

ISAAC NEWS

PURE PEOPLE POWER

ISSUE 59 | DECEMBER 2021



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Shannon Crescent
Dysart QLD 4745

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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

Samarla Deschong
of the Koinjmal
People from
Koinmerburra
Country and Isaac
Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker.
Picture from Queensland Tourism
Industry Council

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All content accurate as of December 2021.



FROM THE

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Together we have been working hard to keep each other safe as we manage our way through the ever-present pandemic.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, Council has played a huge role in reactivating nearly 300 events in a 12-month period to June 2021 in the Isaac.

The tourism awards season has blessed us incredibly with the Isaac region's premier eco-tourism, culinary and First Nations event striking gold at the Queensland Tourism Awards and Mackay Isaac Tourism Awards. St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend won the festival and events category.

More than 2,000 people, attended the multiple award-winning event in June this year, producing a 65% increase from the 2019 event and generated \$308,523 in economic benefit.

This also led to the re-naming of a regional tourism organisation. Mackay Isaac Tourism Ltd changed their consumer business name to include "Isaac" in recognition of the region's growing tourism profile.

It is our work that has gone into developing the Reconciliation Action Plan and our passion that created the Social Sustainability Policy to bring about positive social change to the region.

While we reactivate our communities, we are doing everything we can to help improve the lives of our people through the constant and unfailing advocacy for better services to our region that is important.

Our 2020-21 advocacy priorities were regional health services, investment in roads, better funding allocation, and affordable housing.

We continue to push for better access to primary healthcare in each of our towns and upgrades to our hospital staffing and services in Clermont, Dysart and Moranbah.

Through meetings with the Ministers at both levels of government, state and federal government standing committee submissions and motions to the Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Association Queensland, we are continuing to advocate better health outcomes for our region.

Our advocacy on housing affordability has been ongoing, with work carried out to draw attention to the lack of affordable housing across our region. This remains a key component of the social sustainability for our communities in to the future.

Government funding for Isaac remains unbalanced and limits the ability of Council to deliver critical projects and infrastructure for our residents. The existing model often forces our communities to forgo the benefits afforded to our metro counterparts. Our advocacy work has been focused on a fairer allocation of funding for our communities. Roads across our region are an ongoing challenge, and without solid investment, our residents will continue to travel on roads that are in dire need of repair or upgrade.

We also said farewell to our CEO of the past five years, Gary Stevenson PSM, after an illustrious 40-year local government career. Gary guided us through significant challenges and milestones, including helping navigate through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across our communities.

Gary's farewell has allowed Council to appoint one of our own, former director Jeff Stewart-Harris, to the CEO mantle. Council has every confidence that Jeff will build upon the great work of his predecessor.

We had an extremely heartbreaking time with the passing of our dear colleague and friend Councillor Lyn Jones of Clermont. Wherever she went in the Isaac region, her cheeky grin lit up every space. She was a well-respected and valued member of our team and our community and is desperately missed by us all.

In closing, thank you to the passionate, dedicated and skillful Councillors and Council staff serving the Isaac region, and our proud, hard-working families and businesses. I am confident our communities will continue to thrive.

This resilience is the reason I come to work each day, doing my best to represent the industrious families that are the true backbone of Isaac. So as we are busily getting ready for the holiday season, let's breathe in and out, put the feet up, relax and reflect on what a big year we've had.

We're a resilient bunch but we also deserve to have a break. This Christmas, hold your loved ones tight and reconnect with those who have meaning to you. When we've taken this breath, we're ready for the New Year ahead. That's why in 2022, the future is brighter in the Isaac region.

MAYOR ANNE BAKER

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EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 3** Christmas in the Park, Clermont
- 3** Christmas Movie Party, Nebo
- 4** Christmas Carols and Twilight Markets, Dysart
- 10** Christmas Movie Party, Middlemount
- 11** Christmas Tree event, Carmila
- 15** Youth Holiday activities, Moranbah

JANUARY

- 25** Triathlon, Moranbah
- 25** Australia Day Awards Ceremony, across the region

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



COUNCIL'S DECISION TO PROTECT GLENDEN'S FUTURE HAS A WIN

Isaac Regional Council's decision to refuse a mining proponent's development application has been justified with the Planning and Environment Court of Queensland dismissing QCoal Group's appeal.

