

# CARPENTARIA SHIRE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

**January Edition**



Carpentaria Shire Council

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# Message from the Mayor

Our grants/media girl is on my case again and I've realised just how quickly time gets away on you. No wonder we missed months time after time without letting you know what was happening. Rest assured that isn't going to happen with Jess on the job.

Australia Day went well in Karumba, although the weather made it a bit interesting. A lightning strike during the flag raising tested the courage of our Karumba cop but he passed the test. Thanks Jesse and next time listen to the mayor and "just hurry up". Thanks also to our very own Bob Dylan muso Jonesey, all the volunteer helpers and CSC staff and Councillors for making it happen.

Of course congratulations to all the nominees and winners. To be nominated is recognition of your efforts for the past 12 months, which means you are making a difference and the community appreciates this. Naturally winning is just that little bit sweeter so congratulations and well deserved.

A special thanks and mention goes to our 2020 Australian Ambassador, Vanessa Fowler from the Alison Baden-Clay Foundation. It was quite an ordeal for Vanessa and her husband Bradley to get here for the day with the 26th falling on a Sunday, as you can imagine, but they stuck with it and with the help of their very closely knit family at home made it happen. The passion and courage of this lady becomes very evident once you understand just how close they all are as a "family" and realise the pain and suffering they go through from losing her sister Alison is a constant factor in their lives now. On a bright note they have promised to return with the kids and finish what we started with our whirlwind tour of Carpentaria. If you read this Brad and Vanessa "don't forget". We will be waiting.

I'm sure that there will be a works report somewhere in this edition but while the weather is trying to make up its mind to rain or not we are going to get the annoying unfinished jobs in the Shire completed before the construction season begins again. In Karumba the wallaby fencing at Kath Alexander Park and in Normanton the N150 pavers at the Shire Hall are priorities.

There are a heap of other projects in the pipeline such as the toilets at the town boat ramp with a defibrillator mounted on it in Karumba, ongoing footpath construction and maintenance in both towns, wheel chair access in both towns and the list goes on.

Some other good news is the weir. After years of arguing and being ignored the proof of putting the water back into the river is looking at us now and what a sight for sore eyes. I did hear that Councillor Wells' chopper has a smiley face on it every time he flies over for a look but that could be a rumour too.

Thanks to our councillors, DOE, CEO and Erscon John for carrying the baton during the “negotiations”. There is still work to be done but we can rest easy now that it is safe and secure.

It was great to see a good roll up to the Vendor Panel presentations in Normanton and Karumba over the last couple of days. I actually went along to see for myself how it works and was suitably impressed. Full marks to our team (Justin and Nicole mainly) for the visionary insight to make Carpentaria the hub for services in the Gulf. What we need now is for all our businesses in the Shire to get registered and connected into the system. You can register any time and then you are notified by email if any tenders or quotes are coming up. Not to mention tradies being easily found by any staff member whether new to the area or not.

Just as a point of interest that makes us proud as a Council, is the fact that that our “local spend” is somewhere between 50 and 60% while the norm in Qld is around 30%. If you look you will find the dollar amount in here somewhere. This is a team effort between the boardroom and staff and proof that by working together you can kick good goals. As they say there is no “I” in team so well done all.

I feel as though I owe an explanation for my ugly dial appearing from time to time in the papers and our website. It is about acknowledging the assistance we have been getting from agencies such as QRA. These guys have been exceptional over the last 12 months and we recognise that. I had a lot of help from the yard today so thanks fellas and don't forget me when you're looking for a manager with your movie contracts.

On that note I'll sign off until next month

Keep safe  
Jack Bawden

## Long Service Awards

20 years of Service



10 years of Service





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# Mayor Inspects New Cell Tower

Carpentaria Shire Mayor Jack Bawden has personally made the climb to inspect the new Critters Camp Small Cell Tower.

The new cell tower will increase communication proficiencies within Critters Camp during disaster events, allowing for better coordination during re-supply efforts.

With \$135,150 being injected into the project by the 100 per cent Queensland Government funded Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF), the project will allow the shire to be in a better position during disaster events.

Critters Camp is the central point during disaster events to allow trucks to be able to communicate with the disaster committee to ensure supplies are maintained during flooding, when roads are not accessible to the shire.

The installation of the tower is the first phase in ensuring Carpentaria can communicate within flooding boundaries, allowing between 100m-150m of communication capability. Future projects will look to expand this capacity to an 800m radius, allowing for greater functionality during wet season.

