

# Newsletter

CARPENTARIA SHIRE COUNCIL

SEP 25



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

This month has been quite tame and domesticated really with pretty much all works progressing along as they should be. Except for labour shortages. The grand finale of events with the “Outback by the Sea” now done and dusted for another year had our events team finishing on a great note. The other very important event in our calendars every year is the Gulf Football Cluster, which unfortunately didn’t go our way this time around. Bob Katter made an appearance though so whether you love him or hate him you have to give him due credit for his knack of showing up at the right time. The spectators enjoyed Bob’s presence at least and there is always next year for the Stingers.

Some of us (Councillors and Staff) took a drive up to the Mitchell River the other day and had a look at the “bridge to nowhere” (quote from someone with no vision). I think everyone was greatly impressed with the progress being made even though it’s quite obvious that completion is going to be next year (hopefully). Once its finished and we progressively get more seal on 89b it (the bridge) is going to be a game changer in opening up the gulf. Freight from Brisbane to Cape York will have huge cuts in time and expenses, not to mention the increase in tourist numbers who are already venturing more and more

that way from places such as Cairns and Townsville. All this leads to Normanton and Karumba Port being freight hubs as well as tourist destinations.



It was great to meet the guys from QRA at the Mitchell River crossing and have a good conversation around combining funding packages and getting more bang for the buck. The other topic of conversation was about the old “one size fits all” mentality that is prevalent in Brisbane. Andrew Abbott (General Manager of QRA) is going to be a great advocate for judging each individual council on their own merit which will mean that councils doing the right thing won’t be punished or disadvantaged by the wrongs of others. This hasn’t been the case until now with blanket decisions being made having minimal effects on large councils but having terrible consequences to the likes of Carpentaria where our locals rely on road construction to make a living.

Apart from the bridge we also took a quick drive



along the Kowanyama Road to look at the repetitive erosion damage from flood waters. Maybe, in the future, we will see some betterment projects with bitumen as part of the equation. This would be good news for the Kowanyama residents as well as a god send for cattle transports and the wellbeing of station workers and livestock.

Those who had not been up north for a long time were blown away by the amount of bitumen now on the road. There are still bad sections but slowly and surely the little bites are adding up to big bites. Of course, there are plenty of gripes still out there, but the old timers realize how much things have improved over the last few years. The latest addition of a proper crossing over Clarke Creek will definitely put a smile on the cattle carters. Designs have been completed for Ti Tree Creek crossing but it will be a future project.

Don't forget to have a look at the School Dam bird hides and shelters as they look really nice, and practical as well. Once everything is completed and looking smicko, we will have an opening and maybe cook a snag or three.

The Early Explorers project is going well. Claire Brennan from Northern History Service visited us the other day and we were all impressed with the amount of factual data she has collected. Our two local experts corrected where necessary and she has gone away to finalize the draft into a very good business case to fund the display and info section at Burns Philp. One of the glaring facts that stood out was the dates of these expeditions. A lot of them were done in the lead up to, and during the wet months up here, which really is unbelievable when you consider that even today, we still can't travel during these times, unless of course we take the top road in a plane or chopper.

Remember to keep a bit of time aside for the 29<sup>th</sup> of October to attend the opening of the new hospital. I

have it on good authority that the Qld Governor will be the one cutting the ribbon which will be a good thing considering her and her husband's efforts and persistence during Covid. Sean (CEO) from NWHHS is organizing a time capsule to go in the ground on the day so if you want to write something or have a photo, newspaper cutting or whatever bring it along to go in. If NWHHS are successful in their bid for some Federal funding, we could see about 4 single units going in on the old hospital site sooner rather than later as well, so fingers crossed for them.

That's probably enough of my ramblings for this newsletter so I'll close it off now.

Stay safe

Jack Bawden

## CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

The Carpentaria Shire was honoured to welcome four new citizens at an Australian Citizenship Ceremony. Congratulations to Annie Tully, Kurt Blundell, Sam Nalamothu and Francis Borell.



## POOLS OPEN FOR THE SEASON

With the weather heating up, the Normanton and Karumba pools are officially open for the season.

Visitors to the Normanton pool will also notice some exciting upgrades, including a brand-new kiosk and modern amenities block.





