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Issue No. 209  
February 2024

# MURGON MOMENTS

Murgon...a great place to live, work & play

## Alan's Our Citizen Of The Year!



*Cloyna resident Alan Eagleson has been named the 2024 South Burnett Citizen of the Year*

Murgon Show Society president Alan Eagleson – a familiar face with his coffee van at so many events around the South Burnett – has been named the region's 2024 Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

Alan was presented with his award during a special ceremony held in Kumbia Hall on Sunday afternoon.

Alan may make great coffee, but it was work supporting struggling farmers for which he was recognised, particularly the recent South Burnett hay drive organised in conjunction with Lions District 201 Q4.

*continue page 22*

# 55 million years ago

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## MURGON MOMENTS

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## South Burnett Residents – It's time to get Prepared!

Although Tropical Cyclone Kirrily is expected to impact northern Queensland, there is always a chance that a low could form and track south towards our region. The Local Disaster Management Group and Council are currently taking precautions around early preparedness and we are requesting the community to also be prepared. It's important to remain vigilant and be prepared for emergency situations such as cyclones, severe storms, fire and floods that may occur in our region.

Cr Potter, Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group wishes to remind residents to be prepared, have an emergency kit, do not drive in floodwater, follow messaging from the Bureau and keep up to date with Council's disaster dashboard for road closures and locations of any activated evacuation centres.

The South Burnett Disaster Dashboard is the place to go for all current information regarding the event. With live links to QFES, BoM, QLD Traffic and Ergon together with active evacuation centres should they be required, this page is your single point of truth!

Find links to the Disaster Dashboard and other Disaster Management Information here Dashboard ([southburnett.qld.gov.au](https://southburnett.qld.gov.au)).

South Burnett, it's time to GET READY!

We are asking residents to think about how extreme weather could impact your life, make a plan to stay safe and pack supplies so you don't get caught out. For ideas on what to pack in your emergency kit <https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/emergencykit>.

Think about packing:

- Long-life food and toiletries in case you can't get to the shops.
- Drinking water in case the water supply stops working.
- Batteries, a torch and radio in case the power goes out.

These are the basics, but also consider what other items your family might use if you had to stay at home for multiple days.

There are other things you can do to be ready for extreme weather:

- Clean-up – Check around the house and yard and make sure your home will hold up against the elements.

- Sign-up – Subscribe to mobile weather notifications from the Bureau of Meteorology or Council's Disaster Dashboard so you're informed and can act quickly.

- Connect – Know your neighbours and connect with your community.
- Get covered – Check your insurance to make sure your property can be fixed or replaced if it's damaged.

Get Ready Queensland has useful information and tips on their website, so be sure to visit [www.getready.qld.gov.au](https://www.getready.qld.gov.au).

Our weather can change quickly and be unforgiving. Here in Queensland driving into floodwater is the number one cause of flood-related deaths. Cars are designed to keep us safe on the road but once you hit water, it becomes a completely different story. It doesn't matter what car you drive, or how good you are at driving - as soon as you enter floodwater, your car can't protect you.

If it's flooded, forget it. For further information visit: If it's flooded, forget it! Get Ready Queensland

# Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

Round 2 closes on Wednesday 28 February 2024

## Who can apply?

Professional artists, emerging professional artists, arts workers, cultural workers, or project coordinators and incorporated organisations with public liability insurance or auspiced by an incorporated organisation or individual with an ABN.

You must be based in the South Burnett Regional Council area, or if based outside the Council area, can demonstrate how the project will directly benefit arts and culture in the South Burnett LGA.

## How much is available?

The minimum grant amount is \$500 and maximum grant amount is \$3,000. Quick response grants maximum grant amount is \$1,000.

## How do I find out more?

You can find information about RADF, the application process and funding rounds on Council's website under grants and funding.



## Mud Women & MOCKTAILS

**Mud Women Gathering – Bringing women, clay and magic together!**

Free Event | 10am - 12pm | Bookings Essential

24 February 2024 10am - 12pm Blackbutt CWA Rooms 65 Coulson Street, Blackbutt

25 February 2024 10 am - 12 pm Kingaroy QCWA Hall 122 Kingaroy Street, Kingaroy

2 March 2024 10am - 12pm Nanango CWA Hall 59 Fitzroy Street, Nanango

3 March 2024 10am - 12pm PCYC Murgon 40 Macalister Street, Murgon



This program received grant funding from  
the Australian Government



### Oddjob Handyman

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# 2024 SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

South Burnett Regional Council is calling on young people who want to have a greater say and help build a strong and inclusive community, to nominate for the 2024 South Burnett Regional Youth Council.

The Youth Council will be a diverse group of up to 20 motivated young people aged between 14 and 24 years old who live in the South Burnett or Cherbourg.

The Youth Council will meet regularly and will advocate for the needs of the young people who live in our communities. Members will help organise youth and community events, take part in leadership forums and self-development activities. They will also get a great insight into how local government works.

Nominations close on Friday 9 February 2024, to nominate visit Council's website <https://www.southburnett.qld.gov.au/youth-council>



**HEALING & MIRACLES**  
*with Julie Melfor*

**MURGON, QLD**  
**Feb 24-25th**

**New Horizons Church**

**Sat Healing Teaching Seminar**  
12.30pm rego: 1pm-5.30pm. \$30 at door  
(not appropriate for kids)

**Sunday Healing Service 9.30am**

FEBRUARY 24-25th

SOUTH BURNETT REGION, QUEENSLAND @ MURGON.

Host: New Horizons Church

15292 Bunya Hwy, Murgon

Saturday Healing Teaching Seminar – 12.30pm rego, 1pm – 5.30pm.

\$30 at door. (Not appropriate to bring babies or children to Seminar). Topics covered: roots of sickness, keys to healing, hindrances to healing, deception of new age healing, how to keep your healing, Q&A time, what happens when healing doesn't happen, how to pray for the sick, demonstration of praying for the sick, attendees pray for each other.

Sunday Healing & Miracles Service – 9.30am (Light lunch afterwards)

Church contact: (07) 4168 3455

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## AL-ANON

If you are troubled by the drinking of someone close to you, there is now a local support meeting being held at

**Goomeri Showgrounds Pavilion Building**

Laird St Goomeri

Thursdays 11 am

Contact: 1300 252 666

Or [www.al-anon.org.au](http://www.al-anon.org.au)

for more information

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A local AA meeting is now being held at the Baptist Church Hall

94 Macalister St Murgon

Tuesdays lunchtime 12.30

Online Zoom meeting is also available

Contact: 0427137140

for more information

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**6:00pm**  
**(ADULTS ONLY)**



Enjoy a nice meal and company while listening to some entertaining and practical tips that might help your family or a mate

RSVP: 16 February to **BIEDO** 0400 695 456 or [biedo.org.au](http://biedo.org.au)

BIEDO and the South Burnett Regional Council are hosting this workshop in conjunction with the South Burnett Crozing Network with funding from the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



# CONCRETER

**Doug 0407 653 912**

**Dougbellchambers2@gmail.com**

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**James Ward**

# MURGON Real Estate

**4168 2922** *Your Local Agent*



194 Boat Mountain Road Murgon - 5 acres - 3 bedroom home on a nice level elevated block of landscaped gardens in a rural location just minutes from Murgon. Open plan kitchen with walk in pantry. The kitchen extends into the family room. There is a separate formal lounge and dining. Main bedroom is of a good size with plenty of built in robes. The bathroom has the benefit of a bath and separate shower. Big lockup garage (approx 6 x 9m)  
Motivated Seller. \$640,000



3 Hanley Lane, Murgon - As new 4 bedroom home situated in a quiet cul-de-sac. Spacious open plan living. Built in kitchen with pantry, island bench and dishwasher. The Master bedroom has spacious built in robes plus an en-suite. The family bathroom benefits from a bath and shower, toilet is separate. Quality fittings throughout. Air conditioned living and Master bedroom. The double plus garage is spacious with a remote lift door and double door access to the home. The 4th bedroom/office has patio door access to a neat patio. Currently rented at \$360 pwk until 25th January 2023. \$395,000



36 Jefferies Street, Murgon - Weatherboard home on solid timber stumps. Beautifully styled and ready for a new owner. 3 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms are air conditioned as is the living room. Modern built in kitchen/dining with island bench, gas cooking and dishwasher. The bathroom has a step in shower vanity and toilet, there is a 2nd toilet in the laundry area. Paintwork internally and floor coverings all in excellent order. Close to all of Murgon town amenities including schools, hospital and shops. \$399,200



24 Lamb Street, Murgon - 3 bedroom home approximately 11 years old. Main bedroom has a good sized walk in robe and ensuite. Built in robes in the other 2 bedrooms. Carpeted in the lounge and bedrooms, timber effect vinyl in kitchen dining area.

Modern kitchen, dishwasher, Island bench. Good sized laundry with storage. Spacious 2 car garage with remote lift door. Heat pump hotwater system. Rain water tank. Town water. Currently rented at \$350 pwk with tenants on a lease until 8th February 2024. Photographs used are from prior to the start of the current tenancy which commenced in August 2021 - \$360,000.

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# Kathy's Comments

## Australia Day Awards for Murgon

It was wonderful to be at Kumbia on the Sunday before Australia Day to witness some amazing volunteers be rewarded for their years of service. I would like to congratulate Alan Eagleson for being recognised as the South Burnett Citizen of the Year. Alan along with his wife Pat have been incredible stalwarts particularly for our farmers over many years. Amy Wicks was also nominated for Citizen of the Year for her outstanding volunteer work in many organisations across our region. Congratulations to Josh Steinhardt for being nominated for the South Burnett Junior Citizen of the Year. Josh was awarded the title of MBDA Junior Ambassador of the Year at the Murgon Australia Day event.

Congratulations to Nicky Watkins for being awarded the South Burnett Volunteer of the Year and the MBDA Volunteer of the Year. It was also great to see Richie O'Neill and Muriel Schultz honoured with Lifetime Achievement awards. Courtney Sippel was named the South Burnett Senior Sportsperson of the Year. Tayla Webber from Cloyna was nominated for the South Burnett Junior Sportsperson of the Year.

Amanda Dennien and Lanse Rea were both nominated for Murgon's Local Achiever award with Amanda being honoured with the South Burnett award and Lanse receiving the MBDA outstanding contribution to Murgon by a Citizen or Group at the event at the Dairy Museum.

55 Million Years ago was nominated for South Burnett Organisation of the Year and was awarded the MBDA organisation of the Year. Thank you to the Qld Dairy and Heritage Museum for hosting a wonderful morning on Australia Day with Selwyn Maller as the Guest Speaker, Glen Vonhoff offering prayers, a flag raising ceremony, awards presentation followed by a scrumptious morning tea.

## Australia Day Awards Hivesville/Proston

Thank you to Barbara Hockey and the Hivesville Progress Association for putting on breakfast on Australia Day. It was a great morning with the award recipients from Kumbia being recognised again in their own community. Proston/Hivesville had three nominations for the Local Achiever Award Brenda Johanson, Irene McDonald and Kathy Crane. They were all very worthy nominees and Brenda Johanson was honoured with the award of Proston/Hivesville Local Achiever. Andrew McDonnell from the Proston Men's Shed, Carmel Parnell and Lin Chandler were all nominated for South Burnett Volunteer of the Year awards. The Proston and District Heritage Association along with the Proston Ambulance Committee were both nominees for South Burnett Organisation of the Year.

## Unveiling of the Bee

It was exciting to be part of the unveiling of the large bee that will buzz proudly at Hivesville Memorial Park. Thank you to Crinkle Creek for designing the magnificent bee and to the Hivesville Progress Association for applying for a grant and working with the Council to find the perfect spot for the bee. The bee has become a popular symbol with the village name of Hivesville and the committee have been busy bees getting everything ready for Australia Day and the unveiling.

## Australia Day Boondooma Homestead

Thank you to Boondooma Homestead Committee for hosting their Australia Day event. It was a fitting way to end the day.



The Boondooma Homestead Committee do a wonderful job looking after the facility for Council. They are gearing up for the Spirit of the Bush event in April and the Scots in the Bush in August. Tina Torrens who promotes the homestead through Torakit Solutions was also a nominee for South Burnett Volunteer of the Year so it was nice to be able to also represent Tina with her certificate at the Homestead.

## Mondure Hall Renewal Party

It's been a long hard road to finally get to the finish of the renovations for the Mondure Hall. It was a very special day for me when I had the honour of cutting the ribbon for the Mondure Hall renewal party. I believe that small country halls are the hub of a community. I would like to congratulate the committee on the hall restumping, reroofing and the new disability toilets. It has been a combination of grants, insurance and the committee and Council working together to finally achieve a dream. There were lots of stories and history relived on the day including Alicia Pigeon's Hansen Family dedication and Alan & Hazel Kapernick opening the school time capsule. Thank you to everyone involved in making it a memorable event.

## Col (Slasher) Ramke 50 years.

Congratulations to Col on 50 years as a Livestock Agent and Auctioneer. It was great to see him honoured at the recent sale and also do some of the auctioneering again as a special touch.

## Murgon Bowls Club

Thank you to the Murgon Bowls Club members for inviting me to present a big cheque for \$3000 from Council's grant program to the club for a beautiful new shed. We have so many active clubs that do an amazing job supporting our community.

## Contact Details

Please contact me if you wish to raise a matter or make a time to catch up.

Cr Kathy Duff (Division 5) South Burnett Regional Council.

Phone 07 41680225 or 0437020705 or email [kathy.duff@sbrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:kathy.duff@sbrc.qld.gov.au)

**VOTE**  
**1**

# HEATH SANDER

For SBRC Division 5 Councillor

## Commitments to the people of Division 5

- ◆ More efficient use of the ratepayer dollar with increased customer service focus and response times.
- ◆ Slash the number of consultants used by Council and refocus on empowering and building capacity from within the Organisation.
- ◆ Revitalising the Murgon and Proston Depots to deliver core services including a dedicated road maintenance crew and necessary plant.
- ◆ Increase services and support for our youth including greater use of established assets like the Murgon PCYC.
- ◆ A Council that welcomes business development and expansion.



## A VOTE FOR CHANGE

**"I am driven, dedicated and focused on delivering better outcomes for the residents of Division 5 and the entire South Burnett Region".**

**All ratepayers and community members deserve a voice. If elected I will be that voice.**

**Andrew**

**"Trustworthy person who is approachable, that will address people's concerns as a councillor to the best of his ability"**

**Nicky**

**"I believe he will look after and do what he can for the small towns of the south Burnett"**

**Brett**

**"I believe a vote for Heath Sander in division 5, is a vote for community commitment, with a fresh set of eyes"**

**Please contact me with any concerns 0418 786 007**

Written and authorised by Heath Sander, 9 Davidson Street Murgon

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The main residence has 2 large bedrooms, study and a large sunroom, as well as large varandahs on 2 sides.