The application to construct a new 600-room workers' camp at Byerwen Coal Mine 28km north-west of Glenden would have seen the struggling Isaac region town suffer yet another blow at the hands of the mining industry.

Mayor Anne Baker said the court decision reaffirmed Council's position that industries operating in the Isaac region need to support sustainable community futures.

"This decision upholds our long-term advocacy for strong and sustainable resource communities and puts industry on notice that when it comes to our communities, we will stand up for what is right," Mayor Baker said.

"This is a big win for our region. As the largest resource council in Queensland, we continually face these battles, and this is finally a win for the community. The proposed development was not consistent with the relevant planning scheme which is designed to encourage sustainable futures for our communities.

"It didn't make sense to have a 600-person mining camp built down the road from a town that already has existing cultural, recreational and social facilities like those available in Glenden.

"We respect the court's decision and I thank the Council team for their continued efforts on behalf of the region."

The court said the consequences of approving the proposed development would be "detrimental to the ongoing utilisation of the significant social and administrative infrastructure" available in Glenden.

QCoal Group have previously made a request to the Queensland Government for a mining lease and environmental authority over the subject land at Suttor for a living quarters/camp and ancillary infrastructure. The assessment process for this matter is ongoing and Council is unable to comment on this subject at this time.

Mayor Baker said Council remained committed to socially sustainable futures for communities in the Isaac region. "I am openly against any development that fails to deliver a sustainable future for our towns and communities or removes the ability for people of all ages and walks of life have a genuine choice to reside in the Isaac," she said.

LATEST UPDATES

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POWER OUTAGES

WEATHER WARNINGS


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CR GREG AUSTEN

DIVISION 1 - CLERMONT RURAL AND GLENDEN

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For the first time ever our popular Seniors Week events turned into a full month during October. Here in the Isaac region, we embraced the theme of social connections to have no fewer than 15 events and activities, bringing together people of all ages to celebrate the important and essential roles older people play in our communities. In Glenden, we took to the pool for a special Grandparents Day as a Pop Up @ the Pool First5Forever event. Our Seniors were also entertained with a special movie screening at the Glenden Rec Centre of 'Going in Style'. Thank you to everyone who attended events in recognition of the contribution our seniors make to the community.



GRAB YOUR ISAAC REGION MATE AND VACCINATE

Health Minister Yvette D’Ath joined Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker in Moranbah to encourage residents to grab a mate and vaccinate. There has been a significant increase in the vaccination in the Isaac region over the past eight weeks.

Mayor Baker said while this is good to see, the Isaac region remains in the bottom quarter compared to the rest of Australia.

“With yesterday’s announcement that the borders will be opening for Christmas and international travel back on the agenda, we need to act now in order to protect our communities,” Mayor Baker said at Vanguard Health.

“We need to reach 80% of the population vaccinated to protect the freedoms regional Queenslanders have enjoyed. I strongly encourage everyone who is eligible for the vaccine to roll up their sleeves, grab a mate and vaccinate. It is even easier to get vaccinated with outreach clinics right across the Isaac region on top of the ability to get the jab from doctors and pharmacies in each town.”

Ms D’Ath said the more Queenslanders who are vaccinated, the less the impact will be on our health system.

“This virus will go into every single community once Queensland opens up,” Ms D’Ath said.

“The question is who’s going to get this virus – it’s going to be those people who aren’t vaccinated.

“While we have been visiting our rural and remote regions to administer vaccinations, we know not everyone has come forward to be vaccinated yet.

“There’s absolutely no reason to delay the vaccine – COVID-19 will come to our regional communities, it’s just a matter of time for the Isaac region.

“Head along to your nearest vaccination clinic, or if your community is serviced by a vaccination outreach clinic – please make it a priority to get vaccinated when they’re next in your community.”



VACCINATE
with a **MATE!**

Drop in at a clinic near you.
The COVID-19 vaccine is **safe, free and effective.**

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mackay.health.qld.gov.au/COVID19-vaccine

For more information
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CR SANDY MOFFAT

**DIVISION 2 -
DYSART**

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As we head into the festive period, I would like to take this time to remind everyone to stay safe, stay hydrated and take care on the roads when travelling. And most importantly, Merry Christmas everyone! Thank you for your ongoing support over the last year. We are a resilient community, and it shows when I get out and see the wonderful people volunteering at events, raising money for those who need it and genuinely making Dysart a better place to live. Enjoy the festive season, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2022!



