

# ISAAC NEWS



**ISAAC YOUTH ACTION GROUP**  
*Shark Tank event*  
**PAGE 3**

**GLENDEN WATER TREATMENT PLANT**  
*Trans-Tasman Tap Water Champion*  
**PAGE 5**

**MAYOR'S CHARITY BALL 2025**  
**PAGE 6-7**

## A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KELLY VEA VEA



Senator Anthony Chisholm, Mayor Kelly Vea Vea

## CONTENTS

**03 Isaac Youth Action Group Shark Tank**

**04 Phillips Creek Bridge**

**05 Glenden crowned tap water champion**

**06 Mayors Charity Ball**

**08 Huxley McFarlane's big league dreams**

**10 Hannah Peterson to represent Australia**

**11 Growing smarter: Tree management for a safer, greener region**

## MAYORS MESSAGE

Across Australia, big decisions are made every day that shape the future of regional communities like ours. The challenge is ensuring those decisions are made with a clear understanding of what life looks like here on the ground. That is why bringing leaders, ministers and parliamentarians into our region matters so much.

Recently, we welcomed Senator Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Resources and MP Linus Power, Shadow Minister for Resources to Isaac, where they visited local mine sites and saw first-hand the innovation and projects that are unique to our region. From advances in technology and safety to the way industry is managing sustainability, these visits showed the scale of the work happening here, the expertise of our people and the pressures and opportunities we face.

I also travelled to Emerald for the State Government's Community Cabinet, where I had constructive discussions with Premier David Crisafulli, Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie, and Ministers Tim Nicholls, Brent Mickelberg and Sam O'Connor. These conversations are vital, not just for advocacy, but for building genuine understanding

of what regions like Isaac contribute and what support we need to keep delivering for Queensland and the nation.

Isaac is the powerhouse of Queensland. What we produce here supports jobs, communities and industries across the state and around the world. When leaders come here, speak with locals and see our operations first-hand, they walk away with more than a briefing paper. They see the scale of the work, the strength of our workforce and the challenges we are tackling head on. That knowledge helps shape better decisions, stronger partnerships and fairer outcomes for our communities.

Isaac's voice is strongest in the rooms where decisions are made. By inviting leaders here, and by showing up ourselves, we make sure our future is part of the national and state conversation. Together, with the right partnerships and support, we can secure a future that keeps our region strong and proud at the centre of Queensland's progress.

**Kelly Vea Vea**  
**Mayor of Isaac Regional Council**



**COVER PHOTO:**  
Mayor Kelly Vea Vea, Chris Ronan,  
Kim Edwards, Isabelle Gillespie  
Photo credit: Brooke Langley Photography



Izzy Davies, Aiden Peterson, Gracie Noy, Danielle Janse van Rensburg, Jada Baggow

## STUDENTS WOW SHARK TANK AT ISAAC YOUTH ACTION GROUP EVENT

Passionate young leaders from Moranbah, Clermont and Dysart took centre stage, pitching bold community projects to a panel of Isaac Region Councillors at the Isaac Youth Action Group (YAG) Shark Tank event.

Shark Tank, created in partnership with Future Anything and Isaac Regional Council, brought together 11 students from across the region to find real solutions to issues in their communities.

### INNOVATIVE PITCHES IMPRESS PANELISTS

From digital trivia signs aimed at combatting driver fatigue, to movies nights to tackle youth loneliness, the Shark Tank pitches showcased the passion, innovation, and leadership of Isaac's youth.

"We're planning a movie event to bring youth and the community together, it will be called A Night Under the Stars, and we'll run team building activities beforehand to get the community to bond," Darcie Holt, year 7 student from Dysart State High School said.

"We'd like to implement digital trivia signs to the sides of our roads to

make sure trivia questions can be updated regularly and kept new and interesting, to minimize fatigue related crashes and near-misses in the Isaac region," Izzy Davies, year 11 student from Moranbah State High School said.

Isaac Regional Council and Future Anything will now help the students roll out their community projects by the end of the year, marking the beginning of a new cycle of youth-led design and delivery across Isaac.

### COUNCIL APPLAUDS YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Division 5 Councillor Alaina Earl, who attended the event, said she was blown away by the calibre of ideas and the confidence of the presenters.

"Yesterday's pitches were nothing short of inspiring," Cr Earl said.

"These young people are not just dreaming, they're doing. Their ideas were thoughtful, practical and deeply connected to the needs of their communities."

