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The pure people power which drives the Isaac region is indeed inspiring. Nowhere is this more evident than when we gather as a community to celebrate and commemorate or when standing together in the face of adversity.

It was my privilege to attend Anzac Day services in Moranbah and Dysart on April 25 to honour the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our armed forces over many generations. This year is particularly significant as 2018 is the centenary of the end of the First World War, which gave rise to the Anzac tradition. It was wonderful to see such a great attendance, particularly from our young people, at commemorative services from Carmila to Clermont. Council is working with the Clermont RSL Sub-Branch to honour the wartime sacrifices of almost 50 returned servicemen interred in unmarked graves within Clermont’s cemetery as part of the Anzac Centenary.

While the events of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games have been run and won, the visit of the Queen’s Baton to the Isaac region on March 21 will leave a lasting memory in the hearts and minds of residents. It was fantastic to share the energy of celebrations our host communities of Nebo, Coppabella, Moranbah and Clermont, and to see the community cheer on the batonbearers as they took part in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to carry the baton on its journey to the Games. Seeing Isaac icon Bill Bruce, the eldest batonbearer in the relay at 101, carry the baton in Nebo was a particular highlight for me. It was also my privilege to honour Bill’s lifetime of service to the Nebo district by unveiling the Bill Bruce Nature Walk. I also acknowledge the resilience and responsiveness of our region under the cloud of Tropical Cyclone Iris and in the aftermath of the severe storm event which impacted our coalfield communities in late February.

I was so proud of to see our Isaac spirit come to the fore, particularly the manner in which we rallied around those who had homes damaged. Credit also goes to our Council staff, emergency services personnel, SES volunteers, Ergon Energy crews and workers from neighbouring council areas who helped get our communities back on their feet so quickly.

Council is currently progressing its budgetary processes for the 2018-19 financial year and acknowledges community concern in relation to recent property valuations. Land valuations are used as a starting point for calculating general rates, but councils are also required to raise an appropriate amount of revenue to maintain assets and provide services to their local government area through the rating system. While valuations have decreased, the cost of providing and maintaining essential infrastructure and services to the residents of the Isaac region continues to increase. I can assure residents that this Council is striving to keep any increases to annual rates and charges as low as possible to minimise the financial cost to ratepayers, whilst ensuring continuity of service levels and alignment with community expectation.

I’d like to take this opportunity to remind residents that they can report problems directly to Council 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27).

**OUR COVER**

101-year-old Bill Bruce passes the Queen’s Baton to Brynn Morgan during the Nebo leg of the Queen’s Baton Relay.
MAY

11-12 Back to the 80’s Musical Production - Moranbah
19-20 St Lawrence Campdraft
23-25 Middlemount Pro Am Golf
25-26 Back to the 80’s Musical Production – Dysart
26 Nebo Rodeo
30 Clermont Show – The Isaac Region’s Show

JUNE

1-2 Back to the 80’s Musical Production - Clermont
2 Moranbah Rodeo
8-10 St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend
14 Rockhampton Agricultural Show
14-17 Clermont Gold Cup Campdraft
16 Moranbah Races
21 Mackay Agricultural Show

JULY

8-15 NAIDOC Week

Visit isaac.qld.gov.au/events
Click ‘Add an event’, complete the simple form and save. Council reserves the right to approve event listings.

SAVE THE DATE - ST LAWRENCE WETLANDS WEEKEND

Join us as one of nature’s finest wetlands bursts into life! St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend will tantalise your taste buds, invoke creativity and teach you about a nationally significant coastal wetlands right in our backyard.
Trek through the bush for an immersive experience as you tour the wetlands and learn more about endangered birdlife, turtles and reef. Get hands-on and artistic with nature weaving and arts workshops. Enjoy a delicious Bushman’s Dinner, fresh local chilli mud crabs and taste our finest regional produce at this emerging festival.
Make friends with nature and bring the family with camping available onsite for only $10 a site, per night.
For more information visit www.isaac.qld.gov.au/wetlandsweekend
Severe weather events that extensively damaged 85 per cent of Isaac’s road network will undergo a $40 million works program. A total of 706km across 4457 sites will undergo a major restoration starting this month through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Minister for Law Enforcement and Cyber Security Angus Taylor, who has responsibility for Commonwealth disaster assistance, said Tropical Cyclone Debbie and a Central Queensland severe weather event last year had placed a huge strain on 205 roads in Isaac.

