

# Newsletter



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

There has been a fair bit going on during the months of June and July with budget meetings and so on. The end of the financial year figures almost had the Mayor and Councillors in a permanent state of cardiac arrest with the size of the deficit, but the postmortem has shown, with an effort being made in the acquittals department and a watchful eye on project budgets, things will level out before the end of year. Fortunately, we had a couple of Queensland Treasury representatives booked for training on the Thursday after the meeting and they were kind enough to have a quick look at our figures after a Mayoral meltdown and download the night before. As with a lot of small councils this year the FAGs funding being paid in July really screwed our figures sideways, but they (QTC) emphasized the fact that as a “fragile” council, we can’t afford to go to sleep on the job and we need to build up our war chest by a whole lot more. (Didn’t venture any donations to the cause though 😊).

July also saw the resignation of our 5 year and 2-month-old CEO Mark Crawley, and the appointment

of Anne Andrews as the new boss. We thank Mark for his efforts and knowledge of Local Government with all its idiosyncrasies and wish both Mark and Von all the best in their future endeavours. As I said at his farewell smoko, there is no retiring from Local Government, you just keep getting older and getting on with it. We now welcome Anne into the fold and wish her all the best in her new gig. I keep telling her it will be fun.....Time will tell.



Our long and hard battle for ROSI funding on the Normanton, Burketown Road was finally signed off on by the Feds a couple of weeks ago. We even had Senator Anthony Chisolm come to our patch to check it out (in conjunction with the LGAQ Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC) Assembly that Carpentaria hosted at the Barramundi Discovery

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Centre in Karumba). Our engineer did the right thing and made sure the stabiliser crew were front and centre of the photos so take a bow Shaun, you and your team are etched into the records of Parliament House now. ROSI is an acronym for "Roads of Strategic Importance" and originated from the previous Coalition Government, so we are grateful that the ALP didn't see fit to wipe it. Not only does this road connect Doomadgee and Burketown with the East Coast as well as providing a vast improvement on animal welfare but there will now be a chance for bus companies to extend their routes further west ultimately finishing up in Mt Isa. Unfortunately, the ROSI funding bucket is not to be continued which is a shame because the next wish list item would have been the Dixie Way joining the Peninsular Development Road and Burke Development Road to enable a freight and tourist corridor that would give a great return on investment in future years. Imagine the number of freight companies using this road to supply the Peninsular Communities from Brisbane direct, giving isolated areas much needed cost savings in essentials. It has to be a winner. We had the foresight in our first term to get this piece of road on our LRRS network so at least if there are more funding opportunities it will be a priority.

Senator Chisolm is a Queenslander and a keen recreational fisherman, so I took the liberty of introducing him to Dave Wren from the GOCCA who pulled no punches and gave him some background to take back to Canberra and to the Environmental Minister Tanya Plibersek. Giving credit where its due, the Senator took it all on board and was quite openly impressed with Dave's operation. He also thanked me for setting him up (in a nice way). I'm not sure what he took away from the ROC Assembly meeting except for the fact, we have a big list of wants and needs for west of the Great Divide. Being a Queenslander (albeit east coast), he understands, and hopefully will get his mates in Canberra to give us a fair hearing in future. He is also the Assistant Minister for Education, and

we did talk briefly on the subject of Country Universities, utilising the existing TAFE Campus. He suggested that we have a way to go but encouraged us to apply in the next round. I apologise to my Council because I forgot to mention it at our last meeting, though I think we all agree that there was a substantial sidetrack to manoeuvre around on the day which may have impacted on my memory bank.

It was great to catch up with our Karumba mates last weekend for the "Bring in Spring" festival. As usual it was very well run by Kyra and her team of trusty helpers/advisors. The event was well patronised by our tourists as well so thanks guys for your efforts in supporting a great cause. Once again, the quality of the prizes donated by local businesses in these trying times was proof of their generosity and commitment to the welfare of our little future leaders. The only complaint I have is Bronwyn, Sheryl and Zali had a hate the mayor moment and did not sell us one winning ticket, same as last year I might add but trust me, we'll be back next year to clean up.

