

BARCOO *Banter*

COMMUNITY NEWS • DECEMBER 2020



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Sally's month in review

AROUND THE BARCOO SHIRE

Community Notices and News

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Christmas Light Competition



Send to us, tag us, share with us your best photo to feature in our monthly newsletter!



BARCOO *Banter*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

In this Issue:

- Mayor's Message P3 - P4
- Employee News P5
- Disaster Preparedness P6
- Community Notices P7 - P11
- Police News P11 - P12

Please send ALL
 Newsletter Content to:
newsletter@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cut off date for January News
6th January 2021



Contact Council

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Cr Ingrid Miller: 0467 566 728
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Cr Dianne Pidgeon: 0458 585 921
dianne.pidgeon@barcoo.qld.gov.au



MAYOR'S *Message*

WITH SALLY O'NEIL



Hello Everyone

Hope all is well after suffering the recent heat wave. Once again, no decent falls to speak of but let's hope the wet season ahead BoM has been hyping up is a decent one.

Last month I mentioned the Council auction, of the 90 lots put up 89 were sold with Council making a surprising \$465,000. Very successful!

One of the projects Council has been recently working on and is almost complete is the Jundah depot security gates. Moving forward any members of the public wishing to gain access to the depot for reasons such as private works will be required to sign in at the Works and Services office. At this point, the Miles St gate will be opened from the office to enable members of the public to enter the depot.

Please note whilst walking around in the depot you will be required to wear high vis clothing and closed in shoes. If you don't have a high vis vest, one can be borrowed as you are signing in and returned when you sign out. Council appreciates your co-operation.



Miles Street Entrance



Dixon Street Exit

The following is the externally funded project status update:

- Stonehenge tennis court – Yet to commence
- Jundah roadhouse culverts – Base slab complete, culverts placed and backfilling complete, kerb and channel remaining.
- Windorah K&C and culverts – Works in progress
- Connemarra Rd bridge replacement – Start date is scheduled for 21 March 2021.
- Stonehenge hall external painting – yet to commence
- Windorah water treatment plant – Design of plant in progress.
- Jundah Hall – Works in progress
- Windorah RFS/SES shed – 90% complete
- Jundah Information Centre and Post Office upgrade – complete
- McPhellemay's crossing – project put on hold due to river runs.

MAYOR'S *Message*

WITH SALLY O'NEIL CONTINUED...



The following is an update of our work crews and their progress on roads around the Shire.

Ronnie Rayment's crew have recently completed flood damaged on the Nappa Merrie Rd and are currently doing a resheet on Arrabury Rd.

Jason Beilby's crew are continuing Palparara Davenport Road which they will return to in the New Year. The section of Jundah Winton Rd that was recently put to tender has been awarded and works are due to commence mid-January.

The contractor crew have completed medium formation grading on the Windorah Bedourie Rd and are now doing shoulders on the Jundah Longreach Rd.

The maintenance grader has completed Tonkoro, Connemara Rd's and Lochiel and Lina Glen Rds.

If there are sections of roads requiring immediate attention, please notify the Council.

Don't forget, Council meetings are open to the public and all community members are welcome. Council meetings are rotated around the three towns and we notify via an online flyer of upcoming Council meeting dates and times. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Safe travels if you are heading away and keep cool if you are remaining at home. Please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below if you have any queries or concerns.



Regards Sally
 Mayor Barcoo Shire Council
 Sally.oneil@barcoo.qld.gov.au
 0424 791 449

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Position Vacant

Information Centre Officer- Casual Stonehenge

Council is currently seeking applicants for the casual position of Information Centre Officer- Stonehenge.

A position description is available on Council's website www.barcoo.qld.gov.au with applications closing at 5pm on Sunday, 3 January 2021.

To apply, email covering letter and resume to HR@barcoo.qld.gov.au. For further information, please contact HR Officer on (07) 4658 6904. Barcoo Shire Council is an equal opportunity employer.



Tourism & Community Co-Ordinator Role

As some of you may be aware, since Doreen's departure, we have been trying to recruit her replacement with no luck to date, so it may be some time before we have a permanent replacement.

Council have secured Carrie Lock through Lo-Go Appointments on a contract basis for the position of Tourism and Community Co-Ordinator on a temporary basis until we have a more permanent solution. Carrie commenced with us 14 December 2020.

