

## Mayor's Message



Here's hoping everyone had a great Christmas and we are definitely off to a good start in 2023 with the best rain we've seen for years falling in December and January. Fingers crossed that it keeps on coming, although we would all like to see our major waterways drain out a bit more before the heavens open up again.

Australia Day caused a bit of concern with water heights, but it all worked out really well except for the heat about midafternoon. Congratulations to all our Nominees and Winners and it goes without saying that they were all well deserved. Next year the ceremony will be in Karumba.

Just a vote of thanks to Cherie and Tracey and her Town Crew buddies again, it is always the last-minute things that test you out. Thanks also to Rose for being our ambassador for the day. Thank you, Nola as well. Nola never gets in your face but always manages to get the right pose or the group together with no fuss.

It was brought to my attention at the January meeting that we have been misunderstood at the Karumba public meeting with the "VAST" answer to our shoddy TV Network both in Normanton and Karumba. I'm not sure how it came over but we mentioned that Council may be able to offer a one off subsidy to assist with the cost of changing over to VAST. This is on the condition that we can raise funding for the exercise. Quite a few people in the Shire are using the system now and have been for a number of years with no issues at all. The cost is in the initial set up with dish etc but then it really is, free to air. Again, there are many houses in both towns that have unused Bigpond, Austar, Foxtel and probably more, satellite dishes already in their yards. This means that the installer can check and align the dish, fit the correct LNB (I think it's called), and if the coax is still good, away you go. We will get and keep on file some contacts for people to talk to regarding the change.

"Streaming" is another form of viewing news, movies and sporting events which will ultimately be the death of TV as we know it now. If "streaming" has you puzzled, then think Netflix. You can also tune into ABC news and all the other networks if you have internet. Do you have internet? If you have an email address or are on Facebook or Messenger, you have internet. Most phone plans include a certain amount of data that is far too much for the average person to use so you don't have to worry about running out halfway through a cricket match. This probably doesn't hold true for those with small iPad gurus aged anywhere between 2 and 12. Those little dudes can and will smash your data allocation very quickly as we have found out ourselves on the odd occasion. The sad and inescapable fact is Council ratepayers cannot afford to throw hundreds of thousands of dollars into a system that is very quickly becoming obsolete. We are still waiting to see if the company that looks after the SBS and ABC channels are interested in providing that service for us. (i.e. Channel 7 and 9). I still have problems justifying Commercial Channels being propped up by the rate payers.

## Mayor's Message

One other thing I'd like to address this month is to clear up a couple of misconceptions and or myths regarding closed roads and crossings during flooding events. We keep the penalties out of the signage so that people can have a fish and go for a drive without being fined. This does not mean that you can cross flooded rivers once they exceed the TMR limits. Resupply freight companies operate under a different ruling because it saves the government a heap of money to do it this way and also keeps the shelves in your supermarkets stocked up. It gets confusing when not all roads are closed and there are no resupply subsidies.

Resupply only means that you the consumer have no extra freight costs added to what is the normal rate. Nothing is free. It would be a good idea if you haven't already, to have a look on the Council Website and read what is Resupply and also see what is deemed essential. You will probably get a surprise. Also, while we're on the subject of freight, I would like to point out that Australia Post DO NOT answer to Council, and we have no jurisdiction in that space at all. If you have issues with Australia Post, Telstra or BOM for that matter, take it up with themselves or your Federal member. We do pass your comments on, but one voice makes no difference. You, the General Public need to voice your concerns through your Federal members as well as us (all 3 agencies are Federal issues). Having said that though, if ever there is a genuine emergency or need for unavailable medication, please do not hesitate to contact us, either at the front counter or your Councillors. We will get them to you somehow.

Remember we live on a flood plain pretty much surrounded by water and mangroves during the wet which equates to a "squillion" mossies at any one time. This is nature at its best and try as we might there is no amount of spraying or poisoning that will totally remove these critters. Old time favorites such as coils, Rid and citronella lanterns are the best way to help yourself. If there is an outbreak of any insect borne diseases or such then Qld Health are quick to respond and get the message out including using Council.

I think I have used up my space around about now, so I had better sign off for this month. Remember, fingers crossed for some more rain and keep your eyes and ears open for dates and times on our upcoming Normanton public meeting.

