



# MURGON MOMENTS

*"Within Community Comes Unity"*

1118 Lamb Street, Murgon 4605. P.O. Box 166, Ph (07) 41681066, Mob 0429 024 041

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# SOUTH BURNETT A BETTER PLACE THANKS TO STRONGER COMMUNITIES GRANTS

Three Murgon community organisations will share in more than \$26,000 for valuable projects in the South Burnett with funding through round three of the Stronger Communities Programme, Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien announced today.

Murgon Lions Club will receive \$13,662 to fit out a food van, allowing the organisation to provide food and water to the community during disaster recovery, as well as supporting community events.

Mr O'Brien said the grant will be used to purchase generators, gas bottles and utensils for the van. It will also cover sign-writing for the vehicle, which can be used as a Driver Reviver site in addition to attending regular community events and providing assistance in times of emergencies and disasters.

Graham House Community Centre will receive \$9,917 to purchase a new computer server, allowing it to continue its work assisting families affected by domestic violence and delivering family support services, as well as health and wellbeing events for the South Burnett community.

Mr O'Brien also confirmed the Queensland Dairy and Heritage Museum in Murgon will receive \$2,500 for new doors and

windows to weather-proof its barn, improving the comfort of tour groups and visitors as well as volunteers.

"With the diverse projects funded through this grant round, the region will benefit from improved community safety in times of natural disaster as well as safer, more alert drivers on local roads thanks to the new Lions food van; our region's most vulnerable people will be able to receive continued support through Graham House; and the Queensland Dairy Museum will offer increased cultural and tourism opportunities."

Plus : Goomeri and District Show Society will be able to turn up the heat for community events, with a \$16,362 grant to upgrade the kitchen and bar at Goomeri Showgrounds.

Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien said the grant would cover new benchtops, sinks, cupboards, a gas hot water system, a new cook top and oven, and a large new cold room, with funding provided through round three of the Stronger Communities Programme.

"The kitchen and bar are used by a wide range of community organisations in the Goomeri area, so the whole community will benefit throughout the year, not just at show-time," Mr O'Brien said.

"This funding means the kitchen will be better-equipped and safer for volunteers." "These community groups are providing valuable services to the community, and I am pleased to be able to support their good works," Mr O'Brien said.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Independence is something we all value and to have that taken away through not being able to go to the shops for groceries or to cook regular meals, should not be an obstacle to autonomy

We desperately need Volunteers to aid us with the delivery of Meals. All deliveries are done in pairs, in the meals on wheels car.

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## Applications open for wine grants to attract international visitors

Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien is urging local tourism operators, wineries, and cellar doors to join a new national effort to attract more international wine tourists to Australia.

Mr O'Brien encouraged local businesses to apply to the Australian Government's \$5 million International Wine Tourism Competitive Grants program and work together to develop unique and innovative wine tourism experiences in Wide Bay.

"Wide Bay has a small but notable wine industry, so this presents opportunities for local businesses to bolster their market share and grow their reputation," Mr O'Brien said.

"The grants will help fund programs to attract international tourists to the region with wine tourism marketing campaigns, wine events, infrastructure and innovative products.

"It is a great way to expand the Wide Bay's tourism reach and get the message out that there's more to the region than just world-class beaches, incredible natural hinterland areas and stunning heritage – we are also home to some truly excellent food and wine experiences."

Mr O'Brien said there is also \$5 million available through International Wine Tourism State Grants, which will provide the Wide Bay wine association with funding to invest in international wine tourism research, planning and implementation activities.

"Together, these grants enhance the wine tourism experiences of international visitors," Mr O'Brien said.

The grants are part of the Australian Government's \$50 million Export and Regional Wine Support Package over three-year strategy to increase the value of wine exports up to a record \$3.5 billion and attract an additional 40,000 international tourists to Australian wine regions.

They are administered by Wine Australia. For more information on how to apply, visit <http://erwsp.wineaustralia.com>. Applications close 5pm, Friday, 2 March 2018 ACDT.

## NATIONAL SENIORS

The first Coach Tour for 2018 is on January 18th, a Mystery trip pick up to Kingaroy. The next meeting at the Murgon Bowls club at 9.30 am is on February 15th 2018. Photo competition is Kangaroo. There will be a CPR training session after the meeting.

If you are having a transport problem coming on our coach trips or attending meetings please mention same when making a booking with Paula.

For further information contact Paula ( President ) on (07) 41683114

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January 27	Mamma Mia Musical
February 10	Mrs Brown's Boys
February 10	Noosa Sur'n Turf River Cruise
February 11	Craft Alive Toowoomba
February 15	Anhdo Brologa Theatre
March 3	Aladdin Musical

### TOURS

Cherry Blossoms Japan - March 2018  
Norfolk Island Anzac Tour - April 2018  
Longreach & Winton - June 2018  
Canada Alasks - September 2018

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## ROTARY NEWS

The Rotary Club of Murgon would sincerely like to thank the businesses, community and visiting patrons for their support of our recent successful Murgon Music Muster. Thanks to you all, we have been able to donate to the Murgon Palliative Care Unit to purchase a new alternating air mattress and a special chair; plus make a substantial donation to HeartKids.

We would also like to thank you for your support of our Ham Wheel at the Murgon Christmas Fair and both our major Christmas raffle and the St George Football Shirt raffle. The winners of those raffles are as follows :

Stand Up Paddle Board :	Karen Bond
Inflatable Party Island :	Des Kuss
Coleman 58L Esky :	Theresa Holding
2 Children's Fishing Rods :	Ebony Wessling
2 Children's Camp Chairs :	Brandon Jones
2 Children's Life Jackets :	Trent Cluff
St George Football Shirt :	Jonathan Berlin

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## UPDATE ON RECENT LOCAL WEATHER EVENTS

Council has been working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), State agencies and community groups to gather detailed information to help assess damage and impact the recent storms have had on our local community and industries.

Based on the information provided to date, Council has determined, after reviewing the criteria set by Natural Disaster Relief & Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), that the threshold for the activation has not been met for this event.

Although Council has not been successful in meeting these criteria, other forms of assistance may be available from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). Where a primary producer is in an area not activated for NDRRA assistance, but has suffered significant damage from a natural disaster, they are able to apply for an Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration. To obtain an IDSP declaration, please contact DAF on 13 25 23 to arrange an IDSP inspection by a DAF officer.

"It is unfortunate that our circumstances have not triggered financial assistance under the Commonwealth NDRRA guidelines, however I encourage affected residents to make contact with Council to discuss other assistance that may be available to them." said Mayor Keith Campbell.

Council has held meetings to determine local agency support for affected residents in the region who need assistance. Council will continue to work alongside impacted communities to understand the full extent of the impact of recent events.

Council will be coordinating a network support agency response and will continue to meet with social and community support networks in the coming weeks. Further information will be provided as it comes to hand and any residents that are seeking personal hardship assistance should contact Council on (07) 4189 9100.



Cartoon by Tony Turton

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# LIVESTOCK BREEDING AND GENETICS FORUM

You are invited to attend Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) Livestock Breeding and Genetics Forum, taking place in Brisbane on 21 February 2018.

Technology, data, adoption and linking genetics to the prediction of consumer outcomes will be the focus of the forum.

Organised by MLA, the free, one-day forum is part of an important stakeholder engagement initiative of the National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) and is open for all industry participants to attend. The NLGC was established in October 2016 with the goal of delivering \$400 million in industry improvements by doubling the rate of annual genetic gain in the commercial livestock industry value chain by 2022.

The forum is also designed to provide participants with an update of the latest genetics research and development investments and most importantly seek collaboration around livestock genetics adoption and gather feedback on future investment priorities via an interactive workshop.

The forum will see key speakers from research organisations and the value chain cover topics across:

Disruptive technology: Tom Bull, Prof. Ben Hayes and Dr Rob Banks

Accessible data platform: Andrew Skinner, Dr Rod Polkinghorne and Andrew Cooke

Linking genetics to the end product and consumer: Jason Strong, Tom Maguire and Dr Alex Ball

Culture change and adoption: Ass. Prof. Ruth Nettle, MLA's David Packer and Dr Sam Bucculo.

The Livestock Breeding and Genetics Forum will be held on 21 February, from 8.30am to 5pm AEST at Hall C, Royal International Convention Centre, 600 Gregory Terrace, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, also known as the Ekka grounds.

