

Newsletter



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By the time this goes to print the K150 Celebrations and activities will be done and dusted for another 50 years at least. It is only Tuesday and people are rolling into town or more accurately "their town", whether they be current residents or long-term absentees who have come back to see how we are travelling. The Shire has received many compliments on how tidy both towns are presented, so Mick, Starky, Josh and the town crews can take a bow.

All the events and activities seem to be well attended which is great, but it also makes it hard for the volunteers when others don't turn up to pull their weight after committing to do so in the planning stages. The official unveiling of the pavers will be at 10.00am Friday morning (30th) so if you have paid for pavers don't forget to come along and if you haven't, feel free to come and have a sticky beak anyhow.

To those who took part in "The Today Show" last week, thank you. Thank you also to Amanda O'Malley who went through the pain of keeping temperamental producers and presenters happy with the line up of willing victims. "The Savannah

Way" blurb, organised by TTNQ was instigated by our Tourism Minister Sterling Hinchliffe after conversations while



Burketown was under water and the Southern Gulf in general was isolated due to the extended wet. I'm not sure whether it has raised our profile or not but we owe a debt of gratitude to both Minister Hinchliffe and Mark Olsen from TTNQ for making it happen. In any case I think the only mishap was taken care of by Tracey at the VIC. That cowboy's horse has no indoor etiquette apparently.

There was quite a bit of feedback provided to our finance officers during the pre-budget public meetings in Normanton and Karumba, which I think was due to the excellent layout provided on the displays. The information was easy to follow, and the staff were happy to explain and answer any questions from the public. All your comments have been put together but I'm not sure where we go from here. I guess the first step is to put them (comments) on our web page or face book and provide responses where applicable. In any case thanks goes to Julianne and her team and to the

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members of the public who made the effort to drop in and provide the feedback.

Flood damage works are progressing reasonably well, with a camp now at the Scrutton River on the Kowanyama Road. It has been quite frustrating for everyone tidying up previous years works and then coming back for another lap of current works. Unfortunately, this can't be helped and even though it looks foolish, rules and regulations must be followed to ensure we are reimbursed by QRA.

We are still waiting patiently on the Feds to give the green flag for a lot more sealing on the Burketown Road. There was also a verbal promise of funds to begin heavy formation on the Dunbar Road as well so hopefully with the loss of our former Main Roads DG, nothing happens to jeopardize that, along with the pre-planned river crossings on the same road. It is a known fact that the wheels of government turn slowly but sometimes you begin to wonder if they are turning at all. When you have all 3 levels (Federal, State and Local) involved is when the nightmare begins.

The Beach Protection Wall at Karumba is a good example of the above but finally, the design is in its final stages now so at the very least we should see the rock turning up at the Point before the wet this year. Once the design is complete we will invite Karumba residents to comment with another public meeting in the civic centre.

The Fish Aggregating Devices organised for Karumba are going to be a big hit with locals and visitors alike. Already we have had an offer from one resident wanting to contribute to obtaining more. At present we are waiting on a reply from DAF to advise if there is a limit on size and numbers etc.

With the Commercial Fishermen looking down the barrel of non-existence at the moment, Karumba's future is a little bit uncertain. One can only hope that the proper consultation does take place before the decisions are made. My question (as a dumbo) is basically, what happens to the fish and product that is "saved" by shutting down a sustainable fishery? Do we just open the grounds for South East Asia to rape and pillage while we eat imported product or does the government do another lease arrangement as they did with Darwin Harbour? I must be catching the "conspiracy bug" that's running rife.

Until next time keep safe and remember your Mayor and Councillors are always on duty so feel free to call and/or vent to us at any time.

Jack Bawden

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TODAY SHOW VISIT TO KARUMBA AND NORMANTON

We're thrilled to report that the Today Show recently visited Karumba and Normanton as part of our regional marketing campaign. The live weather crosses generated tremendous excitement and drew a great turnout from locals and visitors.