The second home has 3 bedrooms, study  
And is currently rented. 2 hay sheds, machinery shed and steel cattle yards. The property is split into 10 paddocks. Consistently running around 55 Breeders, replacement heifers

And bulls to 2 years of age. The Vendor has listed the property for sale on a WIWO basis. A full list of inventories as well as cattle numbers is available on request.

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## \$300,000 Boost For Local Groups

Queensland Dairy and Heritage Museum at Murgon will receive \$13,999 from the latest round of Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants to buy a mower and power bagger

Almost \$300,000 in grants have been awarded to local community groups under the latest round of Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants.

A dozen not-for-profit groups will be sharing \$299,893.40.

The successful applicants under Round 118 of the State Government program were announced on Tuesday.

### They included:

- **Blackbutt District Community Organisation** – \$34,777.54 to install a shade structure and park bench
- **Blackbutt Agricultural Show Society Inc** – \$28,639 to upgrade facility and install a barbecue
- **Boondooma Museum and Heritage Association Inc** – \$9846 to buy catering equipment
- **East Nanango Rural Fire Brigade** – \$4381.82 to buy whitegoods
- **Kingaroy Cricket & Sports Club Inc** – \$26,680 to install a solar system
- **Proston Men's Shed Inc** – \$35,000 to construct a storage shed
- **Queensland Dairy & Heritage Museum Murgon Inc** – \$13,999 to buy a mower and power bagger
- **RSPCA Kingaroy Animal Care Centre** – \$18,820 to buy dog beds
- **South Burnett Musical Comedy Society Inc** – \$35,000 to fit out shed
- **South Burnett Rugby League Inc** – \$35,000 to buy a bus
- **Wondai Country Club Inc** – \$35,000 to upgrade bowling green lights
- **Yamsion Hall Recreation Grounds Association Inc** – \$22,750 to paint exterior of facility

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund has distributed more than \$1.158 billion in community grants since it began in 1994.

Applications for grants of up to \$35,000 are now open under Round 120.



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(Old Bank Building)

## NEWSPAPER

**MURGON NEWS** ☎ 4168 1046

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[murgon.net.au](http://murgon.net.au)

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## Dairy & Heritage Museum Murgon

The late Heather Purser was involved in Girl Guides in Murgon for fifty years. Known as "Wanda" she retired as Guide Leader at the age of 85. Under her leadership, the girls learnt about respect, life skills, and how to be resilient.

Heather's daughter Lynne, contacted me some time ago with a request from Heather. She wanted to know if I would accept Heathers Guiding memorabilia and was it possible to display these items at The Museum. I accepted the offer and found a room that could be used for this display. Heather had kept photos, newspaper articles, a folder with all of her lifetime achievements and certificates and so much more. The Honor Boards with photos of the girls who achieved their Queen Guide and BP badges are displayed on the wall.

I was pleased that I could complete this display for Heather to see while she was able. Lynne brought Heather and Mick out to the Museum and she enjoyed looking through photos and talking about those years spent doing what she loved. I am sure there are many girls, including my 3 daughters, who have fond memories of "Wanda". A great lady who has left an amazing legacy.

Joy Fennell



The Mondure Hall Committee hosted a very successful Renewable Party. This event was held to thank South Burnett Regional Council, our Community & Friends for supporting us over the years. We also opened a Time Capsule from 1996, some of the past students of that year were present. This was a free event with many who attended giving a Donation towards the Hall. We wish to thank you all for attending & supporting us, also to Stepping Stones for supplying the music. The Numbers Board was won by Ros Hansen.

We will be holding a Trash or Treasure Day on Sunday 18th February. Devonshire Tea, & Sausage Sizzle will be available, for purchase.

If you wish to have a site please phone Kay 0428731803 or Gay 0400860107

On Saturday 23rd. March we will be holding our Annual A Gardening Experience Day.

There will be a variety of plant stalls also a demonstration on Terrariums, Speakers on different subjects

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## CLOSING TIME

For all news items and advertisements is the  
20th of each month and they are e-mailed to

[murgonbusiness@bigpond.com](mailto:murgonbusiness@bigpond.com)

# what's on

## @ South Burnett Libraries

February 2024 | [www.southburnett.qld.gov.au/libraries](http://www.southburnett.qld.gov.au/libraries)



### Picnic in the Park

Join the South Burnett Libraries team at the Butter Factory Park in Nanango on 7 March 2024 for a morning jam packed with free and fun activities. BYO rug and some tasty picnic snacks to enjoy and spend some time with other local families. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for upcoming events as we would hate for you to miss out!

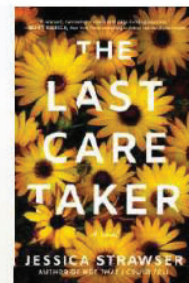
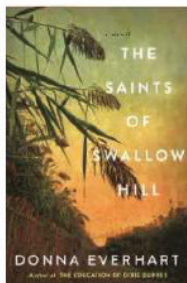


### Social Book Chats

Starting in February 2024, Nanango, Kingaroy, and Murgon libraries will be hosting social book discussion groups that encourage community members to come along and chat about their recent reads and other social topics. If a conventional book club is not your style, these informal and interactive chats might be a great way to meet new people and be involved in the community. The next Book Chat will be in Kingaroy on Wednesday 28 February at 10.00am. Pop in to your library branch or give us a call on (07) 4189 9256 if you would like to register your interest.

### New Titles Added in 2024

South Burnett Libraries have just purchased a variety of new titles to freshen the collection for library users. As per our State Library of Queensland Collection Policy, we strive to provide relevant, appealing, and interesting collection items for community members. These recent purchases have boosted the collection with a total of 275 new items in adult fiction, young people's resources as well as a great selection of non-fiction books across a wide range of subjects.



### Stay & Play at the Kingaroy Library

Are you looking to meet other parents and caregivers in a relaxed, social setting? Come along to the Kingaroy Library for Stay & Play each Friday morning from 10.00am. With plenty of toys and other resources for the kids to enjoy, there is no need to book in – just drop in and join in the fun.

Stay & Play is just one of the programs that South Burnett Libraries host as a part of the First 5 Forever initiative. Rhyme Time and Story Time sessions are also held across the region and encourage parents and caregivers to feel comfortable in exploring ways to Talk, Play, Sing and Read with their little ones. Check out What's On in your local library by using the QR Code.



#### RHYME TIME

Kingaroy 9.30am, every Monday  
Murgon 9.30am, every Tuesday  
Nanango 9.30am, every Monday  
Proston 9.00am, first and third Thursday of each month

#### STORY TIME

Kingaroy 10.00am, every Wednesday  
Nanango 10.00am, every Wednesday  
Wondai 10.00am, every Tuesday

#### STAY & PLAY

Kingaroy 10.00am, every Friday

#### CHILD HEALTH DROP IN CLINICS

Blackbutt 9.00am, every second Thursday  
Kingaroy 9.00am-12.00pm, third Tuesday of each month  
Nanango 9.00am-11.00am, second Monday of each month



Discover the magic... @ your library

South-Burnett-Libraries

**We sadly mourn the loss of:**

**HAYES**, Carolyn Margaret, Late of Wondai and formerly of 'Bellevue Farm' Boggabri, 'Barkly Downs Station' Mt Isa, 'Aloy Downs Station' Northern Territory, and numerous other Cattle Stations throughout Northern Australia.

**PURSER**, Heather, Late of Murgon,

**DAVIDSON** Rochelle Lorraine Ada, Late of Cherbourg

**CAMPION**, Patricia Joyclyn, Late of Goomeri

**COMBO**, Hillary Elisha Elizabeth, Late of Cherbourg

**WATSON**, Maree, Formerly of Murgon.

**FINNEMORE**, Marjorie Charlotte, Late of Wishart, formerly of Goomeri

**RETSCHLAG**, Daniel Jeffrey, Late of Pacific Pines Gold Coast and formerly of Wondai

**McCALLUM**, Reginald Beach (Reg), Late of "Glen Elgin" Nanango

**WALLACE**, Pauline (nee Parsons) Formerly of New South Wales, Late of Murgon



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**MURGON RSL SUB BRANCH**  
**SENIORS COMMUNITY LUNCH**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - 11.30 for 12 noon

Bookings open on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February and close at 5pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 or sooner if all seats are filled.

**Music Raffles Guest Speaker**

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## Temporary Closure – Proston Swimming Pool



South Burnett Regional Council wishes to advise residents that due to Proston Swimming Pool having no pool manager, the pool will not be operating outside of school hours as of Monday 22 January 2024 until further notice.

Council apologises for any inconvenience caused.

For enquiries please contact Council's Property team on 4189 9100 or email [info@sbrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@sbrc.qld.gov.au).



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## Some Upcoming Events in February & March

### February

- Boondooma Yellowbelly Family Fishing Comp - 10th-11th February
  - Valentines Day - February 14th
  - Diva at Dimities - Wondai - 14th February
- Resonate Frequency 2024 - Stonelands - 16th - 20th February
  - Kingaroy Psychic Expo - Kingaroy RSL - 18th February
  - Coolabunia P & C Reef & Beef - 24th February
  - Cooyar Show - 24th February
- Buggy Only Weekend - Manar Park - 22nd - 25th February
- Mud Women & Mocktails - Kingaroy - 25th February - 24th Blackbutt
- Level up - designing Art Programs - Wondai Regional Art Gallery - 29th February
- Visit South Burnett Meet & Greet - Kingaroy VIC & Heritage Museum - 29th February

### March

- Kingaroy & District Vintage Machinery Club - Family Fun Day Kingaroy Airport - 2nd March
  - Grooving in the garden - Ringsfield House - 3rd March
- Dinner Under the Stars - Geoff Raph Drive Kingaroy - 9th March
  - Proston Show - Proston Showgrounds - 8th - 9th March
  - Dinner with the Dead- Wondai - 8th March
- 100th Murgon Show - Murgon showgrounds - 15th - 16th March
  - Kingaroy Speedway - Autumn Extravaganza - 16th March
  - South Burnett Music Awards - Blackbutt - 21st March
  - Goomeri Show - 22nd - 23rd March
- South Burnett Training Awards - Wondai Town Hall - 23rd March
  - Nanango Races - Nanango - 30th March

#### Local Markets;

- Kingaroy Friendship Markets - 3rd Saturday - Kingaroy Showgrounds
- Nanango Markets 1st Saturday - Nanango Showgrounds
- Wooroolin Community Markets 2nd Saturday - QCWA Building
- Yarraman Markets Every Saturday - Toomey St Yarraman
  - Murgon CBD Markets 2nd Sunday – Lamb St Murgon
- Nanango Church Yard-Op Shop Markets - 4th Saturday of the Month - 110 Burnett Street
- Blackbutt Country Markets 3rd Sunday - Les Muller Park Coulson Street Blackbutt
- Wondai Country Markets 4th Saturday - Coronation Park Wondai
  - Bunya Mountains Markets Last Sunday - Bunya Mountains
  - Hivesville Country Markets - Last Sunday
  - Proston - 3rd Saturday of the Month

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58 medical interns will begin work across Darling Downs Health's hospitals this month, marking the largest cohort of interns that have started since the program commenced.

The 12-month graduate program will see the medical interns experience the demands of urban, rural and remote medicine.

Health Service Chief Executive, Annette Scott PSM said Darling Downs Health is an invigorating place to learn and advance medical careers with excellent rates of second and third-year doctors reported.

"I'm so pleased to welcome this latest cohort of interns to the health service, and we look forward to working with them to achieve great outcomes for the community and health service.

"A significant part of our health service covers rural areas so it's very encouraging to see young doctors preparing for careers in general practice in regional communities.

"These foundation years for medical graduates are exceptionally important and I'm confident they'll have a positive experience at Darling Downs Health," Ms Scott said.

Dr Shannon Woodhead has moved from New South Wales to take up employment with Darling Downs Health.

"I come from a small rural town on the border of New South Wales and Victoria, I studied down in Wollongong and decided to come up to Darling Downs Health as I've visited Toowoomba a couple of times and I love it, I love the people, I love the surrounds, so I decided to move here to start my career.

"We have an excellent cohort of interns, every person that I've met has been extremely friendly and everyone sounds like they did specifically choose Toowoomba," Dr Woodhead said.

Dr Anthony Patsalou has returned to Toowoomba after completing his medical degree and is excited to begin his first placement at the Warwick Hospital Emergency Department.

"I'm keen to get out there, I'm quite used to the rural communities having done placements in Kingaroy and Roma. Hopefully when I come back to Toowoomba in 12 weeks, the experience will have set me up for other rotations as well.

"I think coming back to Toowoomba as an intern is a good option. It's not too big of a hospital, but it's also not too small either. Darling Downs Health is the perfect mix of being well supported and having lots of opportunities to do things," Dr Patsalou said.

Dr Curtis Rayment said Darling Downs Health came with positive reviews from other medical students who'd commenced their careers with the Health Service.

"I'm interested in doing rural medicine, Darling Downs Health has a good rural focus and it's a big hospital where I get to see and do everything I want to do, but then there's also the rural focus.

"During my intern year I want to build upon everything I learnt during my medical degree and get a better idea of what I want for my future as a doctor. Darling Downs Health is a good place to be doing that," Dr Rayment said.

Hailing from Canada, Dr Nimara Dias has chosen to stay in Australia to commence her medical career.

"Due to COVID, I couldn't go back to Canada for the first two years of study, so the biggest thing I needed to create was a support network for myself. I now have such deep roots placed in Australia, it's hard to build this for yourself, and work hard every day to turn away from it and go back to a country where I haven't lived for four years. I've put some roots down in Australia and want to see where this all goes.

"There's opportunity at Darling Downs Health for more clinical skills, I was able to get a paediatric rotation which I really love because I want to go into paediatrics and that was offered, so there's opportunity here to be a more well-rounded doctor," Dr Dias said.



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# VOTE 1

# Allan Walters

For councillor in Division 5 S.B.R.C.  
Election 2024

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Written and authorised by Allan Walters. 326 Redgate Rd, Redgate 4605  
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**Council's Community Grants Program Round 2 and  
Regional Arts Development Fund opens on Thursday  
1 February 2024**

If you are a not-for-profit community organisation delivering programs, activities and events within the South Burnett, you could be eligible to apply for the Community Events Sponsorship.

Professional artists, emerging professional artists, arts workers, cultural workers, or project coordinators that meet the eligibility criteria in the funding guidelines may be eligible to apply for the Regional Arts Development Fund.

Applications for both programs close Thursday 28 February 2024.

To view funding rounds, guidelines and to apply for any of the above grants, visit <https://sbrc.smartygrants.com.au/>

Don't forget, Elite Performance Youth Grant, Councillor Discretionary Fund, Community Hall Insurance Grant; Community Australia Day/Anzac Day Events Sponsorship, School Student Awards and Indigenous Affairs Fund applications can be submitted year-round. These are to be applied through the SmartyGrants website above.

