

# QUILPIE SHIRE COUNCIL

## *Community Newsletter*



## Mayor's Christmas Message

### The year in review

As the calendar year draws to a close, we tend to look back at our year and assess it. It has been a very "average" year as far as rainfall is concerned. Most of the shire looks to be below average, with some decent rain needed in the last few weeks of the year to get to that elusive average figure. Recent storms have been a great relief for those fortunate enough to get under them, but they will be a distant memory by January.

Commodity prices have been well down, it's been heartening to see a recent rebound. Let's hope some good rain across eastern Australia will ensure a much better year in 2024. Tourism in the Quilpie Shire and surrounding region has enjoyed a strong year, which looks set to continue into the future. Our resource industries have been steady, but dark clouds are emerging regarding their medium to long term future. More on that later.

### The council year

Council has had another good year. Staff turnover and a difficult recruiting environment has put additional pressure on all staff to deliver the services and works program planned. Generally speaking, they have done very well. Losing senior experienced staff is always a real challenge and we have recently lost a number.

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## Mayor's Message cont.

Replacing the likes of our plumber, Al McNall, with over twenty years' council experience, and Jeremy Grimm, our workshop manager, was always going to be extremely difficult. That said, I have been impressed with how well the team have stepped up and performed.

We always put great value on an employee's performance while they are working with us, but we probably don't put enough value on what they leave behind! The contributions of good employees can benefit us long after they have left – through their development of staff, good strategic planning and quality infrastructure and maintenance.

Karen Grimm, our Tourism and Economic Development Manager, will leave us soon I have no doubt that Jess and the team will step up and continue to deliver for the shire.

I would like to thank all staff who have left this year, both for their contributions while employed and for what they have left behind!

Our road construction crew have continued to deliver critical and additional work for our community. They successfully completed two widening jobs on the Diamantina Development Road, east and west of Quilpie. The team completed both jobs under the Transport and Main Roads (TMR) estimated cost. As a result, council were able to successfully negotiate with TMR for additional work to be completed, using the unspent funds. This allowed our team to complete the additional kilometre of road through to the Eromanga turn-off, widening this well-used section of the road, including two narrow culverts. The team have gone above and beyond to improve essential infrastructure and road safety for our community.

Our office staff, whether at the depot or the main office, perform roles that all feed into our financial management. Whether in procurement, recruitment, data collection, HR, rates or financial services, the results of these collective efforts contribute to our ability to analyse, forecast and budget effectively, putting us in a stronger financial position.

As a result of our strong financial and cash position, we remain agile and have the flexibility to make the most of opportunities as they arise. This has included purchasing eight new homes over the last few months to assist with a critical housing supply issue. We are also looking to bring forward the development of our rural residential blocks west of town as, again, the demand for this land has arisen far quicker than expected.

### ***The year ahead***

I do have concerns looking forward to 2024. At the moment, both our state and federal governments are taking us down a path which, I feel, could be extremely detrimental to shires like ours in the future.

The net zero push is going to seriously impact and hamper our resource industry, potentially increase the use of valuable grazing land for carbon and install higher methane regulation on our livestock industry. Of course, we all have our fingers crossed that our power will stay on as well. We must continue to lobby hard for commonsense to always prevail!

In the short term, though, we need rain and I can only wish everyone a wet and wonderful Christmas and new year. Thank you to our community for an excellent 2023 and all the best for 2024!

Kind regards

**Stuart Mackenzie**

**Mayor**

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

*Quilpie Shire Council's key achievements and highlights in 2023*



## AWARDS

- Silver - Australian Tourism Awards for Visitor Centres
- Best new visitor experience - Quilpeta Night Show
- 2nd place in the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Rural Management Challenge
- LGMA Awards for Excellence finalist - Staff Wellbeing Week



## PROJECTS

- Widened 4.5km of the Diamantina Development Road
- Sealed 4.1km of the Quilpie Adavale Red Road with another 2.3km to be sealed before Christmas
- 5 new houses delivered and built, including landscaping and fencing
- Installed a new playground at Eromanga
- Installed a new bore in Toompine
- Sealed the truck pad