## ON-SITE WITH QRA MITCHELL RIVER PROJECT

The Mayor, Councillors, Director of Engineering, CEO and representatives of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority met on site at the Mitchell River bridge project this month to meet with the team delivering the project and discuss project progress. The \$80m project is set to be completed by mid-late 2026.



## COUNCIL MEETS WITH SELECTABILITY ON REGIONAL SERVICES

The Mayor, Councillors and CEO met with the executive team from Selectability this month to discuss the redevelopment of The Gulflander Motel and the expansion of services provided by Selectability in the region.

The discussion also included the Sentinel Property Group who are looking at accommodation solutions in Normanton. The Gulflander has now reopened to visitors – with 14 rooms open to accommodate visitors to region.



## STRONGER HOMES GRANT

It's time to improve your home's flood resilience.

Get up to \$10,000 through the Stronger Homes Grant to raise or replace items around your home.

Raise essential services, like your electrical switchboard and power points. Or replace damaged floors and walls with resilient materials that will better withstand the next flood.

Check if you're eligible for a Stronger Homes Grant:

- Your home was inundated by flooding during the 29 January – 28 February 2025 North and Far North Queensland floods
- You are the homeowner or property owner
- Your home is in one of the eligible local government areas in North and Far North Queensland.

Check your eligibility and apply:  
[qld.gov.au/strongerhomesgrant](http://qld.gov.au/strongerhomesgrant)

The Stronger Homes Grant is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



**Stronger Homes Grant**

**Up to \$10,000 for home resilience works**

Practical solutions to improve your home's flood resilience

**Learn more about the Stronger Homes Grant**

If your home was inundated by flooding during the 29 January to 28 February 2025 North and Far North Queensland floods, you may be eligible for up to \$10,000 to improve your home's flood resilience. Choose from 10 practical strategies, like raising services or replacing damaged floors and walls with resilient materials. Improving your home's flood resilience will make it easier to recover from future flooding. Find out if you're eligible today.

The Stronger Homes Grant is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Website: [www.qld.gov.au/strongerhomesgrant](http://www.qld.gov.au/strongerhomesgrant) | Email: [strongerhomesgrant@housing.qld.gov.au](mailto:strongerhomesgrant@housing.qld.gov.au)  
Phone: (07) 3007 4485 (option 4) | Technical guidance: [www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-homes](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-homes)

Australian Government | Queensland Government

## REMINDER FOR GYM MEMBERS

Council would like to remind all gym members to please pick up after yourselves and help keep the gym space clean and tidy. A shared effort ensures the facilities remain safe, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

## KARUMBA COUNCIL OFFICE

The Council office at the Karumba Library is here for your convenience. Just a reminder at the Karumba Library you can take care of things like:

- Paying rates and other Council payments
- Lodging Council forms
- Printing services
- Accessing other Council services

Drop in during library hours and we will be happy to help.

### Opening Hours

9:00am to 1:00pm Monday to Friday.



## REMINDER: STICK TO THE WATERING SCHEDULE

We are on Level 1 Water Conservation Measures to help manage our community's water supply. These measures are permanent.

Please remember to use water wisely, it's a precious resource. See below allocated watering times. Only water on approved watering days and times.

These restrictions are in place for a reason, to make sure we all have water when we need it. Following the schedule isn't optional, it's essential.

### NORMANTON

Allowed on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

### KARUMBA

Allowed on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

\*Sprinklers are permitted for use four days per week in each town, during the hours of 6am to 9am and 6pm to 9pm.

\*Handheld hoses are limited to a maximum of 30 minutes daily, and this activity should take place between 6pm and 8pm.



## WASTE FACILITIES SORT YOUR LOAD

Council reminds residents to please sort your load before arriving at the dump. This helps ensure waste is placed in the correct areas, making disposal safer, easier, and more cost-effective for the whole community.

- ✓ Clearly marked areas are provided for green waste, metals, general rubbish and more
- ✓ Sorting before you arrive makes unloading quicker and smoother
- ✗ Placing items in the wrong area increases costs and creates extra work for staff

Please note, cameras with number plate detection are in operation.