DIG IT, ISAAC GARDENING COMPETITION WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

A garden-loving, green thumb in Clermont has taken home the major prize for this year's Dig It, Isaac gardening competition. Elizabeth Slattery of Clermont won the Best Overall Garden prize, a \$1000 Shop Isaac gift card, proudly sponsored by Middlemount Rural.

Following a successful debut last year, Isaac Regional Council again partnered with generous local businesses across the Isaac region to encourage residents to make the most of spring and get out in the garden.

Mayor Anne Baker, who was on the judging panel, said she was delighted to see a variety of entries from across our region get involved in this year's competition.

"Congratulations to Elizabeth Slattery for winning the best overall garden section, who walks away with \$1000 to spend at local businesses through our Shop Isaac program," she said.

This is the second year running that a Clermont resident has taken home the major prize.

The Best Lawn category was a new addition to the bill this year following feedback from last year's event, which had two winners tie and claim the winning title.

"I'd like to say thank you to our communities for rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty to bring this year's competition to life," Mayor Baker said.

"I would like to acknowledge the amazing support from our local sponsors. We could not have done this without their incredible help."

THE 2021 WINNERS ARE:

Best Overall Garden: Elizabeth Slattery, Clermont - \$1000 Shop Isaac gift card prize, sponsored by Middlemount Rural

Best Native Garden: Chris Sypher, Clermont - \$150 Shop Isaac gift card and garden supplies to the value of \$350 prize, sponsored by Isaac Regional Council's Liveability and Sustainability team

Best Edible Garden: Billie Tonkin, Moranbah - \$350 of gardening supplies prize, sponsored by Clermont Mitre 10

Best Potted Garden: Melissa Macklin, Dysart - \$350 Shop Isaac gift card, sponsored by Nebo Rural Services

Best School, Kindy or Daycare Garden: Clermont State High School - \$500 Shop Isaac gift card prize, sponsored by Clermont Agencies (CRT).

Best Lawn - we have a tie! Damian Walsh, Clermont; and Bevan and Geraldine Curran, Moranbah - \$350 Shop Isaac gift card prize, sponsored by Isaac Regional Council's Economy and Prosperity team



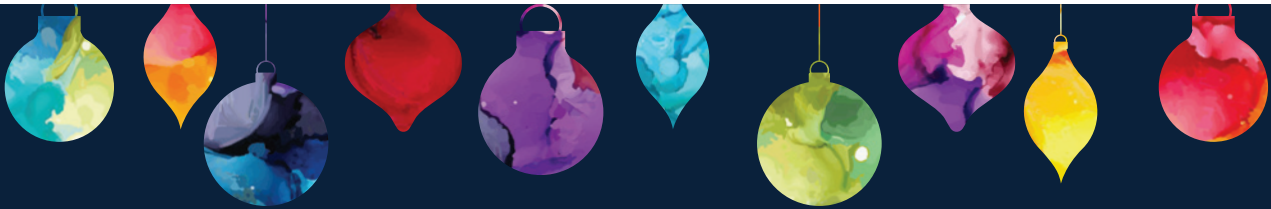
CR GINA LACEY

DIVISION 3 - MORANBAH

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Isaac Regional Council was proud to support the 2021 Moranbah Miners' Memorial Spring Races. Race meetings are such an important part of the social and sporting fabric which knits together our regional communities and this particular race paid homage to those miners who went to work in the coal mines, and never came home. I commend the Moranbah Race Club executive team, its members and all the volunteers who work so hard to continue this thoroughbred racing tradition in our community. It's truly traditions like these which makes the Isaac region's future much brighter thanks to our communities' pure people power.



SHOUT OUT A BUSINESS

this christmas to win

This Christmas, let's show our Isaac businesses some love! Simply comment on Council's Facebook post with a photo, your entry details **plus** tell us in 25 words or less why you love that Isaac business to go in the draw to **win one of 8 gift cards** across the Isaac region!

