

# BARCOO *Banter*

COMMUNITY NEWS • SEPTEMBER 2023



RLR PHOTOGRAPHY

JUNDAH MOTORBIKE GYMKHANA

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 - P5
- Council News P6 - P7
- Wild Dog Baiting Community Notice P8
- Libraries P9
- Ergon Energy Update P10
- Community Notices P11 - P13
- Events Calendar P14

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

Cut off date for October Newsletter  
 COB 25 October 2023



**Want to give back to the Jundah community?**

Be a volunteer ambulance driver.  
 You might just save someone's life.

For more information call the  
 Director of Nursing at the  
 Jundah Primary Health Centre. **> 4658 6500**





### Contact Council

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

Mayor Sally O'Neil: 0424 791 449  
[sally.oneil@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:sally.oneil@barcoo.qld.gov.au)

Cr Roger Batt: 0448 585 942  
[roger.batt@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:roger.batt@barcoo.qld.gov.au)

Cr Andrew Miller: 0428 437 975  
[andrew.miller@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.miller@barcoo.qld.gov.au)

Cr Dianne Pidgeon: 0458 585 921  
[dianne.pidgeon@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:dianne.pidgeon@barcoo.qld.gov.au)

Cr Tony Jackson: 0428 583 254  
[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. September certainly gave us a dose of what is yet to come. Gusty winds, higher than average temperatures and no rain was predicted and proved not to be too wrong with Australia having its driest September on record. Let's hope for a cool change before Spring slips away and the inevitable summer temperatures arrive.

The residents of Windorah have been experiencing failings with the 3G and 4G network for some time. I have been able to raise this with the General Manager for Regional Australia who has been exceptionally helpful in responding to residents' concerns.



A fault has been identified and technicians will be in Windorah in the next couple of weeks to rectify. Below is two simple dot points that can assist people whilst Telstra work on the issue and anytime as a backup.

- Most modern EFTPOS terminals can use Wi-Fi linking into fixed network services and/or mobile service to operate effectively. We recommend you contact your bank to check what EFTPOS facility you have.
- Wi-Fi Calling - If you have a Telstra mobile with a compatible device, you'll be able to make voice calls using your Fixed Broadband Wi-Fi connection. <https://www.telstra.com.au/coverage-networks/mobile-technology#wificalling>

At the end of October we will have a PhD Student in Windorah who successfully received a Justin Costello Lake Eyre Grant from the Dept. of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The purpose of the trip will be to deploy auditory detection devices (4) along Coopers Creek. The proposed project involves using remote sensing devices (to collect audio and water quality measurements) together with cloud-based machine learning (AI). The goal is to identify frog/toad species calls and correlate the identified species distribution with water quality indicators.

You may be aware the Department of Resources has been consulting extensively with various stakeholders regarding several actions identified in the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan (QRIDP).

- a review of Queensland's land access and coexistence institutions;
- reforms to regulatory framework for small-scale mining; and
- a more effective and efficient regulatory framework for the resources sector.

The department has considered the feedback received to date to refine the proposals and determine the legislative changes required to implement these reforms. Government is now preparing to consult further on a range of regulatory reforms before a bill is introduced into Parliament early next year.

The department released three consultation papers on 27 September 2023, which seek feedback on proposals to:

- strengthen Queensland's coexistence institutions and subsidence management framework;
- enhance the regulatory framework for mining claims; and
- improve regulatory efficiency for the resource sector.

The department will be in contact with key stakeholders during the consultation period. You can find the paper and details of how to provide feedback online at [www.resources.qld.gov.au/qridp/have-your-say](http://www.resources.qld.gov.au/qridp/have-your-say).

Consultation will remain open until 8 December 2023 and the department encourages residents and other interested stakeholders to provide feedback by completing the online form or by making a submission to [ResourcesPolicy@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:ResourcesPolicy@resources.qld.gov.au)

# MAYOR'S *Message*

WITH SALLY O'NEIL

The last half of September in Jundah was action packed with the Jundah Community Bronco Branding and Team Penning Association hosting the middle weekend of the school holidays entertainment. The Friday morning started off with a Stockman's Challenge followed by the horse Gymkhana and in the evening Team Penning. Saturday was a lovely day with gale force winds and dust and the bronco branding teams playing hard. Thanks to Smiley Transport for coming along with the water cart to settle the dust. Sunday morning it was time for the bikes to come out and show their talent. It was a great weekend of entertainment for everyone and huge thank you to the committee for their dedication and hard work.

