with discussion surrounding the new ecosystem of Innovation. There was a tour of Charters Towers highlighting, the old and the new of the town. A great day finished with a BBQ sponsored by King & Co. Solicitors.

Day two focused on the future state and tourism landscapes and the importance of connecting to grow our regions. Attendees were given an insight into the important role of data analytics in decision making. In a session facilitated by Mr Tim Cox, Telstra also presented their "Location Insights" project.

Later in the day, Mayor Belinda Murphy was involved in a panel discussion regarding growing regional tourism industry and the way in which Councils can capitalise on the future growth in this space.

The convention dinner that evening was a wonderful way to network and catch up with Director Generals who attended and other Councils. The Bush Councils Convention for 2017 wrapped up on Friday 11th August, with a look to the future in anticipation of what the next wave policy, process and politics will hold. Cr. Shauna Royes, Deputy Mayor Neil Walker, Mayor Belinda Murphy & CEO Peter Fitchat all returned home to Julia Creek on Friday afternoon after an insightful time away.



SUNCORP BANKING SERVICES IN JULIA CREEK

Recently Suncorp Bank advised McKinlay Shire Council that the Julia Creek branch in Burke Street would close permanently on 21st November 2017. Staff were notified and account holders were also being contacted later that day. However, McKinlay Shire Council can advise that as of last night that the branch closure will not take effect on 21st November 2017, as initially instructed.

Mayor Belinda Murphy said, "I spoke to a number of senior Suncorp executives. From these discussions I am very pleased to advise that the branch will remain open for around 12 months whilst Suncorp works with both Council and community to investigate long-term viability of the service. I understand customers will be advised directly in the coming days."

"We worked very closely with Suncorp to establish the service in 2012 and would like to see this relationship with our community continue," Mayor Murphy added.

Whilst Council acknowledges many changes in business, especially in the banking sector which has seen many customers utilise online services, a physical presence for banking is still very valuable and a part of the way small communities do business.

Mayor Murphy added, "We have many senior residents who rely on being able to go into a branch to complete transactions and many businesses who required a branch for cash deposits and withdrawals to operate."

"In addition, we have many community groups running events that require significant cash floats and depositing capabilities through a service like this."

"I understand that Suncorp is a commercial operation with a bottom line and the next 12 months working with them will also require the community to support this service if they wish it to remain as it will be about Suncorp supporting rural Australia."

McKinlay Shire has been drought declared for over four years however, there is a positive outlook.

Mayor Murphy said "It has been a very difficult four years for our community economically but I believe things are improving. Cattle prices are strong and we have seen new business open in our Shire. These factors along with a strong economic plan to be adopted by Council towards the end of the year give us a very positive way forward."

"Suncorp has been here through a very difficult time and I would love for banking services through a town based branch to continue here as we turn a corner," Mayor Murphy concluded.

MCKINLAY SHIRE DISAPPOINTED AT NOT RECEIVING BUILDING BETTER REGIONS

McKinlay Shire Council is extremely disappointed to have been unsuccessful in this round of the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Funding (BBRF).

McKinlay Shire Council submitted an extensive application to apply for the BBRF to double the capacity of their thriving Julia Creek RV Friendly Site where visitors can camp for free in their self-contained vans for 96 hours, adjacent to the picturesque Julia Creek watercourse.

The plans also incorporate a new 4 kilometre walking trail which would enhance community liveability and visitor experience. "We feel that it is imperative that we grow this site to continue to propagate our tourism industry to not only appeal to the senior drive market but also the family market," Mayor Belinda Murphy said.

Plans had been out for community consultation since November 2016. "This is a crucial project for both our community's liveability and economic sustainability which tick the priority boxes of the funding," Mayor Belinda Murphy added.

In 2012, approximately 383 self contained vehicles used the site. This figure has grown exponentially with a total of 2363 permits being issued in 2016.

Already, more than 2,745 vans have utilised the site this year to date. Which has surpassed 2016 figures of 2363 with a couple of months still to go.

Whilst McKinlay Shire Council earns no revenue from the site, the economic benefit to the community has become a welcome source of income for local businesses particularly during the last four years of drought.

Mayor Belinda Murphy stated, "Extrapolated figures from visitor surveys show an injection of \$104,000 in July 2017 alone from visitors to this site."

McKinlay Shire Council applied for \$3.2 million for this project. Mayor Belinda Murphy concedes that this project is not feasible for their small Council to take on without additional funding.

"Although the project benefits are undeniable, (McKinlay Shire) Council is not in a position to fully fund the project with our small rates base," Mayor Belinda Murphy added.

