

ISAAC NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KELLY VEA VEA



The SES pictured with Mayor Kelly Vea Vea, Kristy McBain MP and Deputy Mayor Jane Pickels

MAYORS MESSAGE

By the time this edition reaches you, Australia Day will be a few weeks behind us, but the pride of that day remains.

Our regional ceremony in Clermont welcomed 25 new Australian citizens, recognised 149 award nominees and announced the 2026 Australia Day Award winners. Those nominations represent 149 stories of people making a difference in every Isaac community.

Across Isaac, people run volunteer organisations, coach local sport, support families and operate businesses with strong community hearts. Many work quietly behind the scenes, never seeking recognition. They give their time and care so others can connect, participate and belong.

The start of this new year has not been easy for many of our communities. While most people hope for a gentle beginning to January, parts of our region had to hit the ground running.

Shortly before Australia Day, Isaac faced floodwaters, which isolated communities, damaged homes and properties and disrupted lives.

In those tough days we saw the true character of Isaac. Neighbours helped neighbours. Strangers helped strangers. People cleared mud, delivered supplies, opened their homes and checked in on one another.

I want to again thank the SES, volunteer firies, emergency service workers and council staff who worked tirelessly. Thank you to the Clermont Bears, QCWA women, CCHAOSI and many other community organisations. Thank you to local businesses, landholders and residents who provided practical help, vital information and support when it was needed most. Many of you volunteered to help others while also personally dealing with the crisis yourselves. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

In this edition you will find more information about the next steps and the support available for those affected by the floods.

As we look ahead, I hope the coming months bring steadier days and new opportunities. Here's to a year of rebuilding, progress and greater things.

Through it all, the strength of Isaac's resilience shone through. We stand together in difficult times and celebrate together in good ones.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to that strength. Isaac is a great place to live because of you.

Kelly Vea Vea
Mayor of Isaac Regional Council

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COVER PHOTO:
Citizen of the year, Kevin Elliott, pictured with his wife, Elaine Elliott, and Mayor Kelly Vea Vea

RECOGNISING ISAAC'S LOCAL CHAMPIONS THIS AUSTRALIA DAY

Our 2026 Isaac Region Australia Day Award winners were officially recognised at Isaac's Regional Awards Ceremony in Clermont this January.

Kevin Elliott was named Citizen of the Year. Kevin, a cornerstone of St Lawrence, has a long history of service through his work and community involvement. His family ran the St Lawrence Hotel, he later managed the Post Office, and then joined Council, where he worked until retiring last year. He also helped form the Clarke Creek Campdraft in 1975 and carried the Olympic Torch in 2000.

His volunteer service has been just as significant, serving for more than 50 years as a volunteer ambulance officer and more than 25 years with the fire brigade. Kevin has also been a long time member of the St Lawrence Sportsground, supporting events, working bees, and emergencies whenever his community needed him. His quiet dedication and pride in his town make him a trusted and valued community member.

Jixie Navarro received the Young Citizen of the Year award for her strong contribution to Moranbah through volunteering, music, leadership, and academic achievement. She organised the Moranbah Memory 5K Walk and Jog for Dementia, supported local events, and raised funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities through Dance for Sick Kids. Jixie also performs regularly with Jam N Butter, bringing live music to events across the region.



Young Citizen of the Year, Jixie Navarro pictured with Mayor Kelly Ve Ve.

As Moranbah State High School's 2025 Vice-Captain, she played an active role in student leadership and mentoring, and was recognised with the QRC WIMARQ Exceptional Female QMEA Student of the Year award for her STEM advocacy and leadership.

The Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Nebo Hotel Street Party. This much-loved annual event brings the community together with live music, food, and family activities.

The event continues to grow, drawing visitors from across Central Queensland and giving local businesses an important economic boost. Created and supported by volunteers, local businesses and community members, the Nebo Hotel Street Party showcases what makes Nebo a unique town and life in regional Queensland so special.

Kylie and Craig Stanley from QRI Services in Coppabella were honoured with the Corporate Community Contribution of the Year award. They have helped transform Coppabella through their leadership with QRI Services and Coppabella One Stop. Their work has gone far beyond business operations, creating places for the community to connect, learn and access essential services. They were instrumental in delivering the revitalised Coppabella Community Centre and have continued to improve local facilities through Coppabella One Stop, now a key hub for residents.