## 1080 BAITING

The 1080 Baiting Program Round 2 (final round for 2025) will commence in mid-September and will run for about six weeks to late October 2025. Some cattle stations that didn't participate in Round 1 and will participate in Round 2.

## NORMANTON LIBRARY BOOK WEEK

The Normanton Library celebrated Book Week in August, with this year's theme being Adventure and what better way to celebrate than with a Pirate theme! The Prep, Year One, and Year Two classes from Gulf Christian College also joined the pirate treasure hunt. We cannot wait to bring you more themed activities at the library in the near future.

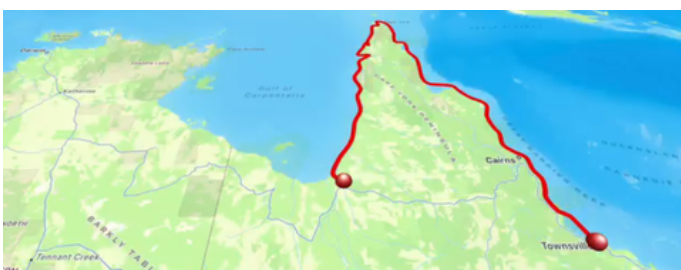


## COAST TO CARPENTARIA CHARITY CHALLENGE

Adventure enthusiast Jamie Vogler is taking on an epic solo boating trip next month, from Townsville to Normanton!

Along the way, Jamie will showcase the people and places of remote North and Far North Queensland, while raising funds and awareness for the Cowboys Community Foundation.

We'll keep you updated on the journey and let you know when Jamie arrives in Normanton!



## COMMUNITY MEETING KARUMBA

Carpentaria Shire Council invites Karumba residents to a community meeting to be held in the Civic Centre on **Wednesday 15 October 2025**, commencing at 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

The purpose of the community consultation is to discuss Karumba specific issues.

Community members are encouraged to submit topics they would like addressed or responses provided from Council to [ceo@carpentaria.qld.gov.au](mailto:ceo@carpentaria.qld.gov.au) prior to the meeting, with topic submissions **closing on Wednesday 8 October 2025 at 12 noon**.



## COMMUNITY MEETING NORMANTON

Carpentaria Shire Council invites Normanton residents to a community meeting to be held in the Shire Hall on **Thursday 16 October 2025**, commencing at 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

The purpose of the community consultation is to discuss Normanton specific issues.

Community members are encouraged to submit topics they would like addressed or responses provided from Council to [ceo@carpentaria.qld.gov.au](mailto:ceo@carpentaria.qld.gov.au) prior to the meeting, with topic submissions **closing on Wednesday 8 October 2025 at 12 noon**.



## NORMANTON CHILD CARE CENTRE

What have we been up to?

We are very excited to welcome two new educators to the team, Taylah and Bindi. Both educators have a great passion for the education and care of children and we look forward to seeing them both progress in the industry.



The children have been busy sharing their fantastic and innovative ideas to how we can bring improvements at the Centre as we work together to review our service philosophy. Georgia has suggested that we get a pony! While this would be awesome, we might settle for a Centre pet that is a bit smaller. Does anyone have any guppies or goldfish? We were thinking of getting a fish tank up and running!

"I love to lift up (the pole covers) and find the frogs living there. They live underground; they are cold" Layla shares her favourite thing about daycare. We like to see the green tree frogs hiding in the cooler parts of the yard as we learn to be quiet and gentle with our animal friends.



We also celebrated Educators Day. This was a great opportunity to show our appreciation for the Educators dedication to providing the best education and care for the children of our community. Thank you to all the families for your lovely letters of appreciation, it helped to make our morning tea quite special.

Taleesha, our Educational Leader, has also been busy reviewing the Centres educational programs and practices to enrich the current documentation process. We have also learnt about schemas in early childhood! What are schemas you ask? Well schemas describe and provide understanding to children's behaviour as they begin to understand the world around them. It helps us to understand why children do the things they do. Child throwing everything? The child is exploring the trajectory schema, where children are observing movement of objects and themselves. Try providing activities like bubble play where children observe movement of objects and are interacting by chasing the bubbles. Or try offering wet sponges to throw at a target!





