

MAYOR'S MESSAGE APRIL 2020

The new council has been sworn in and we are getting down to business for the next four years. As I have stated previously I like to see each elected council plan and then, hopefully, deliver based on the four year cycle which takes us from election to election. The one constant we have is that we know this group will be here for this time and if we want to achieve something as a group then it should be completed before the next election when the group will more than likely change. It is also very important for staff to have clear direction from Council so they know what we are trying to achieve.

I would like to congratulate all our elected councillors and also those who stood for election. It was the smallest field we have had for many years but a strong one. I believe any of those who stood would have done a sound job. Although we only have one new councillor I have always found that even one change normally changes the dynamic and culture of the Council to some extent and change can often be a positive. In the six councils I have been on there has always been at least one change at every election.

The Covid-19 virus is still front of mind for everyone but we are now starting to talk about how the world will be after we get back to "normal". Many of us feel that regional Australia will become a more attractive place for people to live and work for two reasons. Firstly, because it is the crowds and congestion of cities that cultivates health crisis's like this one and secondly, there are millions of people now working from home and are finding out the real benefits of that and will probably push to be able to continue to operate like that after the virus has gone. Of course, if you do that, you could be living virtually anywhere, even in the far west. The critical thing here will be the level of services they can access and possibly the most important one will be connectivity. The extra load on our telecommunications is highlighting its failings and this is something we will have to strive to see upgraded and improved.

I also feel there will be a far greater appreciation of our natural resources and what we produce from them. Australians, right across the country, must be thankful that we produce so much food, way more than our country needs, and therefore we will never run out in circumstances like these. This shire's food and fibre industries, I believe, will be held in far higher regard by our city cousins than previously and that can only lead to positive outcomes.

Likewise our oil and gas industry should be far more appreciated than previously. This country has very finite oil reserves and couldn't operate for more than a few weeks if our imported oil supply was shut down. The more domestic oil we have at our disposal the better. We fortunately have more gas reserves but domestic supply is limited because of our contracted export markets we have to meet. Again, the more developed domestic supply we have the better.

I was very disappointed to hear of reports of some locals being quite extreme in their requests for some of our resource industry workers to leave their area of the shire. I have spoken to companies like Santos and Bridgeport and let me assure you these companies were on the front foot regarding putting in place all the correct protocols to ensure they didn't spread the virus into our shire. Remember also that many of our "FIFO's" have been working out here for over twenty years and, as far as I am concerned, are as local as anyone. Lastly, as stated above, the oil and gas industry is an absolutely essential industry for our country but, also, their enormous contribution to the wealth of this shire should ensure that all resource workers are treated with the utmost respect and support. Just remember that this community would not have the enviable level of services and facilities that we enjoy if we didn't have a resource industry operating in our shire.

Many may still be overly concerned about what would happen if the Covid-19 virus got into the shire and I can

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YOUR COUNCILLORS

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understand that concern but at a recent teleconference I had with the Premier and the Chief Health Officer they assured us that plans are in place should this occur. Any confirmed case that needs treatment would be flown directly to the nearest large centre for hospitalisation and that four planes are on standby specifically for this purpose. These four planes are on top of what is already available. I honestly feel the risk out here is quite minimal but we will continue to be vigilant.

Our tourism season is non-existent and any business reliant on that is in a pretty dark place at the moment. Council is aware of this and through Councillor Lyn Barnes, who holds the Business Development portfolio, we will be collecting information from those businesses over the next few weeks so we can try and assess the situation. I would urge any of the most affected businesses to contact Lyn. I would hate to see a business permanently close, through no fault of their own, because of this virus.

Thankfully most of the shire is having a good season so that is one challenge we don't have to meet. Time will tell just how much affect world events will have on commodity markets but hopefully they will hold up enough to give our grazing community some much needed relief.

It has been a crazy start to 2020 but hopefully we will start to see things settle down over coming months!

