

ISAAC NEWS

PURE PEOPLE POWER

ISSUE 69 | MARCH 2024

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her retirement

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REGION 

HELPING TO ENERGISE THE WORLD

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WHERE TO FIND US

CLERMONT

Cnr Karmoo & Daintree Streets
Clermont QLD 4721

DYSART

Shannon Crescent
Dysart QLD 4745

GLENDEN

Ewan Street
Glenden QLD 4743

MIDDLEMOUNT

Shopping Centre
Middlemount QLD 4746

MORANBAH

Grosvenor Complex,
Batchelor Parade
Moranbah QLD 4744

NEBO

10 Reynolds Street
Nebo QLD 4742

ST. LAWRENCE

36 Macartney Street
St Lawrence QLD 4707



OUR COVER

Mayor Anne Baker

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All content accurate as of February 2024.



FROM THE

MAYOR'S OFFICE

It truly has been an honour of a lifetime to represent the people of the Isaac region for 12 years as Mayor.

I have put my heart, my soul, my everything to represent our 17 unique communities and the people who have entrusted me with this responsibility.

I am proud of the opportunities that we have turned into achievements together.

One of them I'd like to share is the January announcement of \$40 million from the Queensland Government to support the future of resource communities by establishing the Isaac Resources Centre of Excellence Precinct that will advance new technologies in the resources sector.

We will lead the way in bringing innovation to the Queensland resources sector, including low-carbon processes, new workforce skills and key initiatives such as mine site rehabilitation and deeper First Nation partnerships.

A further \$2 million for the Isaac Affordable Housing Trust to build a block of three units for non-mining workers in Moranbah and nearly \$1.5 million for the Dysart Golf Club to redevelop its clubhouse and an irrigation system upgrade.

We have fought the good fight on many important issues, from returning royalties to our region, building a new hospital, affordable housing, creating real reform on two occasions that facilitates genuine choice to workers and future proofing community infrastructure for generations to come.

What gives me the strength to do what I do, is the team I am surrounded by and working in step with community.

This honestly has given me the passion I need to ensure Isaac has a seat at the table on the state and national scene.

We are Australia's biggest coal mining region, we are home to Queensland second largest cattle herd and we have



a fast-developing renewable sector, our communities deserve a long sustainable life because it creates experiences money can't buy.

The Bowen Basin has given my husband Frank and I opportunities in the mining industry, local government, rugby league and netball, to raise a family and now I will enjoy watching my grandchildren grow up in a region I am proud of.

For this, I am inspired by what our communities have given us so we can overcome obstacles and triumph over adversity.

While we love our rural and regional lifestyle, we have a broad and ambitious world view and genuinely think globally especially as the sun is about to set into a decarbonised landscape.

While it will be hard saying goodbye to a position that has been my life since I was first appointed as Councillor in 2007 when it was Belyando, I feel I am leaving as Mayor in an incredible place, ready for that transformational leap.

I want to thank my Councillor colleagues, executive leadership team and staff not just for their daily support in my tenure but the friendships we've formed over the years.

I want to thank all the communities, First Nations groups, industry, businesses and not-for-profit organisations as I truly believe that the amazing things, we do in Isaac emanate around the world.

Thank you and all the best.

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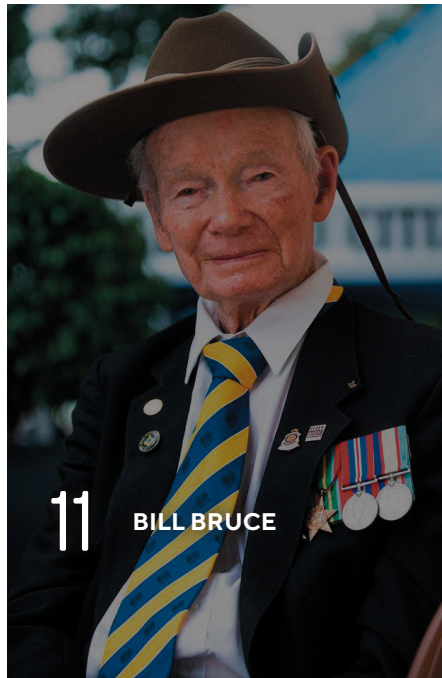
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EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1** Inspiring Women in Isaac, Nebo
- 2** Inspiring Women in Isaac, Isaac Coast
- 6** Inspiring Women in Isaac, Dysart
- 8** Inspiring Women in Isaac, Middlemount
- 9** Inspiring Women in Isaac, Clermont
- 10** Inspiring Women in Isaac, Glenden
- 11** Inspiring Women in Isaac, Moranbah