6 December – 19 December

How to enter

- 1 Take a photo of an Isaac business, or a product or service from an Isaac business
- 2 Comment on Council's Facebook competition post with the photo and your entry details... **Plus** tell us in 25 words or less why you love that Isaac business

Competition closes Sunday 19 December, 2021 with winners announced Tuesday 21 December, 2021.



Almost
\$2000
in gift cards
to be won!

7 x \$100 winners
a winner from each community

1 x \$1000 winner
grand prize from all entries

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CR SIMON WEST

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MORANBAH**

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Council's 2020-21 Annual Report is now available to view on our website. It shows the 2020-21 financial year tested the resilience of the Isaac region both economically and socially. In response to the pandemic's acute social and economic impacts, Council was proactive in implementing a range of financial support measures to assist the most vulnerable sectors and individuals in the Isaac region to safeguard the local economy. The annual report is Council's most comprehensive report to the community describing how the Council has met its annual objectives. If you would like to take a look back on the 2020-21 year, visit www.isaac.qld.gov.au



YELLOW PETALS FALL ON MEMORIAL AS MINERS' LEGACY ILLUMINATES

The news of a coal miner's death sends shockwaves throughout the industry, across every mining community and to the heart of every worker and mining family.

There is a collective grief that time never heals.

This coal miner is a valued member of a family and the Moranbah community.

As the yellow flowers fall on the Moranbah Miners' Memorial, families, friends and workmates gathered just before sunset on Friday, 5 November 2021 and paused to remember coal miners who left for work and never came home.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker said for many in the mining sector saying goodbye before the start of every shift is important.

"No one knows the dangers of the industry like those who face it every shift," Mayor Baker said.

"No one knows it like the people who wait for their loved ones to come home from work. As they walk out the door, there's this silent hope that they'll be home, safe and sound. Fourteen times in Moranbah, their goodbyes were their last. We will gather again as one to remember them, to cherish them and to keep them in our hearts. This memorial also is an important reminder that protection of our miners is paramount."

The light was once again illuminated to pay tribute to the lives lost at Moranbah mines at Town Square at 6pm Friday, 5 November 2021.

The commemoration also paid respect to miners that were lost on roads to and from work, in camps, and from coal-related diseases.

Moranbah Miners' Memorial Committee president Scott Leggett said a wave of overwhelming community support continues for the third commemoration event.

"Our fallen workmates are looking down and I bet they're proud of you Moranbah. It's incredibly sobering the show of support we continue to have," Mr Leggett said.

"We want to thank Councillor-endorsed member of the Moranbah Miners' Memorial committee - Deputy Mayor Kelly Vea Vea - for her outstanding commitment to this annual ceremony."

The committee teamed up with 4RFM and Council to showcase the Moranbah Community Garden Project at Coalface Art Gallery. The beautifully planted and handcrafted installation created by local children and volunteers of all ages is a show of support for the community during a difficult time. The showcase was open during Council business hours of 8.30am to 5pm on Mondays to Friday until Monday, 8 November 2021.

For more information on the commemoration event or the community garden project head to the Moranbah Miners' Memorial Facebook page.

Isaac Regional Council is a proud supporter of the Moranbah Miners' Memorial annual commemoration and Community Garden Project at Coalface Art Gallery.



CR KELLY VEA VEA

**DEPUTY MAYOR
DIVISION 5 -
MORANBAH**

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The Moranbah Miners' Memorial serves as a reminder of the impact a fatality has on our resource-rich communities. On 5 November we stood together to remember the human cost to an industry that is in our DNA. We know how much a fatality resonates in each and every member of our community. And when this happens, our mining communities come together when times are tough. Thank you to everyone who attended the Miners' Memorial event in person or online and put their lamps out in recognition of those who went to work in our mines and never came home.



MULTI-MILLION UPGRADES PRODUCES RECORD SALEYARD NUMBERS

The Isaac region's premier beef precinct has achieved record numbers at the Clermont Saleyards with more than 96,000 cattle processed.

The record was thanks to the Queensland Government's \$1 million investment election commitment to the as part of Stage 1 of the Clermont Saleyards and Showgrounds Revitalisation Masterplan Project from the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund.