The Jundah Race Committee turned it on for the last weekend of the school holidays with the Jundah Spring Fling Carnival. This was a weekend of all things horse sport and attracted competitors from far and wide. The Outback Barrel Horse Circuit started the weekend with the Barbie themed pole bending on Friday night followed by the first round of the westbreast barrel competition. This was closely followed by the annual Jundah Races with a 5-race meeting. The afternoon and evening we were entertained by the Sprint Horses doing the 200m dash for cash. Sunday morning saw the second round of the barrels. The 1D Youth and Open barrels was taken out by Chelsea Roberts from Rockhampton, Jundah Cup was won by trainer Dave Rewald's horse Moriconi and ridden by Brooke Richardson and the fastest sprint horse was won by Jody Murray's horse Sullivans Eysacat ridden by Miranda Shephard. Another wonderful weekend of entertainment in the Barcoo Shire and another huge thank you to the committee for their dedication and hard work.

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

- Windorah water treatment plant – 12-month liability period has commenced
- Budgerygar floodway – Delayed, works proposed to begin mid-October
- Thomson River culverts Jundah – Delayed, due for completion mid-October
- 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. Dave Ross's crew have completed the Nildes Jump up rehabilitation job. They have relocated to Bimerah Isisford Rd stabilisation project. Jason Beilby's crew have relocated to Windorah to commence the rehabilitation project on the airstrip.

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

Contractor Crew are doing flood damage on Jundah Winton Rd near Mayne crossing. Flying gang are currently on the bulk signage project between Windorah and Quilpie.

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 25th of October 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





# MAYOR'S *Message*

WITH SALLY O'NEIL



*Above - Isisford-Bimmerah Road, photo by Jason Beilby*

*Bronco Branding, photo by Daryl Cossar*



*Below - Jundah Rodeo Club weekend, RLR Photography*





# COUNCIL NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 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>

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Council adopted the organisational structure. A review will be presented to the December 2023 Ordinary Meeting. To download the most recent organizational structure please visit <https://www.barcoo.qld.gov.au/about-council/council-structure/organisational-chart>
- Council adopted the Meeting Procedures (Standing Orders) for Council Meetings: Statutory Policy, download here <https://www.barcoo.qld.gov.au/about-council/policies>
- Council approved the Jundah Primary Health Centre, in partnership with the Central West Hospital and Health Service, to undertake a prescribed activity on Council operated land, being the painting of the dead tree situated on the Jundah Town Common, as part of the Blue Tree, Mental Health Project.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

- Council approved the request of in-kind assistance (estimated at \$1934) from the Jundah State School Parents and Citizens Association to clear/grade the nominated area of Lot 9 on Plan J2744 and that in the communication to the Jundah State School Parents and Citizens Association on the matter, it is made clear that being a State Government owned asset, no ongoing assistance will be provided by Council to develop or maintain the nominated area.

The Barcoo Shire Council holds its next Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 25 October 2023 at the **Jundah Board Room, 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.

## COUNCIL JOB VACANCIES

Council have a number of job vacancies that can be viewed by clicking on the links below:

- [Roadhouse Attendant - Casual - Jundah](#)
- [Pool Attendant – Relief /As Required - Jundah](#)
- [Final Trim Grader](#)
- [Expression of Interest - Casual Employment](#)

For more information regarding working for Council please visit our website <https://www.barcoo.qld.gov.au/about-council/employment/job-vacancies> or call or email Alison Lamb, People, Culture and Safety on 07 4658 6919 or [HR@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:HR@barcoo.qld.gov.au)



# COUNCIL NEWS

## Windorah Aerodrome Runway Upgrade

*11 October – 15 December 2023*

The Barcoo Shire Council wish to advise residents that the Windorah Airport will be closed from 11 October – 15 December 2023, to undertake critical works in the upgrade of the runway. Council apologise for any inconvenience during this time. A bus service will operate between Windorah and Quilpie to coincide with flight times.

The bus will run 4 times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) as per our general plane days. The below snip is straight from the “Emergency Services Contract” between Translink (DTMR) and Council.

Weekly schedule	Depart Windorah Western Star Hotel	Arrive Quilpie Airport	Depart Quilpie Airport	Arrive Windorah Western Star Hotel
Monday	0735	1105	1205	1535
Tuesday	0905	1235	1335	1705
Thursday	0735	1105	1205	1535
Friday	0905	1235	1335	1705

The RFDS (Queensland Section) will continue to service the Windorah region while the Windorah airstrip is closed for maintenance for the three months from October.

