



Barcoo Shire Community Newsletter

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Barcoo Shire Council is continuing to closely monitor the evolving COVID-19 outbreak and is following all advice from the Australian Government and Queensland Health.

The Barcoo Shire Council wishes to advise tourists and visitors that unfortunately, our Visitor Information Centres, tourist attractions, pubs and sporting and cultural events are postponed or cancelled to minimise the risk of infecting our small communities. We are taking every precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our residents, employees, contractors, businesses and communities.

For this reason we are asking that all non-essential travel into the Barcoo Shire be stopped effective immediately. Non-essential travel is defined as travel for leisure, holidays, attending events, gatherings and visiting family. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly. If we don't take this step, people in our shire may contract coronavirus and our remote Primary Health Centres will be overwhelmed. Our isolated communities will not cope.

Stay home and stay safe. We are all in this together!

Message from the Mayor

Dear Barcoo Shire Residents,

We live in uncertain and somewhat concerning times as the coronavirus or COVID-19 has gone from infecting people in Wuhan Province in China where the virus originated, to now an emerging worldwide pandemic.

There have been varying responses from world governments as the infections from this pandemic starts to place pressure on their health systems, and attempts to contain the virus impact the global economy. Apart from China, some European, Asian and Middle Eastern countries and now the United States of America are experiencing alarming numbers of positive coronavirus infection cases. As a consequence, these countries are also experiencing higher numbers of lives lost compared to other countries.

At the time of writing, Barcoo Shire Council is liaising daily with all health and emergency services agencies to make sure that the shire's residents are getting the best possible information on the coronavirus risk. This public health information from the Queensland and Australian Governments and the Central West Hospital and Health Service include everyone's responsibility to their personal and family safety, our responsibility to the community and general public health awareness.

The public health risk is now well known by most in the community who consume their information from the internet, radio, television and the many forms of social media. Council is concerned that some of the vulnerable persons in our community, who do not have access or do not rely on the electronic mediums for general information are informed.

To address this potential gap, the Council has included a hard copy of the latest public health information in this newsletter. Council will also be providing letterbox drops to each household regularly with the latest public health information or if the situation changes or there is an increased or elevated risk associated with coronavirus infection. Council can then be confident that everyone in the community has access to this vital information.

As the community is aware, the Queensland Government and other states and territories have or are intending on closing their respective borders in an attempt to flatten the alarming upward curve in positive COVID-19 cases through stricter social isolation. This more stringent social isolation includes the imposing of restricted trading conditions or closure of hotels, restaurants, sporting venues, places of worship and anywhere that people congregate regularly. Some of the above can serve takeaway goods such as food and alcohol when operating under specific criteria.

Fortunately, we are lucky to live in a caring and sensible community, so please keep in mind that we need to gather our public health and community advice concerning the COVID-19 coronavirus information from reliable sources. Any public health information should come from credible sources such as the Queensland and Australian Governments, Queensland Health and Queensland Public Health, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Local and District Disaster Management Groups and local government. Social media chatter is not the appropriate place to gather reliable health and community safety information. Social media feeds can spread hysteria in public, so please ignore this churn unless this information is from the government organisations as mentioned above.

The local, state, national and global social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are of great concern, and the recovery will be long-lasting. We are in certainly uncharted waters until this rouge virus is entirely isolated, or our scientists discover a vaccine. We have seen trillions of dollars of value disappear from public companies as the world's stockmarkets respond to the pandemic's economic effects and speculation.

Our local and regional small businesses will bear the brunt of social isolation requirements as their trading terms change to meet current COVID-19 legislation. There have already been many job losses as companies and small business are having to make difficult decisions to survive past this global epidemic. The Queensland and Australian Governments have responded with stimulus, rescue and assistance packages to help businesses adjust to these

Message from the Mayor continued

unprecedented economic times since the great depression or World War 2. And hopefully, many people who have lost jobs will be in a position to be reemployed once this crisis has passed.

The impacts of this pandemic are on top of the already strained social and economic situations across Australia. Unfortunately, many communities and individuals are still dealing with the effects of the recent floods and bushfires and ongoing drought in some cases - despite recent rains.

We also have a localised responsibility to our small businesses who have supported us over time, so please buy local and regional where possible. This initiative will help ensure that these local businesses are open for business when the situation changes for the better.