In-Kind applications are available on Council's website.

A copy of the Community Grants Program Policy is available from Council's website <https://www.southburnett.qld.gov.au/community-information/grants-funding> and any of Council's Customer Contact Centres.

For further information and enquiries, please contact Council's Community Grants Officer on 4189 9100 or email [info@sbrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@sbrc.qld.gov.au)

**THE PROSTON BRANCH OF QCWA**

**GIANT EASTER CENT SALE**

**WHERE: Proston Community Hall**

**WHEN: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**TIME: Doors Open 12 noon**

**Calling starts at 1.00 pm**

**150 Draws - 15 Jackpots**

**Lucky Door Prize**

**Raffle on the Day**

**ENTRY** Free Sheet of tickets

Includes Afternoon Tea

\$6.00 per person over 15 years

\$3.00 per person 8 – 15 years

Under 8's free entry

**TICKETS** 75¢ a sheet

Bundle of 5 sheets \$3.00

Pre purchase of tickets: contact Mellissa 41641159 or Kathy 41641217

For all other information: contact Val 41689391

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South Burnett and growing us stronger.**

**Roads, water, housing and community pride  
are important to us all.**

**A vote for me is a vote towards supporting  
a positive future for the South Burnett.**

**GAVIN 'SPUD' JONES**



**A stronger united South Burnett**

Authorised by Gavin Jones, 20 Main Street, Maidenwell, Qld 4615



South Burnett  
Gem Show,  
Saturday April  
6th at 9am -  
April 7th 2pm

## Did You Know



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 Tingooora 25  
 Wondai 375  
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# Murgon Cattle Market Report

## 23/01/2024

1000 were sold yesterday in Murgon with all descriptions selling to dearer rates. Values for lesser quality cattle remained firm on the last sale. Heavy Bulls sold to \$3.04 per kilogram and \$2870.00. Cows over 500 kilograms sold to \$2.68 per kilogram and \$1610.00 for an average of \$2.48 per kilogram. Cows 400 to 500 kg topped at \$2.62 per kilogram for \$1290.00, up 10 to 15 cents. Cows under 400 kg also improved selling to \$2.18 c/kg. Export heifers sold to \$2.97 per kilogram for \$1320.00. Cattle were drawn from Kandanga, Killivan, Mt Perry, Mundubbera, Gayndah, Boondooma, Yarraman, Nanango, Kingaroy & locally. Charbray steers from Manyung sold to \$3.78 c/kg for \$1550.00. Red Brangus steers from Kandanga sold for \$1536.00 at \$3.69 c/kg. Local Charolais cross steers 453 kg sold for \$3.67 c/kg returning \$1665.00. A line of 50 Santa steers ex Manumbar sold for an average of \$3.80 c/kg, 356 kg & \$1350.00, topping at \$3.88 c/kg & \$1450.00. 354 kg Santa steers from Woorooden sold for \$3.87 c/kg for \$1370.00. Santa steers from Nanango weighing 305 kg sold for \$1250.00 at \$4.10 c/kg. A line of 30 Santa steers from Gayndah averaging 303 kg sold for \$1200.00 at \$3.95 c/kg. 300 kg Droughtmaster cross steers from Johnstown sold for \$1220.00 at \$4.05 c/kg. 246 kg Santa steers from Nanango sold for \$4.40 c/kg and \$1085.00. 2 pens of Braford weaner steers from Mt Perry sold for \$4.32 c/kg to return \$1184.00 & 1156.00. Local Droughtmaster cross weaner steers sold for \$4.22 c/kg & \$970.00. Light Droughtmaster cross steers from Crownthorpe sold for \$756.00 at \$4.42 c/kg. A line of 40 Charbray heifers from Mt Perry sold for an average of \$3.10 c/kg weighing 394 kg and \$1220.00. 2 pens of Santa heifers from Gayndah sold to \$3.20 c/kg for \$1095.00 & \$958.00. 290 kg Droughtmaster cross heifers from Proston sold for \$930.00 at \$3.20 c/kg. Santa weaner heifers from Barambah sold for \$3.50 c/kg to return \$806.00. Droughtmaster weaner heifers from Stonelands sold for \$3.22 c/kg returning \$814.00. Light Droughtmaster weaner heifers sold for \$520.00 at \$3.22 c/kg. A small number of Cows & calves sold to \$1425.00.

The next Murgon Sale will be on Tuesday the 6th of February at 8.00 am..



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Authorised by Deb Frecklington MP, Shop 2/36 Afford Street, Kingaroy QLD

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We welcome our new Murgon State High School principal Mr. Homer to Murgon and wish him, his staff and students all the best for 2024.

A welcome message from Mr Homer...

'Our students are the heartbeat of our school. When they enter our gates each day, our school comes alive! It's great to have everyone back!'



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**Guest speaker at the event, organised by the South Burnett Regional Council, was Australia Day Ambassador Elijah Buol OAM.**

Mr Buol, who arrived in Australia as an unaccompanied minor from South Sudan in 2002, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2019 for his service to the African community of Queensland, and was the 2019 Queensland Local Hero of the Year.

He has been a director of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, vice-president of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland and is a member of several government and not-for-profit boards and advisory committees.

**Mr Buol said Australia Day was an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as Australians.**

“We all come together from different parts of the world to call Australia home,” he said.

He said Australia was a place where people could aspire to dream.

Mr Buol praised the work of volunteers who helped to create a vibrant society.

“They do it from the heart,” he said.

He reminded the crowd that the future did not belong to the people of today, but to those that will come after us.

“It is our responsibility to build that foundation,” Mr Buol said.

“The steps that we take today define tomorrow.”

**Your Guide To Australia Day events in the South Burnett**



2024 Year 12 student Mia De Guzman is the South Burnett's Young Citizen of the Year

The Junior Citizen of the Year is Saint Mary's Catholic College Year 12 student Mia De Guzman who has been turning heads internationally with her achievements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

*Footnote: Despite what has been claimed on social media, the South Burnett Regional Council's Australia Day Awards have been held on the weekend before Australia Day for several years, and before that were held on the evening of January 25. Announcing the winners prior to January 26 allows the award recipients to be recognised again on the day in their own town's individual Australia Day events.*

\* \* \*

### South Burnett Citizen of the Year

*(Presented by Acting Mayor Gavin Jones)*

**This award recognises a South Burnett resident who has made a valuable contribution to their community and/or given outstanding service to the South Burnett community over a number of years.**



South Burnett Citizen of the Year Alan Eagleson was presented with his award by Acting Mayor Gavin Jones

**Nominees: Alan Eagleson, Wondai; Amy Wicks, Murgon; David Mollenhauer, Wondai; Graham Mitchell, Wondai; Sonia McMahon, Murgon; Stephen Copas, Wooroolin**

**Alan Eagleson** has devoted the past 20 years to helping struggling local farmers across the region. Recently, he was involved in helping farmers during the dry season, using his property and equipment to load hay donated by a District Lions Club. Alan and his wife Pat have also been involved in organising a pantry outstation at Tablelands Hall by working in with the South Burnett Pantry. They also helped feed BlazeAid volunteers after two flood events. Alan has also worked with the Taabinga Rotary Club and AgForce to raise and distribute funds for farmers for many years. Alan is also president of the Murgon Show Society which is gearing up for their 100th show this year.

**Amy Wicks** is the co-founder of Wicks and Co Agencies which provides much-needed sponsorship and donations to Murgon and surrounding areas. Amy is on numerous management committees and boards which all contribute back to the region. These include show societies, Queensland Ag Shows and Next Generation, Nanango Soccer Club, Kumbia & Cooyar Campdraft, Kumbia and Murgon Kindergarten and various school P&Cs. Amy is also a past director of the Red Earth Community Foundation and served for two years on the Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN Community Advisory Committee. Currently Amy's volunteer roles include Company Secretary of South Burnett Community Enterprises Limited (Bendigo Bank board), secretary of Murgon

Meals on Wheels, an executive member and recently appointed president of the Murgon Business Development Association. Amy recently finished a two-year appointment on the Wide Bay-Burnett Fraser Coast Community Forum where she helped advocate for the region's needs and priorities to shape positive changes. In early 2023, Amy was selected to participate in the nation-wide Graeme Acton Beef Connections program.

**David Mollenhauer** works tirelessly as president of the Murgon Men's Shed. He has donated his time to the Shed and local community for years. He is the driving force behind the Shed's projects and spends dozens of hours each week on this endeavour.

**Graham Mitchell** has volunteered his time and talent to be part of the Wondai QCWA Choir for many years, initially as a member and then for a number of years as choir master and pianist. Graham is often called upon to play the piano for functions and the organ at funerals at the Uniting Church. Graham is also a founding member of the Wondai Garden Expo Committee and volunteers his time as social media officer to ensure the Expo's Facebook page is updated. He is heavily involved in the organisation of the Garden Expo and is a member of the South Burnett Beautification Committee. Through his small local business (Dimities Cottage) he shares information with tourists about the area, its attractions and events. Graham also supports Wondai organisations eg. donations to the Wondai State School, hosting The Biggest Morning Tea, Louise Winton (the South Burnett Diva raising money for cancer), cooking for the disabled community, the Wondai Hospital Fete, the Wondai Show Society, the Rainbow Beach Drought Runners and the Mondure Hall Committee, just to name a few. He supports the Wondai Art Gallery by providing music at their opening nights, exhibiting his art work in both planned and unplanned short notice exhibitions. He is also a member of the Wondai Business Association where he is responsible for sharing updates regarding the beautification projects.

**Sonia McMahon** is the band director and founder of Rockin' our Abilities. More than 20 people with disabilities are part of the Murgon-based group who sing and dance alongside their dedicated disability support workers at the Murgon Uniting Church. Sonia has brought music and fun to local people with disabilities, many of whom have never been on a stage or had an opportunity to showcase their abilities.

**Stephen Copas** has lived in the South Burnett for more than 30 years. During this time he has shown his dedication to the community over and over again. Stephen is Lieutenant of the Wooroolin Auxiliary Fire Brigade, president of Football South Burnett and vice-president of the Kingaroy Senior Soccer club. Over the years he has coached both senior and junior soccer teams. He volunteers his time to maintain the fields. He is also a truck driver for a local company and a dairy farmer. He volunteers at the local speedway in the canteen. He has raised eight children in Wooroolin with his wife Kim and is a true blue Aussie who would give the shirt of his back to anyone who needed it.

**WINNER: Alan Eagleson**



Citizen of the Year nominees Alan Eagleson, Amy Wicks, David Mollenhauer, Graham Mitchell, Sonia McMahon and Stephen Copas



## Young Citizen of the Year

(Presented by Australia Day Ambassador Elijah Buol OAM)

This award recognises an individual under 25 years of age at January, 22, 2024, who displays ongoing excellence in their field and in the community, demonstrating leadership and innovation whilst contributing to the development of the South Burnett region.



Mia De Guzman was presented with the Young Citizen of the Year Award by Australia Day Ambassador Elijah Buol OAM

### **Nominees: Jean-Luc Barnett, Josh Steinhardt and Mia De Guzman**

**Jean-Luc Barnett** has contributed in a variety of ways during his time at Nanango State High School. He has been elected as this year's Manumbar Sports House Captain and a Peer Skills Leader, and was the 2023 Pedal Prix Captain, spending many afternoons and weekends working on Pedal Prix vehicles. For the past three years, he has been an active volunteer with the high school's Brekky Club where he regularly assists in preparing and delivering breakfasts across the school. Jean-Luc has also been an active participant in all sports carnivals and he has participated in BP Shield events, Vicki Wilson netball and rugby league, as well as representing the school in Cross Country. Jean-Luc also completed Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards as well as achieving academic and cultural recognition during his time at the school. He is a highly respected role model for his peers, receiving the Prix D'Honneur (Honour Award) which is presented annually by the teaching staff to a senior student who has displayed outstanding qualities of leadership, co-operation and service to the school community.

**Josh Steinhardt** was Murgon State High School Captain and is a role model for other young students in the way that he conducts himself as a community leader at the school, and with his involvement in the community outside school hours. Josh singlehandedly ran the Stud Beef section at the Murgon Show which is proving to be a major success story with large entries in the Stud Beef, Young Judges and Junior handler sections. Josh also helps run the Prime Trade cattle section at the Proston Show, and put his hand up to fill the role of Farm Produce Steward at the Wondai Show, as well as assisting in the Stud Beef ring. In 2023 Josh was selected as the Junior Rural Ambassador for Wondai Show and will compete in the South Burnett Sub-Chamber finals in 2024. Josh is a wonderful young ambassador for the region, shining in both his school work and service to the community.

**Mia De Guzman** is a 2024 Year 12 student and student vice-captain at Saint Mary's Catholic College in Kingaroy. She has participated in several national and international STEM competitions. Mia was selected to participate in the 2022-2023 Curious Minds Initiative, hosted by Australian Science Innovators and the Australian Maths Trust, which included an online camp in December 2022, six months of personal mentoring with a coach in STEM across 2023 and a residential camp at the University of Adelaide in the last week of the June/July school

holidays. Mia was then selected to participate in The Coding School's Introduction to Quantum Computing course, an international program provided by quantum researchers at MIT, Oxford University, and UC Berkeley, on a full scholarship. This gave her the opportunity to be among the first high school students in the world to develop skills in quantum computing. Mia was encouraged to apply for this prestigious opportunity by the Physics Co-ordinator at the Curious Minds camp. Mia was also accepted into the National Youth Science Forum Year 12 Program for 2024 which was run at the University of Queensland campus in Brisbane during January and attended by other like-minded students from all over Australia. Mia was supported in this endeavour by the Rotary Club of Kingaroy.

