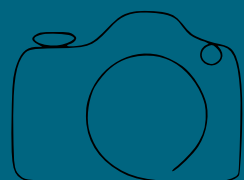


# BARCOO *Banter*

COMMUNITY NEWS • MAY 2023



NEW Council Camp



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

# BARCOO *Banter*



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Please send all Newsletter content to:  
[newsletter@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:newsletter@barcoo.qld.gov.au)

Cut off date for June Newsletter  
COB 26 June 2023



Hillview Road works

### Contact Council

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Phone: (07) 4658 6900  
Email: [shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au)

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[tony.jackson@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:tony.jackson@barcoo.qld.gov.au)





# MAYOR'S *Message*

WITH SALLY O'NEIL

Hello Everyone

Hope all is well. It seems the rain has left us for now and winter is starting to set in a little earlier than expected. Looking forward to some nice mild days and cool nights for the next few months.

We've had a month of arts and culture in the Shire with Wolfgang's Magical Musical Circus held in Jundah in early May which was well attended by a very enthusiastic audience of children and adults from throughout the Shire with catering provided by Jundah P&C. Then later in the month we had Opera Qld perform in the park at Jundah where the school children from both Stonehenge and Jundah performed. It was enjoyed by all who attended and we look forward to Opera Qld returning in 2024.



*Opera QLD*



The Barcoo Shire Centenary time capsule opening was held during May in Stonehenge after being buried for 20 years. The opening of the time capsule was witnessed by a good crowd, as the items were revealed there was plenty of reminiscing. The following day the time capsule was reloaded with current memorabilia and will be opened again in 30 years, 2053.



*Time Capsule - Stonehenge*





# MAYOR'S *Message*

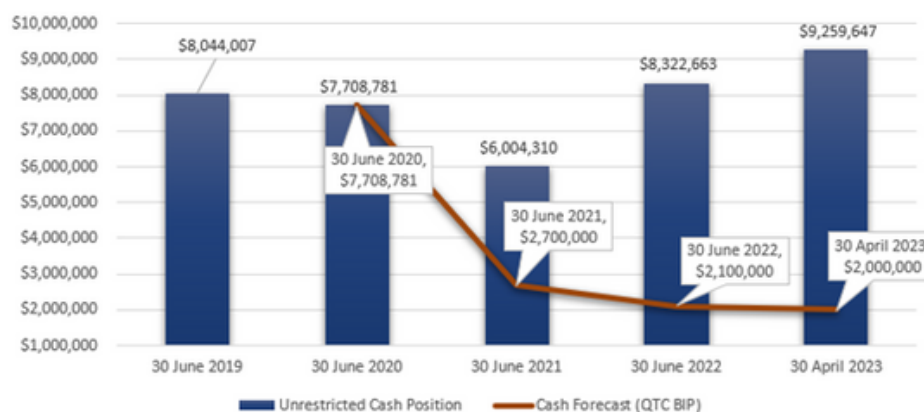
WITH SALLY O'NEIL CONTINUED

As we come to the end of this financial year it's time to reflect on our financial position, some have asked the question "was it all that bad back in 2020?".

When you elected me as your Mayor in 2020 I set about working with my fellow Councillors and senior staff at Council to better understand Councils financial position. It was clear that maintaining the financial sustainability of this Council was in some jeopardy. We saw that the budgets for upcoming years relied heavily upon dipping into Councils cash reserves. Not for new projects but to maintain our business. I authorised the engagement of the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) to assist Council in improving its financial awareness and ensuring that financial factors were considered in every aspect of Council business.

QTC provided us with information as shown in the graph below. It indicates councils unrestricted cash position or, money that we have to spend on projects. Under current state government guidelines Council is expected to maintain a minimum of 4-6 months cash cover or approximately \$5.3M. This is to ensure if there is no revenue Council has sufficient funds to maintain its operations.

The red line below in the graph indicates the concerning issue with Councils financial position that the Councillors and I were faced with. Our cash was eroding quickly over the next several years. We needed to find a solution to ensure that Council was able to deliver its core business and at the same time provide for the future generations. The Councillors and I made a decision to make finance the cornerstone of our decision making. This meant we set about a program of maintenance and repair to existing assets rather than building new and maximised our efforts to seek external funding. The Windorah water treatment plant is a great example of that program. Clearly what has been established is that this Council is now in a strong financial position and we are being sort out by the Qld Government and other Councils asking that we share our story of success with them.