Carrie comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience in community development, community engagement, change management and process improvement to mention just a few. Carrie currently lives in Augathella and has worked consistently in rural and remote areas. Please make Carrie feel welcome if you run into her in the community.



Preston Campbell visits council staff

We had the opportunity to have Preston Campbell, Shami Gushure from the RFDS mental wellness team, Parker Dancy and David Kerrigan visit us. They went to both work crews and the Jundah depot and spoke to staff about mental health wellbeing and awareness. Preston spoke about his own journey as a footballer and in retirement and how he had to approach his own mental wellness and how it helped him to find his way again.

The whole team spoke about looking out for your mate and what services there were out there to be accessed if you feel you need to reach out to someone. Shami has visited the Barcoo Shire before and is hoping that she will become a friendly face that people can be encouraged to contact if they feel they have something they need to talk about. Parker and David are from CW Health and liaise with councils and other organisations in the field of mental wellness.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Councils collaborate on collateral for disaster preparedness

Five Councils in Queensland's Central West have partnered to develop a disaster preparedness flipbook that will be distributed free of charge to residents and visitors.

Funding for the flipbook was provided by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and strengthens the efforts of local governments to prepare their communities for the onset of natural disaster events.

Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Longreach Regional Council and Winton Shire Council have been involved in the production of this excellent resource. The flipbook has been developed by Craig Neuendorf and Donna Rowlands from the Longreach Regional Council with assistance provided by Hailey Winter and Angela Waugh from Barcaldine Regional Council, Joelene Barwick from Barcoo Shire Council, Andrea Saunders from Blackall-Tambo Regional Council and Melissa Doyle from the Winton Shire Council.

The flipbook addresses the most common natural disaster events which occur in the Central West. It contains information about flooding, severe storms, bushfires, heatwaves and pandemics. The flipbook also informs residents and visitors how to prepare for these natural disaster events and the steps to take once the event has passed.

The flipbook was recently launched in Brisbane by Longreach Mayor Tony Rayner, Chair of RAPAD, and Brendan Moon, the Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Reconstruction Authority. Mayor Rayner says preparedness makes a big difference in times of disaster.

"Evidence shows us that communities are able to recover from natural disaster events more effectively when they're fully prepared" he said. "This flipbook supports such preparation."

The flipbook features photographs from all five Council areas depicting various disaster events and will be forwarded by mail to all households both urban and rural in all five Council areas for recipients to place on their fridge. Copies will also be made available for visitors and tourists at Visitor Information Centres in the five Council areas.



Left to Right: Craig Neuendorf, Angela Waugh, Melissa Doyle, Cr Tony Rayner, Brendan Moon, Donna Rowlands, Andrea Saunders

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Council wish to advise residents that the Jundah Administration Office, Visitor Information Centre's and Libraries of Jundah, Stonehenge and Windorah will be closed for the Christmas period from 5pm Friday 18 December 2020 and will resume normal business from Monday 4 January 2021.

Jundah Roadhouse hours for the period 19 December 2020 to 24 January 2021 (inclusive) as follows:

Weekdays - 6 AM to 2 PM

Weekends - 8 AM to 2 PM

Christmas Day (25 December) - Closed

Boxing Day (26 December) - Closed

New Year's Day (1 January) - Closed

During this closure, urgent matters can be dealt with by contacting Council on (07) 4658 6900. Council wishes all residents a safe and enjoyable festive break.

Should you require further clarification or information, please do not hesitate to contact Council on telephone (07) 4658 6900 or via email shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au

MERRY
christmas

Garbage Collection Over Christmas Holiday Period

Council wishes to advise that due to both Christmas Day and New Year's Day falling on the designated garbage collection day in Jundah and Stonehenge. Garbage collection for both these towns will be conducted on the 24 December and 31 December 2020. Windorah town garbage collection will not change as it falls on the 24 and 31 December 2020. Should you require further clarification or information, please do not hesitate to contact Council on telephone (07) 4658 6900 or via email shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au



COMMUNITY NOTICES

2021 Meeting Schedule

Barcoo Shire Council Ordinary Meeting Dates

In accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Barcoo Shire Council Ordinary Meetings are held generally on the third Wednesday of the month at various locations within our Shire, commencing at 8:00am. Please be aware that Ordinary Meetings are open to the public. Barcoo Shire Council encourages community engagement and interest, and we hope to see members of the community at our Council meetings.