This incredible opportunity allowed us to highlight the attractions our region has to offer, while sending a strong message that we are open and eager to welcome visitors. The support and enthusiasm from our community made the event truly memorable.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed their time and efforts to ensure the success of the Today Show's visit. Your dedication has played a vital role in putting our Gulf region in the spotlight and showcasing the very best we have to offer.



ANNUAL BUDGET PREPARATION 2023/2024 UPDATE

We are pleased to inform you that the Budget for the upcoming financial year has been finalised. As part of our commitment to transparency and community engagement, we conducted community consultations in Normanton and Karumba.

Our staff dedicated three days at the Shire Hall in Normanton and two days at the Civic Centre in Karumba, from 8am to 7pm, to provide an opportunity for residents to view and comment on the proposed developments, Draft Capital Budget for 2023/2024, rate increases, water methodology, and other related information.

We are delighted to share that over 70 attendees, visited the displays in both towns. The community expressed positivity about the opportunity to review the budget before its adoption and provide their valuable comments.

It has been determined that there are no significant matters arising from the consultation that would necessitate any budgetary changes.

We appreciate the active participation and feedback from our community throughout this process. Your input has been invaluable in shaping the finalisation of the budget for the upcoming year.



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NEW LOCAL HOUSING ACTION PLAN

Carpentaria Shire Council has adopted a Local Housing Action Plan (LHAP) to tackle the housing challenges facing our community. The plan was developed through a joint initiative involving the Queensland Government and the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC).

In developing the LHAP, Council looked at a range of factors impacting housing in our region to assess the community's current and future housing needs. By understanding our housing needs, we can identify opportunities and prioritise actions to respond to immediate, emerging, and longer-term housing challenges in our region. The LHAP is a living document and will continue to evolve as actions are progressed and priorities shift.

The first meeting of the Carpentaria Shire Council Local Housing Action Plan Advisory Committee was on Thursday the 8th June 2023 at the Council Boardroom and via Teams.

The meeting was chaired by Mayor Jack with Crs. Hawkins, Scott and Thomas attending as Council representatives with CEO Mark Crawley, representatives from Q-Build and Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and representatives from the local building and construction industry were also in attendance.

Of the 22 member Councils of the WQAC, the Carpentaria Shire was the first to adopt its LHAP and is now the first Council to hold its Advisory Committee Meeting.

Further meetings will be scheduled monthly initially to progress the actions in the Plan. Copies of the Plan are available on the Council Website.



ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mayor Jack, Deputy Mayor Bradley and CEO Mark were in Canberra from the 13th - 16th of June attending the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly continuing the Advocacy work on behalf of our communities.



We submitted a nomination in the National Awards for Local Government - Federal Awards under the 'Indigenous Recognition' category. The nomination showcased the work done on the CHAS, the Psychological Health, Safety and Wellbeing of staff, Workforce Strategy and Workforce Plan, and our 'One Team' with our new uniform. The winners were announced at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly. While we did not secure a placement in the awards, we are proud of the exceptional work we showcased and the dedication of our team.



ROC ASSEMBLY - 2024 UPDATE

In July 2024, Karumba and Carpentaria Shire Council will have the honor of hosting the prestigious ROC (Regional Organisation of Councils) Assembly, which will gather over 40 delegates. The Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre has been selected as the venue for this significant event. To facilitate event planning, a Draft Program has been shared with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

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PROJECTS

ARMSTRONG CREEK REALIGNMENT PROJECT

Armstrong Creek crossing is located on the Normanton to Burketown Road which forms part of the Savannah Way (Highway 1) and is approximately 47km from Normanton.

The old causeway design was narrow and required drivers to give way. As the causeway was built low to the existing creek bed, it was constantly underwater during floods, resulting in extended road closures and creating mayhem to travelers driving between Normanton and Burketown communities.