**WINNER: Mia De Guzman**

Young Citizen of the Year nominees Josh Steinhardt and Mia De Guzman

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**Community Organisation of the Year**

*(Presented by Australia Day Ambassador Elijah Buol OAM)*

**This award recognises an outstanding achievement by a group, club or organisation that has made a notable contribution to the community during 2023.**



The Community Organisation of the Year Award was presented to the Blackbutt District Community Organisation ... Judy Lawrence and Sue Dredge accepted it from Australia Day Ambassador Elijah Buol OAM

**Nominees: 55 Million Years Ago, Murgon; Proston & District Heritage Association; South Burnett CTC; Blackbutt District Community Organisation; CROW-FM; Kingaroy Sport Fishing Club; Nanango & District Netball Association; Lions Club of Benarkin & Blackbutt; Proston Local Ambulance Committee; and Rotary Satellite Club of Kingaroy Sunrise**

**55 Million Years Ago** ... rarely have so many people from so many different walks of life worked so hard together to make a dream come true. From its conception through to its official opening last year, dozens of people have worked tirelessly to create this extraordinary facility in the heart of Murgon. In the late 1980s, fossils found near Boat Mountain rocked the palaeontology world with the discovery of 15 new species which were found to be 55 million years old. These fossils could well have remained in one of the larger museums in south-east Queensland instead of rocketing the South Burnett region into the spotlight. None of this could have happened without the four people who created the Creative Country Association (CCA), a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organisation that has moved mountains to raise the necessary funds to bring Murgon's fossil experience to life. It was a hard task for such a small committee to bring the dream to reality and at a time when spirits were flagging, local community champion Leo Geraghty OAM provided the enthusiasm to get the project over the finish line. Five years after the first meeting of CCA, the venue was officially opened by Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien on October 2. The centre is now staffed between 9:00am-4:00pm, seven days each week. The complex includes an interactive Fossil Museum, art gallery, gift shop, visitor information centre and workshop surrounding a central garden. Visitors can sit on chairs placed around this "Prehistoric Garden" which features models of extinct Australian animals. This is a world class venue which will bring visitors from all over the world to the South Burnett.

**Proston & District Heritage Association** was nominated for the Proston 100th Centenary Celebration event which was held from September 29-October 1, 2023. This hard-working organisation demonstrates the true local spirit that makes Australia great. They worked over a long period to draw together the history of the area and successfully share it with everyone. Residents past and present were engaged with the events, including the street parade, the history of dressmaking in Proston exhibition, markets, Proston school time capsule, "It's A Knockout" celebration event and much more. The creation and printing of a "History of Proston" book meant people could take away a keepsake of this important date in Proston's history. It didn't matter where you went in the town, the number of people, caravans, tents and cars was a constant reminder of how popular the event was and how much effort was required to make it happen.

**South Burnett CTC** has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to creating a positive impact within the community. Their dedication to the well-being of youth, families, and individuals in need is truly exceptional and deserves recognition. South Burnett CTC offers a diverse range of programs that cater to a wide spectrum of needs. Their dedication and hard work are exemplified by their many initiatives which have enriched the lives of countless individuals and families. Their remarkable programs and services include residential services for at-risk youth; Partners in Foster Care; youth programs such as Fusion and Next Steps; a youth hostel for homeless or at-risk youth; domestic and family violence services; Family and Child Connect; Intensive Family Support; disability services; The Gumnut Place; Cherbourg Night Patrol; homelessness support; Sustaining Tenancies Program and Emergency Relief.

The **Blackbutt District Community Organisation** has strived to fulfil its mission of creating a cohesive community, promoting positive growth and social interaction. Its three major projects for 2023 were the continued creation and maintenance of the parklands, gathering information and printing the Community Directory, and the planting of the Avenue of Trees along the Rail Trail in Blackbutt. The projects have been the culmination of networking with many groups and businesses. This was evidenced at the recent tree planting where nine community groups were represented by their members to plant the 58 trees and agreed to care for them. This event gave the volunteers of the various groups an opportunity to work together for a common cause ie the beautification of the town. This avenue will enhance the already established parklands along the Rail Trail and will present an attractive view for visitors and locals attending events at the Hall, the Showgrounds or along the Rail Trail. This organisation, comprised of a small group of very active volunteers, is to be congratulated on its achievements and its success in connecting other organisations for the benefit of the residents of Blackbutt and surrounds.

Community radio station **CROW-FM 90.7** provides up-to-the minute emergency updates during emergencies to help the community stay informed and safe. CROW-FM provides free or low-cost services to the people and groups throughout the region wherever possible and supports local businesses and organisations wholeheartedly. Chantal Harth and the crew are a valued community organisation.

The **Kingaroy Sport Fishing Club** is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 1985 when it was known as "The Broadway Fishing Club". The club offers assistance to the public with their fishing knowledge, however its

utmost ambition is to ensure “the future of fishing” is promoted so the sport is around for our children to enjoy. Members have always been very energetic in representing their club in away events such as the Australian National Sportfishing Association Fish Fest. The club was very proud to have been the first inland freshwater club to host this prestigious event in late 2022 which brought people from all over Queensland to Boondooma Dam. During 2023, members earned the following awards: State Freshwater Champion, State Saltwater Champion and fifth Qld Interclub Champion Club. There were also many other individual junior and senior achievements. As well, a member was elected president of the Qld Branch of the Australian National Sportfishing Association for 2023-24. The KSFC also holds an annual event where club members donate their time to investigate an Australian iconic fish, the saratoga. The club also tags native species to assist in the management of water conditions, fish growth and movement.

**Nanango & District Netball Association** provides girls and boys aged 5 to 10-years-old with the opportunity to experience and participate in netball with the Woolworths NetSetGO program. The association also runs a junior competition for girls and boys aged 11-16. Number numbers increased in this age group in 2023 which allowed the club to provide a four-team competition (40 registered players) for the first time in more than five years. The club piloted Netball Queensland’s “Little Nettys” program in 2022 and was proud to offer Phase 2 of the program to three and four-year-olds in 2023 (with 15 children registered). There was also a resurgence of club members on the representative netball stage, with an U16 team attending the Netball Queensland Senior State Age competition on the Sunshine Coast, as well as an U13 team heading to Townsville for Netball Queensland’s Junior State Age competition. The association was proud to provide free carnival opportunities to players aged 8-16 attending carnivals in Chinchilla, Kingaroy, Condamine, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Monto, Warwick and Highfields. The club also hosted the Darling Downs Netball GO Carnival, which included teams from Maranoa, Warwick, Kingaroy and Chinchilla. Through this, the association facilitated the running of a pre-season clinic with Australian Diamonds superstar Gretel Bueta and Emma Tickner for 9 to 16-year-olds. Players from Blackbutt, Yarraman, Nanango, Maidenwell, Kingaroy, Wondai and Cherbourg attended. Inclusive uniform options were introduced for all players. They now have the option to wear either a singlet or polo shirt, as well as skirt, bike pants or shorts to train and play in for the club uniform. The association was also proud to provide every registered player in 2023 with a free netball visor and socks to alleviate some of the financial hardships afflicting many families. The club also provided free training opportunities for players and volunteers in coaching, umpiring and first aid; and secured more than \$100,000 in grant funding to upgrade equipment and facilities.

The **Lions Club of Blackbutt Benarkin** is a small group of committed, hardworking volunteers who do outstanding work within their community. They run events and projects throughout the year that benefit local schools and other community organisations. The Lions run a monthly market at Les Muller Park which is well attended by 25-plus stallholders (and fans say they make the best burgers in the South Burnett). The Lions are always available to help out other organisations in town and volunteer their services to the local P&Cs, QCWA, rugby league and Community Hub, to name a few. They assist with the homeless by providing food vouchers, clothing, personal care packs and non-judgmental emotional support. For the past 19 years they have provided a free Seniors Christmas Lunch that caters for about 120-140 seniors. They also provide a free All Ages Community Christmas Festival that over the years has grown to be a well-attended event that the local community looks forward to. “Where there is a need, there is a Lion” is the motto that the Lions Club of Blackbutt Benarkin lives year in and year out. All funds raised from their service projects goes back into the community. The Lions were proud to be involved with the Blackbutt Bands Together fundraiser in 2023 which raised more than \$35,000. This money was distributed to the victims of the major flooding that occurred in south-east Queensland. On December 3, 2023, the club again hosted Blackbutt Bands Together with the Hotel Radnor to raise much-needed funds for the victims of the recent fires in the South Burnett and southern Queensland.

**Proston Local Ambulance Committee** (LAC) members attend many community events, such as Under 8s Day, Proston Christmas Carnival and Show, Proston Centenary and local health forums. The LAC raises funds for local ambulance officers to buy equipment that is not provided to them by QAS and also for the use in the community, such as the automated external defibrillator located outside the Ambulance Station. The LAC also attends events to provide education and awareness to the community and provide educational resources such as snake bite and first aid information and CPR demonstrations. When possible, the LAC also brings along Axel, a mini-ambulance for children, to educate them about an ambulance. In 2023, the LAC raised funds for a Raizer lifting chair to reduce the amount of time to get someone to hospital. An ambulance officer can use this chair to lift a person without calling for back-up as Proston is a one-person station. Adult and Baby mannequins have also been bought to be used at CPR classes that the LAC helps to run. Every year they also make a donation to the QAS Legacy fund.

The **Rotary Satellite Club of Kingaroy Sunrise** was launched in July 2022 as an adjunct to the Rotary Club of Kingaroy. It offers an alternative way to participate in the local community, while offering a different style of membership and engagement. It meets twice a month at the KCCI Hub and runs and participates in several events a year. It also offers networking and service opportunities to members, including the ONF and ATC Charity Golf Day. At the club’s launch, work began with the Suitcase Parade, raising funds and purchasing new suitcases for children in

the local foster care system (children are often moved within the foster care system with their few items transported in rubbish bags). In April 2023, the club held the inaugural South Burnett Training Awards at Kingaroy Town Hall. This event is a celebration of vocational learning and meets a need in our community to celebrate training. The 2023 event was held in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kingaroy, which funded the Pride of Workmanship awards which were presented to eight awardees. There were more than 130 people at the awards night which recognised School Based Trainees and School Based Apprentices, Trainee of the Year, Apprentice of the Year, Small Business of the Year and Equity Award. The success of this event has drawn the attention of the State Government with the State Regional Training Awards being attracted to Kingaroy in July 2024 as a result of the work done by the Rotary Satellite Club of Kingaroy Sunrise. Members have also assisted projects such as Relay for Life.

**WINNER: Blackbutt District Community Organisation**



Leo Geraghty and Richie O'Neill from 55 Million Years Ago museum and art gallery

Sue Dredge and Judy Lawrence from the Blackbutt District Community Organisation



John Atkins, Linda Little, Colleen Callaghan and Tracy and Damon Bishop from the Lions Club of Blackbutt Benarkin



Wayne Stenning, Troy Litzow, Carolyn Barritt and Karen Bradwell from the Kingaroy Sport Fishing Club



Zara Douglass, Norma Harch and Ada Kurz from the Nanango & District Netball Association



CEO Jason Erbacher and chairman John Box from South Burnett CTC



Linda Rea; Anita, Nicholas and Walt Blanch; Brenda Johanson and Kathy Crane from the Proston & District Heritage Association



David Hunter, Ray Dionysius, Laine Robertson and Margaret Westerman from the Proston Local Ambulance Committee



Leonie McGregor, Chantal Harth and Sonia McMahon from CROW-FM



Cr Danita Potter and Nicola and Mark Pitt from the Rotary Satellite Club of Kingaroy Sunrise

## Volunteer of the Year

*(Presented by Member for Nanango Deb Frecklington)*

**This award recognises a volunteer community member who has made a valuable contribution to their community, club or organisation and/or given outstanding service over a number of years.**



Member for Nanango Deb Frecklington with Volunteer of the Year nominees Betty James, Carmel Parnell, Gloria Fleming, Lin Chandler and Tina Torrens

**Nominees: Andrew McDonnell, Proston; Betty James, Nanango; Carmel Parnell, Covert; Gloria Fleming, Nanango; Julie Lohmann, Wondai; Lin Chandler, Proston; Nicky Watkins, Murgon; and Tina Torrens, Kingaroy**

**Andrew McDonnell** is a dedicated volunteer of the Proston Men's Shed and most recently took on the role of president. Through the Men's Shed, Andrew has contributed to many community events, including making furniture for Proston's 100 Year anniversary event. He has played a significant role with past Proston Men's Shed presidents to help the shed to get up and running. He is outgoing and friendly and offers a helping hand to all that come through the Shed's door.

**Betty James** has proven over and over during this year and in the past that age, race, religion and status in life matters little when you're in need of a helping hand. She has been known to give her own lunch to the homeless on our streets. Despite her age and current health, she tirelessly manages the daily volunteers for the Op shops, arranges hampers for people in need, sorts and arranges unwanted items to be sent overseas to less fortunate countries, bus trips for the elderly and homes for the homeless. Her job is a selfless, mostly unrecognised and a tiring one at times but this does not deter her in the slightest.

**Carmel Parnell** is a dedicated volunteer for the Proston community with the Proston Round Table, local shops, Proston Heritage Committee and much more. Carmel selflessly gives her time to those in need and never takes anything in return.

**Gloria Fleming** is a highly respected, long-term resident of Nanango. Her community contribution has been invaluable over many decades with her involvement including co-ordinator of the Nanango Showgirl competition, Patron of Nanango Show, vice-president of the Nanango Historical Society, tuckshop convenor for Nanango Junior Rugby League, group leader and convenor for Nanango SHS & Nanango SS tuckshops, treasurer of the Nanango Rugby League, treasurer of the Nanango Pioneer Festival, vice-president of the Nanango Mid-Week Ladies Tennis



Association, and president of the Nanango Asthma Foundation. Gloria has made, and continues to make, an outstanding contribution to our community in her voluntary capacity. She is a quiet achiever, who has undertaken her voluntary work with great commitment and integrity.

**Julie Lohmann** has volunteered with the Wondai RSL Sub-Branch Citizen's Auxiliary and through her role has fundraised and helped to organise many events, including Anzac Day and Remembrance Day memorabilia sales, the yearly Melbourne Cup luncheon and the 2023 Wondai Reserve Forces Day which was attended by the Governor-General Dr Jeannette Young. Julie has contributed to her local community significantly in 2023 with some highlights including the involvement in the Steaming Back to Wondai event which marked 120 years since the arrival of the first passenger train in 1903. Julie also assisted with the land search at Ballogie where she transported meals for the search crews. She finds it very rewarding to assist others in the community and is a very enthusiastic, energetic and willing volunteer.

**Lin Chandler** tirelessly gives back to her community with her music, organising and carting speakers and music for local markets including Proston, Hivesville and the show carnival each year. Lin is also an integral part of the Proston Show, helping for hours in the kitchen. She also organised the music on stage for the Centenary in Proston and supplied equipment without financial assistance. She also dedicated hours to the search for local man Luke Fergusson, both by walking the paddocks and organising cooking for the searchers.



**Nicky Watkins** is a quietly spoken, down-to-earth person who generously volunteers her time and energy to support five groups across the South Burnett. In 2023, she volunteered her time at the Murgon Music Muster, was treasurer of the Murgon Independent Lifestyle Project Inc, the South Burnett Relay for Life and CROW-FM. However, one of Nicky's most significant volunteer roles is with Rockin' Our Abilities which is music program run for people with disabilities. Nicky works tirelessly taking photographs, promoting their events and is always the first to arrive to offer a hand and always the last to leave. She does everything for her community, selflessly, expecting nothing in return.

Small business owner Tina Torrens is passionate about growing and promoting the South Burnett region. She has been a driving force behind many initiatives, including Kingaroy BaconFest, the Blackbutt Avocado Festival, Farm to Fork Collective, Taste the Trail and many many more. Tina donates her time in the background for countless community groups and businesses that need that little extra support or just kind encouragement.