The upgrades included electrical, water and IT upgrades, a full site master plan, construction of 60 individual horse stables, and a designated livestock crossing. An increase of cattle through the facility was also due to the completion of six sets of additional spelling yards which holds an extra 1,000 head.

Mayor Anne Baker said Isaac Regional Council had continued to advocate for funding from both levels of government.

"Clermont is home to one of Queensland's oldest agricultural shows and the only show hosted in the Isaac region. And the neighbouring saleyards is one of Queensland's most significant trucking cattle centres," Mayor Baker said.

"An incredible \$3.2 million through the Australian Government's Regional Recovery Partnerships for Stage 2 which will help improve infrastructure and technology updates which will continue to support the Isaac region's vision for a world class saleyards and showgrounds in Clermont."

There are five key elements in this phase with the upgrades and expansion of holding yards, loading docks and renewal works of the J.R. Turner Saleyards. This will help improve efficiencies to meet the growing demand of sale and transit cattle. It will also take advantage of the site's unfettered triple road train access and train load out facilities.

Mayor Baker said the unique community venue offers sustainable, modern, adaptable and accessible facilities that support dynamic event opportunities.

"A pavilion refurbishment is planned at the adjoining showgrounds to help deliver education, training and conference facilities through digital and audio-visual upgrades," Mayor Baker said.

"These upgrades will not doubt complement the gross value of Isaac agriculture commodities produced is \$323.3 million and this is supported by our \$270.7 million beef industry."

This has been a collaborative project between Isaac Regional Council, key stakeholder groups and a multi-disciplinary team.

The strong relationship with local livestock agents and investment has seen combined post weight Prime and Store livestock sales increase to fortnightly and these are seeing strong numbers being sold. A total of 2,300 high standard head drawn from the local area, Dysart, Nebo and Rolleston, were yarded at the 2021 Hoch and Wilkinson Clermont Beef Expo and Trade Display.

Major records were broken with 100-day grain fed bullocks topping at 490c/kg and grass-fed bullocks hitting highs of 470 c/kg with heavy feeder steers topping at 532c/kg and feeder heifers reaching 550c/kg.

The Isaac Regional Council-sponsored Grand Champion Exhibit winner was the Anderson family at "Narrien" Clermont.

In 2021, Kennedy Livestock agents for Elders Rural Services hosted its first annual weaner and feeder sale with more than 1,600 head and record prices achieved. The team is also part of the fortnightly fat and store sale that have seen monster prices achieved this year with sales growing stronger. The recent rain around the district has not only lifted spirits but has further improved the current market.



CR CAROLYN MORIARTY

**DIVISION 6 -
CLERMONT**

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In October I had the pleasure of attending the International Rural Women's Day - A Soiree on the Range organised by Kimberley Dennis and Elisha Parker. The International Rural Women's Day celebrates and honours women and girls living in rural areas. It recognises the huge role that mothers, daughters and grandmothers play in producing food, building agricultural and rural community development worldwide. And we know rural women play a crucial role in our Clermont community. It was great to see women coming together to support each other and celebrate the integral role they play in our community.



WETLANDS WEEKEND IS OFFICIALLY QUEENSLAND'S GOLD STANDARD

The Isaac region's premier eco-tourism, culinary and First Nations event has struck gold at the Queensland Tourism Awards.

St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend won the festival and events category at the Brisbane Entertainment and Convention Centre last Friday night, 12 November 2021. It comes after the event won its third gold at the Mackay Isaac Tourism Awards in October.

Mayor Anne Baker said the win is a culmination of years of hard work between Council, the Isaac regional communities and its event partners.

"I can't stress enough how proud I am of our Isaac team in building this throughout the years to the premier event it is today," Mayor Baker said.

"These wins don't come overnight, it comes from years of hard work from our Council team, our First Nations, community groups and event sponsors. The event continues to delight and surprise our visitors as they taste, explore, create and discover our historic St Lawrence and surrounding coastal communities."

Tourism is one of the most valuable industries in the Isaac region, worth more than \$180 million a year and it directly employs about 1000 people.

Mayor Anne Baker said the win is a golden opportunity to firmly place the Isaac region on the tourism map.