“The region’s future economic and social growth relies on fit-for-purpose road infrastructure to link communities to jobs and essential services,” Mr Taylor said.

Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Cameron Dick said the funding demonstrated the Australian and Queensland governments’ commitment to providing continued relief and recovery assistance following natural disasters.

Mayor Anne Baker said it was about building and restoring a resilient tomorrow for Isaac.

Our role is vital to supporting communities before, during, and after these challenging times,” Mayor Baker said.

“Pure people power has energised our resilience and we will continue to do so on the ground in Isaac.”

Isaac Regional Council awarded these major works to FK Gardner, with reconstruction due to start work in April 2018 and completion expected by May 2019, weather permitting.

For more information, contact Mayor Anne Baker on 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27) or visit www.isaac.qld.gov.au.
Isaac Regional Council has a new deputy mayor with Cr Kelly Vea Vea appointed to the community’s second highest civic post.

Cr Vea Vea, the representative for Division 5, was elected unopposed at Council’s March meeting and succeeds Division 8’s Cr Geoff Bethel, who had served as deputy mayor since the 2016 Council election.

“I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for this opportunity. In a time where tuning into politics can be like watching a reality show gone bad, I genuinely appreciate working with elected members who are open, supportive and just get on with business.”

Cr Vea Vea said.

“I’m very much looking forward to tackling the challenges this role presents and representing the Council and the community in a higher capacity as deputy mayor.”

Mayor Anne Baker congratulated Cr Vea Vea on her appointment as her new deputy.

“Cr Vea Vea has been a strong advocate for her division and the wider Isaac region since being elected to Council in 2012,” she said.

Mayor Baker said Council had previously determined the role of deputy mayor would be periodically rotated among a number of the eight divisional councillors over the 2016-2020 term.

“The today’s change reflects that decision and our commitment to work together as a council team,” she said.

“This is about empowering our councillors to further develop their skills as elected leaders in our community. The role of deputy mayor provides an important opportunity for the incumbent to undertake higher civic duties.

Mayor Baker said the position of deputy mayor played an important role in supporting her work as Mayor.

“I sincerely thank Cr Bethel for the assistance and support he has provided me during his two-year tenure,” she said.

Mayor Anne Baker says Clermont has definitely struck gold with two new prospecting areas opening in the western Isaac region. The areas are at Blair Athol State Forest, 22km north-west of Clermont in the Isaac Regional Council area.

“Gold prospecting helps assist Clermont’s economy and we praise the State Government for opening these areas,” Mayor Baker said.

“What a better way to spend time with the family by enjoying a treasure-hunting trip in Isaac’s outback.

“Clermont is a popular area for gold prospectors and this will open up new areas to explore.”

“We hope these new areas will attract visitors to the region by bringing economic and social benefits to Clermont.

“I would like to reflect that this positive outcome is due to working together. Thank you to the Clermont community, prospecting groups, Council and the State Government.”

Minister for Environment Leeanne Enoch said the Clermont Community and Business Group, Isaac Regional Council, and prospecting representatives had requested more areas to be made available for prospecting.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is supportive of prospecting and has worked with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to obtain consent from all interested leaseholders, to declare and provide access to these new areas.

CLERMONT HAS STRUCK GOLD

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How marvellous do Dysart’s tennis and netball courts look? Two of our town centre tennis courts were converted into new car parks and the other two underwent court surface rehabilitation and new court furniture installed. Then our Centenary Park’s netball court 2 had its court surface rehabilitated with court furniture repaired. The Isaac Regional Hardcourt Renewal/Repair Program has created 56 jobs throughout the region. This is all thanks to The Works for Queensland Program, part of the State Infrastructure Fund.
Here’s some good news. Residents are able to access free green mulch for their gardens as part of a trial program at the Moranbah Waste Management Facility. Council has a significant stockpile of mulched green waste and this has grown markedly following the significant storm event of late February, which generated large volumes of storm debris. For safety purposes, the mulch will need to be loaded by a Council-operated loader and not by hand, so a suitable utility or trailer with a cover for the load will be required. Residents are entitled to two cubic metres of free mulch per day until June 30, 2018 or until the stockpiles are exhausted.
Don’t forget that Council runs 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. If you have any issues at all, whether that be water quality issues, flying foxes, roaming dogs, burst water mains or more, please contact Council. Phone 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27). You can also easily report issues or make a request through the Snap Send Solve app.
Waste management and resource recovery continues to be a central and critical function of local government. From a community standpoint, it is one of the three R’s of council responsibility – rates, roads and rubbish. Our purpose-built waste transfer station has been delivered thanks to a partnership between Council and the State Government as part of our $7.16 million Moranbah Resource Recovery Centre Expansion and Improvement Project. The State contributed half of the project cost under the Building Our Regions program.