It was proposed at the most recent Council Meeting that the October 2021 Ordinary Meeting be moved back to the third Wednesday of the month to allow attendance at the LGAQ Annual Conference. The 2021 annual event with LGAQ, who had indicatively advised that this conference would be held 18-20 October 2021, is now 25-27 October 2020. The proposed dates for 2021 are listed as below:

Month	Day/Date	Location
January	Wednesday, 20 January 2021	Jundah Council Chambers
February	Wednesday, 17 February 2021	Stonehenge Community Centre
March	Wednesday, 17 March 2021	Jundah Council Chambers
April	Wednesday, 21 April 2021	Jundah Council Chambers
May	Wednesday, 19 May 2021	Windorah Community Centre
June	Wednesday, 16 June 2021	Jundah Council Chambers
July	Wednesday, 21 July 2021	Jundah Council Chambers
August	Wednesday, 18 August 2021	Stonehenge Community Centre
September	Wednesday, 15 September 2021	Jundah Council Chambers
October	Wednesday, 20 October 2021	Jundah Council Chambers
November	Wednesday, 17 November 2021	Windorah Community Centre
December	Wednesday, 15 December 2021	Jundah Council Chambers

2021 - 2026 Corporate Plan

Barcoo Shire Council is about to develop its 2021 - 2026 Corporate Plan which is expected to be completed in April 2021. The corporate plan is an important document in that it will set out Council's strategic direction and help inform Council's annual budgets over the next five years.

Being such an important plan for Council and the community, we will seek your input into its development by way of a survey in the new year. The survey will be available in the new year electronically and hard copy available at information centres, Jundah offices and other Council facilities. The survey will close on 8 February 2021 but will not be available for completion until mid-January 2021.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

2020 Community Christmas Lights Comp

We had some great entries in this years Barcoo Shire Christmas lights competition. Thank you to everyone who has spread some Christmas joy this year. The winners for 2020 are as follows:

JUNDAH: LYN FIELD

STONEHENGE: KATHY CUNDY

WINDORAH: SIMPSON FAMILY HOME

RURAL PROPERTY TURNOFF: GALWAY DOWNS



Galway Downs turn-off.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Community Notice

Cr Ingrid Miller Resignation

It is with regret that at yesterday's General Meeting of Barcoo Shire Council, Cr Ingrid Miller submitted her resignation from Council, effective 20 January 2021.

With the resignation coming in the first 12 months from the last quadrennial election and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009, Council has the option to fill the vacancy by either: 1. by election, or; 2. following the procedure in Section 166A of the Local Government Act 2009 to fill a particular vacancy i.e. by the CEO asking the electoral commission to give a vacancy notice to the runnerup in order of priority.

At yesterday's meeting, Council resolved to fill the vacancy in office of Cr Ingrid Miller by a byelection in accordance with Section 166 of the Local Government Act 2009.

Cr Ingrid Miller's statement follows:

Statement from Cr Ingrid Miller

Dear all residents and connections of the Barcoo Shire Community,

I wish to advise that due to personal and family reasons, I will be resigning from my role as Councillor with the Barcoo Shire Council effective 20 January 2021.

I am both deeply sorry and extremely regretful to be making this decision at such an early stage into my first term. This has been a very sudden and especially difficult decision to make, yet one that has not at all come lightly.

I have taken the role of Councillor with utmost privilege and I wholeheartedly apologise to the Barcoo community who showed me so much support at the March 2020 election. You put your trust in me and I have thoroughly enjoyed representing this fantastic part of the world during this short time. Council has been a highly rewarding experience and I am proud to say that having been elected as one of your Councillors has been one of the most honourable achievements of my life. I will always remember this experience with fondness and can reflect that I poured my heart and soul into the role during my time. Memorably, I was humbled to be able to help implement some long term positive initiatives for Council during the past 10 months.

I wish the current Council and the community all the very best for what lies ahead. The Barcoo Shire has been a wonderful place to raise our family and be involved in the community. I have genuinely loved calling the Barcoo Shire home for many years and I'll greatly miss the comradeship, community atmosphere and lifestyle that is unique to the Barcoo.