The event is free, but registration is essential for catering purposes.

To register for the forum, 0294639333, 1800023100

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## MURGON Real Estate

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Auction - 9th December 2017 on site 28 Jones Street, Goomeri at 10.00am. Situated on approximately 1/4 acre this church has been carefully converted and extended to a comfortable 4 bedroom home. 2 way en-suite from main bedroom. Separate family bathroom. Some original features have been maintained. Timber polished floors, large open plan living, built in kitchen plus separate dining room. Rear deck. Lockable 2 bay garage with concrete floor plus a carport to the side. The back yard is fully fenced.



Auction - 9th December 2017 on site 7 MacTaggart Street, Goomeri at 10.30am on approx 1/4 acre, this solid Queenslander is now offered for sale by public auction. All tongue and groove internal walls, high ceilings. 2 good sized bedrooms, living with separate dining area plus large built in eat in kitchen. Bathroom contains a shower and vanity, toilet is separate. Enclosed L shaped verandah to the front and one side of the house. A single open garage has a small lockable area to the side. The house will be sold in as is where is condition.



Presented to the highest standard this 3 bedroom home represents excellent value. 2 rooms have built in robes, the main bedroom has an air con as is the lounge. The modern kitchen and extends into the dining area. Modern bathroom with shower and toilet. New floor coverings and paintwork throughout. The gardens are immaculate. Double lock up & a nice covered entertaining area. Garden shed, chook pen and bird aviary. Town and tank water. This lovely home sits on solid concrete stumps. Well fenced and private. \$159,000 negotiable.



3 bedrooms, air con living room plus wood fire. Large eat in built in kitchen with walk in pantry. Large laundry store area plus family rumpus room. Enclosed under for car plus storage. Single carport at front plus carport at rear. Corner position, fully and well fenced. Screened. Front deck. Rental potential \$250 pwk - \$160,000

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Rita Mary Smith was born on the 12 th day of October 1932 in Dalby hospital. She was the first child to John Vincent and Beatrice Smith. Her brother John was born in 1936 and her sister Moyà in 1940. Her father was a Dairy Inspector with the DPI and the family moved to Murgon and lived in Watt Street Murgon. Rita commenced her schooling at St Joseph's Convent in 1937 where she was a foundation student. She excelled not only academically but also musically, and this is where her love of music developed. On leaving School she was employed as an office clerk with the Murgon Shire Council. By 1948 at the tender age of 16 Rita obtained the distinction of Associate in Music - Pianoforte from the Australian Music Examinations Board. In 1950 aged 18 Rita then received her Trinity College of Music London Associate in Pianoforte. These 2 diplomas are a testament to her marvelous musical ability. In the late 50's Rita & her brother John formed a dance band called the Hi-Lites who were very popular at many of the local social events. In 1957 along came Earl Pratt and a relationship began which was to last for the next 57 years. They were married in St Joseph's Church on the 14th of May 1960. They built their new home in Harm Street and moved in after they completed their 6 week caravanning honeymoon. Their first child Paul was born in 1965 and then Helen followed in 1970. As the children did their schooling at St Joseph's Murgon and then St Mary's Kingaroy, Rita was heavily involved with both Church and School activities in both Parish's.



Rita over the years received many accolades and awards for her service to both the Church & the Community. These awards included An Apostolic Blessing from the Pope for 60 years service as a Church Organist, The Australia Day Cultural Award in 1996 just to mention a couple. Who can forget when she played the piano for 24 hours straight to raise money for the new Catholic hall. Rita was an active member of the School P & F and the Catholic Women's League.

Family was first for Rita. To see her children marry, and have 5 Grandchildren and 1 great grandchild gave her never ending joy. Illness nearly took her from us in 2003 but her determination and strength gave us another wonderful 14 years with her. Rita loved her holidays with the family, whether it was caravanning or enjoying the view from the unit at kings beach.

Rita Mary Pratt loving wife, sister, Aunty, dedicated mother, devoted grandmother and great grandmother. To all who were privileged to have known Rita I am sure many things come to mind when we look back on her life. She was one of the most talented pianists that we as a community have ever known. She lived for music and her love of music was spread over decades from dance and jazz bands, church and school functions, Eisteddfods and weddings. She brought joy and love into others lives through her playing . One of Rita's favorite musicians was Andre Rieu (we think she had more CD's then he actually released). He always said you make music to make people happy. Her sense of humor and strong will kept everyone on their toes until the very end. This was Rita Pratt

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## **The New Year will suddenly appear on the horizon**

The Boarding of Flight 2018, has been announced.....

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The bad and sad moments should be left in the garbage. The duration of the flight will be 12 months.

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Wishing You and Yours, An enjoyable trip. On board Flight 2018

May this be a joyous and healthy New Year!!

*Courtesy John and Rhonda, but let it apply to everyone.*

## SUPPLIES TO RISE BUT QUEENSLAND WET SEASON WILL WEIGH IN



Slaughter cattle supplies are forecast to increase in 2018 – in fact, supplies have arguably improved since mid-2017. Nevertheless, the amount of cattle that came through to slaughter between 2013 and 2015 will not occur for a number of years because the herd is not there to liquidate and numbers will continue to be limited by the ongoing rebuild.

However, the success of the Queensland wet season will set the stage for the year ahead and will heavily influence supply and price expectations. The state, which hosts about half the beef herd, has not had a substantial wet season since 2011–12 and will be thirsty for cattle if this summer is successful. While late in the year, the Bureau of Meteorology have recently declared a *La Niña* and the three-month rainfall outlook is largely neutral.

The Queensland restockers may enter the market in force in 2018 if feed supplies allow them; however, young cattle are already close to the historical maximum premium to finished cattle. A widespread break in Queensland may pull both young and finished cattle higher, again potentially placing Australia out of whack with global competitors.

MLA releases its full cattle projections for 2018 in January – more news to follow in the new year.

Courtesy MLA Meat & Livestock Association.

**First 2018 Murgon Cattle Sale Tuesday 16th January 8.00am**

### Murgon Hospital Christmas Raffle Winners

1st Prize: Ivana Fuller - Ticket - number Z 66

2nd Prize : Gloria Berry - Ticket - number C 57

3rd Prize : Leanne Rea - Ticket - number Z 34

4th Prize - S. Beddows - Ticket - number E12

5th Prize - Darylee - Ticket - number B11

6th Prize - Brianna - Ticket - number Y47

7th Prize - Ludy Benecke - Ticket - number C 17

8th Prize - M. Polzin - Ticket - number Y 86

Thank you to all the ticket sellers and for the wonderful public support, and to Brenda and Ivan Rewald for transporting the prizes. We hope you have had a Happy Christmas.

Heather Purser Hon Sec

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## Thank-you!

With the State election results confirmed, I would like to thank you, the members of the Nanango Electorate, for putting your faith in me to continue as your representative in the State Parliament. I am humbled by the election results for our Electorate and I will continue to fight for our fair share in our region. And if you didn't vote for me, I respect and value that our democracy allows differences of opinions. I hope that I can earn your trust during the next term and would welcome your feedback at any time. I would also like to acknowledge the volunteers, friends and family who have done so much over the past weeks and months to support myself and the LNP.

It has also been an honour to have been elected as leader of the Liberal National Party in Queensland. This position will enable me to promote our region to a level that hasn't been possible for many years. It will put our area on the map and allow strong representation on our local issues. I'm now looking forward to getting on with the job and continuing to represent this wonderful region. My passion and commitment to keep working hard for our community is as strong as ever and I hope to see you out and about on my travels around the Nanango Electorate.

### Get Involved - Grants,

- Qld Ag Training Colleges - Gap Year 2018
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**Deb Frecklington Member for Nanango**

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## FEBRUARY 2018 BOONDOOMA DAM FISHING COMPETITION

Boondooma Dam Yellowbelly Fishing Competition spokesman Terry Allwood says that with the lake fishing extremely well the 2018 event should set new records in both the long standing gilled and gutted section, as well as in the catch and release component. Cash and other prizes will be presented at the end of each of the three sessions as well as overall competition winners at the conclusion of the event.

Profits from the event are used to supplement fishing permit funds from the Queensland Government and to date approximately 5 million fingerlings have been stocked into Lake Boondooma.

