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SES volunteers lauded for storm response
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Region pauses to honour service and sacrifice
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2018 is fast coming to a close and I’d like to take this opportunity to look back on the year that was. I continue to be energised by the pure people power which drives our wonderful communities.

Our coalfield communities took a battering in late February during a severe storm event. I acknowledge the response by our emergency and essential services personnel, but particularly our SES volunteers, with the actions of the Moranbah SES Group recognised as the Regional Operation of the Year (see page 5).

In March, Isaac communities shared in the dream of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, with the Queen’s Baton Relay visiting the communities of Nebo, Coppabella, Moranbah and Clermont.

Also in March, we welcomed the enactment of the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017. This represented an important first step in reducing the reliance of the resources sector on fly-in fly-out workers for regional operations.

Entertaining generations of Isaac residents, Clermont’s iconic annual show celebrated its 150th anniversary in May. One of Queensland’s oldest agricultural shows, the historic event traces its origins back to 1868.

In June, the community of St Lawrence again played host to the annual Wetlands Weekend with celebrity chef Matt Golinski headlining an exciting blend of food, creativity and nature-based activities.

Council adopted its Building a Stronger Isaac Budget in July. We worked hard to frame a budget for 2018-19 which reflected the best interests of the communities of our region.

In July, we also commenced a process of bi-monthly rotational council meetings, taking councillors and senior staff on the road to meet with communities across the Isaac.

From July to October, Council undertook community consultation on the draft Proposed Isaac Region Planning Scheme, ensuring residents, landowners, business and industry were provided with ample opportunity to comment on the future planning framework for the region.

August saw the staging of Isaac region’s gala night of nights, the annual Mayor’s Charity Ball, an important fundraiser for the Isaac Regional Charity Fund. This year, the beneficiaries of funds raised were mental health initiatives and drought relief. September was another community celebration with the Hornery Group’s annual 4U2 concert.

During October, we undertook a regionwide consultation on how Council manages flying fox roosts in urban areas, which included community surveying and infoshare sessions in a number of towns.

November saw the annual Clermont Beef Expo and Trade Display, another popular show of our agricultural credentials.

Turning to the final month of the year, I encourage you all to get into the spirit of the season and participate in our annual Christmas Lights Competition (see page 4).

Finally, on behalf of the councillors and staff of Isaac Regional Council, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2019 is shaping up to be another exciting year in the life of Isaac region.

MAYOR ANNE BAKER

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OUR COVER
Braith Daley gives the Clermont Beef Expo and Trade Display a big thumbs up.
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10 COMMUNITIES PAUSE FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

30 Nebo Community Christmas Fair

DECEMBER

7 Moranbah Carols in the Square

7 Middlemount Festival of Small Halls

7 Clermont Christmas in the Park

8 St Lawrence Christmas Fair

9 Glenden Christmas Carols

15 Carmila Christmas Tree

JANUARY

25 Isaac Region Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony

26 Australia Day community celebrations and local awards

26 Moranbah Australia Day Triathlon

Visit isaac.qld.gov.au/events

Click ‘Add an event’, complete the simple form and save. Council reserves the right to approve event listings.

ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL – CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPERATING HOURS

COUNCIL FACILITIES
All Council administrative offices, libraries and depots will be closed for the Christmas/New Year period from close of business Friday, 21 December 2018, reopening Wednesday, 2 January 2019.

WASTE SERVICES
Council’s waste management facilities will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day public holidays but will otherwise operate as normal over the Christmas/New Year period. Due to public holiday closures, the Nebo waste facility will open from 7am-12pm on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve (Monday, December 24 and Monday, December 31). Kerbside collection services will also operate as scheduled, even on public holidays.

SWIMMING POOLS
Please see Council’s website for swimming pool operating hours isaac.qld.gov.au/aquatic-facilities

CONTACTING COUNCIL
Council’s customer contact centre will be staff 24/7 over the festive season. For urgent matters please call 1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227) for assistance.
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We have many ordinary people using volunteered time to do extraordinary things in Isaac. Often this will pass with little or no acknowledgement of their time and efforts whether it’s regionally, on a state level or across Australia. Nominations are closing on December 7, 2018 for the 2019 Isaac Regional Council Australia Day Awards. We have so many selfless, talented and dedicated people in our communities who deserve recognition. It’s time for them to shine - nominate them today.

Thank you for your dedication in 2018, I would like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COMPETITION TO LIGHT UP ISAAC

Christmas is just around the corner and residents are invited to join in the spirit to light up their community as part of the annual Christmas lights competition. Residents are encouraged to unpack their Christmas cheer, unravel their lights and get busy creating some festive sparkle with their light displays.