"All these great local experiences would not happen without the pure people power behind the scenes," Mayor Baker said.

"Congratulations to you all and we are so proud in growing our tourism industry and this is more evident as we stand together, resilient and strong. The Isaac coast's core promise is - feel the quiet satisfaction of discovering unspoilt nature on a road less travelled. St Lawrence continues to play a real role in being a drawcard for nature tourism for the Isaac region."

The event was proudly brought to the region by Isaac Regional Council in partnership with the Koinjmal People from Koinmerburra Country and the community. It was supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland. The awards in Brisbane is delivered by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council. It celebrates and acknowledges the state's tourism sector for their excellence and rewards operators for their exceptional service.

Save the date for the next St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend on 22-24 June 2022.

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CR JANE PICKELS

DIVISION 7 - MIDDLEMOUNT

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It feels like a long time away, but we are quickly coming up to one of the biggest days in our events calendar, Australia Day! I would like to offer a massive thank you to everyone who nominated a fellow Aussie, event, community group or business. By nominating the people who have contributed to the Isaac region we can give them the recognition they deserve at our annual celebrations. Congratulations to all the nominees. I look forward to seeing you on 26 January 2022 and hearing all about the wonderful people that fill Middlemount and the Isaac region.



NEBO BUSH POET'S SOCIETY

The spoken word continues to be so powerful, even in our ever-increasing digital age. And isn't Nebo a great place to spin a yarn? Thank you to Dan Lockyer once again for lending his talents at the Nebo Bush Poet's Smoko on 10 October 2021. The Bush Poet's Smoko also welcomed special guest poet, Margy McArdle, from Gladstone.

A big thank you goes to QCWA Nebo Sarina Range branch for the delicious smoko and morning tea.

The Historic Nebo Museum is a tribute to - and a reminder of - the sterling efforts of the pioneers of the past. Visitors are welcome to explore the exhibits on Tuesdays to Thursdays, 9am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 4pm. The museum itself has been open since the early 1980s and houses a collection of relics and local stories from Nebo's diverse history.

Thank you to Council staff and the many wonderful volunteers who have helped to organise and host this unique event.



2022
AUSTRALIA DAY
WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY
 Australia Day Awards Ceremony
 and Free Activities

Go to isaac.qld.gov.au for details of your Australia Day local events



CR VIV COLEMAN
DIVISION 8 -
NEBO AND SURROUNDS

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Isaac Regional Council acknowledges the values, history and culture of First Nations peoples. In November we celebrated our First Nations people at the Isaac Coast in two events. At Fire and Water we joined the Koinjmal People from Koinmerburra Country and Dr Renee Rossini from Queensland Trust for Nature to learn about Isaac Coast's waterways. We also learnt about traditional fire control methods from First Nations author and expert Victor Steffensen. During the NAIDOC event, participants were led in traditional activities including clap sticks and bush walks. Thank you to the Koinjmal People, St Lawrence State School, Carmila State School and to all community members that participated. It was an amazing couple of days recognising the cultural diversity and strength of our community.

Isaac Regional Council Festive Period closures and information



Council's **customer service counters, branch libraries and Historic Nebo Museum** will close from:
Close of business **Thursday 23 December 2021 and re-open Tuesday 4 January 2022.**



Clermont Historical Centre will close from:
Close of business **Saturday 18 December 2021 and re-open Wednesday 2 March January 2022** to allow for the resetting of exhibitions and collections.



Kerbside waste and recycling collections will go ahead **as normal on public holidays** across the region.



Waste management facilities are closed on public holidays over the festive season on **Saturday, 25 December to Monday 27 December 2021, Saturday 1 January 2022 and Monday 3 January.**



Some changes to opening hours for **Isaac region pools** apply from **Monday, 13 December 2021 to Friday 7 January 2022.** To find out about pool closure times in your community, visit Council's website.



Water restrictions in the region:
Level 1 water restrictions, Middlemount
Level 2 water restrictions, St Lawrence

24/7 CONTACT

You are able to contact Council by calling 1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227) 24 hours, 7 days a week. If you experience any Council related issues over the festive period, Council staff are available to assist.

Find out more on the closures in your community at Council's website www.isaac.qld.gov.au or by calling 1300 ISAACS.