Never seeking any recognition or praise, Tina does what she does because she has a giving spirit and deep love for her community.

**WINNER: Nicky Watkins**



Cr Kirstie Schumacher with Junior Cultural Award winner Cooper Mollenhauer

### **Junior Cultural Award**

*(Presented by Cr Kirstie Schumacher)*

**This award is presented to an individual 17 years of age and under at January 22, 2024, who is making a significant contribution to the cultural life of the South Burnett.**

**Nominee: Cooper Mollenhauer, Kingaroy**

**Cooper Mollenhauer** has been part of the Kingaroy State High School Instrumental Music program since July 2022, after transferring from Murgon, where he had been part of Instrumental program since Year 5. He plays the tuba in the KSHS Symphonic Band and bass trombone and sousaphone in the KSHS Stage Band. He is also a member of the South Burnett Community Orchestra and the Barambah Big Band where he plays trombone. He played piano with the KSHS Men's Choir performance at FLAIR. Cooper was also selected for the Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Instrumental Music. Cooper had the opportunity to perform in a vocal group, a wind orchestra and a symphony orchestra. Cooper represented KSHS at the State Honours Ensemble Program (SHEP) in Toowoomba in May and in September 2023 and was selected into the Australian Honours Ensemble Program for tuba.

**WINNER: Cooper Mollenhauer**

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### **Senior Cultural Award**

*(Presented by Cr Danita Potter and Cr Kathy Duff)*

**This award is presented to a nominee over 18 years of age at January 22, 2024, who is making a significant contribution to the cultural life of the South Burnett.**



Cr Danita Potter, left, and Cr Kathy Duff, right, with joint Senior Cultural Award winners Sue Dowideit-Reiger and Craig Reiger

**Nominees: Alison Walker, Kingaroy; Craig Reiger & Sue Dowideit-Reiger, Kingaroy; Dean Perrett, Nanango; Joe Skok, Nanango; and Jon Fearnley, Nanango**

**Ally Walker** has been the director and principal teacher at the Ally Walker Dance Academy since 2006. Since then she has trained more than 1500 students from the South Burnett region. Ally has been employed at Saint Mary's Catholic College for the past two years inspiring young people's love of dance. In her time at the school, the number of students who have picked dance increased and this is due to her love and passion for dance. Ally

involves her dance studio and college students in many competitions so they can demonstrate what they have learnt and provide community enjoyment. Her studio provides dance classes for all ages (two years to adult), all abilities and dance styles, as well as providing the opportunities for students to study Certificate I, II and/or III in Dance

Husband and wife **Craig Reiger** and **Sue Dowideit-Reiger** are heavily involved in the South Burnett Musical Comedy Society. Last year they persuaded the Society to produce the musical “Annie Jr” as a Youth Theatre Project – the first time this has been done in the South Burnett – with the aim of helping to build a troupe of younger SBMCS members by introducing them to performing in musical comedy. The production engaged 18 talented young children aged eight to 18, who practised for 10 weeks before giving three “in the round” performances at the Kingaroy Performing Arts Centre to critical acclaim. Craig and Sue have directed and/or performed in many shows over the past decade, using their musical skills and teaching abilities to train hundreds of performers. Sue has also performed at many Council functions over the years (as well as at Anzac Day events for the Kingaroy-Memerambi RSL Sub-Branch) and Craig has sat on Council’s Arts Advisory Committee since it was formed. Both share a deep commitment to the performing arts and have made a significant contribution to our region’s creative industries.

**Dean Perrett** is a successful bush ballad and traditional country music artist. He won his sixth Australian Country Music Association Bush Ballad of the Year Golden Guitar in 2023. He is awaiting results for his nomination for the 2024 finals to be announced. Dean also loves to mentor up and coming artists and younger generations to chase their dreams. He has also been involved in the committee for the Heritage Nanango Country Music Muster since it began 20 years ago.

**Joe Skok** (probably better known by his nom de plume of Charlie Spagalli) is a local photographer and videographer who freely gives his time to the South Burnett community to promote and record local cultural activities. Joe has recorded a variety of events for not only Nanango but also the whole South Burnett region, including concerts at The Shed, local theatre groups, dance studios and shows, the Country Music Muster, Waterhole Rocks, The Mayor’s Christmas Luncheon, Soccer and Netball Club events and Anzac Day parades. Joe is currently working on a project for the 175 year celebration of Nanango. This is a partially funded project where he is recording the memories of Nanango residents past and present. Joe has travelled to Brisbane, Toowoomba and places in-between to speak to past residents at his own cost and in his own time.

**Jon Fearnley** revolutionised the Nanango Theatre Company when he was elected president in 2020, moving it from a small amateur company that performed a handful of plays each year to one that now regularly hosts not only plays, but stand-up comedy acts, singers and performing arts workshops. This has significantly expanded not only Nanango’s cultural offerings but the region’s as well. He conceived and developed the NananGO PLAYfest, an annual theatre contest that now attracts playwrights and actors from amateur theatre companies all over south-east Queensland to Nanango for a two-day competition. Jon also oversaw the development of plans to significantly expand the size of the Nanango Theatre Company’s playhouse when funding can be secured, and has sat on the South Burnett Arts Advisory Committee since its inception.

**JOINT WINNERS: Craig Reiger and Sue Dowideit-Reiger; and Joe Skok**



Mary Green, centre, accepted the Senior Cultural Award on behalf of joint winner Joe Skok



Senior Cultural Award nominees Ally Walker and husband and wife team, Sue Dowideit-Reiger and Craig Reiger

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### Junior Sportsperson of the Year

*(Presented by Cr Kirstie Schumacher and Cr Scott Henschen; Acting Mayor Gavin Jones presented the Junior Sportsperson Bursary)*

**This award is presented to a nominee aged 17 years and under at January 22, 2024, who made a notable achievement in sporting endeavours. The Junior Sportsperson will also receive a \$1000 bursary.**



Taine Strong was presented with the South Burnett Junior Sportsperson of the Year Award plus a \$1000 bursary

**Nominees: Ada Kurz, Nanango; Jake Roberts, Crawford; Taine Strong, Kingaroy; Taila Webber, Cloyna; and Zara Douglass, Nanango**

**Ada Kurz** is a Year 7 student at Nanango State High School and is an active member of many community and school sporting events. Ada's achievements in 2023 included becoming age champion for athletics, cross country and swimming; represented South Burnett in cross country and athletics; and represented Wide Bay in athletics where she captained the team and was placed 5th overall. She has been a committed member of the school's Vicki Wilson Netball Team, and she also represented Nanango and District Netball at the U13 Queensland Junior Netball State Age Championship in Townsville where she won best and fairest for her local team.

**Jake Roberts** has attended Crawford State School for all of his primary schooling. The staff and students have witnessed Jake grow into an inspiring, kind-hearted and generous young man. He is a champion when it comes to athletics and some of his achievements are: represented Crawford State School at the Small Schools Athletics Carnival (winning every event in his age group and broke a 26-year-old record for his 200m sprint and was named age champion), awarded age champion at the South Burnett Athletics Carnival; awarded Age Champion at the Wide Bay Athletics Carnival in Bundaberg; and competed at the State Athletics Carnival at QSAC Brisbane. Jake shows great sportsmanship both on and off the field and is a great role model for future sportspeople and is admired by his peers.

**Taine Strong** is a young man who is dedicated to sport and athletics and has a goal of competing at the 2032 Olympics. So far, a few of Taine's achievements are: member of the Queensland Athletics Team; school Junior Sports Person of the Year for three consecutive years; South Burnett Age Champion in Cross Country 1500m and 800m; and represented South Burnett in the Wide Bay Basketball Team and awarded Players' Player for his leadership. Taine represented the South Burnett at the Queensland Track and Field Championships and was awarded gold medallist for the 12-year-old boys' cross country. He took part in State Championships at Townsville, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Brisbane and Jimboomba. Taine inspires others and runs every week in the Wondai park run, challenging himself with improving his time and encouraging others along the way.

**Taila Webber** loves anything sporty and excels across many fields. She is Goomeri State School's 14 years age champion (and broke three records), 14 years cross country age champion (breaking a record from 2002), and 14 years athletics age champion. Taila qualified for the 2023 Wide Bay Swimming Championships, the 2023 Queensland State Swimming Championships and was selected for the You For 2032 Queensland Academy of Sport talent identification program.

**Zara Douglass** is a Year 7 student at Nanango State High School. She is a dedicated, aspiring and hardworking young athlete who has excelled in sport last year. She is a committed member to the School's Vicki Wilson Netball Team, attending numerous competitions; was selected in the Wide Bay Cross Country Team; represented Nanango and District Netball at the U13 Queensland Junior Netball State Age Championship in Townsville and is an active member of Nanango Little Athletics, receiving the Athletics Junior age champion and coach's awards.

**WINNER: Taine Strong**



Cr Kirstie Schumacher and Cr Scott Henschen with Junior Sportsperson of the Year nominees Ada Kurz, Jake Roberts, Taine Strong and Zara Douglass

### Senior Sportsperson of the Year

*(Presented by Acting Mayor Gavin Jones)*

This award is presented to a nominee aged 18 years and over at January 22, 2024, and recognises a person in the community who has achieved significant recognition in sport.



Amanda Dennien accepted the Senior Sportsperson of the Year Award from Acting Mayor Gavin Jones on behalf of her niece, Australian cricketer Courtney Sippel Senior Sportsperson of the Year Courtney Sippel

#### **Nominees: Courtney Sippel, Murgon; and Jericho Pogany, Nanango**



**Courtney Sippel** started her career playing cricket in the South Burnett and surrounding regions. She is now playing as an elite cricketer and is an example of what you can attain if you are prepared to work hard in your chosen sport. Her most recent accomplishments include selection in the Under 19s Australian Squad which toured New Zealand; membership of the Australia A team in 2020 on home soil and again in 2023 when she was selected to tour England. Last year Courtney was also the winner of the Betty Wilson Young Player of the Year award and was a member of the Governor-General's XI. Courtney is currently under contract with the Brisbane Heat and Queensland Fire teams and has been described as someone who represents what you can achieve personally if you believe in yourself.

**Jericho Pogany** is a Year 12 graduate at Nanango State High School and has been an active member of many school sporting teams throughout his schooling life, participating in swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals as well as the BP Shield interschool carnivals. Jericho has also been a member of the Human Powered Vehicle school team for the past two years, and won the Male Sportsperson and Sportsperson Of The Year awards at Nanango State High School's awards night in 2023. As a house leader, Jericho often arrives early to assist in setting up for all carnivals and has represented the school's Pedal Prix team, as well as taking part in the first Boys Vicki Wilson Netball team. Jericho also represented the South Burnett in cross country and athletics, and Wide Bay in triathlon, cross country and athletics. He has been a great leader and conducts himself exceptionally when representing the school.

#### **WINNER: Courtney Sippel**

## Sportsperson of the Year (Coach/Official or Administrator)

(Presented by Cr Scott Henschen)

This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to sport and or the community as a coach, official or administrator.



Joshua Miller was presented with the Sportsperson of the Year (Coach / Official or Administrator) Award by Cr Scott Henschen

### Nominee: Joshua Miller

**Joshua Miller** has been a driving force behind the resurgence of junior AFL in the South Burnett. His visionary leadership has helped reintroduce this sport to our community. Prior to his involvement, junior AFL had been absent from the region since 2015. As the Auskick co-ordinator, Joshua has been responsible for providing a welcoming and nurturing environment for AFL's youngest athletes. He has worked tirelessly to introduce children to the fundamentals of AFL, fostering their love for the game and setting them on a path to sporting excellence. Joshua has also taken on multiple roles within the South Burnett Saints club, including serving as an U14 coach, men's assistant coach, and senior team manager. His coaching and managerial expertise have contributed significantly to the success of the teams and the overall development of players. Beyond his coaching and managerial duties, Joshua has also served as vice-president, club registrar and club groundskeeper, ensuring the smooth functioning of the club's administrative and logistical aspects.

### WINNER: Joshua Miller



## Lifetime Achievement of the Year

*(Presented by Cr Jane Erkens and Cr Kathy Duff)*

This award is presented to a resident over 60 years of age in recognition of their outstanding achievement. Nominees display ongoing excellence in their field and in the community, demonstrating leadership and innovation while contributing towards the South Burnett region.



Cr Jane Erkens, left, and Cr Kathy Duff, right, presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Richie O'Neill OAM

**Nominees: Alan Weaver, Brian Lenihan, Daphene Connor, Margaret Kearney, Muriel Schultz, Nina Temperton, Norma Harch, Rob Patch, and Richie O'Neill**

**Alan Weaver** has been a member of the South Burnett Senior Citizens Club since joining in 2011. During those years he has been vice-president, has also leaned to call bingo and indoor bowls. Alan is a willing and able volunteer in many areas of the club. Age has never stopped Alan from contributing to the club's functions.

**Brian Lenihan** has lived, worked and contributed to Kumbia and its surrounding communities for more than 60 years. His generosity is second to none. He retired as "The Butcher" in June 2023 and during his 60+ years in this role was well known as the "tree of knowledge" by the locals, ie. if you wanted to know some local information, you'd go and see Brian in Bell Street. You would usually leave with the answer to your inquiry, a bag of yummy cheerios and a smile after hearing one of his jokes. Brian is well known for his remarkable generosity, his kindness, his leadership and huge heart and community spirit. Over many years he has supported community groups throughout the South Burnett without hesitation, including the Kumbia Race Club, Kumbia Hall, school, kindy, pony club, campdraft, golf, tennis and many more – the list is extensive.

**Dr Daphene Connor** has been a GP practicing in Blackbutt for the past 17 years. She has perseverance, dedication and a deep commitment to the medical profession and community service. Dr Connor's journey began in China where she grew up and then attended the Medical University of Beijing at 16 years old. She then made the decision to move to Australia which started her substantial contributions to Australian rural healthcare.

**Margaret Kearney** was born and raised in Kingaroy. She is the eldest daughter of Jack and Myolene Carroll (JA Carroll & Sons Solicitors) Kingaroy and granddaughter of Dan and Bridget Carroll, one of the early settlers/founders of Kingaroy. Over her life, she has been actively involved in, and dedicated to, many local community club committees and events. These include Kumbia School, St Mary's College, Kumbia Pony Club, Kumbia Golf Club, tennis, church, and for the past 15 years treasurer of the Kumbia Race Club. She retired from this role only a few months ago.