"The energy in the room was electric. It's clear that the Isaac Youth Action Group is setting a new standard for youth leadership in our region."

### Meet the 2025 Isaac Youth Action Group

- Gracie Noy, Year 12 – Moranbah SHS
- Jackson Mackey, Year 12 – Moranbah SHS
- Izzy Davies, Year 11 – Moranbah SHS
- Ethan Azzopardi, Year 12 – Moranbah SHS
- Jada Baggow, Year 12 – Moranbah SHS
- Aiden Peterson, Year 12 – Moranbah SHS
- Danielle Janse van Rensburg, Year 9 – Moranbah SHS
- Richard Goetz, Year 12 – Clermont SHS
- Campbell McDonald, Year 10 – Clermont SHS
- Darcie Holt, Year 7 – Dysart SHS
- Kailyn Rogers, Year 10 – Dysart SHS




**CR TERRY O'NEIL**  
DIVISION 1  
CLERMONT RURAL  
AND GLENDEEN

Did you know Council can help bring your Australia Day event to life?

Community groups and organisations across the region can apply for up to \$1,000 in funding, and the best part? No acquittal report is required!

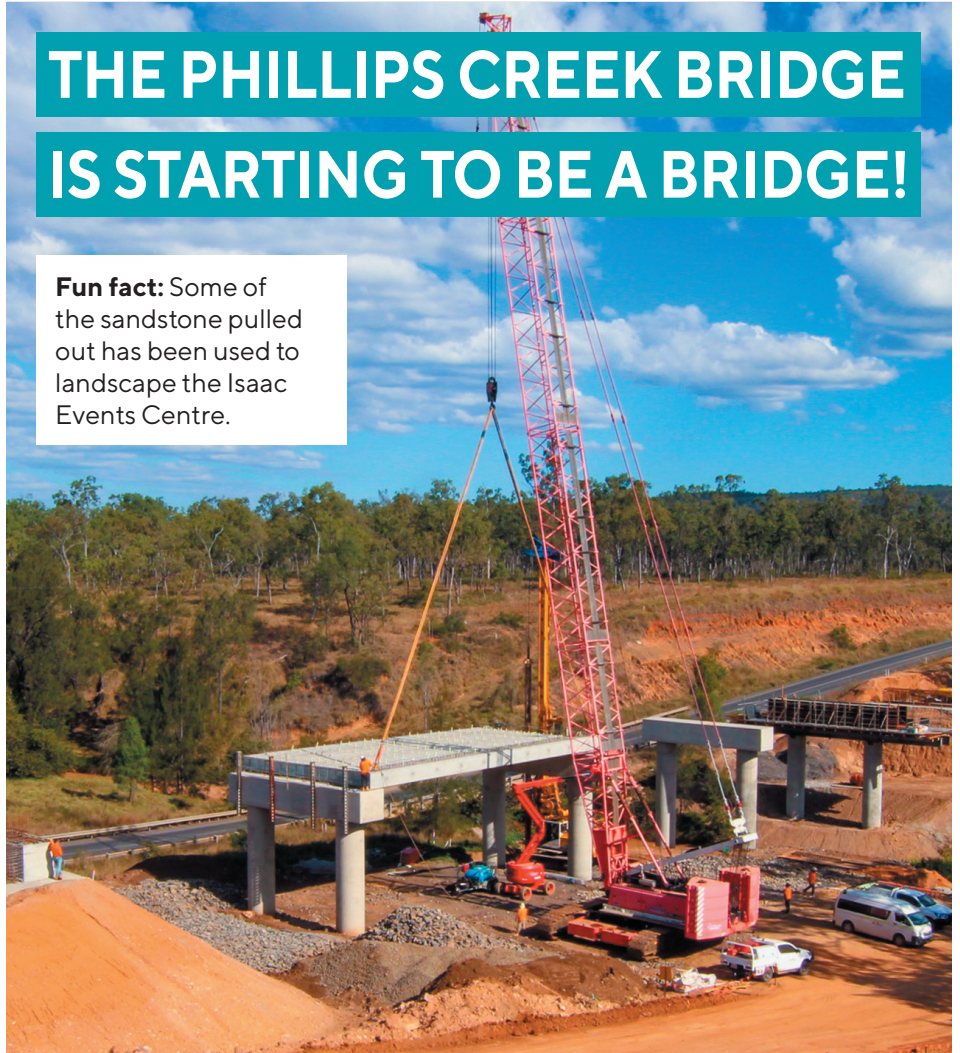
We're making it easier than ever to celebrate what makes our communities special.