The catch and release category targeting Australian Bass and Yellowbelly is open to all anglers who nominate. This category has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of Stanwell and Swickers bacon factory.

The annual competition will be held on 10 and 11 February 2018. Entry costs for the February event will be \$20 for adults and \$5 for juniors aged 16 years and under.

The ongoing support of our many generous sponsors will ensure that a wide range of prizes and lucky draws are available for all competitors including a Boat ,Motor, Trailer package. Lucky draws are held at the end of each fishing session and at the Friday night briefing. All presentations and lucky draws are conducted at the event headquarters at the stocking association clubhouse.

Food and drinks stalls will be provided by local community groups over the weekend and the great camping facilities provided by the South Burnett Regional Council will be available for campers staying at the lake.

The cost of camping fees and details of accommodation options at the lake can be found at website [www.southburnett.qld.gov.au](http://www.southburnett.qld.gov.au) or by ringing the Lake Boondooma Kiosk on (07) 4168 9694.

Additional information on the local area and past fishing competitions can be found on the Proston Online website, [www.prostononline.info](http://www.prostononline.info) . Please join us at Lake Boondooma for a family weekend of fishing and camping. For additional information please contact Terry Allwood on mobile 0400 860122.



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A cartoon illustration of a pink pig standing in a white hydrobath filled with pink bubbles. A red and white striped candle is in the bath.

## HANCOCK PROSPECTING PTY LTD 2017 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

This year's South Burnett Champion is Wondai local Kath Kennedy from 40 Amaroo Drive, Wondai. Kath and her family have won a trip to Singapore for two (2) adults and two (2) children valued at \$15,000.

South Burnett Champion Runner Up is David & Linda Marskell from 14 Cowie Drive, Kingaroy who have also won a trip to Singapore for two (2) adults and two (2) children valued at \$10,000.

Mayor Keith Campbell contacted both major prize winners yesterday to advise them of their win.

"This year's winning families have been putting up Christmas light displays every year and for them it's about the joy it brings to children and families when they visit." said Mayor Campbell. "I want to congratulate not just the winners but everyone who entered and thank you for making the time and effort to put up such wonderful displays."

The many sparkling displays will make for a very merry Christmas.

All prizes have been generously donated by Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd

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## RSL Community Dinner

Following the very successful RSL Community Dinners held throughout 2017 which included a free raffle and door ticket plus light entertainment we are again in the setting of our next Community Dinner to be held on 8th February but bookings must be made by 20th January with Frank Reeve ph 41682234 or 0427682234. Over 112 people attended our last one in December and enjoyed being entertained by Tom McKenzie and his sax.

### DONATION OF “DEAKON THE DRAGON IS SAD” BOOKS

Recently Councillor Danita Potter together with local author Karen Russell presented the South Burnett Regional Council Libraries with six (6) copies of the children’s book “Deakon the Dragon is Sad”. As part of the Partners in Recovery initiative which focuses on improving outcomes for people within the community who experience persistent mental illness, these books will be made available at each branch of the South Burnett Libraries.

The book covers depression and bullying by sharing Deakon the Dragon’s story of sadness, bullying and isolation with Deakon eventually finding comfort in his family and friends, who encourage him to find happiness once again.

“The availability of this book through our libraries is extremely beneficial and the book has already received positive feedback from the community” said Cr Potter.

**Deb FRECKLINGTON MP**  
LNP Member for **Nanango**

Working for the South Burnett

Authorised by L.Folo, 66-68 Bowen Street, Spring Hill QLD 4000.

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Government CCB/CCR available for all eligible families!

# State Funeral Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen

11th August 1920 – 20th December 2017



Following the passing of Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen, a State Funeral to commemorate her life and contribution to Queensland was held at the Kingaroy Town Hall on Thursday 4 January 2018.

Distinguished mourners included Group Captain Simon Sauer AM CSC, Honourary Aide-de-Camp representing the Governor-General. The Honourable Malcom Turnbull MP – Prime Minister of Australia, The Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP - Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, Queensland Premier - Anastacia Palaszczuk, One Nation Leader Pauline Hanson, Member for Kennedy Bob Katter, Opposition Leader Deb Frecklington, South Burnett Mayor Keith Campbell, former Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and former Kingaroy Mayor Roger Nunn, Member for Maranoa David Littleproud, former Premier Rob Borbidge, Member for Gympie Trevor Perrett, former Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg, Member for Gold Coast David Crisafulli, Senator Bridget McKenzie, Senator Matt Canavan and Senator James McGrath, former Member for Callide Jeff Seeney, Former Senator Bill O'Chee, Lawyer and academic Noel Pearson, South Burnett Deputy Mayor Kathy Duff and all our local Councilors, Margaret Gilmour, a much-loved younger sister of Lady Bjelke-Petersen plus many more,

## Obituary: Lady Florence Isabel Bjelke-Petersen (nee Gilmour)

Read by her children Ruth Cummins, Helen Folker, John Bjelke-Petersen, and Meg Noak



### Ruth Cummins

Lady Florence Isabel Bjelke-Petersen nee Gilmour (more affectionately known to us all as ..... \

Lady Flo) was born 11th August, 1920 to James and Florence Gilmour. She was the eldest of two children and was baptised in the Anglican church in Brisbane.

Flo spent her childhood and teenage years growing up in the inner city suburb of New Farm, Brisbane. She grew up in a loving family alongside her younger sister and lifelong friend Margaret. She attended New Farm State School throughout her primary years, before completing her classical junior education at the Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Having lived through the hard years of the depression, Florence and James Gilmour were determined that Florence would gain all the skills necessary to ensure secure employment. Consequently, she was transferred to State Commercial High. Showing the focus and determination that would serve her so well throughout her life, she

managed to complete a two year course in only one year, whilst achieving scores that ranked her 29th in the entire state. This qualified her to enter Queensland Public Service, and after a very short career in the private sector, Florence was called up to work as a clerk typist in the Main Roads Department.

During this period, Florence was also an active member of the local Fortitude Valley Presbyterian Church Fellowship for a period as secretary of Queensland. In her late teens, she also learned to play the pipe organ at the Fortitude Valley Presbyterian Church, and her passion for music subsequently flourished. She would continue to play the organ in church with great enthusiasm for the entirety of her life.

As World War 11 loomed, along with the direct threat to Australia, Flo joined the Civil Defence Organisation and learnt first aid. The threat for Brisbane was very real and the Gilmours built an air-raid shelter in the ground below the family home. During these years Flo was required to take up a first aid post in Brisbane city in the evenings.

The one time the family fled to their back yard air raid shelter, Flo was manning her First Aid post at the time.

Flo's youthful efficiency and personable style led to rapid advancement in the Main Roads where she achieved one of the top roles for women at the time; private secretary to the Main Roads Commissioner.



### **Helen Folker**

As a strong go getter in her role as secretary, she soon caught the attention of a rising back bencher in the opposition, one Johannes Bjelke-Petersen who was part of a deputation about roads in his electorate of Nanango. Their first date was a dinner-date in the parliament dining rooms-much to the amusement of Joh's fellow members of parliament. Flo was not deterred. Romance blossomed and Florence Isabel Gilmour became Florence Isobel Bjelke-Petersen on May 31, 1952.

Their marriage was a happy one, blessed with four children, Margaret born in 1953, John born 1956, Helen born 1958 and Ruth in 1960. As we were growing up, journalists would occasionally ask us what it was like to grow up with such a strong personality leading the household. Usually they were referring to Joh! They didn't appreciate that it was Flo who was the firm, strong leader at home!

Alongside the daunting challenges of raising four children, Flo made a series of significant adjustments to her life at this time; from inner-city living to rural Queensland, from public servant to wife of a politician, and from Presbyterian she adopted her husband's Lutheran denomination. Willingly she committed herself to this new life and all associated challenges. During these whirlwind years of change, she mastered such skills as driving a motor car, milking a cow and even dropping bulldozer parts from a moving aeroplane!

Through it all, Flo remained a steadfast and loving head of the household, always ensuring that there was time for daily bible reading and prayer and that her children focused on their family commitments, farmyard chores and classroom learning.