The Barcoo Shire Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) Core Membership and the local and regional Key Stakeholders (Queensland Health, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Parks and Wildlife, Queensland State Schools) are meeting regularly to discuss the COVID-19 risks to the community. These discussions include Queensland and Australian Government responses and latest advice -which is a very fluid situation and subject to rapid changes. This discussion also consists of any localised responses required at a local level by Barcoo Shire Council, emergency services and the Queensland Government agencies.

Please keep safe, and look out for each other during these troubling and challenging times. As a nation, we have endured many difficulties and emergencies since becoming a nation, and we will get through this global pandemic too - by working and living together responsibly, by having faith in our governments and health systems, and by doing our bit to minimise the spread.

As my wife Maureen and I are moving from our home at in Barcoo Shire and at Moothandella Station to Charleville, this will be my last message to residents as mayor. In doing so, I would like to thank residents for entrusting me with the role of Barcoo Shire Council mayor and spokesman and advocate on your behalf.

When I reflect on the past four years of the current Council, and some of the achievements completed on your behalf, I always tend to think what went well, and we could have done better. The Council has undoubtedly had some challenges with the current economic and political climate. Many traditional funding avenues have become more competitive with the increasing demands from higher population areas; the processes are usually over a much shorter planning period and are sometimes ad hoc in delivery.

Council has been lucky in receiving considerable funding under the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland (W4Q) program and the Australian Government's Drought Communities Program (DCP). These programs have enabled the Council to deliver on many long-needed social and recreational projects and public infrastructure needs. These projects have assisted the local community groups in meeting the safety and compliance needs of holding public events. And have assisted in growing our economy by providing a better experience for our residents and visitors.

As we move into the 2020 local government elections, we are aware that most of Barcoo Shire's long-term councillors are deciding to retire and choosing not to contest the 2020 elections. With potentially a whole new Council after the election process, there will be a knowledge void until the new councillors get established in their role.

Fortunately, this is democracy at work, and there will be an essential responsibility for the whole Barcoo Shire Council administration to keep the machinery of Council functioning during the election process and up to the swearing-in of new councillors. The Barcoo Shire Council senior staff will also need to guide the new councillors in their day-to-day responsibilities, during the lead up to the end of the 2019-20 financial year, and in developing 2020-21 budget cycle.

Message from the Mayor continued

Once again, the democratic process allows for this transition process, and the community does respect that the new Council will have a learning process and patience will be required. I urge the community to engage with their new Council and work in partnership with them to manage the current public health crisis and the ongoing needs of the three communities' residents.

The role of councillor and mayor has completely changed since I joined the Barcoo Shire Council in 1994. Most certainly, the accountability factor has made being a councillor much more serious and comes with much higher compliance and accountability expectations. The time required to be devoted to the job of a councillor is undoubtedly more demanding, and information and knowledge management critically important.

The new Council must take onboard how vital the regional relationships are to Barcoo Shire. Our current membership of the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), Outback Regional Roads and Transport Group (ORRTG), RAPAD Water and Sewage Alliance (RAPAD W&SA) and the Central West Regional Pest Management Group (CWRPMG) enable the shire to have access to so much more capacity, knowledge and opportunity to influence the other tiers of government.

I wish the new Council well and all the very best for the future. I am sure that the community will be patient with its new Council, and the new Council will be trying its very best to start getting some future planning started on behalf of its constituency. The best piece of advice I can pass on to the new Council is: to be always thinking of others when making decisions. The job of a councillor is not a single issue job and requires good judgement and good information when making a decision. Most importantly, the job is not about you. It is always we and not me, and we all need to listen more and talk less when working for your community or communicating the community's needs to others who can influence the shire's future.

I have had an enormous and incredibly great experience being part of Barcoo Shire Council, involved in our central west Queensland regional groups and being a director or member of many Queensland and Australian Government boards and committees. This experience has enabled me to learn so much about public administration and government processes, and how doing the best for people is one of the most important things we can do in our lives.

Thank you all once again, warmest wishes for the future, and please keep yourself and family members safe in the current health crisis.

Bruce Scott
Mayor
Barcoo Shire Council

Should I be tested for Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

I have the following symptoms



Fever



Cough



Fatigue



Sore throat



Shortness
of breath

AND one of the following also applies

I have
travelled
overseas
in the past
14 days

OR

I have been in
close contact*
with a confirmed
case of COVID-19

*Close contact is more than 15 minutes face-to-face or more than 2 hours in a closed space.