Head to <https://www.isaac.qld.gov.au/Australia-Day> for more information.

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# THE PHILLIPS CREEK BRIDGE IS STARTING TO BE A BRIDGE!

**Fun fact:** Some of the sandstone pulled out has been used to landscape the Isaac Events Centre.



After months of groundwork, the Phillips Creek Bridge replacement is taking shape – and it's bringing some seriously impressive stats with it.

Manager of Galilee and Bowen Basin Operations Sean Robinson said the project is proceeding as expected, despite hiccups with some hardcore rocks (pun intended).

"The bulk earth works uncovered a large amount of rock so hard we had to get a D11 Caterpillar on site to rip it up!" Sean said.

That's Caterpillar's largest and most powerful dozer!

What's next now the earthworks are done?

"We're continuing to construct the approach roads and completing the bridge works, which are expected to be done in January," Sean said.

Stay tuned for the next timelapse video!

The Phillips Creek Bridge Replacement Project is proudly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments in partnership with Isaac Regional Council.

## Project status

- Bulk earthworks are completed for the roads on either side of the bridge. 100,000 cubes of material were removed – that's 40 Olympic swimming pools, or one small skyscraper for those playing along at home.
- Piling works are done, and the abutments and headstocks have been cast (translation: the concrete has been poured).
- The bridge's deck beams are now being lifted in. There are 80 beams each weighing 26 tonnes – that's 346 African elephants worth of beams.



**CR VERN RUSSELL**  
DIVISION 2  
DYSART

Have you visited the new Dysart Community Hub yet?

We've brought all our Council services together under one roof at 18 Shannon Crescent.

It's easier than ever for our residents to access the information and support they need, all in one convenient location!

Come in, say hello to our friendly team, and take a tour to see what's new.

 [vern.russell@isaac.qld.gov.au](mailto:vern.russell@isaac.qld.gov.au)



David Smith, Owen Ruston

## GLENDEN CROWNED TRANS-TASMAN TAP WATER CHAMPION

From a quiet corner of Central Queensland to the top of the Trans-Tasman leaderboard, Glenden has officially poured its way into history.

Isaac Regional Council's Glenden Water Treatment Plant has taken out the coveted 2024-25 Trans-Tasman Best Tasting Tap Water title, beating New Zealand's national winner in a blind taste test at the 25th WIOA NSW Water Operations Conference in Newcastle on Wednesday night.

The win caps off a remarkable journey for the small mining town of just 300 people, whose water has now been officially recognised as the best in Isaac, Queensland, Australia and New Zealand.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Kelly Vea Vea said the result was the culmination of months of recognition and a reflection of the skill and care that underpins everyday service delivery in regional towns.

"From the very start, this was about more than just taste - it was about showcasing the pride, experience and precision that goes into delivering safe, high-quality water to a remote community," Mayor Vea Vea said.

"Glenden's win is something every one of our 17 communities can celebrate, because it shows that excellence doesn't rely on size or systems. It's about people, process and pride in your work."

The Trans-Tasman showdown saw 50 delegates blind taste samples from Australia's Glenden Scheme and New Zealand's Timaru District Council. Glenden's water received 31 votes to New Zealand's 19.

The Glenden Scheme, which sources its water from the Bowen River Weir, is manually operated by experienced duo Owen Ruston and David Smith, with support from Stephen Wagner and the wider Isaac water team.

Remarkably, the plant is run without automated systems like SCADA. Instead, Owen and David rely on hands-on methods, decades of experience, and local intuition, including Owen's now-famous nightly "shower test" and David's morning tea taste check, both used to flag any subtle changes in water quality.

"While it might sound unorthodox, their approach works and it's backed

up by rigorous compliance testing that ensures our communities always receive safe, clean drinking water," Mayor Vea Vea said.

Earlier this year, Glenden's water also ranked 27th in the world at the International Best Tasting Water competition held in the United States placing the small Queensland town on a global stage.

As national winner, Isaac Regional Council will now host the 2025-26 Australian Best Tasting Tap Water competition in Moranbah this December.

Mayor Vea Vea said the broader community would have the chance to experience the water tasting fun firsthand.

"We're proud to bring the spotlight to our region, and to celebrate our frontline operators who rarely seek recognition but absolutely deserve it," she said.