“The Isaac Christmas Lights Competition will be held in Clermont, the Isaac Coast, Dysart, Glenden, Middlemount, Moranbah and Nebo,” Mayor Anne Baker said.

“Each year many residents and visitors across the region enjoy the experience of visiting local homes and businesses to see the twinkling lights while spending quality time together.

“Many of our wonderful residents and business owners spend a great deal of time and effort creating spectacular light displays that enchant both children and adults alike. “The annual Christmas Lights competition provides a wonderful opportunity to gather together, meet the neighbours and get involved in your community.” Local community groups and Council representatives will judge entries across the region starting as early as November 29 in Dysart.

Council is pleased to once again partner with Dysart Community Support Group (DCSG) and the Carmila Christmas Tree Committee to host the 2018 Isaac Christmas Lights Competition in these communities.

Residents wishing to help light up Isaac’s streets can find all the competition details at isaac.qld.gov.au/christmaslights
One of the region’s most dedicated group of men and women have been recognised for outstanding service to their community following a severe weather event on February 20 this year. The Moranbah State Emergency Service (SES) Group was awarded the SES Operation of the Year at the Central Region SES Week Awards.

It was the second consecutive year the group had won the award and Mayor Anne Baker said it was pleasing to see this recognition for their hard work, professionalism and dedication.

“Congratulations goes to our incredible Moranbah SES Group on receiving this award in recognition of the recovery operation that was undertaken earlier this year following widespread damage caused by the freak supercell storm,” Mayor Baker said.

“Our SES volunteers are just ordinary people from all walks of life however they fulfil an important role and do extraordinary things to help our communities in times of emergency and disaster. These men and women who dedicate their spare time to be part of the Isaac SES across all of our communities really are our unsung heroes.”

Louise Rawlins was also awarded the National Medal at the annual ceremony for her long and dedicated service to SES across several regions. The award recognises long and diligent service with government and voluntary organisations whose members risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.

Isaac SES is always looking for volunteers and residents across the region are encouraged to get involved and make a difference. For details on becoming an extraordinary SES volunteer, visit isaac.qld.gov.au/SES-volunteering or phone Council on 1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227).

Isaac residents are being urged to look after their fur babies over the holidays. The festive season can be anything but festive for some four-legged family members who may be left behind while owners go on holiday or, worse still, abandoned entirely as unwanted.

“It is a sad reality that we continue to see a spike in the number of roaming or abandoned dogs and cats over the festive season period across our communities,” Mayor Anne Baker said.

“Owning a pet is not a novelty, it is an important responsibility for the life of that animal. We want all Isaac pet owners to be responsible pet owners, which includes microchipping, registering and de-sexing your animal.

“If you are considering buying a puppy or kitten as a furry Christmas gift, please think long and hard about this decision, and whether you are genuinely prepared to house and care for this pet once the initial excitement wears off.”

Mayor Baker said those planning to travel should make appropriate arrangements to have their pet cared for.

“Leaving a pet at home alone with ‘enough food and water to last until you get back’ is dangerous: water bowls can easily get tipped over or dry out; food can spoil or consumed too quickly; bored animals can hurt themselves; and sudden changes in the weather can cause distress,” she said.

“Summer storms and festive fireworks can spook animals, causing them to break out of their enclosures. If your dog is registered and microchipped, it will help Council rangers reunite you with your pet.”

To report your pet as missing or to enquire if it has been impounded call 1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227).

As we start to plan our Christmas wish lists, it’s an important time to shop local. In this tough economic climate, our local businesses look to us for support. We should all strive to back Isaac businesses all year round. This helps us keep our communities vibrant and sustainable. And as a last note, please remember to travel safe on our roads this festive season. We all play a role in making sure we arrive at our destination safely. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. This year has been a challenging year for many of us, but on Friday, December 7, it will be a great time to celebrate our community spirit, family and friends at the Moranbah Carols by Candlelight. We are blessed with many talented singers in the Isaac region, and not just the ones on stage. Looking forward to seeing you all there. Stay safe over the festive period.

Mayor Anne Baker with Moranbah Kart Club members and supporters at the grand opening of the track.

**PURE PEOPLE POWER DRIVES KART TRACK IMPROVEMENTS**

Nearly two years of hard work and persistence has paid off for the Moranbah Kart Club, which is off and racing following a complete upgrade to its facilities, including track resurfacing, a new toilet block and landscaping of the grounds. In late 2016, the club received a $100,000 funding boost towards resurfacing the kart track thanks to a Queensland Government Get Playing Places and Spaces grant. Council injected a further $10,000 into the upgrade project via a major community grant, providing additional infrastructure support as the rejuvenation works continued.