Flo also discovered that a part of her new life involved public speaking. Her first speaking invitation proved a personal watershed moment, and became a tale she later told often. She asked Joh about the request that had come her way and his reply concerning the request was "You've got to go." For the rest of her life she would recount that she had indeed gone, and been going ever since! Her life as a strong advocate and spokeswoman for Queensland had begun.

Life rapidly became busier when Joh became a cabinet minister in 1963, and then Queensland Premier in 1968. Flo would travel by dad's side and meet with different women's organizations such as the women's section of the National Party and Country Women's Association. She would utilize her shorthand and typing skills to make notes and prepare documents that would ensure the voices of country Queensland women were heard clearly. Indeed, she was an unofficial and respected Women's Advocate for Rural Australia for many, many years.

During the period when Joh was Premier, she also took an increasingly active role in the local community. She was patron of various local organizations such as the Endeavour Foundation and the Kingaroy Eisteddfod. Being patron meant being involved. Flo actively supported both state and private schools in town, attending Kingaroy High School Speech Night faithfully for forty years (and over thirty years of Year 10 Certificate presentations). It got to the point where, at public events where both Flo and Joh were present, Joh was welcomed as the Premier and Flo was welcomed as the Local Member!

Over the years, the family home at Bethany in Kingaroy became an unofficial electoral office. Flo extended hospitality to all, and her cooking skills steadily became legendary. The family fondly remembers a whole cupboard full of recipe books-many hand written-as she developed her homely style of country cooking. They especially remember her Sunday lamb roast (popped in the oven straight after church and her own mother's shortbread recipe.

Despite Flo's broader culinary range, her family pumpkin scone recipe grew to particular fame after very positive and public remarks from the visiting Prince of Wales. Warm plates of home cooked scones subsequently became very useful in bringing together people of staunchly different points of view from all sections of politics, society and the media. The scones were finally immortalized in Australian culinary history by Mem Fox's award winning picture book, Possum Magic. As Flo always said, "Scones help me relate to the women who make them and the men who eat them."

Always in Bethany, the truest ingredient of the B-P home was Flo's love, care and the vibrant Christian faith that she modeled and shared at every opportunity until the very end.



### **John Bjelke-Petersen**

In the lead up to the 1981 elections Flo's name was put forward to lead the National Party's senate ticket. Some voices were worried that she would be little more than Joh's mouthpiece in Canberra, but these people clearly did not know Flo well. Whilst Flo and Joh certainly held similar values, everyone quickly discovered Flo was a worthy politician in her own right, with a strong and independent mind of her own.

She bravely crossed the floor against the Government she was part of, if she believed the legislation of the day was not in Queensland's best interests and later recounted how much trouble this had landed her in. Never one to shy away from a challenge, she later repeated this brave act. In later years, through personal and family challenges, Flo independently chose to remain a life-long member of the National Party and the LNP.

Flo understood and demonstrated that politics was ultimately about people and values. Her ability to remember people's names and their circumstances across the breadth of Queensland was a remarkable demonstration of this commitment. Her children will regularly hear people

tell stories about how Flo was able to call them by name in various locations across the breadth of the state and country. On overseas parliamentary trips, Flo won the full respect of opposition members who accompanied her. She also won the loyal support of her dedicated office staff, who took her to lunch every year on her birthday until she was no longer able to travel to Brisbane.

Family remained a very meaningful part of her life, and her relationship with her sister Margaret remained close over these years as well. They travelled together to a number of different countries, taking particular joy in exploring their roots in Britain and re-connecting with distant family members. Throughout their lives they would make the time to speak daily and meet regularly.

When Flo retired from politics, she continued to be active in the local community. She continued to play the organ for church and also the senior citizens of Orana and Cannowindra. In fact, she was still playing the organ as recently as three weeks before her passing.

The growth of her family was also a source of joy for Flo. As her children gave her grandchildren and then great-grandchildren, she always took an interest in their lives and found time to share with all of them. In the words of her grandchildren, she provided them with a sure home and a warm heart, with inspiration, care and family values. She showed them the importance of sharing, compassion and love with everyone, no matter their background. For these shared moments and her great example, they are deeply thankful.

These moments of love and care came amidst increasingly challenging years. Firstly, Joh's trial and then his illness placed great stress upon the family. However, through all the storms that life threw at the family, the earnest nature of Flo's faith and love for her family provided a steadfast beacon that gave us great comfort and strength.

Finally limited to a far slower travel regime, Flo particularly enjoyed receiving busloads of people from around Queensland and beyond coming to visit Bethany. She set out her table to sell recipe books-and of course delighted in making her pumpkin scones for guests to enjoy. But most of all, she enjoyed the conversations of visitors from all around Australia and people from all walks of life! After a lifetime of visiting people in their local communities, people were now coming to visit her at her Kingaroy property, Bethany!



### **Meg Noak**

After a long and loving marriage, Joh passed away in 2005 after a long and incapacitating struggle. In the years following his passing, Bethany remained home with a warm and loving heart, as her family rallied around. Throughout these years nothing brought her more joy than news from her family, whether they were grandchildren abroad, her sister calling daily, or her family who dropped in for an afternoon cuppa!

As Flo grew older however, she slowly started losing the independence that she valued so much. In her mid 90's after the loss of her licence, and due to other health concerns she took up residence in Orana Lutheran Rest Home.

As always in her life, she faced these changing and challenging circumstances with her trademark energy, cheerfulness and resolve. Following one of her lifelong hobbies, she played scrabble regularly and attended the bible study group at Orana. Flo also frequently led mealtime

grace and continued to play the chapel organ in church services right up until the final weeks of her life. Right until the end, her positive enthusiasm endeared her to all her friends, family and carers and we wish to especially thank her Orana community and Dr Isabelle for their love and care towards Mum in these later years.

Throughout her life, Flo proved herself to be a cheerful, caring and tireless worker, freely giving of herself to those around. She was a true woman of strength, centred around her faith, her family, and her community. Her leadership and care, proven so often in her public life, was brought to bear when it mattered most in her own home, and will all forever be grateful.

After just 10 days in ill health, Florence Isobel Bjelke-Petersen passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Wednesday afternoon, December 20, 2017. Mum is survived by her younger sister, Margaret Gilmour, her children Meg, John, Helen and Ruth, her 14 grandchildren and 12 1/2 great grandchildren. She was a much loved M1L. (mother-in-law) to Noel, Karyn, Lester and John.

To us all she will forever remain our Lady Flo, Granny and Great-granny and sister, a woman who left an indelible mark on Queensland and her family and demonstrated a lifelong commitment of serving others. Florence Isobel Bjelke-Petersen – rest in the arms of our Saviour, Jesus. Rest in peace, Lady Flo.



# Murgon Neighbourhood Watch Lock it or Lose It !

# FRESHWATER FESTIVE FISHING IN THE SOUTH BURNETT

The festive season is a great time of year to be outdoors with family and friends and It's also the best time of year to be on the water as the temps are hot, beers are cold and the fishing is accessible to every angler of any ability. If you haven't been out yet, make sure you start planning your next trip because this time of year is the best chance to get yourself onto some trophy size native fish from Lake Barambah and Boondooma.

## Lake Barambah

BP dam has been very consistent over the last two months, producing good numbers of fish of varying species and sizes. The fish are in great quantity but it just takes a bit of moving around to put yourself onto some quality. Areas to target are the deeper water out the front of the dam wall, wide of bass point and off any main dam points that hold deeper water of about 20ft. The fish have been sitting in the 15 to 20 ft mark and on the bottom in the same zone. I've been catching the majority of fish using a 1/2 ounce rigged plastic, with the same method as explained for Boondooma. Also heavier spinnerbait's and Chatterbaits have been working well on the bigger fish when your focussing on the reaction bite.



A nice bass caught slow rolling a Green 1/2 ounce Bassman Spinnerbait

Some big Yellow belly are being caught, but they have been a bit quiet. The key to catching a few Golden's when its quiet, is to focus on fishing the bottom or the many weed banks that encompass the dam. In this case, tie on a blade and hop it gently off the bottom or out of the weed. The Yellow belly are a real sucker for a hopped blade and it won't take long to catch a few fish using this technique. The smaller Bass also don't mind this technique but it won't be long and you'll be in contact with some nice fat Golden Perch.

If you don't have a boat, try walking the edges of the dam throwing hard bodies. Can be a very effective way of catching some nice natives.