"Glenden might be a small town, but this achievement is anything but. It's a story of local know-how, regional excellence and a team that genuinely cares."



**CR MELISSA WESCOTT**  
DIVISION 3  
MORANBAH

Are you a university, TAFE or trades qualifications student looking for somewhere quiet to study?

Head over to the Country Universities Centre (CUC) Isaac in Town Square, Moranbah to chat about how CUC can help you.

And don't forget to follow the the CUC Isaac Facebook page and never miss an update on student opportunities. It's your go-to hub for local learning, connection, and community.

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# MAYORS CHARITY BALL 2025




**CR SIMON WEST**  
DIVISION 4  
MORANBAH

You asked, we delivered!

Get ready, the next Domestic Dump Day is just around the corner. Keep your eye on Facebook for exact dates and tips on what you can dump.

Our June event saw over \$18,000 in fees waived, and we're excited to see what December brings!

These days are always popular, so plan ahead, arrive early, and make the most of this great opportunity to clean up and save.

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The 2025 Mayor's Charity Ball lit up the Isaac Events Centre on 23 August, with an unforgettable evening dedicated to creating a brighter future for Isaac.

The sold-out event brought together community members, local businesses, industry leaders, and unions to raise vital funds for two causes: Country Universities Centres (CUC) Isaac and BMA CQ Rescue's emergency helicopter services.

CUC Isaac provides students in Moranbah, and soon to be Clermont, with access to higher education through dedicated study hubs offering academic support, quiet study spaces, and high-speed internet.

BMA CQ Rescue delivers 24/7 emergency helicopter services across Central and North Queensland, ensuring rapid aeromedical care and search and rescue operations in remote areas.

Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers and attendees who supported the 2025 Mayor's Charity Ball. Keep an eye on Facebook for the total amount raised.






**CR ALAINA EARL**  
DIVISION 5  
MORANBAH

Nebo Bush Poets is one of my favourite events of the year.

It brings together locals from all stages of life to learn, laugh and listen to one of Australia's oldest traditions, bush poetry.

A huge thank you to everyone that came along and to our best MC, Dan Lockyer.

Shout out to Mick Martin, guest poet, for a great performance. I'm already looking forward to next year.

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# HUXLEY MCFARLANE BIG LEAGUE DREAMS START IN MORANBAH




**CR JANE PICKELS**  
DEPUTY MAYOR  
DIVISION 6  
CLERMONT

Council recognises the importance of preserving our history and cultural heritage.

That's why we've chosen to retain parts of the historic Chinese Wall in Clermont as a lasting tribute to the Chinese community who played such a significant role in shaping the town.

While some sections had to be removed due to safety concerns, we're exploring new ways to showcase our rich history.

If you'd like to learn more about local history, why not visit the Clermont Museum? Opening hours: 9am-3pm Wednesday-Saturday.

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In July, 11-year-old Huxley McFarlane proudly represented Queensland at the School Sport Australia National Rugby League Championships, held in Brisbane.

Huxley, a keen footy player from Moranbah, was the only regional player selected for the state's 11-12 years side. His selection followed a strong performance across multiple trials, progressing from the Moranbah team to Central Highlands, then through Capricornia representation, before earning a spot among just 17 players selected statewide after competing in Mount Isa.

Isaac Regional Council supported Huxley's journey through a \$250 Individual Development Grant, helping to ease the travel and competition costs for the young athlete and his family.

Huxley's passion for rugby league

has been shaped by years of playing alongside mates and learning the game's skills. He currently plays wing and centre, though fullback is his favourite position.

"It was such a great experience playing at that level and getting to know new people. I picked up a lot and I'm keen to keep getting better," Huxley said.

Isaac Regional Council is proud to support local talent through its Individual Development Grants program, helping young people participate in representative events in sport, arts and education. Huxley's achievement is a great example of the region's emerging talent and the importance of backing kids with big dreams.

Applications for Council's Individual Development Grants are open year-round. For more information, visit [www.isaac.qld.gov.au](http://www.isaac.qld.gov.au).



*These rails were manufactured and installed by Clermont Work Camp prisoners*

## MEET MIM AND 'THE EVERYWHERE PEOPLE'

A quick tour of town is all you need to see the Clermont Work Camp's mark.

The ramp at the bowls club, the pony club tie up rails, the cemetery's neatly clipped lawns, the showground's tables, the race club disabled toilet facility, and countless other projects are the handiwork of prisoners.