The Spirit of Isaac Award went to the Queensland Country Women's Association Clermont Branch. The Clermont QCWA celebrated 100 years of service in 2025 with a Centenary Ball that brought the community together in vintage style, while raising funds for BMA CQ Rescue and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Clermont QCWA remains an important part of local life through volunteering at events, teaching cooking in schools, preparing birthing kits, catering at cattle sales, and other hands-on support. The group's ongoing commitment makes it a valued and well-loved part of the Clermont community.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Kelly Ve Ve congratulated this year's Australia Day Award recipients and thanked the many nominees recognised across the region.

"These awards reflect the people who make the Isaac region what it is, locals who give their time, step up for others, and lead by example in ways that often go unseen," Mayor Ve Ve said.

"With 149 nominations received this year, it is clear our communities are full of people making a real difference."

The 2026 Isaac Region Australia Day and Citizenship Ceremony also welcomed 25 new Australian citizens.

The 2027 event will be held in the Isaac Coast as part of the new rotation where the event is hosted in the hometown of the previous Citizen of the Year winner.

2026 ISAAC REGION AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDEES

Spirit of Isaac QCWA Clermont

Corporate Community Contribution of the Year
QRI Coppabella

Community Event of the Year
Nebo Hotel Street Party

Young Citizen of the Year
Jixie Navarro

Citizen of the Year
Kevin Elliott

Mayor's Award

- St Lawrence Creatives (Isaac Coast)
- Clermont Men's Shed (Clermont)
- Dysart Men's Shed (Dysart)
- Sharni Wood (Glenden)
- Cooper Downing (Middlemount)
- Kylie Howe (Moranbah)
- Valkyrie Mini Olympics (Nebo)

Community Champion Award

- Courtney Quinn (Isaac Coast)
- Lou Power (Clermont)
- Sandy & Jason Moffat (Dysart)
- Tevin Waerea (Glenden)
- Elizabeth Stewart (Middlemount)
- Jacob King (Moranbah)
- Joy Cooper (Nebo)
- Malakai Rich (Coppabella)
- Anneli Day (Clarke Creek)




CR TERRY O'NEIL
DIVISION 1
CLERMONT RURAL
AND GLEDEN

A big thank you to all Glenden residents who took part in our recent Glenden Pool consultation.

We really appreciate the time you took to share your thoughts.

Hearing directly from our community helps Council understand what's working well, what could be improved, and how we can support better use of the space moving forward.

Together, we can make sure the pool meets the needs of the people who use it every day.

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CR VERN RUSSELL
DIVISION 2
DYSART

Phillips Creek Bridge is now officially named the Bill Murphy Bridge.

Dysart was originally built on Bill Murphy's property, Tayglen.

Bill dedicated his life to the community, giving his time, his service, and large areas of his own land to support countless local groups.

All of us Dysartarians know the impact Bill had on our town. It feels incredibly fitting for the bridge to carry his name and honor his legacy.

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CR MELISSA WESCOTT
DIVISION 3
MORANBAH

For 29 years the Moranbah Community Scholarship Fund has invested more than \$1 million in local students.

This is made possible by MEU Peak Downs Lodge and Goonyella Riverside members who donate \$1 a week.

Council is proud to stand alongside them and long time supporters ETU Peak Downs and the Moranbah Community Workers Club.

To this year's recipients Pippa, Naiya, Jenna and Tahj: Be proud of where you're from! Moranbah will always back you, and your impact on regional communities can be powerful.

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Work on the Isaac Resource Excellence Precinct in Moranbah is moving ahead, marking a major milestone for the Bowen Basin and Isaac communities.

The new \$42 million facility will deliver a purpose-built hub for training, innovation and industry collaboration right here in the resources region.

For the community, the precinct will be much more than a building. It will create a dedicated hub for industry collaboration, applied research and innovation, building on the traditional industries that are the strength of our region. The precinct will attract new technology, new ideas and new investment to Isaac, helping industry tackle complex challenges and ensuring our mining communities remain strong and competitive as the resources sector evolves.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Kelly Vevea said the project is a significant investment in the future of Moranbah and the wider region.

"The Isaac Resource Excellence Precinct is about backing our communities and our workforce," Mayor Vevea said.

"This facility will support local jobs, strengthen skills and training pathways and reinforce Moranbah's

role as a centre for innovation and excellence in the resources industry."

Resources Centre of Excellence Chief Executive Officer Steven Boxall said the project builds on the success of earlier stages delivered in Mackay.

"The partnerships we have built with industry, education and government have brought us to this point," Mr Boxall said.