Trollers are getting good bags of fish trolling 5/8 Bassman spinnerbaits and deep diving hard bodies. Areas to target are the deep water around in front of the dam wall, Bass point, around Lightening ridge and around any prominent points.

Bait fisherman are catching plenty of fish just wide of the steeper rocky banks. Don't try and head up the back of the dam as the water levels are low and you will get stuck in the mud.

Redclaw are about and are coming from the steeper banks with scattered timber.

## Boondooma

Over the past couple of months, the fish have moved into the thermocline and are a real target for our avid trollers. The 15 to 25 foot zone is where you will find them when you're out in search of some fish. The most



productive areas on the dam are the deeper sections of water around the dam wall and the Buoy line. The most productive bite time is from lunch time through until dark when the day is at its hottest.

The key to finding a good school is using your electronics to slowly sound over likely areas. If you don't have a sounder tie on a couple of deep divers or a 5/8 spinnerbait and start trolling. If you get a bite or fish, troll around the area that you had the action. Remember to be patient when looking for fish, as it may take a while to locate them if you're not familiar with the dam.

Sam and Ernie Bushell with a couple cracking bass caught casting near the wall at Boondooma.

Lately i've been catching my best quality fish

suspended in deep water. They have been sitting in the thermocline at 15 to 20 feet. I target these fish using a variety of baits, initially starting with a soft bait, a 1/2 ounce rigged soft plastic. I cast this out and begin counting to 7 seconds to let the lure sink into the strike zone. When the plastic is down to the desired depth I then start a slow roll and add a few twitches every now and then to change the swimming pattern, as the plastic glides through the water. Continue this until you get bites, but keep rolling the plastic until you get a solid hook up. If this method doesn't work, don't be afraid to change your lure until you are happy.

The Bass can be fussy when it comes to feeding when they are suspended in the column. I like to try plastics first and then move to a reaction bait. My preferred reaction baits for summer suspended fish are 12 to 20 gram spoons, spoons like the Norries Wasabi, Halco Twistie or Palms slow blatt are all great spoons for catching suspended fish in Boondooma.

With these lures, make a long cast and let the lure sink down 5 to 10 seconds. Once the lure is down in the zone, start a fairly rapid retrieve with a few twitches every now and then. This is where the fish are forced to either ignore the lure or react out of instinct to bite as the bait zooms past. It's a very effective method, with Bass well over the 50 mark regularly hitting the deck.

Trollers are catching some really nice fish using deep diving hard bodies and 5/8 Bassman spinnerbaits around the same areas as I mentioned earlier. The key is to be patient.

Bait fisherman are catching some good numbers of Bass and Yellow belly using live shrimp caught from the dam. Try to anchor over prominent points in the dam in 15 to 20 feet and also try the timbered sections of the dam.

Red claw have been a little slow but drop your pots around the rocky banks of the dam and also just wide of the weed beds.

## **Make sure you book your camp site for the 2018 Boondooma Dam, Yellowbelly fishing comp being held on the 10th and 11th of February.**

\$20 entry for adults and \$5 for juniors (16 years and under). There are live and dead weight divisions with prizes for Bass, Yellow belly, Silver and Spangled perch. There are thousands of dollars' worth of prizes up for grabs, with food and drinks available at the event. It's one comp you don't want to miss. Call Lake Boondooma

kiosk to make a camp site booking on (07) 4168 9694.

If you'd like to keep in regular contact with what's happening on the dams don't forget to like the Yallakool and Boondooma dams Facebook pages.

On a final note, I have just started up my fishing charter business on BP and Boondooma dams. If you'd like a great day out and all the info and knowledge to catch Bass or Yellow belly in our two great dams make sure you give me, Matthew Langford a call on 0408658592 and I'll be happy to take you out for a great days fishing.

***Until next month, tight lines and bend rods***

***Matthew Langford.***



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**IT ALL  
STARTS  
HERE** →



**South Burnett**

**PH: 4168 1889**



PCYC South Burnett was approached by Micaela Conroy to provide assistance to the local community for those families that may be doing things a little tougher this Christmas. Along with Bernie Thomsen and Jacinta Coman they made the trek from Brisbane to provide much needed assistance for those outside the Brisbane area. With the generous support, kindness and generosity of the **Lady Cilento Children's Hospital Community**, the PCYC and local community members were able to deliver a substantial amount of cheer to the local community.

Some of the recipients included families in the Proston, Cloyna and Wheatlands areas and organisations such as the Cherbourg Indigenous Knowledge Centre for use of whole community, Gundoo Child Care Centre and the vulnerable persons located at Men's and Women's Shelters.

I would also like to acknowledge Kate Tallar and, Pat and Al Eagleson for their assistance in identifying families and assisting with the distribution throughout the rural locations.

Rod Gelderblom

Proston, Thank you so much for the toys that were passed to us. They were dispersed to those highly in need. I was contacted by Rod Gelderblom initially. I then contacted District Nurse Kathy Crane to help. I also enlisted Secret Santa of girls and boys in the area also came via previous Acting Deputy Katrina Hayward from Proston P-10. Katrina, myself and my daughter set about wrapping the presents and organising into family groups. I delivered some to the farms and houses myself. One man nearly cried at the sight of presents for his 4 young children.

Those gifts sure made so many people happy. They made us feel happy to pass the gift to those in need.

Thank you for spreading the cheer to Proston. The school meeting room was used to organise the gifts.

**Kate Tallar**

## Japan - Some interesting facts.

- \* Hiroshima has returned to what it was economically before the atomic bomb was dropped.
- \* Japan prevents the use of mobile phones in trains, restaurants and indoors.
- \* For first to sixth primary year Japanese students must learn ethics in dealing with people.
- \* Even though one of the richest people in the world, the Japanese do not have servants. The parents are responsible for the house and children.
- \* here is no examination from the first to the third primary level because the goal of education is to instill concepts and character building.
- \* If you go to a buffet restaurant in Japan you will notice people only eat as much as they need without any waste because food must not be wasted.
- \* The rate of delayed trains in Japan is about 7 seconds per year!!

The Japanese appreciate the value of time and are very punctual to minutes and seconds.

- \* Children in schools brush their teeth (sterile) and clean their teeth after a meal at school, teaching them to maintain their health from an early age.
- \* Japanese students take half an hour to finish their meals to ensure proper digestion because these students are the future of Japan.

The Japanese focus on maintaining their culture.

**The Japanese might have lost the war, but they are in charge of their own country.**

There are no bombs going off in crowded business centers, **"Honor Killings"**, nor killing of innocent children or anyone else.

*Larry.*

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## Across Country Real Estate & Livestock



This lovely block is situated in Goomeri on 3806sqm. Featuring beautiful mountain views. Power and water are accessible and 3 sides are fully fenced. **\$49,000**



This home was well established as a B&B. It features 3 spacious bedrooms, polished original pine floors, french doors which lead out onto verandahs, perfectly manicured yard with established gardens and topiary trees, double bay shed, brand new white PVC front fence and freshly painted outside. This truly wonderful home which has been very well cared for is on a very spacious 1768 sqm block of land, within walking distance to the town area. **\$195,000**



This high set 2 bedroom home with office is situated at Covertly on 39.74 acres. Lounge is air-conditioned and has sliding doors leading onto the verandah with great views. Large eat in kitchen as well as main dining area. Underneath is all cemented including cement stumps as well as a container for storage. There are 11 solar panels and the house area is fully sheep fenced as is the property. It can easily be self-sufficient with a large greenhouse which is set up with water from 1 of the 2 dams. 5 fully fenced paddocks for holding sheep, as well as yards and a cattle crush. There are 7 tanks that hold 40,000 liters plus 5000 liters for pumps on the dam. **\$279,000**



Set on a large 1393 sqm block is this fully renovated home with a lovely in ground swimming pool. Renovations have captured the uniqueness of the home. Lovely timber features throughout from the polished floors, classic bathroom and a solid timber kitchen built for entertaining. There is a fireplace & air-con in the center of the home. 3 bedrooms two with built-ins plus a sleep out/office that could also be used as a bedroom. Relax around the pool or watch the kids playing in the huge backyard with cubby house and sandpit.