This Council does not have the large rate base of many other Councils and as such it's important for the Councillors and I to keep an eye on the ball. Improved financial reporting on a monthly basis is presented to Council and available to all on Councils website through agendas and minutes.

Improved governance across Council operations has resulted in improved performance without significant job losses. Councillors and I now consider the work we deliver as an obligation of service to the community, and we work with senior staff to drill down on every cost associated. This has meant that Council is able to provide services in the most cost-effective manner possible. The program that Councillors and I have been working on for the past three years is now business as usual for Barcoo Shire Council. It remains my commitment to ensure that this Council has the financial sustainability and security to be able to provide to the people of the Barcoo Shire.



# MAYOR'S *Message*

WITH SALLY O'NEIL CONTINUED

**The following is the externally funded project status update:**

- Windorah water treatment plant – 12-month liability period has commenced
- McPhellemy's crossing – Expecting to return crews in the coming months
- Mt Felix floodway – Project complete
- Ray Paynter culvert/floodway – scheduled to be completed before June 30
- Floodway Yaraka Retreat Rd near Trafalgar – scheduled to be completed before June 30
- Budgerygar floodway – due to commence early July
- Stonehenge water treatment plant new shed and filter upgrade – plans are being finalised with procurement commencing

The following is an update of our work crews and their progress on roads around the Shire. Darren Mattheson's crew have relocated to Stonehenge and completing flood damage on Hillview Rd and will then move onto the Nildes Jump up to carry out rehabilitation. Jason Beilby's crew have completed Windorah Bedourie Rd at Morney, they are now doing a resheet on the Birdsville Rd 24km from the Morney intersection.

The maintenance grader is currently doing maintenance on the Tenham Rd. If there are sections of roads requiring immediate attention, please notify Council.

The Contractor Crew are doing flood damage between Warbreccan and Mutti. Flying gang have started the main roads sign upgrade on the Windorah Birdsville Rd.

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. The next meeting will be held in Jundah on the 21st of June 2023.

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](mailto:Sally.oneil@barcoo.qld.gov.au)  
0424 791 449



Morney



Hillview Road



Morney



# COUNCIL NEWS

## MAY COUNCIL MEETING WRAP UP

All Barcoo Shire Council minutes can be downloaded for public viewing on our Publishing Portal at the following link <https://myportal.barcoo.qld.gov.au/public/publications>

### PROJECT AREA REPORTS

Council approved the procurement of stabilisation works through Council's Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers for Wet & Dry Plant Hire, under Section 232 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, and;  
Delegate the Chief Executive Officer to form a Contract, to provide the required services, in accordance with Section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009.

The Barcoo Shire Council holds its next Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at the Windorah Community Centre, commencing at 8:00am. Council meetings are open to the public. Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer would like to extend an invitation to members of the community to join them for morning tea, commencing at 10:30am. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with Councillors and senior Council staff to discuss ideas or matters of concern you may have. Council encourages community engagement and interest, and we hope to see members of the community at our Council meetings or joining us for morning tea.

## ARTS, CULTURE & EVENTS

### OPERA QLD COMES TO JUNDAH

On Tuesday the 23rd of May, the Jundah War Memorial Park was lit up with the lights and sounds from Opera Qld. Over 80 adults and kids attended the event with the local school children opening the occasion. There was laughter and a sing along with voices featuring soprano Kate Stenzel and baritone Jason-Barry-Smith. Their rich performance was of the highest calibre as Jundah celebrated in this vibrant yet classic multifaceted art form.

Local Councillors Andrew Miller and Roger Batt cooked the BBQ alongside the Jundah P and C who catered for the event. Great to see so many people supporting our arts and culture celebrations.

### Wolfgang Musical Magical Circus

The Wolfgang Musical Magical Circus show was attended by young and old. It might have been a school night, but kids from Stonehenge and Windorah all made the trek to Jundah to attend this fabulous show. Everyone was wowed with a fun and exciting event, the very first show of its western QLD circuit. The laughter and giggling from the children was infectious!