## EVENTS

- Australia Day celebrations
- ANZAC Day services
- Remembrance Day
- NAIDOC Week
- Queensland Opera
- Mirusia Under the Stars
- Outback Golf Masters
- Various Western Touring Circuit performances
- TRACC jewellery making workshops and women's breakfast
- King's Coronation event
- Six exhibitions at the gallery, with more than 11,000 visitors



## Council are meeting demand for housing

***Five new homes completed in 2023, 15 more coming in 2024***

With the demand for housing high and Quilpie Shire Council continuing to operate at a 0% vacancy rate, Council have announced the completion of five new homes in the shire during 2023, with six two-story town houses and nine transportable homes planned for 2024. Housing availability is a key factor in reaching Q1000, the population target set in council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027.

Quilpie Shire Mayor Stuart Mackenzie said addressing housing shortages head on will be critical to achieve this goal and to alleviate challenges of attracting and retaining staff into key roles within council.

"Housing growth is essential to support local employment and the long-term sustainability of our shire which is why council has committed more than \$11.8 million of its own cash funds towards additional housing since 2022," said Mayor Mackenzie.

"I am delighted that five new homes have been completed this year and believe this will help to address issues we face with staffing shortages, which will also enhance the level of service we are able to provide to the community."

Council independently funded building two five-bedroom homes and received funding support from the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland program to assist in building three additional homes, with three and four bedrooms.

In October this year, council also awarded the tender for the construction of six two-story townhouses on Buln Buln Street in Quilpie to Baguley Build Pty Ltd for an amount up to \$6,890,978.25 excluding GST, subject to funding approval and finalisation.

This development will be located close to the central business area and walking distance to most facilities in Quilpie, including the swimming pool, hospital and schools and will include three two-bedroom units and three three-bedroom units. Construction of all six townhouses is scheduled to be completed by October 2024.

Council will contribute \$5.759M towards the project, with a further \$2.192M coming from the Queensland Government's 2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.

Having previously purchased transportable homes, council identified this as an affordable and efficient way to deliver additional high-quality, durable homes.



# Council are meeting demand for housing

## *Continued from previous page*

In September, council resolved to purchase a second-hand, transportable, two-bedroom ex-display home from Hoek Modular Homes. This home is scheduled for delivery to site in Quilpie in January 2024.

At the ordinary meeting in October, council resolved to enter contracts with two suppliers for the delivery of eight new three-bedroom houses. Oly Homes will deliver four three-bedroom houses up to a value of \$1,486,236.36 excluding GST and Hoek Homes will deliver four three-bedroom houses up to a value of \$1,469,090.88 excluding GST.

These nine transportable houses are fully funded by council and will be delivered and completed in 2024.



# Dynamic duo Quilpie's newest Australians



Well-known local dynamic duo, Cameron and Sandra Mocke, became Quilpie's newest Australians at a citizenship ceremony held at Quilpie Shire Council this month.

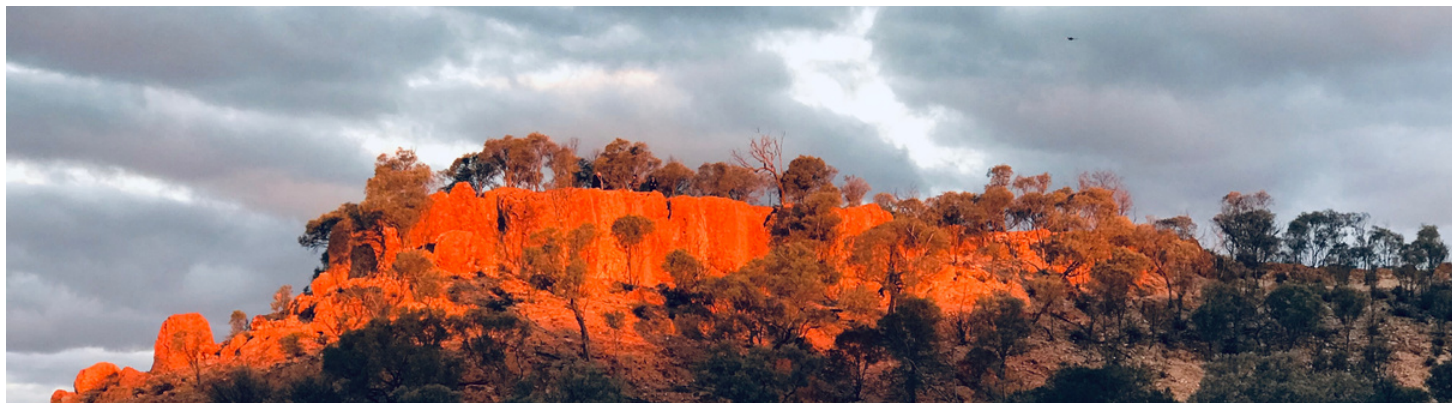
Cameron and Sandra have been living in Australia, and the Quilpie Shire, for a number of years but today became official Australians in a ceremony officiated by Presiding Officer, Mayor Stuart Mackenzie.