**\$279,000 -REDUCED**

## Across Country Real Estate & Livestock

86 Lamb Street, Murgon Qld 4605. P.O.Box 377

Ph: 0741681600, Fax: 0741681542

Mobile: 0407097109,

Email: [dianne.acrelivestock@bigpond.com](mailto:dianne.acrelivestock@bigpond.com)

## South Burnett Libraries

South Burnett Libraries will be hosting a number of activities during the school holidays. For more information and to book these events, call your local library. Bookings are essential.

Summer Reading Club Activities		
Tuesday 9 January 2018	Wondai @ 2.30pm Design your own board game	
Wednesday 10 January 2018	Nanango @ 10.30am Design your own board game	
Thursday 11 January 2018	Murgon @ 10.00am Design your own board game	
Tuesday 16 January 2018		Wondai @ 2.30pm Summer Reading Club Break Up Party
Wednesday 17 January 2018		Nanango @ 10.30am Life size Monopoly & Wii gaming party
Thursday 18 January 2018		Kingaroy @ 10.30am Summer Reading Club Break Up Party

**Kingaroy Library** 4189 9256

**Nanango Library** 4189 9438

**Wondai Library** 4189 9252

**Murgon Library** 4189 9503

**Blackbutt Library** 4189 9343

**Proston Library** 4168 9103

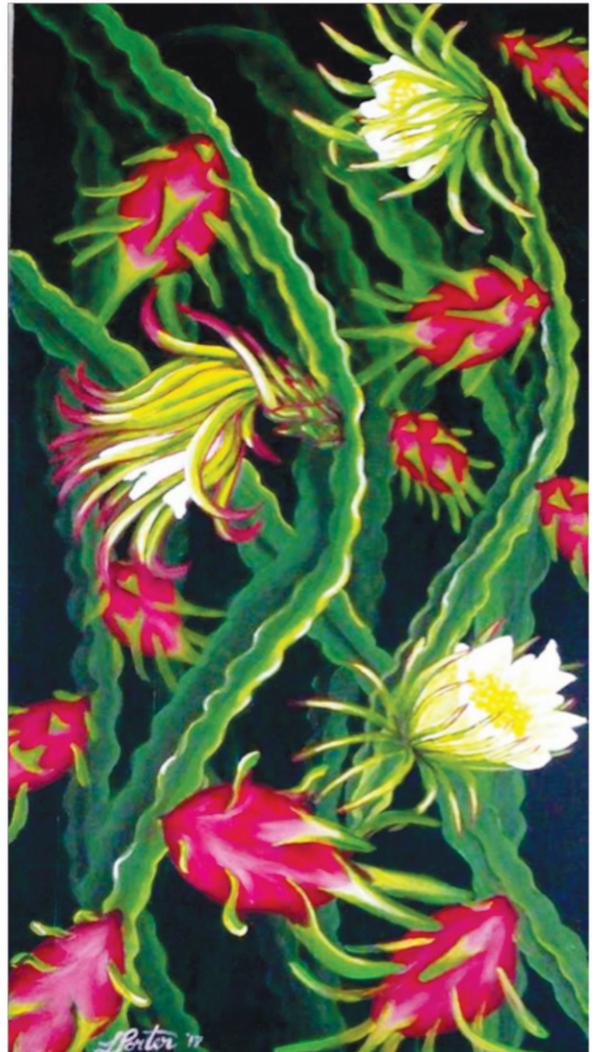


**SOUTH BURNETT**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Discover the Magic... @ your library



The last exhibition of VAMP Art works went on display in December at Murgon Fruit Mart.





There will be a releasing of golden perch fingerlings into Bjelke Petersen dam on Saturday 13/1/2018 by the BP Dam Stocking Group if anyone would like to participate please meet at Hanwood hatchery at 9am on Saturday morning. This is what they grow into for your enjoyment.

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## **UPDATE ON BOXING DAY TO NEW YEAR'S EVE WEATHER EVENTS**

Following the damaging storms that hit parts of the South Burnett between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve, Council has been liaising with State agencies and community groups to assess damage and gather detailed information on impact to the Community and local industry to support a case for disaster assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Council acknowledges and appreciates this has been a severe event for our community, however the scale of damage may not be sufficient to meet the NDRRA guidelines for assistance. As Council does not have the authority to declare a disaster, a declaration does not guarantee access to funding or assistance and will explore all options to advance the recovery of the local region. We will continue to work very hard with those impacted to support our case to the State and Commonwealth governments for assistance.

A Regional Liaison Officer and a Recovery Officer from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority will be coming to the South Burnett to assist us with our damage assessment and to plan our recovery moving forward.

All aspects of this event, human, social and economic need to be considered and our Disaster Management Group will continue to work with Government agencies, community groups and those impacted to ensure the community can get back on its feet as soon as possible.

"I encourage all residents in the South Burnett who were affected to go to the BIEDO website and fill in the online survey. This will assist Council in quantifying the damage that occurred in the region" said Acting Mayor Kathy Duff



Murgon Men's Shed thank the following for their generous support given towards the Christmas Raffle which was drawn at their Annual Christmas Breakup. The raffle raised \$3,900 which was a magnificent effort.

Betta Home Living, Murgon Tyre & Auto, Murgon Motor Inn, Murgon Veterinary Clinic, Murgon Pharmacy, Pratt Agencies, B G A, Lowes Petroleum Wondai BP, Carneys Feed Store, Murgon Butcher, Mark Smith Menswear, Murgon RSL, Murgon BP Roadhouse, RAJ's Cafe, Mick & Marian Kapernick, Clifton Motors, Total Building Solutions, Murgon Mitre 10, Murgon Post Office, Dennis Electrical, Carol & Brett Harm (Harms Racing), Tackle Box, Murgon Auto Parts, Super Cheap Carpets, Ackinclose Plumbing, Murgon Outdoor Equipment.

Thanks also to Nev Dennien for organising ticket sellers. Nell for folding thousands of tickets to go into the draw, IGA for allocating time for ticket sales, and the general public for supporting the raffle by purchasing tickets.

**Jim Rook.**

**President Murgon Men's Shed.**



Rain didn't deter Santa at the 2017 Murgon Christmas Carnival



**World Renowned -The Queensland Police Pipes & Drums**

Fantastic fun at Murgon Christmas Fair in between the rain!!





## **DAYS GONE BY:**

In 1843 Ferriter and Uhr became the first European settlers to take up land in the Murgon area when they established the 'Barambah Station'. Grazing activities on the station originally focussed on sheep but these were soon replaced by cattle, which proved more suitable to the area.

The town of Murgon was only established in the early 20th century. It wasn't until 1904 that Mr G.W. Nutt constructed 'Castra', the first house in Murgon. Town lots were first sold in 1906.

A butter factory was built to service the local dairy industry in 1913. In 1914 a grain shed was constructed. Agricultural industry in the area now also includes olive and grape growing.

In 1962 the South Burnett Meat Works Co-operative began operating in town and developed into an important beef processor for the national and international markets. The Co-op closed in 1999 but recommenced operations in 2000.

Murgon is located 46 kilometres north of Kingaroy and 96 kilometres inland from Gympie. It is named from an Aboriginal term said to mean 'lily pond'.

Murgon is also the home of a significant fossil site containing fossils dating from the Tertiary Period around 55 million years ago. Most of the fossils found here are from small animals including bats, song birds, salamander and some early marsupials.



Murgon Post Office 1914



Murgon Post Office today

con't from page 1

Fantastic news!! BlazeAid is here to help the farmers clean up and fix fences. Their camp will be the SB PCYC in Murgon You can register by phoning our well experienced coordinator Brian Carr from Newcastle on the above number and Joan Adams will be coordinating meals if people want to help out ph Joan on **0474105919**. We have well over 20 properties registered so far.

Blaze Aid is a volunteering group started by Kevin Butler in Victoria after the horrific Black Saturday Fires in 2009. Kevin lost a lot, with many others in this major fire and it has been his wish to help others in return for the voluntary help that was afforded him by many people throughout Australia. Blaze Aid has been set up in any town in Australia requiring urgent assistance after floods or fires that devastate our communities. They are made up of a small band of people who coordinate volunteers Australia wide on a daily basis. They clean debris off fencing, repair broken fencing, erect new fencing (all caused by flood damage) where required and **urgently need local farmers to register for help with them.**

They can coordinate groups of volunteers working at the same town. Blaze Aid was here with us in our area in 2011 and 2013 and they had more than 109 registered volunteers, visited and assisted 108 farmers registered for help. 128kms have been cleaned and 110kms.of fences repaired or replaced.