On a serious note, it was mentioned to me the other day by someone far more knowledgeable than myself on all things fishing, that the comments by some tourists and locals alike, around bigger fish being caught since the abolishment of gill nets really need rethinking for the simple fact that Covid in 2020 and 2021 allowed the fish to multiply and grow regardless of the numbers being caught by the commercial guys. Sizes don't lie and apparently sizes being caught now align with the zero pressure from Covid years and lack of rec lines in the water. I'm not trying to start a fight or patronise anyone but please get some science around the statements being thrown around. We are all part of the big picture for Carpentaria.

It was good to see two of our new councillors, Schafer and O'Brien attending some of the events over NAIDOC week. Cherie has also been making

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inroads into the possibility of renal chairs in our new hospital so hopefully she will start getting traction for the community in the future. In other councillor news, we need to congratulate Cr Les and Belinda on the birth of their new daughter earlier this month as well. Like I said, a lot been happening this month, so I'll leave the road works and projects until next letter. One late one though is the announcement of the Golf Masters being played in Karumba again next year over the 25th-27th July. This one is the Million Dollar Hole in One all happening in Karumba. I suggest our local talent start getting some practice swings in now. How good would it be for a local to take it out.

Until next month Cheers and keep safe,

Jack Bawden.

## REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS OF COUNCILS

In early June, leaders from the member Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC) gathered in Karumba for the LGAQ ROC Assembly. This event provided an excellent opportunity to receive updates from the LGAQ on the ongoing state election campaign, and to meet with fellow ROCs to discuss advocacy priorities in anticipation of the state election and the upcoming federal election, among other agenda items.



Photo Credit – Western Queensland Alliance of Councils.

## SENATOR ANTHONY CHISHOLM VISIT

Senator Anthony Chisholm visited the Carpentaria Shire on the 10th of June. The Senator saw first hand the work stating on the Normanton-Burketown Road upgrade that they are assisting to deliver in partnership with Carpentaria Shire Council.

*'Remote towns like Karumba need reliable road infrastructure to bring in tourists and export produce. Our over \$30 million investment, and partnership with local councils across Far North Queensland, will improve the safety and reliability of these vital road links.'* – Senator Anthony Chisholm.



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## FAREWELL TO FORMER CEO

On the 15th of July we said goodbye to Mark Crawley, our former CEO of Carpentaria Shire Council. We wish him all the best and good luck in his future endeavours!



## NORMANTON SPORT CENTRE OPEN WEEKDAYS

We are thrilled to announce that the Council has partnered with the Queensland Government and the North West Minerals Province Building Sustainable Communities Grants (Round 2), along with the First Nations Sport and Recreation Funding program.

Thanks to the grants, the Normanton Sports Centre will open on weekdays from the July 8, 2024, providing our youth with opportunities to participate, feel engaged, and connect with their community.

## OPENING HOURS

- Monday to Thursday 3pm to 6pm
- Fridays 3pm to 7pm



## NAMING OF THE KARUMBA ARTIFICIAL REEF

In June, Carpentaria Shire Council held a competition to name the Karumba Artificial Reef. The challenge was to come up with unique, inspiring, and fitting name.