ISAAC ICON HONOURED IN NEBO

BILL BRUCE RECOGNISED WITH BATON DUTIES AND WALKWAY DEDICATION

Isaac region centenarian Bill Bruce is renowned for carrying the baton for Nebo over many decades through his community involvement. On March 21 he did it once again for his beloved township, this time as a participant in the Queen’s Baton Relay.

At 101 years of age, Bill was the eldest of the 3800 Australians selected to help carry the Queen’s Baton on its journey to the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Proudly born and bred in Nebo, Bill’s leg of the relay took him past the famed Nebo Hotel where he was born in 1917, though it was known as the Fort Cooper Hotel a century ago.

Prior to the relay leg through the town, Bill was honoured by the local community with the dedication of a new nature walk in his name.

Isaac region Mayor Anne Baker said the naming of the Bill Bruce Nature Walk was fitting recognition for “an icon of the community and a legend of our region”.

“When we talk about the pure people power which energises our Isaac communities, it is the likes of Bill Bruce who epitomise this,” Mayor Baker said.

“Bill’s longevity is an achievement surpassed only by the outstanding contribution he has made to the Nebo community and the Isaac region over so many of those years.

“He has played a big role in the community and contributed to a great many of the essential services Nebo has today, from water supply and reticulation through to street lighting. Bill was also a key contributor to the construction of the original Council workshop, which is now the Nebo Museum.

“Firsthand, Bill has seen Nebo evolve from horses and hitching rails to a modern rural community servicing the industries of the region.”

IN THE NEWS...

FAIR GO FOR FLYERS

In March, Mayor Anne Baker declared the Isaac region was fed up with being treated as second class by an airline driven only by profit. Mayor Baker took Qantas CEO Alan Joyce to task over his remark that Isaac residents should drive to larger centres to access affordable airfares. “Alan Joyce’s comments about Moranbah air services are sadly reflective of an airline that is prepared to exploit rural and regional communities,” she said. “We are simply fed up with being treated as second-class passengers, whose only purpose is to generate profits for those at the pointy end of the plane.

RESOURCES REALITY CHECK

Mayor Anne Baker called for reasonableness to prevail in the debate over mining projects in Central Queensland. “I’d like to see some reason and sensibility among the players in this debate, it’s time for a reality check,” she said. “At the end of the day Adani isn’t the only company developing a new mine in the Isaac region or the state of Queensland for that matter. And they will be far from the last to do so. Coal will continue to be a crucial part of the global energy mix alongside renewables, which are a growing industry in the Isaac region. With solar, wind and coal, the Isaac is helping to energise the world.”

CR KELLY VEA VEA

DEPUTY MAYOR
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Waste management and resource recovery continues to be a central and critical function of local government.
Coal is now being transported from Blair Athol by rail. This means fewer trucks on the road between Clermont and Moranbah. A safe ending for all involved trucks and all other road users.

Our community, commemorated Anzac Day with a moving dawn service and a well attended morning service at Hoods Lagoon.

This day is a special day when all of us are given the opportunity to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in the many wars. We are in debt to those who have served and are still serving to make sure we still live in the luckiest country on earth.

In a salute to the region’s resources sector which helps to energise the world, the Queen’s Baton was carried on part of its journey, from the Moranbah town centre to the iconic Red Bucket, by an underground coal loader provided by the BMA Broadmeadows Mine.

Mayor Baker said the Queen’s Baton Relay was illustrative of the pure people power which drives the Isaac region.

For more photos visit www.isaac.qld.gov.au/qbr

Batonbearers in Moranbah (above) and Clermont (below), Alan Bloomfield carries the baton on a coal loader.
Puppeteer Rosalyn Campbell hosted free shows in Middlemount, Dysart, Moranbah and Clermont as part of Isaac Libraries’ First 5 Forever program.

The Room on a Broom show featured interactive moments for the young audience including re-enacting the story as it was being read, by operating puppets, making sound effects and working with props.