Volunteers provided a total of 1604 volunteer days of which 89% had been directly related to either programming farmers or directly working on farms.

They require any local volunteers that can help even if it is only for one or two days. Insurance, meals, gloves, pliers etc are all provided. (Let's try and give these volunteers a hand, ring (tell them Leo said to ring you)

Blaze Aid are a well known organization having previously completed hundreds of kilometres of fencing in Australia.

We urgently request the many Organizations, Schools, Service Clubs, Church Guilds, WAGS, etc that can help to be part of this volunteering group. Please ring Joan Adams now on 0474105919 we would love to have your help in cooking daily meals etc.

**Food donations or cooked meals will be urgently requested by Joan here in Murgon, can you promise help?**

Donations of food etc can be left at the SB PCYC Macalister Street, Murgon and The South Burnett Regional Council has generously donated a large sum of money to start off this recovery organization.



The team L-R: Councillor Kathy Duff, BlazeAid coordinator Brian Carr, Food coordinator Joan Adams, President Murgon Business & Development Assoc Inc. Leo Geraghty



A large audience enjoyed the Rotary Club bar-b-q and the 2017 Murgon State School Christmas Carols performed by the students.

# Bjelke Petersen Dam

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Storm damage at Proston Showgrounds before Christmas (not part of Boxing Day)



Wheatland's State School Year 6 Graduation



# Australia Day Celebrations 2018

The South Burnett Australia Day Awards night will be held this year at the Murgon Town Hall on the eve of Australia Day, Thursday January 25th 2018 .

Aussies let us sing our songs, throw a prawn on the barbie, the rellies from the big smoke have rocked Sunday arvie. The fellas are watching footie, the esky's in the ute, we reckon this great land of ours is really pretty beaut.

We've crocs as big as Mallee bulls and joey's jumping free., we've a bonza rock out in the center and billabongs by the sea. If you go out back of Bourke, you can make a quid or two, but don't forget the blowies, by crikey they'll get you.

You can learn the dinky di lingo and read the local rag, maybe try some Aussie tucker and go off the main drag. Tho there's droughts and floods and fires, cyclones and stormy thunder, let's raise a glass to OZ, the wide brown land down-under

## Australia Day celebrations will be held at

**Proston:** Free tea, coffee, damper and lamingtons will be handed out at the Scout Block in Rodney St from 2.30-4pm followed by a some cricket and a sign on day for youth and adults for Scout membership.

**Wondai:** Head on down to Wondai's Memorial Hall for breakfast on Australia Day from 7:00-9:00am onwards. This year there will be live entertainment provided by the Wondai Town & District Band, an Australian Citizen Affirmation Ceremony and a flag raising ceremony.

**Boondooma**—The Boondooma Homestead will be hosting an evening event starting at 5:00pm with a Flag Raising Ceremony followed by a BBQ dinner. There will be live entertainment featuring Buddy Thomson, Lynne Bennett and others. A bus will be running on the day from Murgon, Wondai, Hivesville and Proston. You will need to pre-book your seat through Proston Country Bus Service on (07) 4168 9296. The timetable will be available through Proston Country Bus Service.

**Kingaroy**—The Kingaroy Australia Day celebrations will be held at the Kingaroy Town Common Hall with a free breakfast from 7.00am. There will be Face Painting a Jumping Castle and painting activities for the children; Bush Poetry and Steve Hood (on Button Accordion). At 9:00am the Flag Raising Ceremony will be performed by the 125 Army Cadet Unit followed by the Affirmation and the National Anthem. We have Sing Australia South Burnett and the Taabinga and Coolabunia School Choirs, Guest Speaker is Member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington then that announcement of the Australia Day Award winners. We have the Pie and Lamington Eating competition at 9.45am with the raffle draw about 10.15am and then finishing with the traditional cane toad race.

**Murgon**—The members of the Queensland Dairy & Heritage Museum have organised activities on Australia Day for you to participate and enjoy. The day commences with a BBQ breakfast from 7:00-8:00am only, followed by a ceremony to announce Award Winners from 8:30am. Live entertainment will be provided, a Flag Raising Ceremony and then morning tea. Come and enjoy our Australia Day with friends.

**Nanango** – Nanango Tourism and Development Association Inc. (NaTDA) will be hosting a breakfast from 7.00am at Nanango Showgrounds. The breakfast will be followed by a Flag Raising Ceremony and then presentation of the Australia Day Award winners from the Nanango area. This year there will be bush poets, the dog high jump (small and large) and tug of war. Watermelon and damper will be served during the morning. Nanango welcomes you to join us this Australia Day.

**Hivesville** - Australia Day celebrations start at 7.00am with a Ceremony followed by Breakfast which will be held at the park in Hivesville hosted by the Hivesville Progress Association.

**Blackbutt** - The Bloomin Beautiful Blackbutt Festival committee supported by the Blackbutt Benarkin Heritage and Tourism Association, Taromeo Rural Fire Brigade and Blackbutt Benarkin Aged Care will be working together to host this year's Australia Day event for the whole family at the Blackbutt Memorial Hall. There will be a FREE sausage sizzle from 8:00 -11:00am followed by FREE family friendly activities such as a jumping castle, Best-dressed Hat Competition, music by local artists. Join in the fun with the gumboot throwing competition and rolling pin throw and test your skill in the Avocado Toss. Upload your Avo "You" photo to social media as a fun memory of your Blackbutt Australia Day celebrations.



2017 Murgon's winning Christmas light display



Richie O'Neill & Glenda McArdle with newly elected President Lyle Hasselbach (centre) at the South Burnett Sub Chamber AGM.



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## JOKE FOR THE MONTH

### The Three Holy Men and a Bear

A Catholic Priest, a Baptist Minister and a Rabbi were sitting around drinking coffee. (what else?)

Someone made the comment that preaching to people isn't that really hard; a real challenge would be to preach to a bear.

One thing led to another, and they decided that each would find a bear and convert it to their religion.

### Seven days later they all came together to discuss their experience.

Father Flannery, who had his arm in a sling and had various bandages on his body and limbs, went first:

"Well", he said, "I went into the woods to find me a bear. And when I found him I began to read to him from the Catechism.

Well, that bear came after me and began to slap me around. So I quickly grabbed my holy water, sprinkled him, and Holy Mary Mother of God, he became as gentle as a lamb."

Reverend Billy Bob the Baptist spoke next. He was in a wheelchair and had an I.V. drip.

"I went out and found me a bear. And then I began to read to my bear from The Bible.

But that bear came after me. We wrestled down one hill, until we came to a creek.

So I quickly dunked him and baptised his hairy soul. And just like you said, he became as gentle as a lamb."

The Priest and the Reverend both looked down at the Rabbi, who was lying in a hospital bed. He was in a body cast and traction with I.V.s and monitors running in and out of him.

The Rabbi looked up and said: "Looking back on it ... Circumcision may not have been the best way to start ...

## Advertising Charges MURGON MOMENTS

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## 70th Wedding Anniversary of William & Phyllis Elliott



William (Bill) and Phyllis Goschnick were married on the 6th December 1947 in the Lutheran Church, Murgon. Bill was born in the Glandore Hospital, Gympie, on the 10th March 1923. Bill was the only son of George and Daisy Elliott of "Kia Ora", east of Gympie. Bill was educated at Kia Ora State School and then Gympie State High School. Phyllis was born in Murgon on the 10th December 1925. Phyllis was the only daughter of Bill and Emma Goschnick of Redgate, Murgon. Phyllis was educated at Redgate State School. She did not attend high school as there was no high school in Murgon.

Bill and Phyllis first met through mutual friends at a Boxing Day Picnic at Barambah Creek in 1945. Bill was living on a property owned by his father and uncle south east of Goomeri and Phyllis lived with her parents on a farm at Redgate. They married after 2 years of courtship.

Bill and Phyllis lived at "Berndale" with Bill's parents until July 1949 when they took over the property "Glenholme", Manumbar where they lived until March 1979. They had four children; Gwen, Ian, Judy and Lindsay. The children had correspondence school except Judy who couldn't live at home because of asthma and lived at Goomeri with Phyllis' parents. After the children finished their schooling the girls had jobs in town and the boys stayed home on the property.