Kind Regards,

Stuart Mackenzie

CURRENT VACANCIES

BUILDING TRADESPERSON Fulltime Position

Remuneration to be negotiated
Closing Date: 4.00pm Wednesday
22 April 2020

A wide range of salary sacrifice
options are available to council
employees.

For all the details, including how
to apply, visit our website at
www.quilpie.qld.gov.au



**WE'RE
HIRING!**

JOIN OUR TEAM



Council Bin Collection

Council wishes to
reinforce that bins must
be out **before 6 am** on
bin days and that the lids
must be sitting on the bin
and not overflowing.



HOW DOES FLOOD DAMAGE WORK?

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (colloquially known as "flood damage") come into effect when a natural disaster is declared for a particular area and event eg major flooding or cyclone. Once the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have been activated by the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Council is in a position to undertake emergency repair works. All damage must be fully recorded to verify that the works were necessary and then the works are scheduled. Only the minimum amount of work necessary to make the road safe can be undertaken. If this process is not followed to the letter Council will not be reimbursed for the cost of the works.

Once that process has been completed, Council or their project manager can commence logging all of the damage to the road network. Again comprehensive data is required to verify the location, damage and type of work required to effect the repairs. This information is then submitted to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) for review and approval. This process can take some time, particularly as there are often many local authority areas submitting information.

Council cannot commence undertaking the final road reconstruction activities until the QRA has completed their assessment and finalised the eligible works as any works not approved will not be reimbursed. Works are then typically divided up into "packages" for tendering purposes.



This year, the RSL are asking Australians to stand in your driveway, on your balcony or in your living room to remember all those who have served and sacrificed.

To pledge your participation, & to explore the other great material available, including how to make your own ANZAC Day wreath

Please visit: <https://rslqld.org/Whats-On/ANZAC-Day>

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR LOCAL BUSINESS OPERATORS

Council held their first meeting of the new term of Council on Friday 17 April. A discussion was held at the meeting on possible ways Council could assist those businesses impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions put in place by the government.

Council also allocated portfolios for this term of Council and Cr Lyn Barnes was appointed to the Business Development portfolio. One of Lyn's first tasks under her portfolio will be to contact as many businesses as possible to get feedback on how Council could assist during these tough times. If Lyn can't get onto you please feel free to email her at lbarnes@quilpie.qld.gov.au and/or myself at ceo@quilpie.qld.gov.au to ensure we get as much feedback as possible. Alternatively you can give Lyn a call on 0428 561 461.

Council will be having a workshop session on Friday 01 May to discuss the feedback received and to formulate a plan of action.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Friday 17 April 2020, Councillors were appointed to following portfolios for the 2020-2024 Quilpie Shire Council:

- Business development - Cr Lyn Barnes
- Arts, culture & tourism - Cr Roger Volz
- Sport, recreation and youth - Cr Bruce Paulsen
- Health and community services - Cr Jenny Hewson

ADVANCING WOMEN IN BUSINESS PEOPLE LEADERSHIP SERIES

The National Retail Industry Skills Partnership is making it easier for Queensland employers to take on trainees and create skilled careers for your existing workers.

The NRA will be delivering a series of **FREE** webinars to help up skill women in business around Queensland. This 12 webinar series will deliver 4 Modules of our People Leadership Program. Participants can register for certain webinars or

register for the series.

Topics to be covered include effective communication, getting the best from your workforce, leading your team and inspiring your team.

The first webinar will be held this Thursday 23 April from 10.00-11.00am

To register your attendance visit

<https://www.nra.net.au/events/advancing-women-in-business-free-webinar-series/>

KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE.

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

Help stop the spread of coronavirus by keeping your distance. Remember, don't shake hands or exchange physical greetings. Wherever possible stay 1.5 metres apart and practise good hand hygiene, especially after being in public places.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.