Friends and colleagues of Cameron and Sandra also attended the ceremony.

# REPORTING VANDALISM AND DAMAGE

If you witness acts of vandalism as they are happening, or notice vandalism or damage to community spaces and places, please contact Quilpie Police on 07 4656 8181.

You can also make an online report of vandalism and property damage on the Crime Stoppers website:  
[www.crimestoppersqld.com.au/make-a-report/](http://www.crimestoppersqld.com.au/make-a-report/)



## December Council Meeting Wrap Up

- The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) released the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF) 2023-24 funding round on 18 September 2023. Council adopted the flood ways nominated for construction for QRRRF south-west funding arrangement.
- Council resolved to endorse the Investment Readiness Action Program delivered by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and support staff with the implementation of the actions to deliver improvement investment readiness for the Quilpie Shire.
- Council supported requests for extensions from five businesses to complete their Business Support Program Round 3 projects.
- Council supported two grant submissions for the Quilpie Visitor Information Centre:
  1. Accessible Tourism Elevate Fund – Access project grant for accessibility improvements for Quilpeta Night Show, Rail and Military Museum, and Visit Quilpie Shire website accessibility, and allocate up to \$5,000 to support this application.
  2. Building Bush Tourism for the construction of an all-weather structure to support the Quilpeta Night Show experience and allocate up to \$4000 to support this application.
- Council endorsed the Baldy Top Walkway concept plan (sealed option) with the connection point to Quarrior Street and identify costs to include connection to Diamantina Developmental Road as a future project.
- Council resolved to accept tenders for sale of 7 allotments at Adavale and have the remaining blocks valued and offered for sale at market value.
- Council did not approve a road opening on Lot 71 on SP277803 due to being located within a 1% flood zone.
- Council supported the opening of an easement access to Lot 40 on NK839916 as well as Lots 2, 3, 4 & 5 on NK839916, Lots 12, 13, and 14 on NK15, Lots 2 and 23 on NK12 and Lots 37 & 51 on NK86.
- Council resolved to accept the independent engineering advice and pursue Option 4 of legal advice received for the request to realign Lockabie Road.
- Council agreed in-principle to consent to the determination of Part A of the Wongkumara People claim (QUD851/2018) substantially in the terms of the s 87A Agreement and Proposed Consent Order considered by council.
- Council extended the contract of employment of the Chief Executive Officer for a period of one year, to expire on 17 January 2026.