# ARTS, CULTURE & EVENTS

## BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL CENTENARY - TIME CAPSULE

The cold weather didn't stop residents from attending the Barcoo Shire Council Centenary time capsule opening at Stonehenge on Saturday 6th May 2023.

The Barcoo Shire Council put this capsule down in Stonehenge on 31st March 2003 to mark 100 years of the Barcoo Shire Council. Cam Nunn and Hailie Steedman (Stonehenge State School students from 2003) put in the hard work to lift the concrete top off the Capsule with Merely Gordon (Barcoo Shire Counsellor, 2003) pulling the capsule up.

The Barcoo Shire Council CEO, Mike Lollback and Mayor Sally O'Neil helped were in attendance and read out some items that were in the capsule. All items then went on display in the hall for everyone to have a look at and find what they put in 20 years ago.

With the bar open locals gathered around for a cold drink and a chat before the Stonehenge P&C had dinner ready. Mayor Sally O'Neil cut the cake with councillor's Tony Jackson, Dianne Pidgeon & Roger Batt there to help celebrate 120 years. The kids were ready for Lachie Cossor to start singing so they could get up and dance. The night was enjoyed by all that attended with the question being if they will still be around in 2053 when we open it again when we mark 150 years of the Barcoo Shire Council.





# INFORMATION CENTRES & LIBRARIES

This last month at the library the children have been having lots of fun! Our F5F sessions were quieter this month, but still action packed with cars and playdough and even some kinetic sand! We have looked at various books in both F5F and our after school program, all with a kindness theme. Our activities include a 'Library Scavenger Hunt', Symmetry drawings, Anzac Day colouring in and the most fun of all was our 'Balloon Olympics' and 'Murder Scene'. The last two we were lucky enough to be joined by some children from Stonehenge.

Our next month will be action packed with 'Recycled Art', 'Letter Wrapping' and 'Emoji Mini Art'. Come on down Tuesday afternoons to the library with your water bottle and afternoon tea and see what all the fun is about! All school aged children (Prep-6) are welcome. Under school aged please come with adult supervision.

Next month we will be running F5F and After school programs in all 3 towns. Dates and flyers are below and please keep your eyes peeled on socials for more information!

Tourist numbers are up this month with the cooler weather around! All 3 towns have reported lots more activity! Don't forget to keep your eyes open on the noticeboards for updates in the community!

## Numbers for the month of May

Jundah – 236 Stonehenge - 417 Windorah - 415






PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE LOVER'S DAY



SONGS!

PLAY!

Storytime

Sensory Fun

Windorah Library	Stonehenge Library	Jundah Library
Monday 5th June	Tuesday 6th June	Monday 12th June
10:30am	10:30am	10am






## INFORMATION CENTRES &amp; LIBRARIES



Barcoo Shire Libraries invites you to

# LOVING LITERACY AND LIBRARY FUN!

WINDORAH LIBRARY  
MONDAY 5TH 3:15- 4:30PM

STONEHENGE LIBRARY  
TUESDAY 6TH 2:30-3:30PM

STORYTIME AND DISCUSSION  
CRAFT AND ACTIVITIES  
BORROWING CHALLENGES AND MORE!

BYO AFTERNOON TEA AND A WATERBOTTLE



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Wild Dog Baiting Program

The Barcoo Shire Coordinated Wild Dog Baiting Program is being undertaken from 29 May – 12 June 2023 on properties within the Barcoo Shire. Council will be aerial baiting as well as some ground baiting during this time.

Visitors and local community members are to be vigilant with their pets during baiting periods and take caution whilst travelling around the Shire. 1080 baits can remain active for long periods on properties adjacent to main roads and other road networks within the Shire boundary.

Be aware of the possibility that these baits can be transferred by wildlife from baited areas to non-baited areas such as our town commons, reserves, and road related areas. Please ensure you do not take your pets onto private property without first contacting the owner/manager.