**Muriel Schultz** is a symbol of what it is to be a volunteer. Her service to the community stretched over some



60 years. Muriel continues to selflessly serve the community in which she lives. She has held the role as president of the Murgon Hospital Auxiliary for many years, with the support of her dedicated team of volunteers. Auxiliary projects include renovations to provide a room dedicated for palliative care; renovations for visiting specialists; the purchase of a specialised transfer trolley from the hospital's emergency room to the LifeFlight helicopters; and the purchase of two specialist heart monitors. Muriel has also been part of several not-for-profit organisations, all with the same goal of helping others in the community. Her reward for sacrificing her time is seeing the difference made to the lives and wellbeing of those who have benefited.

In 1992, **Nina Temperton** applied to become manager of a small youth unemployment centre in Kingaroy. Over the years, it morphed into a Community Youth Support Service, South Burnett Skillshare then eventually South Burnett CTC. In 2023, CTC had more than 240 staff members based across the South Burnett with an outreach that extended into almost every town and village in the region. Nina's passion to support the disabled and disadvantaged has been the driving force behind the rapid growth of CTC. Her vision has always been for CTC to fill any gaps identified in local community services. SBCTC is a not-for-profit Public Benevolent Institution registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission. It provides support services through multiple programs to a diverse range of people within the community covering programs supporting homeless and at-risk youth, victims of domestic violence, disability services, Youth and Family Services, foster care and housing. As CEO, Nina has been a passionate role model and leader of the CTC management team. Without Nina and SBCTC, the local, State and Federal governments would not be able to service the needs of the disadvantaged and/or marginalised members of the South Burnett community. Nina retired after 31 years of service on September 14, 2023. At her final AGM on September 18, she was appointed Patron of CTC. She will leave an ongoing, outstanding legacy for the South Burnett community through her work. Nina's dream project of building a group living home for residents living with disabilities was completed with the official opening of "Skyla House" on October 18. The complex was built in Nanango thanks to the support of Heritage Nanango Community Fund.

**Norma Harch** is Patron of the the Nanango and District Netball Association, a community based netball club available to residents of all ages in the South Burnett and wider communities. Norma Harch had demonstrated commitment to the development and growth of netball in the area. She was president from 1993 to 2008 and became its first life member in 1997. Norma has made an outstanding contribution to netball for almost 40 years nurturing players. She is meticulous with details. Norma spent many hours ensuring the clubhouse was ready for the 40th celebrations in October 2023. She acknowledged all players who had been chosen for Wide Bay or State selection since 1995. Her display of newspaper cuttings, photo albums and memorabilia were much appreciated by the attendees. On the morning of the celebrations, a special honour was bestowed on Norma, with the courts being renamed as the Norma Harch Netball Courts. She recalled that the current site of the courts was originally a car parking area for a camp for those working at the Tarong Power Station and Meandu Mine. The new clubhouse arrived in 1998. When the clubhouse burnt down in 2001, Norma worked tirelessly as president, overseeing the restoration of the clubhouse which is now a very impressive complex. Norma regularly attends meetings of the Queensland State body in Brisbane as a NDNA representative.

**Rob Patch** is a local legend in Kingaroy ... almost as iconic as The Peanut Van. Time spent with Rob is time well-invested because you will always learn something that you didn't know about Kingaroy's peanut industry. Rob is being nominated for this award because people are inspired by his love of all things Kingaroy and the culture he has built within his hardworking team in the The Peanut Van and Factory. If you ask Rob, what he is most proud of, it's the people who work with him because they love what they do just as much as he does. He has a passion for supporting the next generation and is a role model for young entrepreneurs. He is always willing to share his time, knowledge and stories and is passionate about providing a workforce where everyone feels valued and invested in the story of Kingaroy peanuts. He should be acknowledged for the many years of service and hard work he has invested in Kingaroy, its people and its place. He is a quiet achiever always working on something innovative.

**Richie O'Neill** has had a lifetime of community involvement. He served as a councillor on Murgon Shire Council for 10 years and during that time was an instigator, through his advocacy, of rural addressing throughout Queensland. He served on the Local Ambulance Committee for 52 years, most of the time as President, and received a 50-year service award. Richie served as president of the Commemorative Committee in Murgon for 24 years and only last year retired from that position. During that time Murgon has hosted many very special and momentous commemorative services. including major Anzac Day services which close the main street of Murgon every year. He was president of the Murgon Show Society for 18 years and a Show Society Sub-Chamber representative for the South Burnett for 37 years. During that time, he was State President of the Queensland Show Movement for five years. In 1999, Richie was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). Richie has been the president of the Creative Country Association since its inception. In 2023, he participated in the opening of 55 Million Years Ago which is proving to be a great tourist attraction for Murgon. During all this time, Richie has also run a farming operation, raised a family and continues to live and care for his wife Edna on the family farm.

**WINNER: Richie O'Neill OAM**



Lifetime Achievement Award nominees ... Alan Weaver, Brian Lenihan, Margaret Kearney, Muriel Schults, Nina Temperton, Norma Harch, Rob Patch and Richie O'Neill

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**Local Achiever Awards**

*(Presented by Cr Danita Potter and Cr Jane Erkens)*

**These awards are presented to residents in recognition of their outstanding achievement / contribution. Nominees display ongoing excellence in their community.**



Cr Danita Potter presented the Hivesville / Proston Local Achiever Award to Brenda Johanson

## HIVESVILLE/PROSTON

**Nominees: Brenda Johanson, Irene McDonald and Kathy Crane**

**Brenda Johanson** received two nominations. She has lived in Proston since 1964 and has volunteered her time and talents with a range of community organisations during this entire time – from sewing for ambulance stalls to teaching craft, to helping to form a playgroup, and volunteering at the school. She has worked tirelessly for the Proston Show Society as a steward for more than 30 years and is now chief steward in the Pavilion. Brenda is also a member of the Proston Angels Relay For Life team and regularly helps out with fundraising events such as catering, chip stalls and helping to man the gate at the Kingaroy Show. Brenda has a keen interest in Proston's history and has been an active member of the Proston & District Heritage Association since its formation in 2018. She was part of the organising committee for the very successful Proston Centenary celebrations in 2023. Brenda is a quiet achiever who always does her best, works cheerfully with others, and is a wonderful and valued member of our community.

**Irene McDonald** is a well-known Proston local. At 84-years-old, she has just recently retired from driving the local school bus which she has done for 30 plus years. Irene volunteers with many community groups and organisations, runs the local line dancing group, caretakes the Proston Showgrounds and is kitchen convenor for the Proston Show Society. She is also a part of Proston Lions Club and Proston Garden Club. She maintains the local Lions Park and raises money for the groups she's involved in as well as organisations which help the community as a whole. Irene is very dedicated to everything she does and every group and organisation of which she is a part.

**Kathy Crane** has contributed immensely to the community of Proston in many ways over many years. She has been involved with – and is often the driving force behind – such projects as the Reinke Scrub restoration, the Labyrinth, monthly Mental Health Days for anyone to come and have a cuppa and a chat, the Heritage Association and Proston Centenary. Kathy has been a rock upon whom so many people have been able to lean when troubles have come. She is always there for everyone.

**WINNER: Brenda Johanson**



Hivesville / Proston Local Achiever nominees Brenda Johanson, Irene McDonald and Kathy Crane



Cr Jane Erkens, right, with Murgon Local Achiever Award winner Amanda Dennien and nominee Lanse Rea

## MURGON

### Nominees: Amanda Dennien and Lanse Rea

**Amanda Dennien** has always been dedicated to the progress of Murgon and the South Burnett. She has raised her four children here along with being a part of the lives of 600 children that she has taught and supported throughout her 22 years of working at the local kindy. Amanda has always supported local businesses through community events, ladies luncheons and her volunteer work at local dance schools in Murgon. She was also involved with 100 years centenary for Windaera. Her involvement in the kindy has drastically shaped the community with families knowing a safe place they can go. She has become a figurehead in Murgon for early childhood and early development. She has aided families from multiple different backgrounds, including families who have experienced hardship, or children with disabilities, to ensure they have access to early education. Families have felt that they can turn to her to support and advice. Children who have now grown up look to her and still talk about their time at kindy with "Mrs D". Even though 2023 was her last year of teaching at the Kindy, she will continue providing for the community in a different way. Amanda has recently become a certified celebrant and is so grateful to see the children that she once taught, now grown up and getting married. Amanda has devoted her adult life to supporting the community that she calls home.

**Lanse Rea** is the epitome of a local achiever in Murgon. He has owned and run a successful family business in Murgon for more than 23 years. Recently semi-retired, Lanse has not slowed down even a little. In fact, he is busier than ever! Lanse has been a member of the Murgon Business Development Association for more than 25 years. He is always one of the first people to put up his hand to volunteer at events. In 2023, Lanse was a volunteer committee member for the Murgon Bush Christmas on December 8. He worked tirelessly to make this event memorable for everyone attending. While Lanse managed his own business, he also volunteered as a board member of the YMCA (now PCYC) and the Murgon RSL. He also volunteered with the Murgon Show Society and the Murgon Dairy Museum. Lanse has also spent hours working as a volunteer yard and maintenance man at the club blocks for Rotary and Apex. He also volunteered at Castra Aged Care and raised funds to acquire the Castra residents' bus. He is also a foundation member of the Goomeri Chrome Bumpers car club and has raised funds for LifeFlight and Ronald McDonald House.

### WINNER: Amanda Dennien



Cr Danita Potter, right, presented the Kingaroy Local Achiever Award to Craig Reiger and Sue Dowideit-Reiger

## KINGAROY

**Nominees: Craig Reiger & Sue Dowideit-Reiger, Jacqui Trace and Rob Patch**

**Craig Reiger & Sue Dowideit-Reiger** – see nomination entry in the “Senior Cultural Award” section

**Jacqui Trace** is vice-president of the Kingaroy Chamber of Commerce and Industry and has led projects and initiatives for the SMILE campaign, focusing on mental health. She is passionate about small business and the growth and prosperity of the region. She has been working quietly behind the scenes to influence better outcomes in the region and within the Chamber. Jacqui is a volunteer with the South Burnett Junior Motorcycle Club. And with her business, she has donated countless dollars, time and service to community events and activities including the Ride 4 Relay. She is a hardworking and dedicated member of the community and deserves recognition.

**Rob Patch** – see nomination entry in the “Lifetime Achievement Award” section

**WINNERS: Craig Reiger & Sue Dowideit-Reiger**



Kingaroy Local Achiever nominees Craig Reiger, Sue Dowideit-Reiger, Jacqui Trace and Rob Patch



Cr Jane Erkens presented the Wooroolin / Memerambi Local Achiever Award to Chris Marks

## WOOROOLIN / MEMERAMBI

**Nominee: Chris Marks**

**Chris Marks** has been secretary of the Wooroolin Lions Club and has been a valuable member and worker for years. He also volunteers at the Kingaroy Pantry and Red Cross in Kingaroy on a weekly roster. Since moving to the Wooroolin area, Chris has been involved in lots of organisations and events such as scouts, Anzac Day and helping the Lions with many fundraisers and working bees.

**WINNER: Chris Marks**



Kumbia Local Achiever nominee Myolene Voller with Cr Danita Potter

## KUMBIA

**Nominees: Gordon Coward and Myolene Voller**

**Gordon Coward** is the well-known and popular proprietor of GRC Plantation Services. Gordon has constructed fencing, yards and gates for iconic Kumbia landmarks such as the Kumbia Race Club and the Kumbia Memorial Hall, but also contributes to his community in many other ways. He was the force behind the ongoing maintenance of the Kumbia Sportsgrounds when its future was uncertain. He mows and sprays Council land areas when required and has also tidied up the old BMX track. Thanks in a large part to his efforts, Kumbia always looks attractive, neat and tidy. Gordon mows, sprays and tidies up residents' grounds, often without full recompense. He has also donated his time and supplied items to many local events, including the 2022 Kumbia Country Festival. He is always ready to lend a hand wherever it is needed locally. The latest initiative he has volunteered for is the management committee of the newly formed Kumbia Sport and Recreation Association.

**Myolene Voller** is a community champion for Kumbia. She went to school in Kumbia and has been involved in the Kumbia Pony Club and the races for many years with a close family connection to the Lenihan family and racing in general. She is the current Kumbia Race Club secretary. Kumbia is the only race meeting held in the South Burnett on Melbourne Cup Day and over the years it has become a signature event in the South Burnett. Myolene has been involved with organising the event for the past five years and took on the role of secretary four years ago. The club now hosts caravanners which has helped with the shortage of volunteers. The caravanners love to chip in and help so not only are they providing a community service but they are also helping to boost the economy of the area through the dollars they spend during their stay. Myolene not only organises the Fashions on the Field, she also comperes it, along with being the go-to person for lots of other happenings throughout the course of the day. Her role is more than just the secretary, she is the event organiser. This year the club had 200 more visitors than the previous year, so the overall event was hailed as a major success.

**WINNER: Gordon Coward**



Cr Jane Erkens, right, presented the Blackbutt / Benarkin Local Achiever Award to Dinah Jones

**BLACKBUTT / BENARKIN**

**Nominees: Dinah Jones and Daphene Connor**

**Dinah Jones** gets things done. She has been president of the Blackbutt & District Tourism and Heritage Association for the past 18 months and has been at the forefront of the revamp of the building at Jesse's Well (often doing much of the restoration work herself). Two signal poles are being installed, the Roy Emerson Way has been named and the association is in the process of buying an old forestry building which will be converted into a timber museum. Dinah works tirelessly for the association, spending many hours each week with much going unnoticed. She is also involved in the local garden club and maintains her five acres of garden singlehandedly. She regularly wins awards in the annual garden competition. Dinah has an extensive knowledge of the history of the Blackbutt and Benarkin areas, particularly the timber industry. Despite a demanding home life she has spent many hours supporting a terminally ill friend, organising services, transport etc., and when services weren't available, she took on the role herself with mowing, transport to medical appointments and home help. Much of what Dinah does goes unnoticed because she does not like the limelight, but she deserves some recognition for the many hours and practical work she gives to her community.

**Dr Daphene Connor** – see nomination entry in the “Lifetime Achievement of the Year ” section

**WINNER: Dinah Jones**



Arthur Wallis accepted the Nanango Local Achiever Award from Cr Jane Erkens and Cr Danita Potter on behalf of his wife Sue

## NANANGO

### Nominee: Sue Wallis

**Irene Suzanne (Sue) Wallis** has spent many years providing assistance to groups in Nanango. In 2023, when the Nanango Tourism & Development Association (NaTDA) took on the challenge of organising the celebration for the town's 175th year, Sue was the logical event organiser. She was Queen of the Nanango Mardi Gras in 2012 and Funfest co-ordinator to 2017 when health reasons intervened and she left the position. Sue has given her time willingly to assist with community events whenever possible. She was one of the first volunteers when the South Burnett Energy and Information Centre opened. In 2022, the South Burnett Regional Council called for expressions of interest for the Ringsfield Advisory Committee. Sue had previously been at Ringsfield as volunteer organiser so it followed she would be offered the position of volunteer manager. The group has been meeting regularly and are working toward the reopening of this wonderful complex. In 2023, Sue worked on the 175th celebrations' three major events: NaTDA presented the annual Australia Day celebrations at the Nanango Showgrounds; in June there was the Pioneer Festival at Nanango Showgrounds and the visit by the State Governor; and in December the Heritage Christmas Carnival. Again this was a mammoth task and a group effort with Sue as the Event planner. The idea was to provide the community with a "family affordable" festive celebration event during the school holidays, finishing with a fireworks display which completed Nanango's Celebration year.