If you meet these criteria you can be tested for COVID-19

Further information

visit www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus
or call **13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)**



Queensland
Government

www.qld.gov.au

Queensland Health

CLEAN HANDS SAVE LIVES

12 steps to successful everyday handwashing

Duration
of hand-wash



Wet hands with water.



Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



Lather thoroughly.



Rub hands palm to palm.



Rub hands palm to palm with fingers interlaced.



Rub back of hand using the palm of the other with fingers interlaced.



In a circular motion rub the tips of fingers in the palm of the opposite hand.



Clean thumb by holding it in the other hand and rotating.



Rub wrist with the opposite hand.



Interlock fingers and rub back of fingers on opposite palms.



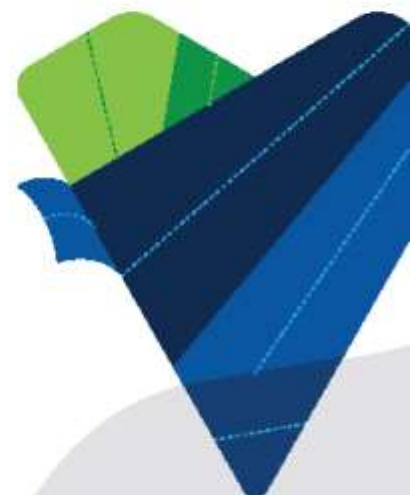
Rinse hands with water.



Dry hands with clean paper towel and use paper towel to turn off tap.

Researchers think that if everyone washed their hands properly, about 1 million lives would be saved every year.¹

When performed correctly, hand hygiene results in a reduction of microorganisms on hands. Poor hand hygiene contributes to the spread of pathogens, which can cause health issues such as gastrointestinal and respiratory infections.



Please note: These guidelines are for social handwashing only, such as after toilet use and before touching food. This poster is not intended for use in clinical settings.

1. Curtis, V 2009. 'Effect of washing hands with soap on disease risk to the community: a systematic review'. *Current Infect Dis, Retrieved 04 March 2020*. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19319379

¹Based on the 'How to Hand Wash Poster' © World Health Organization 2009.



Queensland
Government

Media Release



The Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and
Emergency Management
Deputy Leader of the Nationals

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Stimulus package 2.0 to get us through

Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Minister David Littleproud says the Federal Government's second stimulus package is about confidence, cash flow and the community.

\$66.1 billion in more support measures are on their way including wage and rental relief for businesses and cash for affected workers. It brings the total amount of Federal support to \$189 billion.

"We are building the bridge to recovery together and we'll get through this together," Minister Littleproud said.

"Agriculture, fisheries and forestry will get a boost from the extra support under this second package designed to cushion the economic impact and help build a bridge to recovery.

"The Government will provide up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium sized businesses, so they can stay open, pay their bills and keep staff.

"These measures will flow into regional and rural communities from Wagin in the WA Wheat Belt, to Warwick in my home state of Queensland, and everywhere in between.

"It's about shoring up confidence, keeping the cash flowing and letting communities know - especially farm communities - that we have their backs.

"The ag sector is the foundation stone of our food security and it's critical the Federal Government is with them as it recovers from drought, bushfires and now the coronavirus.

"We ask the banks to work with us in supporting our farmers by passing on this week's interest rate cuts in full."

Today's measures complement the \$17.6 billion package announced last week which included a \$1 billion regional and community fund to support industries impacted by coronavirus.

"Take advantage of these measures to grow your business, to increase production and keep our regional and rural communities strong."

Media contact: Douglas Ferguson, 0455 448 985

Community Notices

COMMUNITY NOTICE:

Precautions re COVID - 19

VIC Closures

Barcoo Shire Council's number one priority during this crisis is the health, wellbeing and safety of our staff, clients and community. We are carefully monitoring and adhering to the directions and advice of Queensland Health, the Australian Government Department of Health and Local Disaster Management Group and other relevant authorities.

From Monday, 23 March, office staff of the Barcoo Shire Visitor Information Centres & Libraries will work behind closed doors to ensure safe social distancing. Our offices will be closed, but operations will continue.

We ask that for prompt information, please communicate via telephone or email. Contact details will be on display outside of each centre or obtainable through the Barcoo Shire Community Directory.

Please be patient with staff as we endeavour to overcome the restrictions pertaining to our services.

Barcoo Shire Post Office

The Barcoo Shire Post Office, Jundah will continue to operate during its normal opening hours, however customers are requested to be mindful of the 1.5metre space from the next person when conducting business. There will be taped areas on the floor defining distances. If you have a Post Office box please use the facility to minimise contact.