For more information head to Council's website <https://www.barcoo.qld.gov.au/environment-planning/pest-management/> or contact Council's Rural Lands Support Officer Emily Jellie on (07) 4658 6973 or [emily.jellie@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:emily.jellie@barcoo.qld.gov.au).



**Goodbye 3G. Hello to a better network experience.**



Telstra are evolving their mobile network to ensure you always have the best possible experience. This means that on 30 June 2024, they're switching off their 3G network. The 4G and 5G networks will be available instead and offer an improved experience.

Some of your devices – including handsets, medical devices, and EFTPOS machines – may need to be updated or replaced ahead of next year's closure to ensure ongoing service.

Telstra here to help you with the change and answer any questions you may have. For more information <https://createsend.com/t/r-0CF78A5BBD05A0362540EF23F30FEDED>



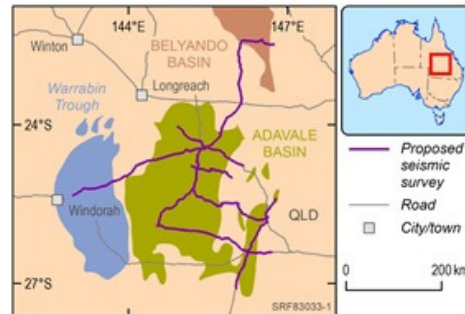
# COMMUNITY NOTICES



Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia is conducting a reflection seismic survey in Queensland as part of the Data Driven Discoveries program. The survey will pass through areas near Blackall, Charleville, Jericho, Yarka and Adavale.

Most of the survey will be carried out along public roads between April to August 2023. This will involve a number of heavy and light vehicles working within the road corridor. No lasting ground disturbance or damage to infrastructure is anticipated. Permissions to access any private tracks have been sought directly with landholders.



For further information  
Geoscience Australia

P: 1800 800 173





**WINDORAH**

RODEO CLUB

## Save the Date

**GYMKHANA & BRONCO BRANDING**  
**JULY 8 & 9 2023**

**CAMPDRAFT & RODEO**  
**AUGUST 11, 12 & 13 2023**

**MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!**  
**FAMILY FUN WEEKENDS!**

**FOR MORE INFO OR IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN**  
**SPONSORING AN EVENT PLEASE CONTACT**  
**SECRETARY.WINDORAHRODEOCLUB@GMAIL.COM**





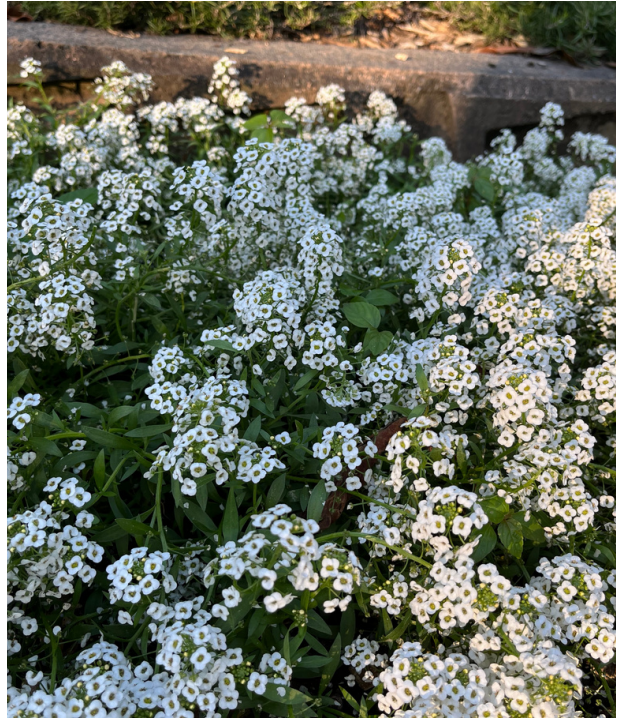
# GARDENING WITH FISHERS NURSERY

## PLOTS OF COLOUR

Now that the season has changed and the heat of summer has gone. It is time to start looking at those areas of the garden that need to be brightened up. This time of the year in Western Queensland always has cascade of colour from small garden plots, hanging baskets or planter pots.