"Expanding into the Bowen Basin is the next step. This precinct is being built for the region and will deliver real benefits for local people and businesses."

Community input will continue to play an important role as the project develops. Residents, businesses and stakeholders will have opportunities to share feedback and ideas about how the precinct can best serve Isaac.

The centre is expected to be completed by mid 2027.

This project is a partnership between Isaac Regional Council, RCOE and industry, funded by State and Federal government.

To learn more about the Isaac Resource Excellence Precinct and its purpose, readers can view the project prospectus at: www.rcoe.com.au/isaac-resources-excellence-precinct



CR SIMON WEST
DIVISION 4
MORANBAH

Council recently backed ELAM youth programs, which include a hands on weekly outdoor skills program for boys aged 14-18.

Participants will learn practical skills like carpentry, painting, mechanical basics, horticulture, plumbing and arboriculture.

The program focuses on teamwork, mentoring and community projects.

It aims to build confidence, support career exploration, and strengthen connections with the environment.


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image description

MOSQUITO PREVENTION IN THE ISAAC REGION AFTER RECENT WEATHER EVENTS

Recent wet weather across the our region has created the perfect conditions for mosquitoes to multiply.

Heavy rainfall and lingering pools of stagnant water give mozzies exactly what they need to breed quickly, leading to a noticeable spike in mosquito activity in many communities.

This rise in mosquito populations doesn't just cause nuisance biting, it also increases the risk of mosquito borne diseases such as Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and dengue fever. These illnesses can cause symptoms like fever, headaches, nausea and fatigue. Seek medical attention if you feel unwell after being bitten.

Council reminds residents mosquitoes need only a small amount of water to breed, even a cup of water can be enough for eggs to develop into adults within a week. We advise households and businesses to regularly check for items that hold water such as pot plant trays, gutters, buckets, tarps and rubbish like old tyres. Please remove or empty them to help break the breeding cycle.

Swimming pools and spas are also common mosquito hotspots when they're not properly maintained. It's important to keep pumps running, water circulating and covers secured. Council encourages residents to inspect unused pools weekly for larvae and to ensure no parts of

pool systems hold still water that mosquitoes could use for laying eggs.

While some councils in Queensland use fogging, Council does not, as fogging only provides short-term relief and is not effective across the region's large open landscapes. Instead, we recommend simple, practical prevention measures at home and personal protection when outdoors.

As conditions slowly dry out, mosquito numbers are expected to decline naturally, but staying vigilant in the meantime is essential for reducing bite risk and protecting community health.


LATEST UPDATES


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






CR ALAINA EARL
DIVISION 5
MORANBAH

Black out your calendars because Saturday, 22 August 2026 is the official date for the Isaac Region Mayor's Charity Ball.

Last year we raised an incredible \$100,000 for Country Universities Centre Isaac and CQ Rescue.

Let's make it happen again!

Join us at the Isaac Events Centre for another fantastic night. It's going to be a ball!

 alaina.earl@isaac.qld.gov.au




CR JANE PICKELS
DEPUTY MAYOR
DIVISION 6
CLERMONT

Looking for a practical way to support people affected by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Koji?

GIVIT has opened a dedicated flood relief fund at: givit.org.au/ex-tc-koji-flood-fundraiser.

Every contribution helps our communities rebuild. Even a small donation will support families who've lost so much with essentials like clothing, food and household items.

GIVIT is a simple way to make a genuine difference during a difficult time.

 jane.pickels@isaac.qld.gov.au

Council extends its heartfelt thanks to all emergency services who worked tirelessly during the recent floods in Clermont. Our gratitude goes to the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and especially the State Emergency Service. Your dedication, professionalism and bravery provided reassurance and safety to our community during an incredibly challenging time. Whether you were coordinating rescues, clearing debris, managing road closures or providing essential updates, your efforts made a profound difference.

We also wish to acknowledge

neighbours, local organisations and volunteers across the region. In true Isaac spirit, people stepped in without hesitation to look after one another. Acts of kindness, both large and small, helped keep our community connected and resilient when it mattered most.

To the many locals who opened their homes, checked on friends and strangers, offered machinery, delivered food or simply lent a hand where it was needed, thank you.

The road to recovery will continue for some time, but we know, Clermont will emerge stronger than ever.



HOW TO DONATE TO
**ISAAC FLOOD
RECOVERY**

**Council has partnered with
GIVIT to manage donations.**



100% of publicly donated money received by GIVIT for this event is used to buy exactly what's needed, when it's needed. Where possible, GIVIT buys locally to support the economic recovery of impacted regions.