The QDRF supports local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations to deliver mitigation and resilience projects, that will better protect Queensland communities from future disasters.



# Energy Gets a Boost

Carpentaria Shire Council (CSC) engaged the services of The Energy Project (TEP) to investigate energy reduction opportunities at priority facilities. This work included an assessment of the feasibility, capital investment, operational savings and payback for a wide range of energy and cost reduction options and solar photovoltaic (PV) opportunities.

The report has recommended an initial implementation of solar units at 9 sites throughout the Shire. Council has endorsed this recommendation and has commenced in developing a tender which is scheduled to be released in March 2020. This initiative has an estimated useful life of 20 years, with a payback period of 4.7 years, providing significant long term cost savings to Council and the Community. What a great outcome for our Shire!

## Karumba Footpath gets a Re-Furb

Council spent \$140,000 on a new footpath spreading from the Karumba Sports Centre to Carron Street. The project extended the existing footpath network to cater for school children and pedestrians. This footpath provides greater safety for Karumba residents and tourists taking them away from the Karumba Development Road onto a safe point of access.



**Cr Jack Bawden - Mayor**

0429 960 319

**Cr Craig Young - Deputy Mayor**

0417 918 760

**Cr Andrew Murphy**

0428 451 085

**Cr Ashley Gallagher**

0427 453 412

**Cr Bradley Hawkins**

0418 451 688

**Cr Peter Wells**

0427 152 136

**Cr John Beard - 0488 050 301**

# Council Receives Additional Disaster Recovery Funding

Council has received \$1,000,000 from the Commonwealth Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Category D Funding for the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough. The Commonwealth has advised that Council may use this funding on priorities they deem most urgent. Council used a proportion of these funds to assist properties with Carcass Disposal post the Monsoon event. Council endorsed their support to undertake the following additional projects under the funding provided which will commence immediately.



**Australian Government**

<b>Scope</b>	<b>Description</b>
Clean-up and removal of debris at barge ramp	Removal of accumulation of debris at current barge location related to the Monsoon Trough event.
Normanton Resupply Barge Channel	Excavation and installation of a barge channel accessing downstream of the Norman River Bridge to assist with resupply operations of Karumba and the Gulf Region.
Fencing and guideposts	Install fencing and a series of guideposts to the barge resupply area.





# 2019 Christmas Light Winners



# Australia Day Award Winners

**Junior Sportsperson**  
**Neeve Gallagher**



**Senior Sportsperson**  
**Amanda Scott**



**Arts/Cultural Award**  
**Three Tribes Art Gallery**



**Sports Administrator of the Year**  
**Lisa Mahjlovic**



**Mayors Award**  
**Katrina Rapson**



**Committee of the Year**  
**Gulf Muddies Junior Rugby League**



**Volunteer of the Year**  
**Bevan Owens**



**Young Citizen of The Year  
Wade Casey**



**\*Accepted by Katrina Rapson**

**Citizen of the Year  
Leeanne Crossland**



**\*Accepted by Warwick Crossland Jr**

**Thanks to our Ambassador  
Vanessa Fowler**



**Council would like to Congratulate all of our Nominees  
And Award Winners**

# Rates Notices Coming Soon

Carpentaria Shire Council's half yearly rate notices (for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020-30<sup>th</sup> June 2020) are due to be issued on 24 February 2020. If your property has used more than half it's water allocation then you should also receive a courtesy "Excess Water Consumption" warning letter.

For more information contact Council on (07) 4745 2200.

## Community Services Funding

Carpentaria Shire Council contributed a total of \$643 in-kind support to local community groups in January 2020.

## Council's Local Spend Report

<b>Month</b>	<b>Total Local Spend</b>	<b>Local Spend Percentage</b>
January 2020	\$646,479.63	20%





# Council's Capital Expenditure July 2019 - January 2020

Items	Expenditure 1 July 2019 - 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	% Funded through Grants	% Funded through Council
<b>Buildings</b>	\$65,189	99%	1%
<b>Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	\$1,335,487	0%	100%
<b>Road &amp; Bridges</b>	\$3,827,330	95%	5%
<b>Water</b>	\$1,178,027	0%	100%
<b>Sewerage</b>	\$7,085	0%	100%
<b>Other Structures</b>	\$917,105	80%	20%
<b>Housing</b>	\$162,105	100%	0%

## Summary of Capital Expenditure

<b>Council Funded Capital</b>	\$2,887,348.67
<b>Grant Funded Capital</b>	\$4,604,980.72

# Community News

Carpentaria Shire Council's community groups received four successful grants in the most recently announced Community Gambling Fund. The Normanton Bowls Club, Karumba Recreation Club, Gulf Junior Rugby League and Normanton Rugby League received in excess of \$100,000 in total funding. This is a great outcome for our local community groups.