Advice regarding **Coronavirus** will change regularly. Keep up to date. Visit [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)

HELP
STOP THE
SPREAD
AND STAY HEALTHY

1.5M



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

WITH
FIONA LAKE

25 & 26
JULY
2020

QUILPIE
CULTURAL
SOCIETY

ALL SKILL
LEVELS
WELCOME

- ✓ AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
- ✓ VIDEOGRAPHY
- ✓ HANDS ON FLIGHT TIME
- ✓ PERSONALISED PRESENTATION
- ✓ BRING YOUR OWN EQUIPMENT OR
- ✓ USE THE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
HOLLI.MCCARTHY@HOTMAIL.COM

PROUDLY FUNDED BY RADE IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH QUILPIE
SHIRE COUNCIL

Please consider emailing a photo of your dogs in order that they can be recorded in Council's animal register.

Should your pet go missing or be impounded it will allow easier identification of the owner if they do not have a tag on their collar.

WHY SHOP LOCALLY?

- 1 Local Economic Stimulus** – When you purchase from locally-owned businesses more money is kept in the local community as local business often purchase from other local business and employ local residents. Spending your money at local business stimulates the local economy.
- 2 You Matter More** – Your values and wants are much more important to our local business owners than they are to managers of large chain stores. You can also help mould a local store through your purchasing decisions and feedback. As the success of local business relies on you, local business owners are going to be more likely to treat you well and provide you with excellent service.
- 3 Business Owners Have Invested in Our Community** – Our local businesses are generally owned by people who live in our community. They are far more committed to **our community's welfare and future** than businesses in major cities or even overseas.
- 4 More Choices** – The more we spend at our local businesses, the more options they have to provide greater variety and better prices. This in turn means visitors are likely to spend more in our community as well.

BuyLocal

Quilpie Eromanga Adavale Toompine

Due to Australian Government Restrictions regarding Covid-19, please see below for the current list of closed Council Facilities:

- Council Works Depot (except via appointment only)
- Bi-Centennial Park (Including the Skate Park, Exercise Equipment & Sports Courts)
- All of Council public BBQ's, Picnic Areas (tables, chairs etc)
- Playgrounds & Exercise Equipment (across entire Shire)
- John Waugh Park & Bulloo Park
- Sport & Recreation Centre
- Visitor Information Centre & Gallery
- Quilpie Library
- All Community Halls & Museums (across entire Shire)
- Multi-purpose court (Eromanga)- open to a maximum of two (2) people at a time only with social distancing in place
- Quilpie & Eromanga Swimming Pools
- All Council camping Facilities (including bush camping across entire Shire)
- Non-critical ablution blocks
- Health Promotions Activity Program
- Opal fossicking area (on the edge of Quilpie Township)

**TENDERS T07 1920 AND T08 1920
PANELS OF PRE-QUALIFIED SUPPLIERS FOR
2020-2022**

Tenders closing at 2pm on Friday 15 May 2020 are being called to allow Council to establish panels of pre-qualified suppliers for the engagement of contractors to undertake various works.

The tenders are only applicable to companies within the Quilpie Shire Council area. Projects requiring contractors outside the Quilpie Shire Council area will be called as individual project tenders.

Tender T07 1920 is for contractors to undertake a range of projects including civil works and building and trade works.

Tender T08 1920 is for the hire of plant and equipment.

Tenders will be in effect from 01 July 2020 to June 2022.

To submit a tender contractors must log in to Council's VendorPanel platform and subscribe to the relevant list. If you haven't already you must register with Vendorpanel.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Council wishes to advise the community that after school activities at the library and youth centre will not take place until further notice.

**HAD A NEAR MISS OR ACCIDENT
ON THE ROAD?**
(Particularly along the main state controlled roads)

In an important move to collect data in relation to safety issues on our roads Council has established a dedicated email address (roads@quilpie.qld.gov.au) to allow residents to advise Council of dangerous experiences.

If you report an incident please include location, time of day, and details of the experience.