The RFDS will use the Ourdel Station airstrip to ensure both primary health care clinics and aeromedical services remain accessible for the community. Weekly clinics will remain unaffected and on schedule during this time, and aeromedical operations will continue to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Air mail and freight will continue as normal, this will now be collected off the plane in Quilpie.

In the event of wet weather, the RFDS has an alternative runway option to ensure limited disruption to services.

# IMPORTANT COMMUNITY NOTICE

## WILD DOG BAITING

### *Aerial Baiting – Sunday 29 October to Friday 3 November 2023*

The Barcoo Shire Coordinated Wild Dog Baiting Program is being undertaken from 29 October – 3 November 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 Officer Peter Pidgeon on 0459 028 596 or

[Peter.Pidgeon@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Pidgeon@barcoo.qld.gov.au).





# INFORMATION CENTRES

## Stonehenge Library - One Remarkable Reef

On Tuesday 12 September at 2:00pm Miss Julie at the Stonehenge Library hosted First5Forever and after school craft.

We had 7 under 5 years olds from Stonehenge and 2 staff/parents really to enjoy the book '*One Remarkable Reef*'. We filled a sensory tub with beach coloured rice, seashells and cut out sea animals. Children also enjoyed singing and dancing followed by some crafts. F5F attendance - 7 children, 2 adults.

At 2:30 we had the Stonehenge State School children join us in the boardroom for some sea animal crafts. After School program attendance - 18 children, 3 adults.



## FIRST 5 FOREVER & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

October 9th Jundah Jellybeans Rhyme  
Time 10am

October 16th Windorah Playgroup 2:30pm  
After School Program from 3pm

October 17th Stonehenge Library 2:30pm  
After School Program from 3pm

October 23rd Jundah Library 10am








**INFORMATION CENTRE STATS FOR SEPTEMBER**  
**JUNDAH 239 - STONEHENGE 352 - WINDORAH 337**

# ERGON ENERGY UPDATE

Hello again!

As we mentioned in our last Barcoo Banter update in June, we've sadly reached the end of an era for the solar concentrators at the Windorah Solar Farm. Commissioned in 2008, the solar concentrator farm was Ergon's first ever solar farm trial and has been an iconic symbol of Windorah for the past 15 years.

While solar concentrators were state of the art renewable energy technology at the turn of the century, significant advances in solar PV and batteries in the last couple of decades, mean that they are no longer the most efficient way to meet Windorah's long-term energy needs.

After a slight delay to the original decommissioning timeline, the solar concentrator removal, site demolition and earth works are scheduled to commence on site on 9 October 2023 and will take about 3 weeks to complete. During this time the solar concentrators will be deconstructed and removed off site where parts will be recycled. The site will then be cleared in preparation for the new solar farm and battery. Please be on the lookout for some extra trucks and machinery in the area during this time.

Speaking of the new solar and battery farm, the Queensland government formally announced Windorah, and three other solar projects, in a joint media statement from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services, the Honourable Mark Bailey, and the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement, the Honourable Mick de Brenni. The Ministers' announced:

- *The Palaszczuk Government's 2023-24 Budget is delivering \$28 million to take Boulia, Burketown, Doomadgee, and Windorah off expensive fossil-fuelled power.*
- *These projects will see solar generation and battery storage systems contributing renewable energy to the generation mix of the four power stations, supporting the reduction of diesel usage.*
- *Windorah: Ergon Energy Network is planning to install 850kW of solar PV and 1,000kWh of energy storage, which will save 150,000 litres of diesel and \$300,000 each year.*

- *The projects will also create direct and indirect jobs in these communities, as part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.*

You can check out the full media release here: Sunshine to savings: remote Queensland communities to save big with solar - Ministerial Media Statements (<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/98544>)

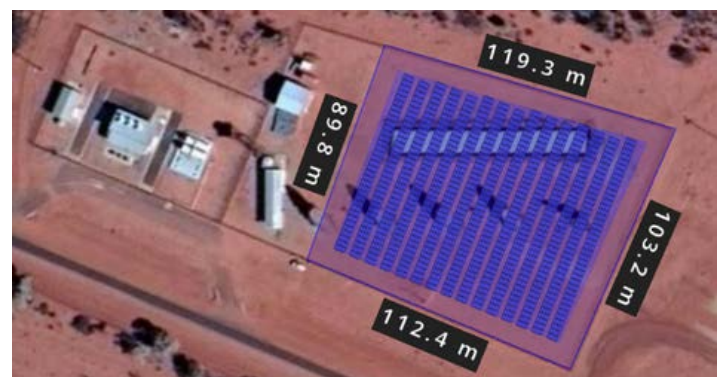
The new solar farm and battery will ensure over half of Windorah's total power is sourced from renewable energy, and we have longer term plans to see this figure go to 100% renewable energy by 2040. This project demonstrates our commitment to remote and regional communities and will ensure that Windorah remains at the forefront of the transition to a renewable energy future.