If you are interested in applying for a grant and require assistance please get in contact with our Community Grants Officer Jess Hancock 4745 2200.



## Tourism Takes a Spike

The new Barra Centre is continuing to impress with the tourism season having a 500% increase in visitors in 2019 compared to the 2018 low season. Merchandise sales have been another positive contribution to the new centre with these continuing to rise over time.



# Council's Community Events

## Summer Disco

What a great night out for the kids at our summer disco. Thanks to the Australian and Queensland Governments, thriving communities grant which went in to purchasing our new disco lights and smoke bubble machine. What a great way to start off the 2020 year!



Australian Government



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## Flipside Circus Skills

The Normanton Arts Council Group kindly funded this amazing circus fun for the kids of the gulf. The workshops were held down at the Normanton Sports Centre from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.



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*The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Carpentaria Shire Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.*

# Well-Being Tips



## Just BREATH...

Want to feel calmer, clearer and more focused? The answer could be as simple as Breathing.

Breathing is one of the functions of the body which happens on auto-pilot, but it can also be controlled consciously to regulate our energy.

In times of stress, the body tightens and energy is shifted to our primary survival systems. This fight/flight response prepares the body to literally flee or stay and fight. Our heart rate and blood pressure go up. Our body tries to get as much oxygen as possible so we breathe more rapidly. Our abdomen tightens and muscles around the upper chest work harder to get more air into the upper parts of the body.

1. Take a minute to focus on your breathing.
2. Inhale for six seconds
3. Exhale for six seconds
4. Repeat several times
5. Practice regularly

It's that simple - this technique is a bare bones awareness of the breath moving in and the breath moving out; it takes next to no effort, just a shift in attention. The beauty of this technique is that it can be done anywhere, with no special equipment required. Give it a go!!



# In the Words of the Infamous Slim Dusty

## **Looking Forward Looking Back**

*I've come a long way down the track...*

*Got a long way left to go...*

*Making songs, from what I know...*



Looking back is important because it gives us insight into our lives and provides us with valuable life lessons for our future. As Slim Dusty reminds us in his classic song “*Looking Forward Looking Back*” is a practice that can help build connection, meaning and understanding in our life journey.

BUT spending too much time thinking or worrying about the past can be problematic. It can distract us from what’s important. We can get stuck in ‘could have’ / ‘should have’ scenarios. It can cause regret, manifesting itself in feelings of low self-esteem & lack of confidence. It can make it difficult to move forward to make decisions, for fear of making a mistake.

## **How do we overcome the past?**



- Acknowledge that we have experienced something challenging;
- Take notice – be in the here & now, embrace nature;
- Connect with others – attend community events;
- Show kindness – bring joy to other’s lives, laugh & joke;
- Be healthy – be active, eat well & sleep well;
- Keep learning – seek out new things.

*If you would like information on Mental Health Services within your community for yourself, your friend, family or staff please call Denise Price, Registered Psychologist, Qld Health TRAIC Program, 0472 821 255 or email [denise.price@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:denise.price@health.qld.gov.au)*

## **Keep an Eye Out**

Council is committed to assisting Local Businesses and Community Groups within Carpentaria Shire recover from Disaster Events and in particular, the 2019 Monsoonal Event. Over the next few weeks, Council will be releasing a Disaster Recovery Assessment where details provided by your Organisation will be used to prepare a Local Business Directory and ensure future recovery planning and initiatives are community led.

If you have any questions, please contact Carpentaria’s Recovery Officer, Crystal Ploenges on 07 4745 2200 or 0436 851 752.

# Meeting Dates for March 2020

The Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on the 18th and 19th March 2020 commencing at 9am, at the Normanton Shire Council Building.

The Mayor and Councilors will be in attendance and available for your questions, comments or any business concerning Council matters that you may wish to have discussed.

All members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Items to be considered at a Council Meeting must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer no later than the Tuesday of the week prior to the meeting

*\*Please note that Council will be in Caretaker period during this time so there will be certain restrictions in place.*



© Crystal Ploenges

**With all the flooding and wet weather  
Council would like to remind all residents  
to be safe and remember if its flooded  
forget it!**