Mayor Belinda Murphy acknowledged the competitive nature of the fund, "I know there were over 545 applications asking for \$998 million. Only 110 applications totalling \$289 million were successful so it was an extremely competitive round of funding.

"We will certainly be pushing hard in the next round as this is a project that is extremely important to the economic and social fabric of our Shire."



Community Notice Board

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



Save these dates in October 2017... ..

1st Driver Reviver

3rd Term 4 Starts

14th Julia Creek Campdraft School

15th Julia Creek Novice, Mini & Junior
Campdraft

28th Western Riding Club Roping Day

JULIA CREEK AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB
PRESENTS A...



Secret
Garden
Ball

Save the date
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Music by
COLBY WILSON

more details soon...

COMMUNITY MOSAIC PROJECT

with Claudia Williams

artist of the mosaic chair in Peter Dawes Park & wall at the JC Swimming Pool

We will be creating a mosaic to
be mounted on the water feature
outside the JC Medical Centre

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September 2017

@ the Julia Creek Cultural Workshop
Time: 10-4pm daily

Cost: FREE! Adult & kids of any ability welcome
to come along and help cut, glue and grout
mosaic tiles to create the masterpiece!

Please register your interest with Jade Lyons
47 467 166 / jadel@mckinlay.qld.gov.au

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a Queensland
Government through Arts Queensland and McKinlay Shire
Council partnership to support local arts and culture.





Who's Who

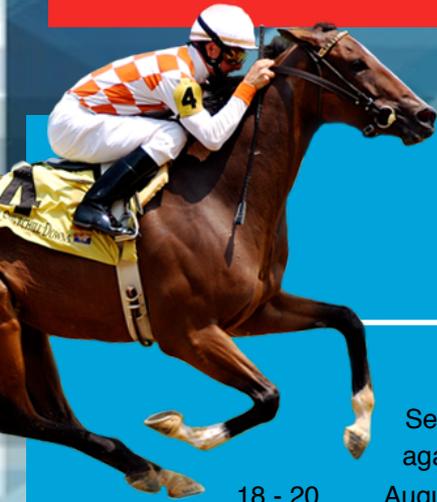
AT COUNCIL

For further information regarding vacant positions and application details visit: www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au/employment



Congratulations...

- ★👍 Rose Krogh, 5 years Service Award
- ★👍 Greg Wyld, 10 years Service Award
- ★👍 Debbie Godier, 30 years Service Award



Sedan Dip

Sedan Dip Campdraft, Rodeo and Races was once again a great success. Held over three (3) days from 18 - 20 August, 2017 Sedan Dip upheld its great reputation as one of the most anticipated social occasions in the Shire.

Competition on all accounts, from Campdrafting & Rodeo to Horse Racing & Fashions of the Field, was hotly contended by both local and visiting competitors. It is a true testament to the committee and volunteers who coordinate such a valued family friendly weekend experience, so rich in history and community spirit.



Browse By >



PORTAL OPENS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MCKINLAY SHIRE BUSINESSES

A website that provides a one stop shop for local goods and services has officially been launched. The McKinlay Shire Business Directory was developed by South32, McKinlay Shire Council and the State Government's Department of State Development, to help showcase the capabilities and diversity of McKinlay Shire businesses. The website will help locals and visitors find the products they require through a 'buy local' lens.

Mayor Belinda Murphy said that projects such as these go a long way in terms of supporting the Shire economically. "In the absence of a Chamber of Commerce or an organisation dedicated to local business advocacy the need for a business portal has been identified. The portal is invaluable and further demonstrates the ways in which South32 have been supportive of our community," Mayor Murphy said.

The portal will specifically target larger organisations that work in the Shire. "Council is always trying to support local business wherever possible, within the legislative and procurement boundaries."

"Through tender and quoting processes, Council requires companies and contractors to demonstrate a commitment to local content where possible – this can be difficult for non-local companies to understand the scope of goods and services available within the Shire. This portal will be a one stop shop for them to easily see what is available and how they can engage local businesses."

South32's Vice President Operations of Cannington Mine, Rob Jackson, said the company was eager to collaborate with Council on this project. "A large part of our commitment to the McKinlay Shire is local procurement and that extends to encouraging others to spend their procurement dollars locally," said Mr Jackson.

"Working with Council, we have developed a simple and effective tool that makes it easier to source local goods and services. We will certainly be rolling it into our procurement processes at Cannington."

The portal is now live and can be found at www.businessnorthwest.com.au and on Council's website at www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au.