APRIL

- 7-13** Youth Week
- 25** ANZAC Day

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

FREE WiFi

Enjoy **FREE WiFi** in all of our Isaac Libraries.
Not yet a member? It's easy to join. Visit isaac.qld.gov.au for more information.

ISAAC REGION

MICROCHIPPING AND INSPECTION PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

A free microchipping initiative to give pet owners the edge on being more responsible for their dogs will be unleashed in March. The Chip N Check program, a partnership between Isaac Regional Council and three veterinary clinics, is open to all dogs from 12 weeks of age.

The microchipping incentive helps pet owners save money on something that is compulsory by law. Director of Planning, Environmental and Community Services Dan Wagner said microchipping is one of many ways people can fulfill their legal requirements and become a responsible dog owner.

“The number of lost and wandering dogs across the region continues to rise. It’s our job as a community to encourage responsible dog ownership and microchipping is a key part of that,” Mr Wagner said.

“A microchip stores your pet’s unique identification number, which is linked to a microchip database registry which includes important information about your pet’s breed and your contact details.”

The initiative is supported by Clermont Veterinary Surgery, Moranbah Veterinary Clinic and Sarina Veterinary Surgery. The free Chip N Check incentive, runs until 28 March 2028, is one of many ways Council is encouraging responsible pet ownership across the Isaac region.

Council is also conducting a selective inspection program to encourage responsible dog ownership.

The selective inspection program is for all Isaac region residents that had a dog registered to 31 August 2023 but did not renew.

Mr Wagner said the program was about improving the lives of pets, getting lost dogs’ home safely and reducing the number of wandering dogs in the streets.

“To clear up any confusion about the programs, Council officers will only come on to your property to knock on your front door,” Mr Wagner said.

“The team conducting the inspections will not enter backyards or other parts of your property without your presence.”

If you are found to be non-compliant with animal registration requirements, Council will issue a Notice to comply that will provide you with 7 days to register your dogs. Those who fail to register within the given time frame will be issued with a Penalty Infringement Notice for \$309.00 for each dog.

The survey will run for 12 weeks, ending on 30 April 2024. Properties will be inspected from 7am to 5pm Monday to Sunday.

A hardcopy of the program can be purchased at Isaac Regional Council’s customer service centres or libraries until the end of the program for \$2.

Visit speakup.isaac.qld.gov.au for more information on the Chip N Check incentives and Council’s inspection program.

1300 ISAACS PHONE NUMBER ACCESSIBLE 24/7 FOR EMERGENCIES

In a brief yet crucial reminder to the community, it is emphasized that the 1300 ISAACS number remained accessible 24/7. Residents are urged to reach out to the friendly after-hours staff for any issues, ranging from a fallen tree to wandering cattle. Council assures the public of its unwavering commitment, always ready to lend assistance whenever needed.

For non-emergencies, an alternative suggestion is utilising the Snap Send Solve app for convenient reporting. This streamlined

approach aimed to address non-urgent matters effectively, ensuring a prompt response from Council. However, in cases of life-threatening emergencies, this reminder emphasises the importance of dialling triple zero for immediate assistance.

The notice serves as a testament to Council's dedication to the well-being of the community, providing clear channels for communication and support around the clock.

real updates. real time.