## Engineering works update

- Winchu Street was resealed between Gyrica Street and Chipu Street on Saturday 2 December. The second block of Quarrion Street was resealed on 12 December.
- Another 2.3 km of the Quilpie Adavale Red Road was sealed on 11 December. Only 9.1 km of gravel remains. Works have commenced on shaping the intersection with the Adavale Link Road ahead of the Christmas break. Council has expended all the TMR TIDS funding and is the first council in the southwest to do so.
- The GDL Nutrien online plant and equipment auction took place from 8-13 December. Plant sold for \$532,515 excluding GST.
- Tenders will be sourced for a further auction in 2024 to clear a new backload of replaced plant.
- All Proterra Group staff commence leave on 15/12/23. As a result, all contracts will also cease until new year.
- All building contracts for the five Hoek Modular Homes have now been signed.
- All soil tests for all sites for Hoek Modular Homes and for Oly Homes have been supplied to the builders.
- Tenders for construction of the new airport runway and the final design of the sewage treatment plant close this month. The reports for adoption of the tender will go to the January 2024 general meeting of council.
- An onsite inspection of the preselected contractors for the airport runway was held on 12/12/23. A meeting with both tenderers was held on 14/12/23.
- Grading works have been carried out on Boondook Road, Coonaberry Creek Road, the road access to the Lodge at the ENHM, and the free camp car park area at the Eromanga Hall.
- Works are underway for the road to the Eromanga dump, and the earthworks at the new transfer station.
- A contract grader will commence on Saturday 16/12/23 on Old Thargomindah Road following rainfall damage.
- The repurposed water section truck has been delivered from Kev Richardson Welding. Photo below shows the new truck alongside the old cab chassis of the previous truck. It is estimated that this approach saved approximately \$50,000.
- The water main renewal in Quarrion Street is complete. The trench and the town street block were bitumen sealed on 14/12/23.
- Turf will be laid at the Boobook Place 5-bedroom house on 15/12/23. A small section of footpath will also be laid at the Jabiru Street house.
- The annual report into the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan has been submitted to the water regulator.
- The grant application for the Toompine airstrip animal exclusion fencing was submitted on 13/12/2023.





## Join our dream team!

If you would like to work in a supportive and ambitious environment, while making a positive contribution to our community, you should consider joining our dream team! Quilpie Shire Council is looking for people to join our expanding team. Current vacancies include:

- Concreter
- Executive assistant & grants officer
- Fleet & workshop supervisor
- Information & communication technology coordinator
- Media and communications officer
- Plumber
- Labourers (structure and concrete) - fixed term

Working for Council offers many benefits including job stability and security, a 9-day fortnight, and generous employment conditions. Council also offers fantastic employee health and wellbeing benefits, salary packaging benefits including novated car lease, and professional development and career progression opportunities. For more information visit <https://quilpie.qld.gov.au/quilpie-shire-job-vacancies/>

## Council staff raise \$22,800 for Quilpie Hospital Auxiliary

Quilpie Shire Council staff have once again taken full advantage of their annual fundraising matched giving arrangement with council. This year staff and council have raised more than \$22,000 for the Quilpie Hospital Auxiliary, taking their total fundraising efforts to more than \$200,000 since 2015.

Each year council staff nominate a charity for their annual fundraising efforts, council then match all funds raised, up to a maximum of \$10,000.

Previous charities to benefit from council's fundraising efforts include the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), Friends in Isolation, Angel Flight, Cancer Council Qld, Heart Kids, Rio's Legacy and the Burrumbuck Hay Runners. Council staff have nominated funds for RFDS in 2024.

Quilpie Shire Mayor, Stuart Mackenzie presented representatives from the Hospital Auxiliary with this year's fundraising cheque for \$22,800.65 at council's staff Christmas party earlier this month.



# PUBLIC NOTICE



## WASTE ARRANGEMENTS CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR PERIOD

The following arrangements will apply during the festive period.

### Monday 25 December Christmas Day

- The Quilpie dump will not be open.
- No Rubbish collections

### Tuesday 26 December Boxing Day

- Quilpie Dump Open
- No Rubbish Collections

### Wednesday 27 December

- Quilpie Dump Open
- Quilpie Rubbish Pick Ups

### Thursday 28 December

- Quilpie Dump Open
- Eromanga Rubbish collection
- Commercial pick ups Quilpie

### Friday 29 December

- Quilpie Dump Open
- Quilpie Commercial Pick Ups

### Monday 01 January

- The Quilpie dump open.
- No Rubbish collections

### Tuesday 02 January

- Quilpie Dump Open
- Quilpie Rubbish Pick Ups

### Wednesday 03 January

- Quilpie Dump Open
- Eromanga Rubbish collection
- Commercial pick ups Quilpie

All other dumps at Eromanga and Adavale remain open all days.