Existing Causeway



Armstrong Creek under flood - March 2023

Upgrade progress update:

- Culverts have been installed and road has been widened
- New road has been raised roughly 900mm higher than existing causeway
- Project is on track and expected to be completed in early July



Culverts and approaches under construction



Culverts installed. Right hand side of image shows old road



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PROJECTS

LEICHHARDT RIVER CROSSING

- Sand removal process is making excellent headway. This should be fully opened to all traffic by mid-July with some restoration works to be completed at a later date.
- Works is under traffic control during the day



Excavations at the Leichhardt River

CORDUROY

- The first coat of bitumen went down in mid-June
- Existing pavement was cement stabilised by Council crews
- Repairs have been made to badly damaged shoulders



Performing final trim works on the Corduroy Crossing

OTHER ROAD MAINTENANCE

Patch work road repairs underway for road to Cloncurry (89A).



Damaged road



REEF INITIATIVE UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the site selection process for the Reef Project has been successfully completed. Thanks to the collaboration with the Northern Prawn Fishery, we have secured a suitable offshore location. The structures have arrived and we are looking at full deployment mid July.

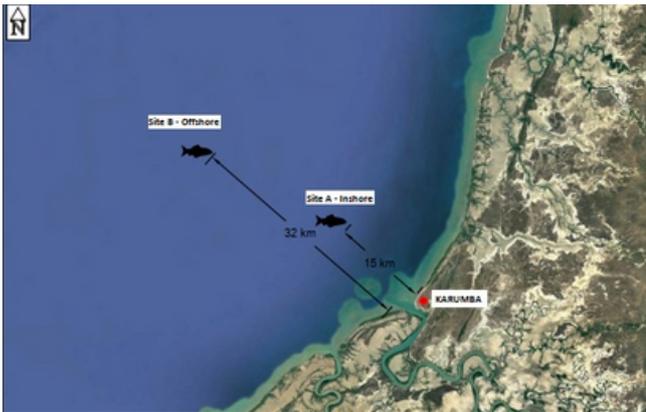
To mark the presence of the modules, a distinct yellow buoy known as a FAD (Fish Aggregating Device) will be placed at the offshore site.

The final two sites for the project have been identified as follows:

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- The inshore site is situated approximately 8 nm/15kms offshore from the Boat ramp at Karumba. It has an average depth of 5-6 meters at LAT (Lowest Astronomical Tide).
- The offshore site is located approximately 18 nm/32kms offshore and has an average depth of 10-12 meters at LAT.



Karumba Pyramid Habitat Reef Modules

CEMETERY ROTUNDA

Construction on the Normanton cemetery rotunda is now complete. The rotunda offers a serene seating area for visitors.



NEW FOOTPATH

A new footpath has been constructed between Norman Country Snacks and Supplies and Normanton Pharmacy on Brown Street, enhancing accessibility for pedestrians.



RAMP INSTALLATION

Gidgee Healing will have two disabled access ramps installed, one outside Brown Street and another outside Thompson Street. The installation of these ramps will preserve the historic stone curbing, as they will be placed over it rather than cutting into it.

TRACTOR SLASHING PROGRAM

The Road Slashing Program is nearing its completion. See below list of areas completed:

- Normanton to boundary Cloncurry Road
- Normanton to Karumba
- Karumba area
- Normanton Croydon Road

Additionally, the slashing of the sealed sections on Normanton Burketown Road will be completed by mid-July.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

July

- Outback Masters Golf Karumba
15th to 16th July
- Bring on Spring Festival
22nd July

August

- Carpentaria Shire Gala Ball
5th August

MEETING DATES FOR JULY

The Council's Ordinary Meeting for July 2023 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday the 19th, starting at 9:00am in the Council's Boardroom located at Haig Street, Normanton.



Wednesday 19th July

Thursday 20th July

COUNCIL POSITION VACANT

- Educators & Assistant Educators
Normanton Child Care Centre
- Library Officer
Normanton
- Tour Guide, VIC & Cafe Attendants
Les Wilson Barramundi Centre, Karumba
- Trades Assistant
Normanton
- Visitor Information Centre Attendant
Normanton

For full details and to view position descriptions, please visit our website.

CONTACT US

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Website: 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

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 Chief Executive Officer	0417 996 567
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Michael Wanrooy Director Engineering Services	0428 131 289
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Julianne Meier Director Corporate Services	0417 337 547
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