Jundah Police Station

Services at the Jundah Police Station may also be affected. If you have any queries please call 46525115.



THE BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR TENDER NO: T23/2019-20

Establishment of a Register of Pre-Qualified Supplier for Trade Services

Tenders are invited for the Register of Pre-Qualified Supplier for Trade Services; closing 2:00pm Thursday 16th April 2020 at the office of Barcoo Shire Council, 6 Perkins Street, Jundah Qld 4736
Tel: (07) 4658 6900.

Tender documents will be available for download at 9.00am on Monday 23rd March via Vendor Panel Market Place under the category of Building Trade & Repairs & Maintenance Services www.vendorpanel.com.au Persons wishing to access these documents must first register in the domain.

2020 Local Government Elections



Electoral Commission
QUEENSLAND

2020 local government elections | the day to have your say

For the 2020 local government elections, you are using **full postal voting**.

A **postal vote** will be sent to all electors to their address on the electoral roll, from 29 February.

All postal votes must be completed before the end of voting at 6pm on Saturday 28 March and **returned to the ECQ by 5pm Tuesday 7 April**.

You will complete two ballot papers: one to elect a mayor, and one to elect councillors.

Voting for your mayor

For mayor you are using optional preferential voting. This means you can number one, some or all the boxes on your ballot paper in order of preference for your vote to count.

Voting for your councillors

For councillors, you are using first-past-the-post voting. This means you must number the boxes for the number of councillors to be elected. For example: **in Barcoo Shire Council we have 4 councillors** to be elected, you must number **4** boxes

For all 2020 local government election information go to ecq.qld.gov.au or call 1300 881 665 or email us at ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au

Voting is compulsory.

Longreach Show 2020 Cancellation

LONGREACH SHOW SOCIETY INC.

Established 1896

19 March 2020

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE LONGREACH SHOW SOCIETY

CANCELLATION OF THE 2020 LONGREACH SHOW

It is with sadness and disappointment that we advise the Longreach Show Society has decided to cancel the 2020 Longreach Annual Show, scheduled for the 15-16th May due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. After liaising with Council and various stakeholders, the Committee felt we were left with no other option in response to the virus control measures.

As a Committee, this has been a very difficult decision to make. We are very conscious of how much time, effort and enthusiasm is dedicated to the Show each by our volunteers, supporters, partners, competitors and the wider community in general. Our 125th Anniversary Show was shaping up to be one of the best events we've hosted in some time and this decision is particularly disappointing for our hard-working Committee. We understand the meaning and significance of the Show in our local region however the decision to cancel is based solely on placing the health, safety and wellbeing of our community first and foremost.

The Longreach Show Society Committee is currently working through the various steps to effectively manage this change in circumstances. We appreciate your patience and understanding over the coming weeks, as we navigate through contacting all appropriate sponsors, exhibitors and other stakeholders during the Show cancellation process.

Despite this unprecedented situation, we are already motivated and looking forward to 2021. Next year we plan to come back with energy, inspiration and excitement to deliver a memorable and successful Show for the community. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Warm regards,