TIPS FOR KEEPING MOSQUITOES AT BAY

Empty water containers - All mosquitoes lay eggs in water, and they need little of it. Reducing, if not eliminating, standing water is the first step in eradicating the mosquito threat. We create all sorts of areas for water to collect, which provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Toss/tidy unnecessary Junk - The best time to look is right after a rain, when water collects in small items you might not think of as problematic.

Clean your Gutters - Over Summer, your gutters may have filled up with debris and won't drain properly. Clean out gutters and downpipes to make sure water doesn't pool and create a welcome breeding environment.

Treat Water - Mosquitoes like still or stagnant water, so make sure that pools are properly chlorinated and maintain the filter. Clean filters in fountains and run them frequently, which helps deter mosquitoes from laying eggs there.

Tie Tarps tightly - If you're using a tarp to cover a pile of firewood, a boat, your BBQ, or any other large items, make sure it's pulled tight. Otherwise, rainwater pools in the folds and the low spots. If the tarp can't be pulled tight, remove it so the water drains.

Mow your Lawn - Finally, pull weeds near foundations and keep your lawn mowed to a low height to reduce habitat.

From the CEO's Desk

The last Ordinary meeting of Council was held on Friday 17 April 2020. The mandatory post-election meeting was held prior to the commencement of the Ordinary meeting.

At the post-election meeting Cr Jenny Hewson was reappointed to the position of Deputy Mayor. Council resolved to set their meeting day and times as the second Friday of each month commencing at 9.30am.

A busy Ordinary Meeting followed where a number of decisions were considered.

Council ratified their earlier decision to approve the request for financial assistance from Mulga Mates Inc. to recruit a Diploma qualified childcare worker, to the approximate value of \$7,500 plus GST.

As usual, Councillors presented verbal reports on activities they have undertaken during the month, with a large number of briefings and meetings were held in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic.

As part of the annual plant replacement program, Council awarded the tender for the supply and delivery of one (1) 2020 light truck with trade to Black Truck and Ag for a total cost of \$97,680 including GST.

Council has carried out construction of new footpaths in recent times including Chipu Street adjacent to John Waugh park and Chulungra street adjacent to the State College this financial year.

Council's approach to new footpaths has been somewhat ad-hoc but based on a loose plan. A proposed master plan to set the direction for future footpath construction was presented to Council for consideration.

Council initiated a portfolio structure at their September 2016 meeting. With the new Council now having commenced the portfolio allocations were made as follows:

- Business development : Cr Lyn Barnes
- Arts, culture and tourism: Cr Roger Volz
- Sport, recreation and youth: Cr Bruce Paulsen
- Health and community services: Cr Jenny Hewson

In addition to the portfolios elected members were appointed as Council representatives on various committees and groups.

Pamela Denise has been engaged to undertake a master plan for the Quilpie Streetscape project and to develop and implement various stages of the project. Council resolved to proceed with the replacement of the two shaded seating areas which have been identified in the plan.

Mr Sasha Lennon of SJ Lennon and Associates attended the meeting via video-conference to provide Council an update on the Economic Development Strategy currently under development.

The objective of the Virtual Reality Experience project is to develop a Tourism Experience at night in Quilpie that showcases Quilpie and the Shire. Quilpie Shire does not have formal night experiences or products that will encourage a visitor to stay overnight.

The story will focus on the evolution and history of Quilpie Shire from dinosaurs to the modern day. It will include narration and images projected onto a large all weather screen and run for approximately 20 minutes. Council supported the proposed storyline as presented.

CUSP Landscape Architecture & Urban Design have been appointed to prepare the Eromanga Masterplan. The draft plan was presented to Council for consideration.

Council granted permission to Scott and Mel Edwards to agist a maximum of 30 head of mixed cattle on Warrabin Lane Reserve for an initial period of six (6) months, to be reviewed after the first three months based on seasonal conditions.

Concerns have been raised in relation to the unauthorised use of the Adavale Sport and Recreation Yards. Council will write to private landholders utilising the Adavale Sport and Recreation Yards outlining the concerns regarding use of the yards, and advising the practice is not permitted except with prior written approval for each use event.