**DONATE
NOW!**

*Scan or use the
link below*



fundraise.givit.org.au/ex-tc-koji-flood-fundraiser



CR RACHEL ANDERSON
DIVISION 7
MIDDLEMOUNT
AND MORANBAH

A big congratulations to Lizzie Stewart for proudly representing Division 7 and taking home the well deserved Community Champion Award at the Australia Day Awards.

It was also wonderful to see the Valkyrie Mini Olympics recognised for their incredible community spirit, taking home the Mayor's Award.

Both achievements are a testament to the passion and dedication within their communities. Congratulations to all nominees, it truly was a special day worth celebrating.

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CR VIV COLEMAN
DIVISION 8
NEBO AND
SURROUNDS

Get excited because Australian music legend Graeme Connors is heading to this year's St Lawrence Wetlands Festival.

Early bird tickets are on sale now, so jump online and secure your spot!

Head over to Council's website for all the details, and don't forget to follow the St Lawrence Wetlands Festival on Facebook for updates on music, workshops and more.

St Lawrence Wetlands Festival is on 3-5 July, 2026. See you there!

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The Restoration of Coastal Habitat project is making sure Notch Point – one of our region's most iconic natural habitats – stays beautiful and healthy for decades to come.

Home to the world-famous (and very much endangered) glossy black cockatoo, Notch Point's vine thickets have been damaged by campers seeking shelter close to the beachfront.

And, along the beachfront, trampled dune plants haven't been able to hold back erosion.

This means the turtle species who nest at Notch Point have been forced to crawl further every year to find the sand to lay their eggs.



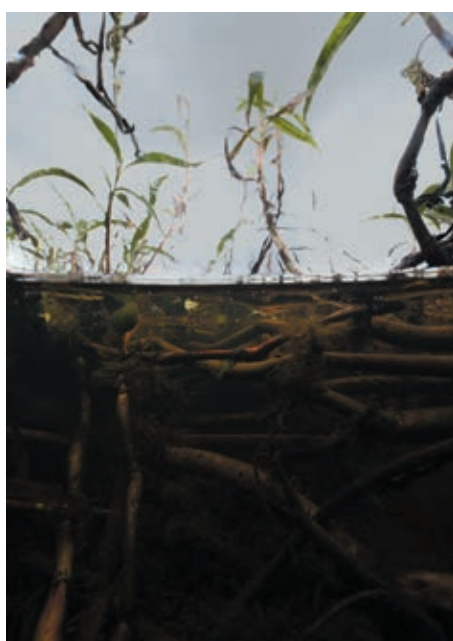
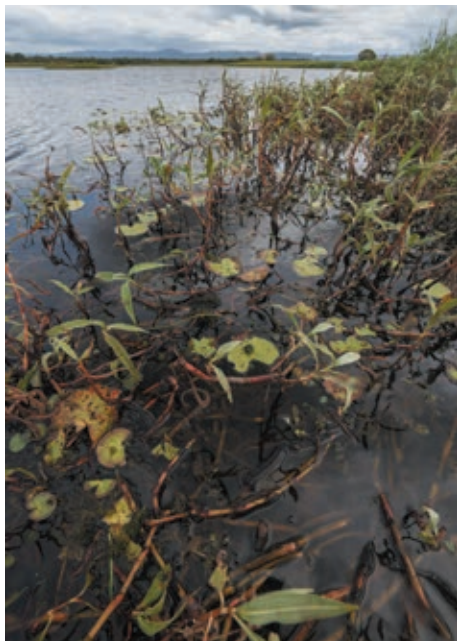
The good news is, with the help of the Reef Guardian Council and Sarina Landcare, Council has gotten to work restoring this precious habitat to its former glory.

Together, the project's teams have:

- Planted 1,500 out of 2,000 coastal plants suited to the environment
- Blocked off access points to allow the dunes and beach to recover
- Replaced old fencing with bollards that will withstand the elements (and campers)
- Installed signage to educate visitors about the area's unique and often endangered flora and fauna

"The Isaac Region spans the two major catchments to the Great Barrier Reef, and everything we and our communities do can have an impact on the Great Barrier Reef", said Isaac Regional Council's Environment and Sustainability Program Leader Kent Worsley.

Funding for the Notch Point Projects has been provided to Isaac Regional Council from the Australian Government to enable the Reef Guardian Councils to deliver projects and activities identified in their Reef Action Plans.



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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