Mayor Anne Baker said the Moranbah Kart Club committee had worked hard to bring their grand vision for the track to fruition. “The pure people power that has driven this track and facility upgrade project over the past 18 months is a great example of what can be achieved when the community works together toward a common goal,” she said. “Despite facing several setbacks, primarily due to the severe weather events experienced in the region in recent years, the committed and passionate committee never lost sight of their vision for the club.”

**RESIDENTS FLOAT IDEAS ON FLYING FOX MANAGEMENT**

A collection of ideas and feedback from passionate residents has been bundled into several key themes for managing migratory flying foxes in Isaac. Feedback was captured during a month-long consultation campaign in October. Council asked the community for their input on the future management of flying fox colonies in the region. Mayor Anne Baker said the engagement outcomes across Isaac communities had been outstanding. “We had 54 visitors to eight info share sessions in Dysart, Middlemount, Clermont, Moranbah, Glenden, Nebo, St Lawrence and Carmila between October 11-17, 28 comments added to info share feedback posters plus 146 surveys completed via paper and online,” she said. “More than 28,000 social media users were reached through Council’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with posts attracted 102 likes and 29 shares on this topic. We had 362 visits to the flying foxes web page during the engagement period. “Thank you so much to everyone who took part. Having a say can really make an impact and this already has.” Mayor Baker said community feedback would help inform a Statement of Management Intent (SOMI) for managing flying foxes. “We understand we’re one of the first Councils in Australia to work with the community to form a SOMI for managing flying foxes. We expect to present the SOMI in a report to Council in early 2019,” she said.
Don’t forget going into the festive season 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 on 1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227). You can easily report issues or make a request through the Snap Send Solve app.

Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CR PETER FREELEAGUS
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Congratulations goes to our incredible Moranbah SES Group on receiving the SES Operation of the Year at the Central Region SES Week Awards recently in recognition of the recovery operation following February’s freak supercell storm. Our SES volunteers are just ordinary people from all walks of life however they fulfil an important role and do extraordinary things to help our communities in times of emergency and disaster. Isaac SES is always looking for volunteers and residents across the region are encouraged to get involved and make a difference. Visit Council’s website for details. Thank you for a great year, have a safe festive season and see you in 2019.

CR KELLY VEA VEA
DEPUTY MAYOR
DIVISION 5 - MORANBAH

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Spring racing fever was running high in Moranbah as Treasure Park welcomed a bumper crowd to the track on Saturday, November 10. Already one of the biggest days on the local racing calendar, the Moranbah Race Club Spring Carnival was delighted to see its largest crowd to date pass through the gates on the weekend. The family-friendly day included local races, fashions on the field and the entertaining men’s undies race along with a jumping castle for the kids and live music by Out Of Our Trio. The feature event of the race program was the $10,000 Isaac Regional Council Class B Cup Handicap over 1400 metres. Mayor Anne Baker said Council was proud to be the major sponsor as part of a three-year funding agreement through the Isaac Community Grants program.

“Race days are a great opportunity for residents to glam up a little, meet up with friends or neighbours and have some fun cheering on the horses and jockeys,” Mayor Baker said.

“The Moranbah Race Club committee and volunteers work tirelessly year after year to bring quality racing programs to the town and have done so for over two decades.

“Community events like these simply can’t continue to happen without the sponsorship and backing of Council, local business and industry, or the support of the wonderful crowds who attend.

“Council was pleased to be the major sponsor of this race meet and we are thrilled it attracted people from all over the region to enjoy a great afternoon.”

SPRING RACING FEVER TAKES HOLD
GET READY FOR WHATEVER MOTHER NATURE MIGHT BLOW OUR WAY

Council is urging residents to check their ‘WHAT-IF’ plan leading into the summer storm season.

Extreme weather in Queensland is not an ‘if’ but a ‘when’ and planning ahead is essential to be prepared and to potentially save lives.

Local Disaster Management Group chair, Mayor Anne Baker, said Queensland was at increased risk of natural disasters from November through to April.

“Severe weather events in recent years have taught us that natural disasters don’t discriminate when it comes to where, when and how they strike,” she said.

“We all need to take action in our communities by cleaning out gutters, removing debris, securing loose items in the yard and making sure insurances are up to date.

“Now is also a good time to prepare a household emergency plan and put together an evacuation and emergency kit that covers all of the people and pets that reside with you.

“If residents are not sure about what needs to go in their kit, or would like more information on how to get disaster ready, I recommend they visit Get Ready Queensland’s website getready.qld.gov.au.

“As a community, it is up to each individual to do their part in ensuring they are as organised as they possibly can be for whatever potential emergency situations may lie ahead.

“I would strongly encourage everyone to get ready, stay ready and be prepared.”