"We're the everywhere people," Melinda (Mim) Allen, Council's Community Liaison Officer said.

"Most people here have no idea how much the prisoners put into the community."

### **Working with the community is key to success**

Having spent the last five years navigating two levels of government, 20 community organisations, and ten prisoners, Mim said transparency, positivity and flexibility are key to the program's success.

"You have to be honest and upfront. If you don't deliver what you say, the community lose their faith in you and the program," Mim said.

"You also have to be positive - I'm committing that prisoners are going

to come to their organisations and do work to the best of their ability."

"The prisoners working in our Work Camps have progressed through the correctional system to low custody and have demonstrated a good work ethic and appropriate custodial behaviour whilst accommodated at Low Custody. The Work Camp provides opportunities to learn new skills, have community interaction as well as some other things that are not available in the custodial setting."

### **What hands-on rehabilitation looks like**

Mim doesn't just do paperwork. She's actively involved in day-to-day operations, driving the prisoners to and from their jobs and supervising their work.

As the only female field officer in a Queensland male prison camp, Mim's strong communication skills are crucial to working towards rehabilitation.

"The best strategy for engaging with the prisoners is to be firm but fair. I've learned how to deal with multiple personalities and multiple emotional

presentations depending on what's happening in their day."

"It's my job to help rehabilitate these people who have made bad choices but aren't innately bad people. These fellas have families at home. I take great pride in throwing myself into my job and doing the best I can to try and get them back out on the other side."

"I want them to be rehabilitated and better people than they were before than came into jail. I measure my success on the recidivism of the prisoners who come through the camp," Mim said,

### **What's next for Clermont Work Camp**

While the camp is currently part time, with prisoners on a 15-day rotation between Clermont and Springsure, Isaac Regional Council has submitted an application to transition to a full-time model.

"Having the camp permanently based in Clermont would allow us to service more clubs and organisations, which fills a vital service gap in the community as volunteer numbers continue to decline," Mim said.



**CR RACHEL ANDERSON**  
DIVISION 7  
MIDDLEMOUNT  
AND MORANBAH

Many people around town have asked what Middlemount is getting from this year's budget.

I'm happy to share some of the great things we're doing for our community.

We're improving local parks and facilities, including shade sail and soft-fall repairs, painting, and lighting upgrades.

A new water pipe at the treatment plant will boost water quality and supply reliability.

And, we're also investigating structural repairs at the Community Hall to ensure its long-term use.

Plus, 16 community grants worth over \$41,000 were awarded last year. This year, we'll continue supporting the groups that help make Middlemount thrive.

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# HANNAH PETERSON TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA IN RUGBY LEAGUE TOUR

Moranbah's Hannah Peterson is preparing for the trip of a lifetime after being selected to represent Australia in the Wanderers Australia Girls Rugby League Tour to France and England.

The 16-year-old front rower will travel first to Paris before heading to northern England to play four games against local competition, all while experiencing new cultures.

Hannah has only been playing rugby league for three seasons but is already making her mark at both club and representative level. She is a key player for Moranbah's under 16 girls' side and also plays for the Mackay Cutters U17s women's team.

Her journey began with a school pathway program after she received a letter inviting her to take part. Before league, Hannah tried her hand at dancing, netball and AFL, but she quickly found her passion on the rugby league field.

She said she is most looking forward to the challenge of meeting new teammates from across Australia and

competing on an international stage.

"It will be fun playing with girls I haven't met before and building those connections," Hannah said.

Hannah looks up to NRLW players Jasmine Peters and Lillian Yarrow and hopes her own pathway will lead her to the elite level. She sees the development route from Moranbah to the Mackay Cutters, the Rise program, and eventually the NRLW as a clear goal to work towards.

She received an Isaac Regional Council Individual Development Grant of \$750 to support her tour, alongside fundraising through the Moranbah Workers Club and help from her family. She hopes this experience will be a stepping stone to future opportunities.

Isaac Regional Council's Individual Development Grants provide support to young people who achieve state, national or international representation in their chosen field. For more information or to apply, visit [www.isaac.qld.gov.au/grants](http://www.isaac.qld.gov.au/grants).



**CR VIV COLEMAN**  
DIVISION 8  
NEBO AND  
SURROUNDS


RADF grant applications are officially open!

The Regional Arts Development Fund is all about supporting local creativity, and you don't need to be a professional artist to apply.

