

## MURGON BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT ASSN. INC.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2020:

We are going through very hard times and we need each other's support by shopping locally. Our whole community should be proud of our town and its achievements and be a part of it, and with your help continue to improve the local economy and our quality of life.

We extend a warm welcome to all our new Murgon citizens and Business Owners to become part of our family.

We have 93 financial members

Murgon's main concerns will be to get our share of any new development, and establishing further small industry and erecting houses on our estates, It was sad to hear of some of our businesses closing, whilst we also attracted new businesses and extensions to others.

We congratulate the Creative Country Association for their success in obtaining \$1.5 million funding to build an Art Gallery, Cultural Centre and Fossil Museum here in Macalister Street, Murgon.

We also congratulate the Murgon RSL Sub-Branch for their success in obtaining \$450,000 funding to build a new Drop in Centre in Stephens Street.

We also congratulate the Murgon High School for their success in obtaining \$12.65 million funding to build a new A \$6.6 million hall which will feature a stage, lighting and sound, storage for props and costumes, back-of-house facilities, dressing rooms and amenities and incorporating a Sports Stadium and Administration block at the High School.

Our popular breakfast meetings during the year have been well attended, special thanks to the management of the Royal Hotel for allowing us this venue and providing a scrumptious breakfast and we look forward to further input from our members at these meetings.

Bjelke-Petersen Dam, Boondooma Dam, Barambah Bush Caravan and Camping, the Murgon Dairy & Heritage Museum and our 48 hour free camp have been major attractions during this latter part of the year and Murgon is thriving on tourism and the fishing has been excellent. Sadly, the many fishing comps and major events have had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 virus. Remember Murgon is on show to visitors 24 hours a day 365 days of the year and it is our job to make visitors welcome and rid them of any negativity about our town. We have excelled in promoting the successful Wine and Olive industry and our courteous and friendly nature and then combine all this with our World class scenic views, 1st class sporting facilities, our highly competitive business community and our festivals and fun, - Murgon is definitely a great place.

I would like to especially thank our hard working Secretary, Margaret Long, Treasurer Lorraine Goodchild, all office bearers and promotional committees especially our Easter Fair committee and we look forward to Our new look Easter Fair bigger and brighter in 2021 and those who presented reports to our meetings.

Our Christmas celebrations in the park will take on a new look again this year with Carols by candlelight and smaller entertainment organized in conjunction with the South Burnett Ministers Assoc.

Many thanks to Lorraine Goodchild for the updating of messages and news items on our web site [murgon.net.au](http://murgon.net.au) and our Facebook page many thanks.

We are very appreciative of the support and patronage of The Cherbourg Community.

We also wish to thank the volunteers for their commitment to our town at the Visitor Information Centre and the Museum and look forward to 2021 for some of our major attractions returning that have included the magnificent Murgon Rotary Music Muster injecting much needed revenue to our community, major Festivities at the Wineries.

We are appreciative of the Neighbourhood Watch organization and local police department and Government agencies for their efforts in containing crime in our area and their involvement with the SB PCYC here in Murgon and to Sgt Renae Bond and her staff and volunteers of the SB PCYC who instigated many programs, especially BYTE NITE, to help curb youth crime in our area with youth activities organised in Murgon and Cherbourg.

Remember “Lock it or Lose it”

Whilst at times our town security cameras have created major headaches, more over they have been very helpful in solving and reducing criminal activities.

We extend a very big thank you to all our Voluntary organisers, Service Clubs, Police, Graham House, CTC, SES, Fire Services, Security officers, and to the Australian Army who helped in the Covid-19 restrictions and to all concerned in promoting “Magnificent Murgon at the foothills of Boat Mountain, in the heart of the Burnett Valley, part of the Great South Burnett 2.1/2 hours from city or sea and look forward to a great 2021. The South Burnett Rail Trail has been a great success story bringing many visitors to Murgon.

Congratulations must go to our area representative Councillor Kathy Duff, Federal member Mr Llew O’Brien and State Opposition Leader Mrs Deb Frecklington for their commitment and support in our area, and to all those who helped and worked tirelessly during the night in the finishing of our new CBD footpaths.

Congratulations to those recipients of local and Australia Day Awards and to sporting representatives who have achieved higher honours.

We are currently printing 5,000 copies, 48 pages of The Murgon Moments and have now printed 168 monthly issues since enlarging our local newspaper years ago, (special thanks to our newspaper experts, script writers, the many story tellers, our advertisers and committee’s for backing this local news production and to Mick Kemp and Darryl and Lyn Koy and Phenella Hiron in delivering to the Murgon town and outlying areas). I would also like to thank our print setter Linda Urch for her understanding and help.

Once again during this past twelve months we have sadly lost some of our great community workers, volunteers and family and we extend our sympathy to all these families. It is also timely to acknowledge our local medical staff & nurses, Ambulance and the RACQ Life Flight helicopter who saved many of our young and old.

Murgon and our surrounding districts are synonymous with tough and changing times, and we look forward to more rain and storms to set up our community for good summer crops, thankfully good cattle prices have remained. We have again worked closely with our council, to gain the best possible future for an expanding population, and a very progressive community.

During these past 14 years many of my ambitions and dreams have become a reality but there are still some that have eluded me like putting businesses that employ people on the old meat works site. We have worked tirelessly with Councillor Kathy Duff on this project and it may change as early as April 2021 if all the players can come together. Other ambitions like the painting of the water towers, new tourism signs which attract more visitors and tourists and the recognition of our Murgon Fossils we are still working on one day they too will become a reality.

With everyone’s help and generosity we believe we will remain a major player in the promotion of a progressive and friendly Murgon.

I have enjoyed the last 14 years in the position but remember New blood can only help, and i believe it is the time to change. Many thanks for all your help and I look forward to retiring to the back bench as they say and hope my successor receives the same support that was afforded me.

Remember STAY AWHILE – TRY LOCAL - &- BE SURPRISED

And have a safe and wonderful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Leo Geraghty OAM – President

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