A patch of colour in any garden is a delight to everyone that views it and a great reward to the person that has created the garden. It is also an opportunity to create colour displays on a balcony, patio or other sunny living areas. This can be achieved by planting beautiful flowering annuals in containers. Whether they be simple pots, decorative urns, or window planter boxes, containers are perfect for growing flowering plants at any time of the year. They are also good for providing a low maintenance solution to brightening up a courtyard or patio area. Growing plants in containers can also provide a much-needed activity for children, providing both the thrill of watching the plant grow and the responsibility of maintaining the plant.

There are many varieties of colourful annuals available at your local nursery suitable for container planting. When considering what type of annual to select, the first question to ask is which annual will provide the most vivid floral display in my garden?



A favourite flowering annual of mine is the Petunia, which will offer a wide range of colours either in fashionable or bright mixes or in separate colours. One more variety of Petunia released a few years ago that will make a colourful living mulch or fantastic cascading pot display is Petunia Songbird is a collection of compact, bushy plants with large, lightly ruffled flowers. Unlike other large flowering Petunias, they have an excellent weather tolerance and recover quickly after heavy rain. Songbird will fill your garden with masses of blooms, in a large variety of colours, such as deep blue, crimson, white, pink, rainbow, rose, burgundy, yellow, orange and blue ice.

Another Petunia that is perfect for our local area is Petunia Avalanche. It is a spreading Petunia that is perfect for large pots and garden beds. Petunia Avalanche grows to around 80cm wide and bears masses of single flowers, in colours of white, red, salmon, lavender, lilac, pink or rose pink.





# GARDENING WITH FISHERS NURSERY



This time of year Snapdragons, Pansies and Violas all provide excellent displays in pots. At the moment there are so many new releases to look out for at your local nursery. If you would like to make bold statement in the garden or in pots new release Pansy Whiskers could be the plant. Pansy Whiskers have traditional clear flower face colours crossed with a unique veining pattern that create the whiskers image. With flowers colours of orange, yellow, white, light blue, purple/white and red/gold.

One of the most unique new release flowering annuals would have to be Viola Tiger-Eye. This selection of viola displays small yellow blooms with black veins radiating from the centre, just like a tiger's eye. The other interesting Viola release is Viola Raspberries & Cream. It has a distinct floral display of pink-rose shades amongst a white face. Shading colours can vary with temperature from a soft pink to a more defined deep rose in cooler climates.

Once potted, these plants should be kept out of windy spots, as moisture will evaporate more quickly. Avoid very shady spots as well, as most summer annuals need plenty of sun. A handy hint to remember when planting your seedling, a good potting mix is important. I would recommend one that is well balanced, light and easy draining and I would include a slow release fertiliser and water retention granules. While most flowering annuals need watering, the flowers are easily damaged when sprayed too heavily with water. Remember though, a feed of a soluble fertiliser every couple of weeks will be needed to keep the flowers coming.

## PLANT NOW

**Flowers** - Alyssum, Ageratum, Candytuft, Cineraria, Clarkia, Cornflower, Delphinium, Dianthus, Godetia, Gypsophila, Hollyhock, Larkspur, Linaria, Lobelia, Lupin, Love In The Mist (Nigella), Nemesis, Nasturtium, Pansy, Petunia, Phlox, Poppy, Primula, Schizanthus, Snapdragon, Statice, Stock, Sweet Pea, Verbena, Viola.

**Vegetables** - Beans, Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Capsicum, Cauliflower, Carrots, Celery, Cress, Leek, Lettuce, Melons, Mustard, Pumpkin, Radish, Silverbeet, Tomato, Zucchini.

Neil Fisher  
Fisher's Nursery  
M: 0408 282440  
Email: [fishersnursery@bigpond.com](mailto:fishersnursery@bigpond.com)



# Barcoo Shire 2023 Events

## JULY

8-9 Windorah Gymkhana, Stockman's  
Challenge and Bronco Branding  
28 Jundah P&C Trivia Night

## AUGUST

11- 13 Windorah Campdraft & Rodeo  
18-20 Stonehenge Bushman's Carnival  
30 Windorah International Yabby Races

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

22-24 Jundah Horse & Motorbike Sports  
29 Sep- 1st Oct Barcoo Spring Fling