During an emergency or disaster situation, residents should visit Council’s Disaster Dashboard dashboard.isaac.qld.gov.au to access up-to-date weather warnings, emergency news, road conditions and power outage information.

In the case of a life-threatening emergency, always dial triple zero (000). Residents requiring flood and storm assistance should contact the State Emergency Service (SES) on 132 500.

GET READY FOR WHATEVER MOTHER NATURE MIGHT BLOW OUR WAY

CR LYNETTE JONES
DIVISION 6 - CLERMONT

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The beef industry plays a vital part in Isaac’s economy - generating $212 million from cattle annually. And we certainly showcased our best at the Hoch and Wilkinson 6th annual Clermont Beef Expo and Trade Display recently. Congratulations to everyone involved. Also don’t forget Clermont Historical Centre’s 100 Objects exhibition runs until December 2018. It’s well worth the look. On a last note, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking forward to working with you all in 2019.
Many of our wonderful residents and business owners spend a great deal of time and effort creating spectacular light displays that enchant both children and adults alike. The annual Isaac Christmas Lights Competition provides a wonderful opportunity to gather together, meet the neighbours and get involved in your community. Visit isaac.qld.gov.au/christmaslights for all the competition details for your town. Meanwhile, your resilience and passion continues to make Isaac a great region to be a part of. I’m proud of what we’ve achieved together this year. Merry Christmas and have a safe New Year.
We live in a place where there is an increased risk of natural disasters during November through to April. Severe weather events in recent years have taught us that natural disasters don’t discriminate when it comes to where, when and how they strike. It’s never too late to take action in our communities by cleaning out gutters, removing debris, securing loose items in the yard and making sure insurances are up to date. Now is also a good time to prepare a household emergency plan and put together an evacuation and emergency kit that covers all of the people and pets that reside with you. I would strongly encourage everyone to get ready this Christmas, stay ready for the New Year and be prepared now.

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2018 Citizen of the Year
Beryl Neilson

Nominations for the 2019 Isaac Region Australia Day Awards close Friday, December 7, 2018.
Mayor Anne Baker said the Isaac Region Australia Day Awards were an opportunity to acknowledge and say thanks to some of the region’s most remarkable residents. “We are region rich in resources, but we are also blessed with the greatest resource of all - our people. Pure people power is helping our communities to thrive as we help to energise the world,” she said. “These awards are a chance to celebrate that people power and honour those individuals, groups and organisations who have made a significant contribution to our social, civic, sporting and cultural life locally, nationally and internationally.”
The Isaac Region Australia Day Awards comprise the regional awards of Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Event of the Year, and local medallions presented to individuals and groups in each community for sport, culture/arts and achievement.
“I am also honoured to choose a recipient for the Mayor’s Award in each community, selected from the award nominees,” Mayor Baker said. “Nominees can be from all walks of life from youth, to community groups, to senior citizens. We want to shine a light on the outstanding achievements of everyday people who make us proud to be Australian.”
To nominate a deserving local, go to isaac.qld.gov.au/australiaday or visit any Council office for a nomination form.

Isaac’s regional award nominees and winners will be honoured in a special ceremony of the eve of Australia Day in 2019. The region’s 2019 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Event of the Year will be announced at an evening event at the Moranbah Community Centre on Friday, January 25.
The traditional Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony will also be held at the function, welcoming the nation’s newest citizens to the Isaac community.
Moranbah’s local award winners will also be announced at the event. Other local award winners will be recognised at annual Australia Day ceremonies and celebrations in their respective communities the following day.

CLUB DOES BACKFLIPS OVER GRANT HELP

Young Moranbah gymnasts have an extra spring in their step after a Council community grant helped fund new flooring for their training venue.
Mayor Anne Baker said Council had provided a $10,000 grant to assist with the Gymnastics Moranbah’s project to install $49,000 in specialised flooring. “This was a great outcome for young sportspeople in our community and is just one example of how our community grants program is delivering real benefits across the region,” she said.
Cr Baker said the program funds local projects, events and activities which help to develop resilient, adaptive and vibrant communities while also contributing to the social wellbeing.
“Council is committed to assisting local not-for-profit community groups and organisations through its grants programs,” she said. Visit isaac.qld.gov.au/isaac-community-grants to find out more.

CR GEOFF BETHEL
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AWARDS AN EVENING AFFAIR

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Introducing the Disaster Dashboard!

This tool is a one-stop desktop for information during emergency and disaster situations.

Communication plays a vital role in disaster preparation, response and community recovery.

Having one place to access all this information will see you better equipped to keep your family and loved ones safe.

To check out the Disaster Dashboard visit:

dashboard.isaac.qld.gov.au