Mayor Anne Baker said First 5 Forever is about supporting parents to be their child’s first and most important educator.

“Parents want to do what’s best for their kids, but sometimes it’s difficult to navigate what kids really need when there’s a barrage of competing messages out there,” Mayor Baker said.

“Some parents believe you need to spend a lot of money to give children the best start in life.

In fact it’s the simple things - like talking, reading, playing and sharing books that’s proven to have the biggest impact.

“That’s why we’re really excited to be part of this grass roots initiative - something that gets back to basics and empowers parents and caregivers to help their children learn when their brains are developing at their fastest.”

The First 5 Forever program, a state-wide initiative delivered locally by Isaac Libraries, provides strong early literacy foundations for all children aged between 0–5 years.

A partnership between the State Library of Queensland, the Queensland Government and 64 Queensland Local Governments, the initiative is largely delivered through local public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres.

Find out more about First 5 Forever at your local library or by visiting www.first5forever.org.au

**PROJECT TO HONOUR WAR VETERANS**

The wartime sacrifices of almost 50 returned servicemen interred in unmarked graves within Clermont’s cemetery is to be honoured ahead of the centenary of Armistice Day on 11 November 2018.

Isaac Regional Council, as custodian of the cemetery, is to transfer the historic burial rights to the graves to the Clermont RSL Sub-Branch as part of a community project to acknowledge their service.

Mayor Anne Baker memorial headstones and bronze plaques would be installed on each of the graves by the Clermont RSL Sub-Branch, in conjunction with Council, the Clermont community and other RSL sub-branches.

“The intent is to have these memorials installed in time for Remembrance Day which, this year, marks the centenary of the 1918 Armistice which ended the First World War,” Mayor Baker said.

“*This will provide fitting and well overdue recognition for these Australian soldiers who have laid unrecognised for so long. Council is proud to support the efforts of the Clermont RSL Sub-Branch in honouring the service and sacrifice of these great Australians who answered the call to arms when their nation needed them.*”

Mayor Baker said the men had been interred in paupers’ graves up to 70 years ago as they had no known next of kin.

“Many came to the region to work as stockmen, drovers and miners. They had no relatives living in the local area and all that was really known about them was the property they were living on when they died,” she said.

Mayor Baker said Council and the Clermont RSL Sub-Branch had attempted to locate any descendant relatives, distant or close, who could inherit the burial rights of the deceased.

**CR JANE PICKELS**

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Congratulations and well done to all our baton bearers who participated in the Queen’s Baton Relay. Whether your relay leg was in our region or in Capella, we were immensely proud to see you champion our community.

It was so humbling to see those residents who attended the Anzac Day services in Middlemount. For me, it is a day to remember and honour those soldiers, families and communities who sacrificed for a greater Australia. Also, the 2018 NQ Games is on May 4-7 in Mackay with over 30 sports and an estimated 3,900 competitors expected to compete.

Mayor Anne Baker has welcomed the commencement of the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017 as an important first step in reducing the reliance of the resources sector on fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers for regional operations.

“I acknowledge the efforts of the State Government in introducing this commendable legislation which is about ensuring positive benefits for communities that are nearby mining projects,” Mayor Baker said.

“It was an important first step to have the provisions of the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017 enacted on 30 March.

“However, as a Council and a region, we want to ensure the intent of the legislation has real substance in its application, so the resource communities of Isaac remain strong and sustainable, helping to energise the world for future generations.”

Mayor Baker said the desired outcomes of the Act were about much more than just workforce recruitment and where people lived.

“People come to the Isaac region by way of opportunity and many find a reason to stay. This is what provides population growth and sustainability. As a council, we are working hard to attract more people to live, work and play in Isaac,” she said.

Mayor Baker said, through the provisions of the Act, she wanted to see workers provided the genuine choice to reside in a local community with their families to promote social cohesion and work-life balance.

“Appropriate funding of infrastructure and services in our communities which reflects validated current and future demand from both the permanent and temporary population is essential,” she said.

“Ensuring local businesses have the opportunity to provide good and services to mining developments to support our economy and remain viable is a critical element to our future.

“This is about realising genuine socio-economic outcomes and ensuring positive benefits from the numerous mining operations in our region.”

Site works began on the $10.59 million project in May 2017 with construction completion of the four work packages planned prior to February 2019.