OPT-IN FOR
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

SMS AND EMAIL

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QUEENSLAND

Queensland
Government



COMMUNITY CHAMPION CALLS TIME ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAREER

The visionary leader of Australia's largest resource region announced her retirement from local government in Queensland.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker broke the emotional news that she has made the decision not to contest the local government elections in March 2024. Mayor Baker, who is one of Queensland's most respected local government leaders, is known as a powerhouse community champion for her monumental lobbying and her authentic approach of putting people before politics.

Council CEO Ken Gouldthorp described Mayor Baker as the political architect steering the ship for over a decade and the driving force behind a series of remarkable achievements.

"The Isaac region's trajectory has been forever altered under her visionary guidance and she leaves a legacy that lays strong foundations for Isaac's next chapter," Mr Gouldthorp said.

"As we bid farewell to an Isaac icon, we salute Mayor Baker for her indelible mark on our region's history.

"Her inspirational legacy and authentic human approach to leadership is not just a chapter in our story, but a dynamic force that will resonate for generations to come."

Mayor Baker, who has lived in the Bowen Basin for 40 years, shared her heartfelt thanks to her communities, Councillors and Council staff that have supported her throughout her career.

"After nearly 17 years representing the Isaac region, and the last



12 of those as Mayor, I have made the decision to retire from Council," Mayor Baker said.

"It has been a wild ride and I have put my heart and soul into fighting for Isaac, getting up every day to do my best for the community I love.

"I've cherished every moment of being Mayor, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for our incredible region."

At the end of a term filled with monumental achievements including saving Glenden, successful lobbying for a new hospital and securing over \$120 million in funding for our communities, Mayor Baker plans to take a break and spend time with family and friends.

GOLDEN MILE ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT

Residents may have already noticed the initiation of construction on Golden Mile Road, a development that brought satisfaction and relief to those involved. The rehabilitation project for this crucial roadway, connecting Dysart to Middlemount, elicited a positive response. Recognising its status as a heavily traversed route, ensuring the safety of both residents and visitors became a paramount concern.

Appreciation is extended to the Australian Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program and the Queensland Government Transport Infrastructure Development Program. Their collaborative efforts played a pivotal role in supporting Council financially, making the rehabilitation project for Golden Mile Road a reality.



Mayor Anne Baker with **Citizen of the Year Amanda Raymond of Moranbah**, and Director of Planning, Environmental and Community Services, Dan Wagner



Mayor Anne Baker with **Young Citizen of the Year Ciara Storch of Dysart**

THE SPIRIT OF ISAAC SHINES AT LOCAL 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

A community nurse with theatrical flair, a highly decorated teen boxer and a creative festival that brings an endangered species plight to life are among the major 2024 Isaac Region Australia Day Award winners. Moranbah Arts Council president Amanda Raymond, who is also a local nurse, accepted the Citizen of the Year Award in Moranbah on 25 January 2024.

Boxing extraordinaire Ciara Storch, 17, was named Young Citizen of the Year on Australia Day morning in Dysart and Event of the Year went to Clermont Wombat Festival, organised by Clermont Artslink at the local showgrounds on 25 January 2024.

Corporate Community Contribution of the Year winner was Clairview's BarraCrab Caravan Park, accepting the award in Carmila on 26 January 2024. The park helped increased economic tourism activity along the Isaac Coast through family fishing festivals.

The Spirit of Isaac Award winner was Moranbah Carols by Candlelight, where a small group of volunteers put together arguably the biggest free event in the Isaac region, attracting more than 4,000 last year.

Mayor Anne Baker said Isaac region's

award winners personify the spirit of Isaac through their passions, their commitments to their communities, and their work.

"Congratulations to each of our winners and our nominees - every year I am impressed with the calibre of people that call our region home, your community spirit is truly inspiring," Mayor Baker said.

"As this is my last Australia Day celebrations as Mayor, I am so very proud of our team who delivered nine ceremonies across eight towns over a 24-hour period. Our celebrations were bigger than one day.