### WINNER: Sue Wallis



Winston Burrows was presented with the Wondai / Tingoora Local Achiever Award by Cr Jane Erkens

## WONDAI / TINGOORA

### Nominees: Chantal Harth, Julie Lohmann, Kathy Unverzagt Steinhardt and Winston Burrows

**Chantal Harth** is the general manager of CROW-FM 90.7 and manages the staff, facilities and ensures delivery of a 24/7 radio service from Wondai across the whole South Burnett. Chantal started with CROW more than 12 years ago in administration. A dedicated worker, she was keen to learn and has built the skills to be the bookkeeper. In late 2020, she was appointed general manager. Chantal has grown and thrived at the helm of the radio station. This year, she has overseen the challenging introduction of a state-of-the-art new playout system. Chantal loves country music and particularly enjoys presenting the Midweek Muster and Country Hour on CROW and is known as "the Queen of Country". One of her passions is sharing the stories and incredible songs of Australia's talented country music singers and songwriters. Chantal goes above and beyond for CROW and gives much of her time for the station but also supports a number of charitable events in her own time, in particular Relay For Life. Chantal has provided an outstanding contribution to Wondai and the wider South Burnett region.



**Julie Lohmann** – see nomination entry in the “Volunteer of the Year” section

**Kathy Unverzagt Steinhardt** has been instrumental in the re-establishment of the Tingoora Vikings Cricket Club and in helping the team with fundraising and getting the grounds game day ready. She is passionate about helping the sports club achieve its vision and has worked tirelessly with others, quietly in the background. She deserves recognition for her efforts.

**Winston Burrows** has been president of The Laurels in Wondai for a number of years and has just finished the last duplex. This complex has been a unique piece of the Wondai community ever it was first thought about. Winston is a volunteer who oversees the whole complex. As each unit houses one or two older residents, things can go wrong any time of the day or night. Winston is only a phone call away and is always available to fix the problem. This gives the residents a wonderful sense of security. He is also a member and emcee of the Wondai Town Band which is always available to play at functions such as Anzac Day, the Christmas Carnival and Carols in the Park. Winston is also a voluntary Board member of CROW FM and an officiating volunteer at the weekly Wondai parkrun.

**WINNER: Winston Burrows**



Wondai / Tingoora Local Achiever nominees Chantal Harth, Julie Lohmann, Kathy Unverzagt Steinhardt and Winston Burrows

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Cadets from the 135 ACU at Wondai conducted a flag ceremony at the start of the event. Compere for the day Rod Morgan was presented with a thank you gift by Acting Mayor Gavin Jones. Member for Nanango Deb Frecklington was also thanked for her participation on the day. Local resident Percy Curtain sang the National Anthem

Photos & Media courtesy South Burnett Online

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## **Gordonbrook Dam Spillway and Causeway Repairs**

### **Extension of Time - SBRCQ 23/24-85 Gordonbrook Dam Spillway and Causeway Repairs**

South Burnett Regional Council is seeking offers to undertake the following works at Gordonbrook Dam:

- Repair/replace the drummy or hollow concrete sections at the spillway
- Repair the broken stone pitched concrete dissipaters
- Repair the LHS stone pitched concrete side of the causeway.

Offer documents can be downloaded by registering on Council’s tendering platform Tenderlink. Registration instructions and links can be found on Council’s website under Tenders & Supply.

The Tenderlink Reference is BURNET- 1084041. A two (2) week extension of time (EOT) has been granted, now closing at 2pm on Thursday 22 February 2024.

For further information contact Council on 4189 9100 or email [info@sbrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@sbrc.qld.gov.au)

# Murgon Business & Development Association Australia Day Awards 2024 held at the Murgon Dairy & Heritage Museum



Goomeri Chrome Bumpers had a beautiful display of vehicles

The official welcome was presented by President Cynthia Hatchett and the flag was raised by Trevor Sanderson from the Murgon RSL Sub Branch whilst we all sang the National Anthem.

The reaffirmation of citizenship was read by Councillor Kathy Duff. Glen Vonhoff gave the Australia Day blessing with some interesting comment about a lay preacher who arrived on the first fleet and his comments about life in Australia were found some 200 years later.



**Guest Speaker Selwyn Maller gave a very interesting address of his families life and his interests in life in the South Burnett and Queensland and the establishment of the wagyu meat industry in Australia.**

**Selwyn and his wife and children are the owners of Hamilton Park Pastoral Co and the Phat Wag and have purchased several properties in the South Burnett.**



A special presentation was made to Leo Geraghty OAM & Margaret Long (centre) for their long involvement with the MBDA by President Amy Wicks & Senior Vice President Lance Rea

MBDA Australia Day Awards were presented by Councillor Kathy Duff and MBDA President Amy Wicks along with any earlier South Burnett Awards.



MBDA Senior Sportsperson of the year. Courtney Sippel & South Burnett Award

MBDA Volunteer of the Year . Nikki Watkins & South Burnett Award



MBDA Lifetime Achiever Award. Nominee Muriel Schultz.



MBDA Lifetime Achiever Award Richard O'Neill & South Burnett Award



MBDA Outstanding Contribution to Murgon Award. Nominee Amanda Dennien & South Burnett Award



MBDA Outstanding Contribution to Murgon Award Lance Rea & South Burnett Award nominee



MBDA Community Organization of the Year Award. 55 million years ago

Photo L-R Amy Wicks President MBDA, Ritchie O'Neill OAM President 55 mya, Leo Geraghty OAM Secretary/ Manager 55 mya, Councillor Kathy Duff,



MBDA Junior Ambassador Award Josh Steinhardt



MBDA Senior Ambassador Award Allan Eagleson & South Burnett Citizen of the Year

Photo L-R Amy Wicks President MBDA, Allan Eagleson, Councillor Kathy Duff, Cynthia Hatchett President Murgon Dairy & Heritage Museum.

**Congratulations to all the nominees and winners and many thanks to the Murgon Dairy & Heritage Museum for hosting this event**

# Wondai Regional Art Gallery, February 2024 Exhibition

The month of February will see the Wondai Regional Art Gallery hosting three exhibitions.



**“Keeping It Local”** by Katrina O’Shannessy and Family (First Gallery)

**“Pulse: Rhythms of the Land”** by Lisa Chandler, Tony Coles, Trevor Hood, Wendy McGrath-Lakeland, Des Rolph, Dianne Smith, Kay Wright (Main Gallery)



**“Bits and Bobs”** by Cherry Carroll (Third Gallery)

**“Kidz Korner”** Tingoora State School



Congratulations to Col (Slasher) Ramke who celebrated 50 years as an auctioneer & a Livestock Agent with a special presentation from Pratt Agencies at the Murgon Sale today. It was wonderful to see Col auctioning again as a special touch!!

## COLIN JOHN RAMKE 50 YEARS AS A LIVESTOCK AGENT AND AUCTIONEER

I commenced my agency career on the 21st January 1974 in PROSTON with a small local agent ERIC NEWSON AND Co. Eric was a great mentor in the early stages of my career. I went through the cattle depression from 1974 to 1978 and sold dairy cattle at a sale on Friday for \$1 and on Saturday at an Easter Poultry Sale sold ducks for \$10. They also conducted pigs and calves at Wondai on a weekly basis.

In March 1978 I started with Australian Estates in MURGON. They conducted sales both in Murgon and Goomeri. There were fat and store sales and also pigs and calves back then. I saw the commencement of Liveweight selling in January 1979 which I believe is the best thing to ever have been introduced into the cattle industry. Over a period of time Australian Estates merged with other

bigger companies and became AML Estates and Elders AML Estates to name a few.

I was responsible for the first Lot Fed Show and Sale and the commencement of weaner sales in this area. I was the South Burnett Livestock Manager for Elders. They conducted sales in both the North and South Burnett.

In May 1988 I went to work for Dalgetys still in MURGON, and from 1993 I was the branch manager till they decided to close all the smaller 1 man branches in 1998.

In May 1998 Pratt Agencies welcomed him on board as a commission agent and he has continued to work with them from May 1998 until now. Col is happy to continue as long as he is able.

During this time Col has also sold some real estate but his real love from a child was to auction the cattle. Col has seen lots of changes in the industry with many buyers coming and going. There have been lots of ups and downs along the way.

At present he is the longest serving person in the Murgon Saleyards.

## Celebrating MURGON'S 100th SHOW!



Preparations for the 100th Murgon Show are well underway, with a band of volunteers from the Murgon Show Society gearing up for a series of fabulous family friendly events. To kick off the celebrations, everyone is invited to a Wine and Cheese Night, which will be held on Saturday 2nd March.



The annual rodeo will be held on the night of Friday 15th March, along with the Junior Judging of both stud and prime cattle. Saturday 16th March will be Show Day, with many events, exhibits and entertainment on offer. This year, one entry fee will allow people to attend Friday night, as well as the entire Saturday, which ends with a fireworks display.

Local history enthusiast, Amanda Dennien, has been researching and gathering information in order to compile a history book which covers the implementation, improvements, events and memories of 100 Murgon Shows. This collation will serve to honour the noble and forward-thinking people who paved the way for the past, present and future generations of country folk from Murgon and surrounding districts, and to celebrate our local show. It is incredibly difficult to ascertain just how many volunteers have given their time and effort to consistently provide a show for Murgon over so many years. Since the original pioneers set the plan in motion, there have been countless executive, members, stewards, gate keepers, exhibitors, entries, showgirls, rural ambassadors and general helpers.



In order to include as much history in the book as possible, the Murgon Show Society is calling out to the public for help. It is reasonable to assume that there is a great deal of local history out in the community. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to provide any photos, news clippings or old schedules. Information about executive positions, improvements, dates and personal memories would also be gratefully received. Please contact Amanda Dennien directly, so we can organise to take copies of your precious items. [amandadennien@outlook.com](mailto:amandadennien@outlook.com) or 0438 686 195.

**Stay tuned for more information in the lead up to the 100th Murgon Show!**



## Murgon Independent Lifestyle Project Inc.

is calling for **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.**

Now that our organisation has procured tenure on 4.5 acres of land in Murgon to build a complex of independent units for adults with disabilities, hopefully within 2-3 years, we are now seeking Expressions of Interest for prospective residents to enable us to gauge the level of interest, which will help us evaluate the scale of the project required.

For more information, contact us by phoning **0427 231852** or email us at **murgonproject@gmail.com** or attend one of our regular meetings.

### Councillors Back Housing Proposal



Murgon Independent Lifestyle Project committee members ... from left, president Noel Dowdle, Leanne Dowdle, secretary Lorraine Goodchild, Jackie Edwards, Andrew Goodchild (at back), Robert Goodchild and treasurer Nicky Watkins were selling show bags at Murgon's Bush Christmas celebrations on Friday as part of their fundraising efforts

A proposal to build a multi-unit complex in Murgon to provide independent living for disabled adults has won approval from the South Burnett Regional Council.



At the SBRC's December Liveability standing committee meeting, Councillors voted unanimously to give Murgon Independent Lifestyle Project Inc (MILP) an initial three-year lease over the southern end of McMahon Park so the group can seek funding to begin construction on the site.

**This followed a public consultation session held at the park in mid-November to gather the opinions of residents, and an online survey run through the Council's website .**

Both consultation efforts indicated the majority of respondents thought the area was suitable for the project and were in favour of disability housing being built there.

Most indicated they did not use the park, but those who did were predominantly aged over 65 and just used the park's walking tracks.

MILP is a not-for-profit registered charity that was formed in May 2022.

The group aims to provide safe, secure long-term housing for people with disabilities living in the Murgon area.

**At present, they have to rely on their ageing parents to provide care, or move out of the region because this type of facility was not currently available in Murgon.**

MILP aims to raise funds to build a "village-like setting" in Murgon that could accommodate disabled adults with low to medium-level care needs.

The complex would allow tenants to live independently in personal dwellings in a safe and secure gated environment, with 24-hour supervision and assistance provided by on-site carers.

Most of the complex's overheads would be covered by rental fees, which would be paid from the tenants' pensions and/or NDIS support packages, with any shortfall covered by MILP's fundraising efforts.

MILP told the Council they have been looking for a suitable site to build the facility, and believed a portion of McMahon Park – a big but largely under-utilised area between Perkins Street and Goodchild Drive – would be the most suitable location.

**Securing a lease from Council would be a necessary first step to seeking funding from Federal and State agencies to build the complex.**

The MILP project has received letters of support from Graham House, the Murgon Business and Development Association, Murgon RSL Sub-Branch, Rockin' Our Abilities and Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien.

MILP members expect it will take several years to bring the project into full operation.

The motion to approve an initial three-year lease of roughly one-third of McMahon Park to MILP was moved by Cr Kathy Duff, seconded by Cr Scott Henschen, and carried unanimously.

It is expected to be ratified at the General Meeting of Council – the last for the year – to be held on Wednesday.



A view looking southwards at McMahon Park in Murgon ... the MILP disability housing project would use vacant land but preserve the park's most popular features for public use

Media release Courtesy South Burnett Online

# Support Local

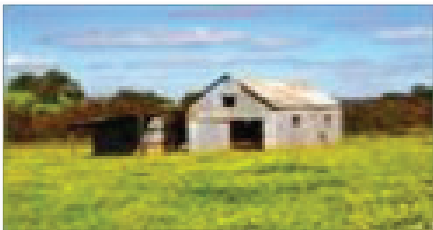
this Christmas!



For more information  
visit  
[www.murgon.net.au](http://www.murgon.net.au)



why leave town



## Shed Men

All Men & young Blokes are invited to the 52nd meeting of  
**The BARAMBAH SHED MEN**

**At the Murgon Saleyards. On the Bunya Hwy approaching Murgon from the west, turn L onto the Gayndah Rd and again next L about 300 to 400 metres into the saleyards.**

**1st Speaker: Tristram Waldock** is the manager of the saleyards and works for AAM who own the saleyards. They are a Qld owned company with extensive Agricultural interests. But we will let Tristram tell his story

**2nd Speaker: Jeff Beutal** and his family established Warrillee Santa Gertrudis Stud in 1980 near Boonah. The cool thing about this is that Jeff is able to do this despite the vision impairment that prevents him having a drivers licence. Jeff will share how his faith has helped him succeed in this endeavour.