Longreach Show Society Committee



2020 Committee

President: Mr Tony Jackson

Vice Presidents: Mr Paul Grams & Mrs Mary-Ann Ringrose

Secretary: Mrs Ingrid Miller

Treasurer: Mrs Margie Webb

PO Box 99

LONGREACH QLD 4730

Email: longreachshow@outlook.com.au

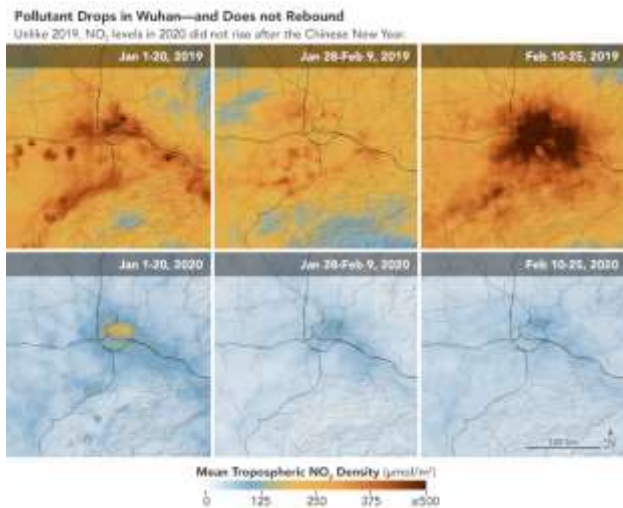
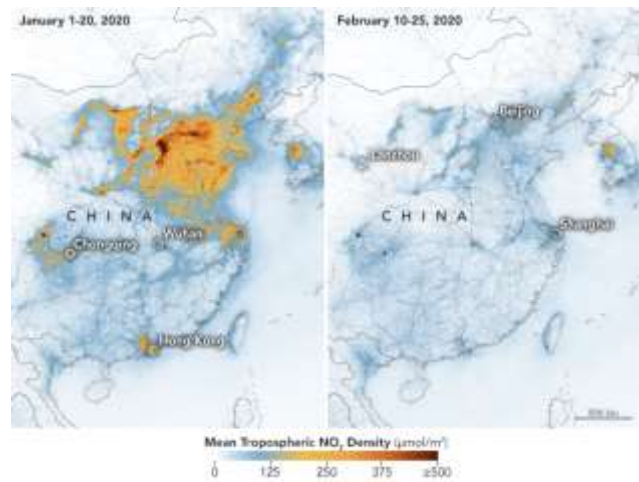
Web: www.longreachannualshow.com

Phone: 0467 566 728

ABN: 28 934 650 031

Something Positive

Pollution-monitoring satellites operated by NASA and the European Space Agency observed drastic decreases in air pollution over China over two weeks in February when the quarantine was in effect. The satellites measured concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, which is released by cars, power plants and industrial facilities, from Jan. 1 to Jan. 20 and again from Feb. 10 to Feb. 25. The difference was unmistakable.



Left: Clearer waters in Venice in early March were an unintended climate benefit of the coronavirus lockdowns in Italy.

The city of Venice is enjoying crystal clear waters in its world-famous canals due to a lack of debris from tourists and near-zero boat traffic under Italy's ongoing coronavirus lockdown.



Guess the location of this photo!

This is a quick and easy competition to take part in.

If you think you know the location of the photo, taken somewhere within the Barcoo Shire, email through your answer to

jundahinfo@barcoo.qld.gov.au.

The first correct answer received will be the winner.

Please be descriptive in your answer describing the location.



COMMUNITY NOTICE

Garbage Collection over the Easter Period

Jundah and Stonehenge

Residents are advised that their standard rubbish run every Friday will change over the Easter break, whereby their rubbish collection will occur on Thursday 9 April 2020, instead of Friday 10 April 2020.

Residents are advised to have their bins out on the Wednesday evening, prior to collection on Thursday morning. Collection will then return to Friday, commencing on 17 April 2020.

Paul Hockings
Chief Executive Officer
BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL

Date: 25 March 2020

File Ref: 43147

Slow Cooker Bread

Ingredients

- 3 1/2 cups (455 g) bread flour
- 2 1/4 teaspoons instant yeast, (1 envelope)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 1/2 cups (360 ml) warm water, (105-115°F)

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, combine the flour, yeast, and salt. Stir with a whisk. Slowly pour in the water. Stir with a wooden spoon until well blended and the dough forms into a ball. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let it set on the counter overnight, 8-18 hours.
2. Line the bowl of the 6-quart slow cooker with parchment paper.
3. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. With well-floured hands, flatten the dough into a 9-inch circle, then fold it over onto itself and shape it into a ball. Place the dough into the prepared slow cooker. Place a double layer of paper towel under the lid to prevent condensation from dripping onto the rolls. Turn the slow cooker on high and cook for 2 hours or until the bread is cooked through.
4. Remove the bread by lifting them out with the parchment paper.
5. The fully cooked bread will have a light, soft crust. If you desire a golden crispy crust, place the bread under the broiler for 5 minutes. Set the bread on a wire rack to cool completely before slicing.



“History will remember when the world stopped,
And the flights stayed on the ground.
And the cars parked in the street.
And the trains didn’t run.

History will remember when the schools closed
And the children stayed indoors
And the medical staff walked towards the fire
And they didn’t run.

History will remember when the people sang
On their balconies, in isolation
But so very much together
In courage and song.

History will remember when the people fought
For their old and their weak
Protected the vulnerable
By doing nothing at all.

History will remember when the virus left
And the houses opened
And the people came out
And hugged and kissed
And started again

Kinder than before.”