**OUTCOMES**

This essential project will increase the storage of safe, clean drinking water and raw water storage. A total of 48 precast wall panels for the reservoir have been installed, while the joint pours are currently being constructed. The construction of columns for the reservoir roofing is also being prepared.

Also progressing are the potable water trunk mains, reticulation upgrades and the new raw water diversion gravity main to the 400ML storage dam.

The project will deliver four packages of works:

- A new 15ML ground level reservoir to increase the plant’s current one-day water storage capacity to up to three days;
- A gravity diversion intake pipeline from the raw water sources to provide water quality buffering in the 400ML storage dam;
- New feeder mains to town from the Water Treatment Plant; and
- Upgrades to parts of the reticulation network to meet supply and firefighting requirements.

These works will ensure compliance with relevant Queensland Government guidelines.

**FUNDING**

This investment in critical regional infrastructure demonstrates Council’s and the Queensland Government’s commitment to sustainable regional resource communities. Under the Building Our Regions program the Queensland Government provided $5.295 million towards this project, matched by Isaac Regional Council.

Thank you for everyone’s support and well wishes as I stepped down as deputy mayor in March. It was time to pass the baton and allow another Councillor to step up and gain experience in the region’s second highest civic post.

Serving as deputy mayor for the past two years, has been an honour and a privilege and I will continue serve our community in elected office. I wish new deputy mayor Councillor Kelly Vea Vea all the best as I believe she will do an exceptional job.
NEW EXHIBITION LACED WITH HISTORICAL OBJECTS FROM CLERMONT’S COLOURFUL PAST

Clermont’s colourful history has been captured in a revealing new exhibition on show at the Clermont Historical Centre. The 100 Objects collection is the latest creation from Clermont Historical Centre which opened on March 7.

Mayor Anne Baker said the 100 Objects exhibition showcased a vast assortment of items from Clermont’s eclectic and intriguing past.

“The town of Clermont is one of the most historic towns in northern Australia, having a colourful past, rich in drama and laced with tragedy,” Mayor Baker said.

“The 100 Objects exhibition will include our iconic steam engine that moved a town out of a deadly flood zone, a sheep property’s slab hut and the infamous piano up a tree.

“A few other objects worth keeping an eye out for is the post-war five-minute washing machine, Clermont Fire Brigade’s 1945 truck, an Aboriginal wooden club either used for hand-to-hand combat, hunting or for digging plus relics used for crushing gold ore.

“Come and explore our history and discover our stories.”

The exhibition will run throughout the year until December 2018.

100 Objects follows the moving Flood of Memories Exhibition hosted by the centre last year. It paid homage to local stories of courage, heroism and tragedy, memorabilia and photography from the fatal flood of 1916.

Admission prices are $6 for adults, $4 for pensioners, $3 children under 12 years and $15 per family with two or more children.

For more details visit www.isaac.qld.gov.au, call 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27) or drop in at the Clermont Historical Centre, Gregory Highway, which is open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 9am to 3pm.

CLAIM THE DATE FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Isaac residents can mark their calendars for the region’s gala night of nights, with Saturday, August 11 announced as the date for the annual Mayor’s Charity Ball.

This year’s stylish black tie affair will be held under the night sky in Morbanah’s Town Square, featuring a sumptuous three-course dinner, live music and entertainment, prizes, charity auction and much more.

“It will truly be a night to remember, dancing and dining under the stars in the town centre, but we are also raising money for an important and vital cause,” Mayor Anne Baker said.

The gala event, which is an initiative of the Isaac Regional Charity Fund, is raising money for mental health initiatives in communities across the region.

“2017’s gala ball raised nearly $69,000 for mental health initiatives and we’re looking forward to an even bigger event this year on August 11 with the support of the community,” Mayor Baker said.

“Funds raised are helping to make a real difference in the lives of Isaac residents.

“Earlier this year, we invested $30,000 to help the headspace foundation deliver a series of workshops to equip the youth of our region with tools to help combat feelings of anxiety, depression and loneliness.

“It is important that we work together bring mental health out of the shadows and into the national consciousness.”

Tickets will go on sale in the near future, but expressions of interest are currently being sought for sponsorship opportunities in support of the gala evening.

“The generous and valued support of many Isaac businesses and organisations, through sponsorship and donations, plays a major part in the continuing success of the event,” Mayor Baker said.

To find out more contact the Office of the Mayor on (07) 4846 3398 or email mayorsball@isaac.qld.gov.au