

Mayor's Message

DECEMBER 2023



Well once again it seems as though the year has disappeared in no time at all. So much so that everyone has knocked off for the Christmas break and I'm having to put this message on Facebook. Sorry about no letterbox drop nor supporting material but I will make it a quick one so you're not tortured too much.

With such a long extended wet holding up the start of the season, it's been a challenging year as they have been since Covid handed us a labour shortage in 2020. However, thanks to our staff and contractors putting in big efforts, most projects are now either complete or very close to being complete, meeting all the deadlines. Mother nature threw a few curve balls as she does this time of year and caused a few "water bound" moments for our crews. A big thank you should be offered to Leon Musk and his Starlink for saving their sanity during these times of inactivity due to water, mud and slush. As I write this all crews are back in town and cleaning everything, ready to crank up again next year. There was going to be some work happening up until Christmas, weather permitting to play catch up with one of the funded projects on the Iffley road, but I'd say now we are looking at an early start post-Christmas. The Karumba seawall is but I'd

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Speaking of Karumba, the good news for our keen fisherpersons is, the artificial reefs have been delivered and put in place. I believe the



co-ordinates are on our website somewhere so have a look and if you can't find them let someone know. I haven't looked so can't give any advice on where to go. Again, I'll remind tourist operators and others, that we can add to these structures, so if anyone feels like fundraising or donating to a good cause contact engineering for details on where to purchase etc.

While we're on engineering, I think there's a general consensus that the idea to have the Xmas knock off party one swing earlier this year was a great one. From my perspective it was good to touch base with everyone and listen to what is and has been going on around the traps during the year. No complaints about the Works Manager (Co-ordinator) so you must be doing something "pretty Ok" Mick. Thanks also to the

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Councillors (and Mikey) for their cooking efforts. I didn't realise how many steaks and snags you can fit in one bag, let alone what seemed like 40,000 kebabs. All complaints about the quality of workmanship in the cooking department are to be directed to the DOE because he did the chef recruiting. Santa did a great job as per usual, although I don't think he managed to scare his daughter for too long with a comment somewhere along the lines of "oh it's just you" bursting his bubble. All in all, a good night so thanks Michael, Elizabeth and everyone else in the organising mix. Job well done.

Just as a by and by, I'd like to acknowledge the effort put in by our Town crew after the mini tornado type storm, or as my grandson aptly named it the "windy whirl" we had the other day. The efficient manner in how they went about the clean-up was second to none, proving yet again that we can produce the goods when required. The storm definitely added to the pre-season tidy up but in reality was probably a good thing. However, we'd rather not have too many more like it.

As I write this, it is looking as though I and my family will actually be able to get together for Christmas, which was looking very doubtful with "Jasper" wreaking havoc on the East coast earlier on. While we can smile at our good fortune I must also reflect on the misfortune of our eastern neighbours and wish them a speedy recovery and the hope for a much better Christmas next time around. With Carpentaria dodging a bullet at the start of the year when Burke and Doomadgee copped it and now again with Jasper, it makes you wonder when the next one is your turn. The season has only just started so please be aware of all the risks associated with cyclones and tropical lows. Keep up to date and make yourself familiar with the disaster page on our website. Do

the usual and get yourself a week's worth of tinned tucker and long-life milk etc, plenty of cooking gas and fuel the old generator up, ready to go. The chance of having to live out of your pantry for longer than a week is pretty remote, but it pays to have something on hand at all times during the wet.

For the ones who don't do internet, keep your supply of radio batteries topped up and those that are the new digital breed, remember your phone or device will go flat with no power so have a backup plan of the old fashioned am/fm radio (with batteries).

Just a reminder the Christmas light judging is still happening so if you haven't yet, get them turned on at night to be in it.

On that note I'll stick to my word about keeping it short and sign off until next year, so on behalf of all the staff, my fellow councillors and myself, have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and above all keep safe and well.

Jack Bawden
Mayor