We wanted to say thanks to the Barcoo Shire Council and community for allowing us to serve you in this way, and we look forward to our next visit back to your region. Personally, I (Andrew) can't wait to get back to the schools and talk more about the new Windorah Solar Farm project and renewable energy and see how we can all save power in our homes and communities.

For more information on the solar farm, you can contact Andrew at [andrew.kunst@energyq.com.au](mailto:andrew.kunst@energyq.com.au)

Thanks again everyone, and we look forward to seeing you again next time we visit.

Andrew Kunst, Kein Jones and Kate Austin  
Isolated Networks and Community teams  
Ergon Energy Network





# COMMUNITY NOTICES



## SAVE THE DATE

*Jundah State School Christmas Tree*



*+ Presentation Night*

**Friday 1st December**

## GRANTS & FUNDING

**Attention Community Groups**

Currently there are a number of grants available for Community Groups and individuals. Please continue to the following link to find grants that might suit your needs

<https://www.rda-ddsw.org.au/current-grants/>.

If you have any questions or need help finding grants don't hesitate to contact Megan Miller on [megan.miller@barcoo.qld.gov.au](mailto:megan.miller@barcoo.qld.gov.au)

## WINDORAH BLUELIGHT TOUCH FOOTY

**NOVEMBER  
3RD, 4TH & 5TH**

KICK OFF AT 5PM ON FRIDAY EVENING FOR ROUND 1

SATURDAY NIGHT KICK OFF AT 5PM FOR ROUND 2

GRAND FINAL SUNDAY MORNING

VENUE - WINDORAH RODEO GROUNDS

ON THE SATURDAY PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COOL DOWN AT COOPERS CREEK DURING THE DAY AND ENGAGE IN SOME WATER ACTIVITIES FISHING, SWIMMING ETC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL ROB, WINDORAH POLICE ON 4652 5122.



**VENUE  
WINDORAH RODEO GROUNDS**



Sponsored by

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## SO YOU WANT TO BE A COUNCILLOR?

Online training now available

### SO YOU WANT TO BE A COUNCILLOR?

With quadrennial Local Government elections coming 16 March 2024, the mandatory Queensland Government So you want to be a councillor? training for candidates has launched online. In the coming months the department will also begin face-to-face sessions around the state for anyone wishing to complete the training in person.

The training takes approximately 90 minutes to complete. It explains the obligations and responsibilities of nominees for election and contains information about the recently legislated election expenditure caps.

The training must be completed within six months of nominating, even by sitting mayors and councillors who may have completed the training before. Information about the elections and how to complete the training is available on the departments website. Visit <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/local-government/for-the-community/so-you-want-to-be-a-councillor>



## BARCOO SHIRE GARDEN DAY – FEATURING ESTELLE CORNELL

**Location: Braidwood Station, Jundah**

**When: 15 October 2023**

**10:30**

Propagating plants workshop

**11:30**

Soils aint just soils

*Feel free to bring a soil sample from home!*

**12:30**

**Lunch (everyone to bring a picnic lunch to share on the lawn)**

**1:30**

Make a beeline – attract the birds and the bees

**2:00**

Get into the Xmas spirit. Make a wreath for your own centre piece using bit and pieces from the garden

***Bring some pots or buckets for cuttings! Everyone welcome!***





## COMMUNITY NOTICES

BAR &  
DINNER  
BY STAG!

**Dirty Fame  
Flash Candles  
CLUB**

**19 October 2023 @ 6.30pm**

  
**RED RIDGE**  
INTERIORS QUEENSLAND LTD



*WES*  
**Western Standard  
PRODUCTIONS**

**Stonehenge Hall**  
**FREE EVENT**

This project has been supported by the Queensland Government through the Touring Queensland Fund and the Regional Arts Development Fun in partnership with your local Council.





# Barcoo Shire 2023 Events

## OCTOBER

15 Barcoo Shire Garden Day - Jundah  
19 Dirty Fame Flash Club - Stonehenge

## NOVEMBER

3, 4 & 5 Windorah Bluelight Touch  
Football  
30 Windorah SS Presentation Night &  
Christmas Tree

## DECEMBER

1 Jundah SS Presentation Night  
& Christmas Tree  
2 Stonehenge SS Presentation Night  
& Christmas Tree