If you've got a passion for art that celebrates our stories, culture, and identity, we want to hear from you!

Our local Isaac musicians, comedians, writers, dancers and visual artists are encouraged to apply.

Head to [isaac.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants](http://isaac.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants) to find out more.

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# GROWING SMARTER: TREE MANAGEMENT FOR A SAFER, GREENER REGION

**Got questions about disappearing trees in Moranbah and Clermont? Great! Parks and Recreation Overseer Mitch Kinter has answers.**

## Why are trees being removed around town?

We're removing trees with invasive roots that are causing damage to underground infrastructure. Removing certain trees, such as the poincianas on Mills Road in Moranbah, has also solved traffic line-of-sight issues.

## What happens to the wildlife living in the trees that are removed?

Before removing a tree, we get an arborist report, which also covers fauna. We try to retain habitat trees with hollows for as long as possible – we don't want to cut away wildlife homes if we don't have to.

When we have to remove, prune or reduce the weight of a habitat tree, we can work with a fauna spotter. We never remove active nests, we wait until after the mating cycle.

We're also developing a really good relationship with the environment team. We're learning about flying fox roosts around the townships so we can be sure our tree works don't disturb them either.

## Does Council remove trees without replacing them?

No! Generally, if we remove one tree, we'll replace it. We take a staged approach, so you might not see all the replacement trees put in this year or even next year, but over the next few years offset planting will continue according to our budget and water availability. Greener, more liveable communities are our goal.

## What factors go into choosing replacement trees?

We look at tree height, drought tolerance, non-invasive roots systems, how quickly it grows, and how messy the tree is – we don't want dropped leaves, seeds, fruit or bark creating a road safety hazard.

## What do you do with the timber from the large trees Council removes?

We bring it back to the depot and get it mulched up for use in our parks and

open spaces. We also give some of the bigger timbers to community groups – we've supplied a few dozen logs to kindies for outdoor play.

## Does Council respond to public requests for removing street trees?

Anyone can put in a request, and we'll assess the tree's condition and surrounding environment then decide.

### Parks and Recreation Winter Snapshot

Throughout the cooler months, tree works are just one of the many things the Parks and Recreation team do to improve our outdoor spaces. While seasonal growth conditions slow down, the team are busy with:

- Sports field turf management assessments including soil testing

- Checking and maintaining irrigation systems

- Playground maintenance including soft fall top ups

- Painting and park facilities, maintaining seats, tables, and toilet facilities

- Mulching garden beds, pruning and replacing plants

**Did you know:** The Parks and Recreation team mows over 260 hectares across 85 open spaces and maintains 36 playgrounds



Mitch Kinter

## ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

### OUR VISION

To pursue long-term sustainable futures for Isaac's communities.

### OUR GOAL

Helping to energise the world. A region that feeds, powers and builds communities, now and for the future.

## VISIT US IN PERSON

### Clermont Office

24 Herschel Street  
CLERMONT QLD 4721

### Dysart Office

18 Shannon Crescent  
DYSART QLD 4745

### Glenden Office

Town Shopping Centre  
17-27 Perry Drive  
GLENDEEN QLD 4743

### Middlemount Office

11 Carter Place  
MIDDLEMOUNT QLD 4746

### Moranbah Office

Grosvenor Complex  
1 Batchelor Parade  
MORANBAH QLD 4744

### Nebo Office

14 Reynolds Street  
NEBO QLD 4742

### St Lawrence Office

36 Macartney Street  
ST LAWRENCE QLD 4707

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REGION



# 2026 Australia Day Awards

# NOMINATE A MATE

Nominations close **Friday, 31 October 2025**

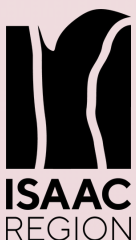
We've streamlined the categories to make it easier for you to nominate and to ensure every category shines with deserving nominees.

## REGIONAL AWARDS

- Held in the town of the previous year's winner
- Citizen of the Year (age 27+)
- Young Citizen of the Year (aged 16-26)
- Community Event of the Year
- Corporate Community Contribution of the Year

## LOCAL AWARDS

- Awarded in each town at their local Australia Day celebrations
- Community Champion Award (**One award per community**)



For more information:  
[isaac.qld.gov.au](http://isaac.qld.gov.au)  
**1300 ISAACS** (1300 472 227)

**SCAN QR CODE**  
for more details or  
to nominate a mate