**DATE: Saturday. 2nd March 2024**

**Start – 4.30pm**

**COST: \$15 meal, Dessert, Soft Drinks, tea/coffee (under 15 free)**

**RSVP: For catering Mon 26th Feb 2024 Chris Downes 0499775022 [chrisbrond@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbrond@gmail.com)**

**Ron Mason 4168 5183 [rmason5@bigpond.com](mailto:rmason5@bigpond.com)**

**John Armstrong 0428 684 951 [jrarms4605@gmail.com](mailto:jrarms4605@gmail.com)**

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**TO**



**GO**



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ON SELECTED MODELS**



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Go confidently, backed by Australia's only 10-year warranty<sup>1</sup> with 10 years capped price servicing.<sup>2</sup>

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# GRIT

THE STORES.  
THE TOWN.  
THE MUSIC.

2024 LOCAL HALLS TOUR



**GOOMERI HALL OF MEMORY**  
**FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY, 6:00PM**  
 \$20 General admission  
 \$15 Concession (Senior, student, pensioner)

Book tickets online at [humanifix.com](http://humanifix.com) or purchase tickets at the door. Or email us at [info@perseverancestreet.com.au](mailto:info@perseverancestreet.com.au) to reserve a seat and pay at the door.

In 2022 Perseverance Street Theatre Company developed their first ever mainstage production GRIT: The Stories. The Town. The Music. A heartfelt performance with stunning vocals and originals songs, this performance tells the story of six residents of a regional town “somewhere” in Queensland. GRIT emerged from a collection of stories of resilience and hope from over 30 residents in the Gympie Region. The Perseverance Street Team interviewed artists, mothers, doctors, engineers, veterans, pensioners - people of all ages and backgrounds who faced different challenges.

The original iteration was well received by local audiences, quickly turning GRIT into a sell-out season. People walked away in tears - either from laughing or crying - and holding their hand over their heart.



Check out the list of Murgon businesses where you can spend your local MURGON GIFT CARD!

Brought to our community by the Murgon Business & Development Assoc. Inc.



why leave town

- ACKINCLOSE PLUMBING & IRRIGATION
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- CAFÉ MURGON
- CARNEY'S FEED STORE
- CENTRAL BALANCE MURGON
- CLIFTON MOTORS
- CLOVELY ESTATE
- COLLARDS FUEL SUPPLIES
- J A CARROLL-SOLICITORS
- LIGHTNING TREE WINES
- MARK SMITH MENSWEAR
- MURGON POST OFFICE

- MOFFATDALE RIDGE WINES
- **MURGON AMCAL+ PHARMACY**
- MURGON BAKERY
- **MURGON BETTA HOME LIVING**
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- MURGON FURNITURE ZONE
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- MURGON MITRE 10
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- MURGON PIZZA PERFECTION
- MURGON SAND & GRAVEL

- MURGON SERVICES CLUB
- MURGON TYRES & MORE
- NORCO RURAL - MURGON
- PRATT AGENCIES
- PURSERS COACHES/TRAVEL & CRUISE
- ROBINSONS NEWS & GIFTS - MURGON
- ROYAL HOTEL
- SOUTH BURNETT PCYC
- **STRUDDYS SPORTS MURGON**
- THE COFFEE BAR 4605
- WILEY'S BUTCHERY
- 55 MILLION YEARS AGO

\*The Stores marked in red are where you can purchase... and spend your card

## 2024 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Murgon & District Services & Citizens Memorial Club Inc. will be held at the Murgon Services Club Diggers Room on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7:30pm.

### Business of the meeting:

The presidents report. - The treasurers annual report. - The elections of office bearers for 2024.

Nomination forms are available from the club, and all completed forms must be handed into the office no later than noon on Wednesday 6th March 2024.



## Advertising Charges MURGON MOMENTS

### All Ad Prices in Colour

	SINGLE MONTHLY PRICE INC GST	12 MONTHLY PRICE INC GST
FULL PAGE (in colour)	\$675.00	\$660.00
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1/4 PAGE	\$135.35	\$125.35
LARGE MATCHBOX	\$81.75	\$74.10
COMB LARGE MATCHBOX	\$135.35	\$125.35
RH SMALL MATCHBOX	\$67.75	\$57.75
LH SMALL MATCHBOX	\$55.90	\$49.50
COMBINATION LARGE MATCHBOX FRONT PAGE (MAX 3 CONS ISSUES) IN COLOUR	<b>\$245.00 inc GST</b>	

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Murgon's Local News  
Bringing You the Local Issues

The South Burnett's Local Station  
The Burnett's Best Music Mix

*Working together to bring you the issues that matter most*

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## Members of the Murgon Business & Development Assoc. Inc. (MBDA) for 2023

For information on MBDA membership, email [murgonbusiness@bigpond.com](mailto:murgonbusiness@bigpond.com)

### \*ACCOMMODATION

BARAMBAH BUSH CARAVAN PARK - 4168 1085  
BOONDOOMA HOMESTEAD - 0433 423642  
CLOVELY ESTATE - 4168 4788  
MURGON MOTOR INN - 4168 1400  
REDGATE COUNTRY COTTAGES - 0457 216 582  
ROYAL HOTEL - 4168 1799

### \*ACCOUNTANTS - BUSINESS SERVICES

AKA ACCOUNTANTS - 4168 1422  
HOBBS & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD - 4168 5999  
QUINN & CO FINANCE BROKING - 0428 684 640  
MANY RIVERS - TIANI COOK - 0477 978 702  
BIEDO - 0400 695 456  
AMR BUSINESS SERVICES - 0428 681 276  
KINGDOM FINANCIAL - PH. 5482 9000  
BIA AUDITS - 0419 132 007

### \*AUTO SALES - SERVICE CENTRES

CLIFTON MOTORS- MITSUBISHI MOTORS - 4168 1066  
MURGON TYRES & MORE - 4168 1668  
MURGON OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT - 4168 1668

### \*AGRICULTURAL - RURAL - LIVESTOCK AGENTS

CARNEY'S FEED STORE - 4168 3866  
BARAMBAH MACHINERY - 4168 1718  
CHESHIRE MACHINERY - 4168 1411  
MURGON SAND & GRAVEL - 4168 2566  
SANDERS BOBCAT & MINI EXCAVATOR HIRE - 0418 786 007  
PRATT AGENCIES - 4168 2850  
WICKS & CO AGENCIES - 4168 1827  
ACROSS COUNTRY REAL ESTATE & LIVESTOCK - 4168 1600  
TEYS AUSTRALIA (Murgon) - 4168 2988  
SOUTH BURNETT LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE - 0427 580 732  
BIEDO - 0400 695 456

### \*BUS LINES - COACHES - TRAVEL

PURSERS COACHES - 4168 1533  
PURSERS TRAVEL & CRUISE - 4168 1533

### \*BUTCHERS

WILEY'S BUTCHERY - 0439 888 897

### \*CABINET MAKERS

HOOKE'S KITCHENS & CABINETS - 0416 232 955

### \*CAFES - COFFEE SHOPS - MEALS - CATERING

MURGON BAKERY - 4168 1314  
THE COFFEE BAR 4605 - 4169 5692  
BIG SAUSAGE FEST - 0410 641 577  
CAFE MURGON - 0424 280 289  
MURGON SERVICES CLUB - 4168 1819  
MOFFATDALE RIDGE WINES - 4168 4797  
ROYAL HOTEL - 4168 1799  
PIZZA PERFECTION - 4169 5383  
MURGON GOLF CLUB - 4168 1608  
THE GUMNUT PLACE - 4168 1852

### \*CAMPING & FISHING SUPPLIES

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LOVE STORY CELEBRATIONS - 0419 796 969

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### \*CLOTHING/FASHION STORES

MARK SMITH MENSWEAR - 4168 1355  
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GH CLOTHING CO. - 0493 223 423  
STRUDDYS SPORTS STORE - 4168 1055  
PRATT AGENCIES - 4168 2850

### \*COMPUTER SERVICES

CHAOS I.T. - 0490 787 452  
ALLROUND COMPUTER SERVICES - 0412 195 552

### \*COMMUNITY GROUPS - SERVICES

GRAHAM HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE - 4169 8400  
SOUTH BURNETT CTC INC. - 4162 9000  
MURGON RSL SUB-BRANCH - 4313 3018  
MURGON ROTARY CLUB - 0418 786 007  
MURGON SHOW SOCIETY - 0439 686 230  
MURGON MENS SHED - 0407 409 335  
MURGON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - 0418 887 323  
SOUTH BURNETT PCYC - 4168 1889  
BARAMBAH MINISTERS ASSOCIATION - 0499 775 022  
MURGON GOLF CLUB - 4168 1608  
OIC MURGON POLICE STATION - 4179 5222

### \*DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL ISSUES

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### \*DISABILITY NDIS SERVICE PROVIDERS

HUB COMMUNITY NETWORK INC. - 4168 3255  
JOBMATCH EMPLOYMENT - 4162 7200  
YOUR WAY SUPPORT SERVICES PTY LTD - 0467 348 285  
SOUTH BURNETT CTC SERVICES - 4162 9000

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P & P ELECTRICAL - 4168 3038  
ZISCHKE ELECTRICAL - 0429 487 732  
RAFFIN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS P/L - 4168 5518  
MURGON BETTA HOME LIVING - 4168 2200

### \*EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

JOBMATCH EMPLOYMENT - 4162 7200

### \*FINANCIAL SERVICES

QUINN & CO FINANCE BROKING - 0428 684 640  
ROSE CONSULTING & FINANCIAL SERVICES - 0411 637 003  
KINGDOM FINANCIAL - 5482 9000

### \*FISH HATCHERY

HANWOOD FISH HATCHERY - 4168 1558

### \*FUEL SUPPLIERS

COLLARDS FUEL SUPPLIES - 4168 1555

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MURGON FURNITURE ZONE - 4168 2200  
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MURGON HOME DÉCOR & GIFTS - 4168 3038  
MURGON POST OFFICE - 4168 1599  
ROBINSONS NEWS & GIFTS - 4168 1046  
MURGON MITRE 10 - 4168 1279  
MURGON AMCAL+ PHARMACY - 4168 1022

### \*GOVERNMENT MEMBERS – Local, State, Federal

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DEB FRECKLINGTON MP - 4190 7100  
LLEW O'BRIEN MP - 4121 2936

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 THE COUNTRY DENTIST - 4168 1540  
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 OLD MATE RURAL & REGIONAL INSURANCE - 0419 167 894

**\*LAUNDROMAT**

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 SOUTH BURNETT TODAY PTY LTD - 4182 0450  
 MURGON MOMENTS - 4168 1066  
 WWW.MURGON.NET.AU - 0427 231 852

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PEST OPTIONS - 0429 684 630

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 LIGHTNING TREE WINES - 0411 274 631  
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 LORRAINE GOODCHILD - 0427 231 852  
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**ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

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BIEDO MURGON	0400 695 456
BJELKE-PETERSEN DAM - YALLAKOOL	41684746
BOONDOOMBA DAM-TOURIST PARK	41689694
CASTRA RETIREMENT HOME	41681076
CENTACARE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	41625439
CR KATHY DUFF	41680225
CRIME STOPPERS	1800 333 000
DEB FRECKLINGTON MLA STATE MEMBER for NANANGO	41907100
DENTIST - MURGON	41681540
DISASTE site -	dashboard.southburnett.qld.gov.au
DOCTOR - MURGON	41682722
FISHWATCH HOTLINE	1800 017 116
GRAHAM HOUSE	41698400
HOSPITAL CHERBOURG	41698800
HOSPITAL MURGON	41699600
INFORMATION CENTRE MURGON	41899387
LEW O'BRIEN (FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WIDE BAY	1300 301 968
LIBRARY MURGON	41699018
MURGON MOMENTS EDITOR	0429 024 041
PARKS AND WILDLIFE (EPA)	1300 130 372
PHARMACY MURGON	41681022
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE	131126
POLICE LINK (TO REPORT NON URGENT INCIDENTS)	131444
POLICE CHERBOURG	41681166
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PROSTON INFORMATION CENTRE	41685652
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PURSERS BUSLINE	41681533
MURGON MUSEUM	41695001
RACQ	131111
SES MURGON	132500
SOUTH BURNETT CTC	41627788
SOUTH BURNETT PCYC MURGON	41681889
SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL	41899100
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 NEW MITSUBISHI QF PAJERO SPORT EXCEED 7 SEAT  
 NEW MITSUBISHI QF PAJERO SPORT EXCEED GSR  
 NEW MITSUBISHI MR TRITON GLX 4X2 DUAL CAB C/C  
 NEW MITSUBISHI MR TRITON GLX 4X2 SINGLE CAB C/C  
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Right now, you can get up to \$4,000 in added value on select 2023-build Mitsubishi vehicles. You're good to go adventuring with \$1,000 or \$2,000 fuel cards, as well as bonus towing packs on selected Triton and Pajero Sport models. We're stocked up so you're good to go.

SEE OUR FULL ADD PAGE 59

## QUALITY TESTED USED CARS



2018 MITSUBISHI MR TRITON MY19 GLX PLUS DUAL CAB  
 Turbo diesel, one log book owner, low kms, 4X4, auto, alloys, Bluetooth, forward collision mitigation system, lane departure, side steps, \$38,790 DRIVE AWAY



2018 MITSUBISHI MQ TRITON GLX 4X2 UTILITY  
 Turbo diesel, low kms, auto, log books, rad/cd, reverse camera, Bluetooth, tommy gate rear lift tail gate, 3000 kg tow capacity \$25,990 DRIVE AWAY



2015 NISSAN NAVARA D23 ST 4X4 DUAL CAB  
 Turbo/ diesel, auto, log books, air con, tow bar, alloys, uhf, side steps, hard lid, tub liner, electric brake unit, cruise control, rear sports bar, \$27,990 DRIVE AWAY



2018 NISSAN X TRAIL, SUV ST 2WD, SER 2 WAGON, 2.4 lit 4 cyl, auto, tow bar, air con, one log book owner, \$26,490 Drive Away



2016 FORD RANGER HI RIDE MK2 4X2 UTILITY  
 Tow bar, auto, air con, alloy tray, blue tooth, cruise control. \$25,990 Drive Away

2013 MITSUBISHI TRITON GLX DUAL CAB  
 4x4, Cruise control, 5sp manual, radio/cd, nudge bar, \$19,790 Drive Away



2018 MITSUBISHI ASX ES ADAS SUV WAGON  
 2.0 lit 4 cyl, tow bar, air con, auto, one log book owner, \$26,990 Drive Away

Large range of Toro ZERO turn & battery operated ride-on movers  
 Battery operated chainsaws, grass snipper, brush cutters and blowers  
 Stockist of blades, filters and belts to suit most models

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