7 December 2023

Justin Hancock

(07) 4656 0500

Chief Executive Officer

[www.quilpie.qld.gov.au](http://www.quilpie.qld.gov.au)

# SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

## THIS DECEMBER @ QUILPIE LIBRARY



ALL AGES

**Stamped Wrapping Paper**  
Wed 6 Dec @ 10:30  
Wed 13 Dec @ 10:30



ALL AGES

**Christmas Ornaments**  
Thurs 7 Dec @ 10:30  
Thurs 14 Dec @ 10:30



ALL AGES

**Christmas Cards**  
Fri 8 Dec @ 10:30  
Thurs 21 Dec @ 10:30

BOOKINGS  
ESSENTIAL



10+

**Virtual Reality Games**  
Wed 6 Dec @ 2:30  
Fri 8 Dec @ 2:30

BOOKINGS  
ESSENTIAL



8+

**Polymer Clay Earrings**  
Tues 12 Dec @ 10:30

BOOKINGS  
ESSENTIAL



5+

**Coding with Awbie**  
Thurs 7 Dec @ 2:30  
Thurs 14 Dec @ 2:30



6+

**Lego Build & Code**  
Wed 13 Dec @ 2:30  
Wed 20 Dec @ 2:30



ALL AGES

**Dancing Santas & Elves**  
Tues 19 Dec @ 10:30



For more information or to  
make a booking, call  
4656 0550

Please note children under the age  
of 8 must be accompanied by an  
adult when they visit the library.



### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND SENIORS PROGRAM

Michelle Donohue: Health Promotions Officer  
Phone: 4656 0500 Mobile: 0427 243 055



## December 2023



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4 9:00am Aqua with Alina	5 9:00am Library Webinar Connecting with Others	6 2:00pm CWA Hall Christmas Treat Making	7 9:00am Aqua with Alina 2:00pm CWA Hall Healthy Minds	8 RSVP Seniors Lunch	9	10
11 9:00am Aqua with Alina 10:30am Empire Café Christmas Cuppa	12 2:00pm Library Christmas Carols 6:30pm Christmas Lights Bus Tour	13 10:00am Supper Room CWAATSICH Christmas Celebrations	14 9:00am Aqua with Alina 12:00pm The Brick Seniors Christmas Lunch	15	16	17
18 No Program	19 No Program	20 No Program	21 No Program	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27 Closed	28 Closed	29 Closed	30 Closed	31 Closed



## ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE

# CWAATSICH Quilpie Health Services for December 2023

*Head Office*  
94 Edward Street  
Charleville Q 4470  
07 46543277

06/12/23—Optometrist (M Young)

07/12/23—Catch up Cuppa

13/12/23—Betes Bingo Supper Room

19th&20th/12/23-Dr Earl

Merry Xmas & Happy 2024 to you all

### CWAATSICH open to the whole community.

**ABORIGINAL MEDICAL  
SERVICE**

49 Brolga Street  
Quilpie Q 4480  
P O Box 119

Phone : 07 46561391

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| * Closing the Gap    | * Diabetes Management |
| * Health Assessments | * Dietician           |
| * Women's Health     | * Diabetes Educator   |
| * Men's Health       | * Lifestyle Coach     |
| * Eye Health         | * Podiatry            |
| * Hearing Health     | * Physiotherapy       |
| * Psychologist       | * Exercise Physiology |



# Heart of Australia is bringing services to **QUILPIE**



**JAN  
27 - 28**

## **We will be providing the following services:**

- New and Review Cardiology Consultations
- Exercise Stress Testing
- Stress Echocardiograms
- Transthoracic Echocardiograms
- Sleep Consultations
- Sleep Studies
- CPAP Trials
- Respiratory Function Tests
- Overnight Blood Pressure Monitors
- Overnight Holter Monitors

## **How to make an appointment:**

### **Step 1: Visit your GP**

Make an appointment to see your GP. If a visit to the Heart Truck is the right choice for you, your doctor will send Heart of Australia a referral for you to see one of our specialists or undergo testing.

### **Step 2: Wait for our call**

Our Bookings Team will contact you by phone as soon as your referral is received, and again when appointments become available at the clinic location/s nearest to you. They will take you through all the details, including appointment times, locations and what to bring with you. It's that simple.

#### **ACCEPTING REFERRALS NOW**

Heart of Australia encourages the use of secure electronic communication via Medical Objects or Fax on 07 3077 7153



**HEART of  
AUSTRALIA**