Stay Safe

Jack Bawden

## Australia Day Awards

Congratulations to this years' recipients.

- Arts / Cultural Award

**Barbara Wollner**

- Community Event / Organisation

**Karumba Community Anglers Classic**

- Junior Sportsperson

**Paul Busch**

- Senior Sportsperson

**Angeline Pascoe**

- Sport Administrator of the Year

**Jacob Daniels**

- Mayor's Award

**Clifford & Garth Bowtell**

- Young Citizen of the Year

**Johnty O'Brien**

- Citizen of the Year

**Leanne Crossland**



## Mosquito Season

Reducing Mosquitoes in your Backyard is important during the wet. You can do a lot to reduce mosquito numbers around the houses by:

- Throwing out containers in the yard that hold water
- Changing water in bird baths and pet bowls frequently;
- Cleaning roof gutters on a regular basis;
- Emptying pot plant saucers every week or filling them with sand;
- Keeping swimming pools clean and chlorinated;
- Keeping ornamental ponds / fountains stocked with fish

**When conditions permit, Council will continue the fogging program.**

## Wet Season Ready!

The wet season has quickly made its way to us this year, and everyone should be getting ready! Check out these great resources to help you prepare.



- Download the **Get Ready NWQ** app to your phone or tablet.
- Check Carpentaria Shire Council's **Website** and **Facebook** page for updates - council will provide information which can include event status, road condition reports, alerts and responses such as evacuations.
- Keep up to date with our **Disaster Dashboard!**
- Review the latest **Disaster Information Handbook** on our website and the new **Resupply Information Brochure**
- Check weather warning and updates on the **Bureau of Meteorology** website.
- Act quickly on instruction and advice given by council and other authorities.
- Check with emergency authorities (such as Rural Fire and Emergency Services).
- Empty buckets and containers which could be breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- Review Council's **Road Report**, and remember - if it's Flooded, FORGET IT.

Visit

<https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/community/disaster-emergency/disaster-management-plan>



# Council Events

## March

- Clean Up Australia Day - 3 March

## April

- ANZAC Day - 25 April

## June

- K150 Celebrations - 25 June - 1 July

## July

- Outback Masters Golf (Karumba) - 15 - 16 July

## August

- Carpentaria Shire Gala Ball - 5 August

## September

- Outback by the Sea Festival - 25 - 29 September

## October

- Day for Daniel - 27 October

## November

- Remembrance Day - 11 November

## December

Youth Christmas Party



# Contact Us

Address: 29-33 Haig Street, Normanton QLD 4890

Postal: PO Box 31, Normanton QLD 4890

Email: [council@carpentaria.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@carpentaria.qld.gov.au)

Website: [www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au](http://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au)

### Normanton Office

Telephone: (07) 4745 2200

Fax: (07) 4745 1340

### Karumba Library/Service Centre

Telephone: (07) 4747 7522

Fax: (07) 4747 7566

### Visitor Information Centre

Normanton (07) 4747 8444

Karumba (07) 4745 2211

### After Hours Emergencies

Telephone: (07) 4745 2200

# Up & Coming

Throughout February, March and April, Council will be conducting inspections to confirm animals are registered and to address any mosquito breeding areas. Contact us for further information.

# Website Updates

We are currently updating the information on our website and have started with Fact Sheets!

For information on

- Cyclones
- Evacuations
- Animal Registration
- Mosquitoes
- Singapore Ants
- Abandoned Vehicles .... and More! Visit <https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/community>

# Feedback

We want to hear from you! Is there something you would like to see in next Month's newsletter? Information you would like on our website? Contact Council today!

Cr Jack Bawden - Mayor	0427 459 424
Cr Brad Hawkins – Deputy Mayor	0418 451 688
Cr Craig Young	0417 918 760
Cr Andrew Murphy	0428 451 085
Cr Amanda Scott	0417 630 333
Cr Doug Thomas	0417 747 685
Cr Ashley Gallagher	0427 453 412

Mark Crawley 0417 996 567  
Chief Executive Officer

Michael Wanrooy 0428 131 289  
Director Engineering Services

Julianne Meier 0417 337 547  
Director Corporate Services

*It's a great place to work,  
live and play*