## OUTBACK BY THE SEA FESTIVAL

What a fantastic weekend it was at this year's Outback by the Sea Festival, held from 12 - 15 September.

The celebrations kicked off on Friday night with the Outback by the Sea Film Festival, where hundreds of people enjoyed screenings of Australia's latest short films, including entries from our very own Normanton State School students. Markets and children's face painting were also held beforehand.



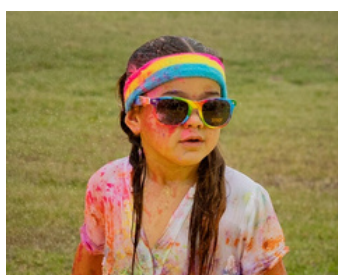


## OUTBACK BY THE SEA FESTIVAL

The fun continued on Saturday with a Paint by Numbers event held at the Normanton Library.



Karumba State School hosted a Colour and Slime Fun Run, which proved to be a huge hit.



Saturday night featured the much-anticipated Festival Concert, with live performances from The Buckleys, Wesley Dean, and Caitlyn Shadbolt. It was a beautiful evening of music and family entertainment. A big thank you to Wrens Construction, Sibanye Stillwater, and Western Queensland Consulting Engineers for proudly sponsoring the event.





## OUTBACK BY THE SEA FESTIVAL



On Sunday, the Film Makers Workshop was held at the Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre, led by actors and directors Steve Bastoni, Carla Bonner, Terry Serio, and Megan Pascoe. With a focus on “telling our own stories” and encouraging creativity, the workshop inspired many budding film enthusiasts. Now in its second year, it’s quickly becoming a much-loved addition to the festival program.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 30 SEPTEMBER

School Holiday Art and Craft  
Normanton Library  
10am - 12pm

### 2 OCTOBER

School Holiday Art and Craft  
Normanton Library  
10am - 12pm

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea  
Hosted by Gidgee  
Normanton Shire Hall  
10am

### 7 OCTOBER (*Seniors Month Activities*)

Morning Tea and Craft  
Make yourself a Crystal Suncatcher  
Normanton Library  
10am - 12pm  
*To secure your spot call 07 4747 2200 or email  
ntnlib@carpentaria.qld.gov.au*

### 15 OCTOBER

Karumba Community Meeting  
Civic Centre  
5:30pm - 7pm

### 16 OCTOBER

Normanton Community Meeting  
Normanton Shire Hall  
5:30pm - 7pm

### 18 OCTOBER (*Seniors Month Activities*)

Seniors Barefoot Bowls and Darts  
Normanton Bowls Club  
4pm

### 24 OCTOBER (*Seniors Month Activities*)

Seniors Morning Tea  
Emergency Preparedness RFDS  
Normanton VIC/Library  
10am - 12pm  
*(Please refer to poster at back of newsletter)*

### 31 OCTOBER

Karumba Halloween Disco  
Karumba Civic Centre  
6pm - 8pm

Normanton Halloween Disco  
Normanton Sports Centre  
6:30pm - 9:30pm  
*(Please refer to posters at back of newsletter)*

Day for Daniel  
*Event information to be confirmed*

### 1 NOVEMBER (*Seniors Month Activities*)

Design Your Own Fascinator or Hat  
Normanton Library  
10am - 12pm

### 11 NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day  
Normanton Cenotaph & Sunderland Park Karumba  
10:45am

### 13 NOVEMBER

Seniors Christmas Luncheon  
*Event information to be confirmed*

### 22 NOVEMBER

Santa Photos  
*Event information to be confirmed*

### DECEMBER

Christmas Lights Competition  
*Dates to be confirmed*



## PROJECT UPDATES

### MITCHELL RIVER BRIDGE



*First headstock installed*



*Two headstocks installed*



*Five headstocks installed*



*Loading the headstock to the top of the steel piles*



## PROJECT UPDATES

### SEALING WORKS ON 89B



*Sealing Works on 89B Betterment Package 1*



*Completing the last stabilisation works on 89B*

### CLARK CREEK



*Forming up headwall and batters at Clark Creek*



*Working on the concrete batter protection*

## PROJECT UPDATES

### NEW FOOTPATH



*New Footpath, Yappar Street Karumba*

## OCTOBER MEETING DATE

The Council's Ordinary Meeting for October 2025 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00am at the Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre, Karumba.