Council is backed by a brilliant team that will see the Shire through the good and tough times into the future. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with such a dedicated workforce who are so committed to making the Barcoo Shire an even better place to reside and work.

Once again, my sincerest apologies for the disruption that my resignation will cause. I had genuinely hoped to bring long term stability to Council, the Shire and ultimately for the benefit of all residents. For this breaking this commitment, I am truly very sorry. From the bottom of my heart, I wish you all well for a prosperous and vibrant future.

Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for 2021 and beyond.

*Warm regards,
Cr Ingrid Miller*

POLICE NEWS

QuickSmarts

Drink Driving



Drink driving is one of the major killers on Queensland roads.

On average, 55 people are killed and 550 seriously injured each year on Queensland roads as a result of drink driving! Drinking alcohol reduces our ability to drive safely. Alcohol affects judgement, vision, coordination and reflexes, and increases the risk of crashing.

The facts

- In Queensland, Learner, Provisional and Probationary Licence holders are not permitted to drive after drinking any alcohol. They must have a zero blood/breath alcohol concentration (BAC) limit.
- Open licence holders must have a BAC lower than 0.05. The same applies for supervisors of car and motorcycle Learner drivers.
- The following licence holders must also maintain a zero BAC when driving:
 - any vehicle weighing over 4.5 tonnes or an articulated motor vehicle (eg B-double or road train)
 - a tow truck, pilot or escort vehicle escorting an oversized vehicle
 - a bus built to carry more than 12 adults, including the driver
 - a vehicle being used by a driver trainer to give driver training or a specially constructed vehicle (including a tractor and motorcycle)
 - a vehicle carrying a placard load of dangerous goods
 - a taxi, limousine or public passenger vehicle
 - a class RE licence holder in their first year of riding
- 16% of drivers get behind the wheel when they know they may be over the legal alcohol limit, and 20% drive the next morning when they're possibly over the legal limit?

The effects of alcohol on driving

Drinking alcohol can affect drivers and driving performance by:

- slowing down reaction time – crucial in an emergency situation
- making it difficult to multi-task – an essential skill for safe driving
- causing poor judgement – affecting your ability to judge distance and speed
- reducing attention span – so we don't notice other drivers and/or vehicles
- affecting vision and hearing – reducing our ability to identify driving hazards
- creating over-confidence – we may feel more confident after a few drinks but in fact, we're less able to cope with unexpected events. We might take risks that we normally wouldn't.

References:

<https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/drink-driving/factsheet>

Why no alcohol is safer when it comes to driving

Blood/breath alcohol concentration (BAC) is a measure of the amount of alcohol in the body. Even at 0.05, studies show reactions are slower than at 0.0 BAC.

It's difficult to accurately monitor how much alcohol we consume due to:

- the different size and shape of glasses
- different alcohol content for each type of drink (wine/beer/spirits)
- different volumes typically poured for each type of drink
- gradual alcohol impairment (the more we drink, the less accurate your guesses become about the amount of alcohol consumed).

It's also important to remember that BAC may continue to rise after we stop drinking. It's why we shouldn't rely on the result from a breath-testing machine in a hotel. Other variables that affect your BAC include weight, gender, metabolism, how often you drink, and how long since you have eaten. Coffee, sleep, vomiting or exercise will not reduce your BAC.

The only thing that reduces your BAC is time.

Plan ahead and stay safe

If you're going to drink, make arrangements to get home safely and avoid driving the morning after. Consider these options:

- Stay at a friend's place rather than drive
- Leave the car at home and consider alternative transport such as a taxi, ride share, courtesy bus, pre-arranged lift or public transport
- Designate a 'dry driver' if going out with others
- If hosting at your house, provide non-alcoholic drink options and plenty of food, offer guests somewhere to stay overnight rather than drive home, or call a taxi or ride share for them. Remember they may still be over the limit the next morning.
- If you're walking after drinking, walk with a sober friend or group, stay on the footpath, and only cross the road at marked crossings or under a street light where you're clearly visible to motorists.

More information

Visit qld.gov.au/streetsmarts and search 'Drink driving' for more information, including myth busters and references for all research and relevant content.

13 QGOV (13 74 68)



StreetSmartsQLD