"We also welcomed 24 new Australian citizens last night and Moranbah will be home to 17 of the citizens, with two in Clermont, two in Dysart, two in Middlemount and one in Glenden.

"Thank you to our five major winners, the seven people who won the Mayor's Award for their exceptional commitment to our communities and our 33 medallion winners. We appreciate you going above and beyond for the Isaac region."

The 2024 Australia Day Awards is an Isaac Regional Council event assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council.

Citizen of the Year

- > Amanda Raymond, Moranbah

Young Citizen of the Year

- > Ciara Storch, Dysart

Event of the Year

- > Clermont Wombat Festival
This Clermont Artslink festival brings the community together, educating us on the plight of our Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombats and awakening our creativity. It is the Isaac region's next biggest tourism event.
Clermont

Corporate Community Contribution

- > BarraCrab Caravan Park, Clairview
This Clairview business has singlehandedly boosted tourism and the local economy not only with its views but the annual Easter Fishing Competition, attracting anglers across Queensland.

Spirit of Isaac Award

- > Moranbah Carols by Candlelight
A small team of volunteers who call Moranbah home puts together a yearly event that arguably the Isaac region's biggest free event, attracting more than 4,000 people.

Mayor's Award

- > Ruth Brown, Clermont
- > Patrice Brown, Dysart
- > Mark Hare, Glenden
- > Anne Meehan, Middlemount
- > Jarrid Kennedy, Moranbah
- > Debbie Bromley, Nebo
- > Tony Mill, St Lawrence



Event of the Year winner
Clermont Wombat Festival, Clermont



Corporate Community Contribution of the Year winner
BarraCrab Caravan Park, Clairview



Spirit of Isaac Award winner
Moranbah Carols by Candlelight, Moranbah



Clermont Historical Centre volunteers
Dorothy Orr and Olga Dunn



Discover ways to help you save water

We all have a part to play in creating new habits in conserving Isaac's precious commodity.

Find out more
isaac.qld.gov.au/save-water



Water in the morning or evening

SAVE WATER SAVE MONEY

Council extends an encouraging message to everyone, urging them to persist in taking measures to conserve water. Beyond its environmental significance, water conservation holds substantial implications for daily life. The act of conserving water not only contributes to a reduction in water bills but also plays a crucial role in averting water shortages and safeguarding natural resources.



Mayor's Award, Clermont winner
Ruth Brown



Mayor's Award, Glenden winner Mark Hare
with Individual Achievement Medallion winners



Mayor's Award, Dysart winner
Patrice Brown



Mayor's Award, Middlemount winner
Anne Meehan



Mayor's Award, Moranbah winner
Jarrid Kennedy



Mayor's Award, Nebo winner Debbie Bromley
with Cr Viv Coleman and Cr Kelly Vea Vea



Mayor's Award, St Lawrence winner
Tony Mill

Report issues to
council in less than
30 seconds



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Solve



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

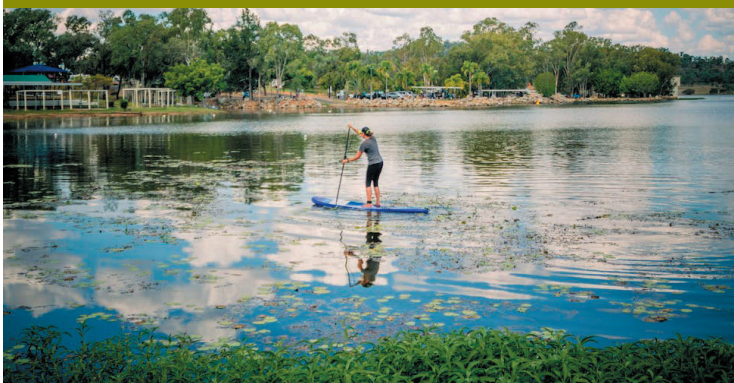


After two decades of dedicated local government service, Gina Lacey will move onto a new chapter.

Cr Lacey would like to thank each resident for their support and that Moranbah and the Isaac region will continue to hold a unique place in her heart. As she embarks on her next adventure, Council would like to thank Cr Lacey for her dedication and time as a Councillor for the past 20 years.