To have a matter considered at the meeting, items must be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer by Tuesday of the week prior to the meeting.



Wednesday, 15th October



## 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

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Cr Jack Bawden - Mayor         | 0427 459 424 |
| Cr Brad Hawkins – Deputy Mayor | 0418 451 688 |
| Cr Andrew Murphy               | 0428 451 085 |
| Cr Cherie Schafer              | 0448 324 911 |
| Cr Glenn Smerdon               | 0429 451 784 |
| Cr John O'Brien                | 0427 186 939 |
| Cr Leslie Henry                | 0407 600 024 |

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Anne Andrews<br>Chief Executive Officer | 0417 306 412 |
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|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Michael Wanrooy<br>Director Engineering Services | 0428 131 289 |
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| Andrew Shaw<br>Chief Operations Officer | 0417 625 113 |
|---|--------------|

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Amanda Farraway<br>Executive Manager Community<br>Development and Tourism | 0491 384 890 |
|---|--------------|

# CALLING ALL *Seniors* Normanton

07

OCTOBER

**MORNING TEA & CRAFT  
MAKE A CRYSTAL SUNCATCHER**

Normanton Library  
10AM – 12PM

18

OCTOBER

**SENIORS BAREFOOT BOWLS AND DARTS**

Normanton Bowls Club  
4PM

24

OCTOBER

**SENIORS MORNING TEA**

Emergency Preparedness Conversation RFDS  
Normanton VIC/Library  
10AM – 12PM

1

NOVEMBER

**MORNING TEA & DESIGN YOUR OWN  
FASCINATOR OR HAT**

Normanton Library  
10AM – 12PM

For more information, please  
call 07 4745 2200.



# **Seniors Morning Tea Emergency Preparedness**

**Join us and the RFDS in a  
conversation on emergency preparedness.**

## **What we know...**

**Emergency preparedness is a process, not a one-time event.**

**Planning starts with you – you are the expert in your life.**

**We invite you to join this conversation, and by doing so help us to  
support yourselves and others, making us a stronger  
community in times of need.**

**Normanton VIC /Library**

**Date: October 24th**

**Time:10am – 1200pm**

## **The four steps we will be concentrating on...**

- **Identify your strengths and support needs in everyday life**
- **Know your level of emergency preparedness and learn about your disaster risk**
- **Plan for how you will manage your support needs in an emergency**
- **Communicate the plan with the people in your support network and address gaps through working together.**



**Royal Flying Doctor Service**





# KARUMBA HALLOWEEN DISCO

FRIDAY | **31** | 6PM - 8PM  
OCT.

KARUMBA CIVIC CENTRE

GAMES AND PRIZES



BIG THANKS TO PA'S  
FAMILY CAFÉ  
FOR THEIR GENEROUS  
FOOD DONATION!

CARPENTARIA SHIRE  
*Outback by the Sea®*



FACE  
PAINTING

PHOTO  
BOOTH

**NORMANTON**

# **HALLOWEEN DISCO**

**PRIZES FOR 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> BEST DRESSED COSTUMES**

**FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCT**  
**NORMANTON**  
**SPORTS CENTRE**  
**6.30PM - 9.30PM**

**COME IN YOUR BEST SCARY OR NON-SCARY COSTUME**  
**SPOOKY TUNES FROM DJ JAKE**  
**PROUDLY SPONSORED BY**



## **PHOTO BOOTH**

We will have a Halloween Photo Booth set up with Rebecca Fry taking photos. If you do not wish for your child to be on any social media posts from the disco, please call the office on 4745 2200 to let us know.

# Remembrance Day

*We Will Remember Them*



*Join us in honouring those who served.*

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**Venue:** Normanton Cenotaph & Sunderland  
Park Karumba

**Date:** Tuesday 11th November 2025

**Time:** 10:45am

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*For more information please call  
the Community Development Team on 07 4745 2200*

# WEATHER DOESN'T PLAN BUT YOU CAN



Make your  
emergency plan  
online **today.**



Australian Government

SUNCORP



PROUD PARTNER OF  
GET READY QUEENSLAND

DELIVERING  
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland  
Government