While at Goomeri, Bill was a Councillor on the Kilkivan Shire Council for 15 years, President of the Goomeri Show Society for 11 years, as well as on a couple of other committees. Bill and Phyllis were involved with the Goomeri Bowls Club for many years, each taking on the roll of President of the Mens and Ladies Clubs.

In 1979 they sold "Glenholme" as the boys were more interested in farming than grazing cattle and moved of Banana to a farming property. Lindsay is still on that property today. After a few years, Bill and Phyllis moved to a property at Rolleston. After a few years they moved to Kinka Beach to retire then to Yeppoon. During their time at Yeppoon, Bill enjoyed fishing. After eight years they moved to Tewantin. After a few more moves they eventually finished up at Oxford Crest, Gympie.

Bill and Phyllis have 4 children Gwen Kraft at Hervey Bay, Ian at Wolvi, Judy McKewen at Tansey and Lindsay at Banana, 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

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# Kathy's Comments

## Looking Forward

I would like to wish everyone all the very best for 2018. I feel sorry for all of the farmers who got hit with the Boxing Day storms and I hope that our community continues to support them as we have done so far. I look forward to working closely with BlazeAid. They are a fantastic organisation and I know they will do great things to help the farmers with cleaning and fence repairs. A big thank you to Joan Adams for coordinating the meals for the BlazeAid workers. Anyone wanting to help out with donations of groceries or food please give Joan a call. I would also like to thank Leo Geraghty and Rod Gelderblom for organising the PCYC as the venue for BlazeAid. Please don't forget to join in the South Burnett Australia Day Awards at the Murgon Town Hall on the eve of Australia Day and also on Australia Day there will be a Breakfast and ceremony at the Qld Dairy & Heritage Museum. This year I am looking forward to starting the Murgon CBD footpath project. I am hoping that we can attract a large industry to utilise the water that we have in Murgon and to get some industry to bring growth and jobs to our region. I am hoping to attract someone to put fuel in Proston and to get a shed for the Proston Men's Shed. I am also hoping that the changes to the way we do roads will see major improvements to our rural road network to support rural industry and rural communities.

## Looking Back

**January-** Col Sippel received the South Burnett Lifetime Achievement Award and Trevor Otto was honoured with Murgon's Local Achiever. Noela Ardrey received the Proston/Hivesville Local Achiever. Council received 4.25 million dollars from the State Government through a Works for Qld program with Silverleaf road upgrade as one of the projects.

**February-** Mark Smith helped to progress the region with Motorcycle friendly status. Boondooma Dam hosted a record breaking number of nominations in the Fishing Comp. Yallakool Park on BP Dam was awarded one of the top 10 parks in Qld. Windaera School opened their tuckshop.

**March** – Proston and Murgon held successful shows. South Burnett First Aid volunteers started in the Girl Guides hut in Murgon. The electoral boundaries changed and our area became part of the seat of Nanango. Proston opened the free camping site. Murgon hosted the indigenous Golf Championships

**April-** There were some beautiful Anzac Day services held around our region. Boondooma Homestead hosted another successful Spirit of the Bush event. Tablelands Rural Fire Brigade Station was opened. Wondai Garden Expo and the South Burnett Orchid Show were feature events for our region.

**May-** Marshland's bridge upgrade was completed. Another successful Reconciliation Fun Run was held as well as the Murgon Junior Rugby League Say No to Domestic Violence football event. Mark Smith Men's Wear and NB Inspirations in Proston were successful in the Rewardle program.

**June** – Council handed down a challenging budget with some reductions in staff numbers. The budget included lighting for the amenities at Hivesville, a centenary project at Lions Park Murgon and a shade shelter for the cemetery at Proston. The CCTV camera project in the Murgon CBD was progressed. BIEDO hosted a fantastic Open House in Murgon with Llew O'Brien and Deb Frecklington attending.

**July-** The Murgon Business Association erected some large new business sponsored town signage with the first one going up at the free camping grounds. The Murgon Rotary and Youth Park was officially opened. NAIDOC week celebrations were held with the first ever Council organised event in Kingaroy. Proston held an



amazing exhibition of memorabilia called "Unlock Proston" as a lead into their town centenary celebrations.

**August** – The Murgon Mustangs won the Grand Final. Boondooma Homestead hosted the biggest ever Scots in the Bush and Moffatdale Ridge Winery hosted a spectacular Italian Festival.

**September** – Wondai Show was a celebration of their 100th Show. Council held a series of Road Shows around the region to provide feedback to the community on Council happenings. Vision Radio was launched at Boondooma Homestead. Murgon hosted the Limousin Youth Camp.

**October-**The South Burnett Rail Trail was launched with a spectacular finale in Murgon. Proston on Show held three amazing events including a Fire the Brand night, the re-dedication of Reinke Scrub and a Heritage Trail Walk.

**November** – Rotary held another spectacular Murgon Music Muster featuring Gina Jefferies. Hivesville hosted their Anniversary Markets. Council received funding and began feedback on a South Burnett Sport and Rec Plan.

**December** – Council welcomed our new General Manager of Infrastructure, Aaron Meehan. I had the best Christmas present ever with my Dad coming home after being in hospital for almost 4 months.

These are just a few snippets of some of the things that happened in 2017. Thank you to everyone for your incredible support throughout the year.

## Contact Details

As always I am working on following up jobs and concerns that have been brought to my attention. Please contact me if you have an issue or wish to make an appointment.

Cr Kathy Duff (Division 5) South Burnett Regional Council  
Phone 07 41680225 or 0437020705 or  
email [kduff@southburnett.qld.gov.au](mailto:kduff@southburnett.qld.gov.au)

# THRILLS AND SPILLS AT THE 2017 GOOMERI NEW YEARS EVE RODEO



36 mls of rain in half an hour didn't stop the action packed night

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Sergeant Dave Gillies, Officer in Charge Goomeri Police Station took part in his first long distance Triathlon, Half Ironman 70.3 event consisting of a 2 km swim, 90km bike ride and 21km run on the 2nd of December 2017 in Napier new Zealand, Finishing 58th out of approx. 1400 entries with a time of 6hrs 9mins. Having already completed several Olympic distance events over the last two years it was great to prepare and take part in a long distance event.



Santa arriving at Boondooma Homestead's Christmas Party with Lynne Bennett



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# MURGON



## MOMENTS



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### ***We sadly mourn the loss of :***

- BJELKE – PETERSEN, Florence Isabel (Lady Flo), nee Gilmour, Late of the Orana Lutheran Aged Care Facility and formerly of 'Bethany' Kingaroy,**
- KAPERINICK, Nancy Elaine, Late of Murgon**
- QUINN, James Vannet (Jim), Late of 'Forest View' Wondai**
- GRAHAM, Thelma "Joyce" (nee Beresford) Late of Goomeri**
- GOLDING, Nancy Jean, Late of 'Forest View' Wondai**
- KEATES, Graham Phillip (Peachy), Late of the Orana Lutheran Aged Care Facility, Kingaroy, formerly of Wondai**
- SMITH, John Thomas (Joe), Late of Nanango and previously of Murgon,**
- BARNES, Hazel, Late of 'Castra' Murgon**
- HARDIKER, Raymond Joseph 'Ray' late of Gympie , formerly of Murgon**
- KUIL, Okke, Late of Murgon**
- BROWNING, Vivian Laurence 'Viv' Late of Moffatdale and formerly of Wandoan.**



Motor and horse traffic in Lamb Street, Murgon, ca. 1924 contributed by Qld Pics taken in 1924.

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## Highly Commended Environmental Health Professional of the Year - Megan Nilon

The Queensland Environmental Health professional body recently recognised Megan Nilon, Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer. "Megan is passionate, motivated and hardworking environmental health officer who has a high standard of work, demonstrates good leadership skills and is willing to share her experience and knowledge." Acting Mayor Kathy Duff said.

Megan has undertaken the task of implementing a mosquito surveillance and control program in the South Burnett Regional Council area and due to Megan's hard work and commitment, the South Burnett Regional Council has achieved great results in this area. This award acknowledges outstanding commitment to the profession.

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