By email dated 16 April 2020, President of the Eromanga District Community Association, Mr Corey Richards, has written to Council highlighting current issues being experienced with internet and 3G accessibility. Council will continue to lobby relevant agencies and governments in an effort to gain improved telecommunications across the shire.

Council resolved to write to the Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, requesting that Bureau of Meteorology services be expanded to include a weather radar at Eromanga.

Council accepted the request from the Chief Executive Officer for a renewal of contract for a further three (3) years commencing from October 2020.

As usual a range of other administrative matters were considered.

The full minutes of Council meetings are generally available on our website the Tuesday or Wednesday following a Friday meeting.

The next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for Friday 08 May 2020. All meetings of Council are open to the public subject to maintaining the required distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am happy to meet with anyone that would like further information on any meeting outcomes. Members of the community are also reminded that all Councillors are happy to speak with you on any issue.

Regards

Dave B.



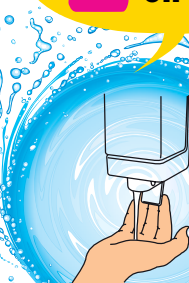
6 Steps to successful hand washing

Listen up Quilpie Shire wash your hands, regularly!
Use soap and water or an alcohol - based hand sanitiser to stop
the spread of germs that might be lurking on your hands!

1 Wet hands
with water



2 Put soap
on hands



3 Rub hands for
20 seconds



4 Rinse hands
under water



5 Dry hands with
paper towel



6 Dispose of hand
towel in bin



Halliebec Towing and Contracting (41 Chipu Street) is an approved Container Refund point for anyone wanting to recycle eligible beverage containers, bottles or cans. The exchange is open Tuesday from 4.30 - 6.00pm (subject to change). Quantities over 1500 will be taken by appointment. To set up your scheme ID visit consumer.containersforchange.com.au/create-account or for more information visit www.containersforchange.com.au



DON'T TAKE THE RISK THIS SEASON

GET THE FLU VACCINE.



The **INFLUENZA** vaccine is recommended for anyone aged 6 months and over and provided **FREE** for those most at risk from influenza and its complications.

Ask about the influenza vaccine today.

health.gov.au/immunisation



A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

AUSTEK BITUMEN RESEALING WORKS

EROMANGA AND QUILPIE

MONDAY 27 APRIL – FRIDAY 01 MAY

Council has engaged Austek Bitumen Services to carry out resealing of various roads and streets.

Monday 27 April to Wednesday 29 April from 7.00am to 4.00pm:

Eulo Road Toompine;

Kyabra Road; and

King street and Webber streets (south side only) Eromanga

Thursday 30 April 7.00am to 4.00pm
Murana Road and Aerodrome Road

Friday 1 May 2020 7.00am to 4.00pm
Pegler street and Buln Buln street (West side only)

Council would appreciate it if you could ensure any vehicles that are located in these areas are not parked on the road from 7:00am and 4:00pm on the relevant dates.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time.

For further information please contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 07 4656 0500.

RATES NOTICES OVERDUE

Ratepayers of the Quilpie Shire Council are advised that rate notices for the period 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 were issued on 02 March 2020.

Rates are now OVERDUE, with the exception of rural landowners in rating categories 6, 8, 9 and 10.

Due to the ongoing drought conditions Council has granted an extension of time for these RURAL properties and the due date for payment will be MONDAY 29 JUNE 2020. Discount will be allowed if payment is received by 5.00pm on that date.

If you are having details making payment, please contact Council's Customer Service Centre on (07) 4656 0500 to discuss your options.

Candles Available

In an effort to foster the ANZAC Spirit, Quilpie Shire Council is encouraging residents to participate in the 'Light up the Dawn' Services.

If you plan on participating, please collect a free LED battery operated taper candle and a small poppy from Kirsty at the Council Office