THERESA CREEK DAM DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS IN PROGRESS



The Theresa Creek Dam development plan is currently in progress, and there is considerable anticipation regarding the forthcoming enhancements to this outback locale. Notable improvements, such as the upgrading of playgrounds and camping facilities, are expected to amplify the region's appeal and draw a larger visitors. Council officially endorsed the plan towards the end of last year.

Gratitude is extended to those who actively participated in voicing their opinions on the dam's future. The constructive input provided by the community has played a pivotal role in shaping the approved development plan.



LATEST UPDATES

ROAD CONDITIONS

POWER OUTAGES

WEATHER WARNINGS

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Scan the **QR CODE** to check the Disaster Dashboard on your mobile device

dashboard.isaac.qld.gov.au

real updates. real time.

DISASTER DASHBOARD

With the fluctuation in weather, it can be hard to keep track. Our Disaster Dashboard can send you notifications of incoming weather events. It can alert you where there are bush fires, when heavy rainfall can be expected and even road closures. Visit www.isaac.qld.gov.au/Community/Disaster-and-Emergency-Preparedness/Disaster-and-Emergency-Management to opt in on SMS notifications.



VALE BILL BRUCE

One of the Isaac region's oldest living legends has been described as a Nebo icon after he passed away on Remembrance Day last year. William Wallace Mervyn 'Bill' Bruce spent 106 years of his life showing bravery, resilience, and love for the country.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker said Bill, a World War II veteran, was an inspiration to every person of every generation.

"Bill wasn't just a witness to history, he was an active participant in shaping it for his community and his country," Mayor Baker said.

"His wisdom, kindness, and indomitable spirit have left an indelible mark on us all.

"After serving his country, Bill embarked on a lifelong commitment to community service for his beloved town Nebo.

"Whether it was through the stories and poems he shared, the friendships he cultivated, or the quiet moments of wisdom he offered, his legacy will endure."

Born in 1917 in Fort Cooper, now known as Nebo, Bill spent his early years working hard on the land as a labourer, contracting and building fences. By 1942, Bill had signed up for the reserves following Australia's involvement in World War II and one year later, Bill was sent to New Guinea as part of a support battalion. This is where he learned about electrical engineering, a skill that later made him a leading technician in any camp he found himself in.

Bill enjoyed his time in the Australian Army, he volunteered to be part of the Occupation Force in Japan, until his commander called him and said the best thing to do is go home and enjoy his life.

When Bill set foot back down on home soil, his service did not stop, only this time, it was to the community of Nebo. For 50 years, Bill Bruce organised Anzac Day celebrations in Nebo. He was a member of the RSL since 1960 and served 25 years as the president. Bill also began the bowls club in Nebo, which is still active today.

He was the secretary of the Nebo Jockey Club for 20 years, a founding member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Lodge. Somehow, through all of this, Bill managed to work full-time at the Council depot for 25 years.

Among all this, in 2018, Bill became the oldest person to carry the Queen's Baton in Gold Coast for the Commonwealth Games.

Bill was once quoted by a reporter that the secrets to a long life was about getting the basics right.

"You've got to work hard, keep as active as you can, eat meat and potatoes and breathe through your nose. That'll get you through," he said.

THANK YOU

Appreciation is extended to all individuals who submitted an Expression of Interest for the Nebo Showgrounds Master Plan Working Group in January. The involvement of individuals with diverse experiences is crucial for Council, ensuring a comprehensive perspective in handling the future development of this site. The Nebo Showgrounds, with its potential to serve as a future-proofed facility, holds promise for generations with a shared passion for pursuing rural sporting aspirations and participating in community events.

**Being a
community
legend has
never been
easier.**

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Send
Solve**



snapsendsolve.com.au



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***My local* vote**

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
16 March 2024**



**Electoral
Commission**
QUEENSLAND

ecq.qld.gov.au

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland, Brisbane.