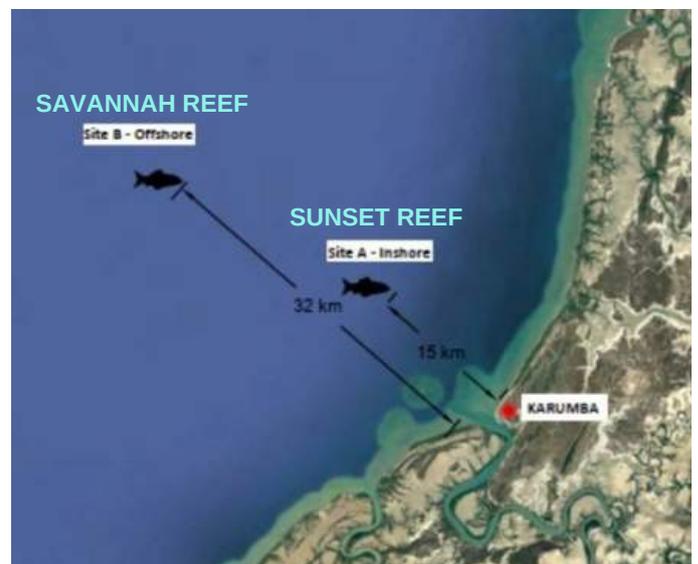
At the council meeting in June, two names were chosen, one for each reef site.

- Inshore Site: Located 8 nautical miles (15 kilometers) offshore from the boat ramp at Karumba, with a depth of approximately 5-6 meters at Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT).
- Offshore Site: Positioned 18 nautical miles (32 kilometers) offshore, with a depth of approximately 10-12 meters at LAT.

We are thrilled to reveal the names of the new reefs:

- Inshore Site A: **Sunset Reef** – named by Troy Hurlock.
- Offshore Site B: **Savannah Reef** – named by Alexis Pasno.

Thank you to everyone who participated and submitted nominations!



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## CHIGGY'S SKATEBOARDING WORKSHOP

Last month, Chiggy's Skateboarding held an incredible skateboarding workshop at the Normanton Sports Centre. Three professional skateboarders, along with a videographer / photographer, provided one-on-one and group coaching, demonstrations, and mentoring.

Take a look at some of the event's images!



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

• **3 AUGUST - RED CROSS CHARITY BALL**



• **6 AUGUST - JALLY ENTERTAINMENT**



A FREE performance suited for children from ages 3-11. 10am, 6th August 2024 at Normanton Shire Hall.

• **13-21 SEPTEMBER - OUTBACK BY THE SEA FESTIVAL**

The Outback By The Sea Festival is a week-long annual event held in the Gulf of Carpentaria celebrating the legendary barramundi, seafood, live music, Indigenous culture, and arts and crafts.

The closing concert at the Karumba Recreation Centre features a great lineup of well-known Australiana artists including Fanny Lumden, Shane Howard and local band Split Image. Tickets available via Oztix, Carpentaria Shire Council Normanton Office or at the Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre, Karumba.

**TICKET PRICES:**

Family Pass <i>(2 Adults + 2 Youth 12-17)</i>	\$80
Adult 18+	\$30
Concession	\$25
Youth <i>(12-17 Years)</i>	\$17
Child	FREE



Oztix Link  
[bit.ly/OutbackbytheSeaFestival-Oztix](https://bit.ly/OutbackbytheSeaFestival-Oztix)

*Please Note:*  
The above prices apply to in-person purchases. Online prices are slightly higher.

• **14-15 SEPTEMBER - OCEAN & OUTBACK FILM FESTIVAL - FREE EVENT**



**September 14 – outdoor short film festival  
6pm onwards**

*Karumba Recreation Club (outside)*  
Come along, bring a picnic rug and enjoy up to 12 short films under the stars in a picturesque location. Live music, food, films and celebrity judges.

**September 15 – filmmaking workshop  
10am–2pm**

*Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre, Karumba*  
Come along and learn how to make your own short film, hear from the experts including Australian actor Steve Bastoni and get inspired.

**REVIEW OF COUNCILS COMMUNITY DONATIONS POLICY & ACQUITTAL FORM**

Have your say by July 28th 2024.

For more information visit the 'Have Your Say' page on our website to view the Community Donation Policy and Community Grants Acquittal Form or contact Council's Community Development Team on 07 4745 2200.

[www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/council/have-your-say](http://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/council/have-your-say)



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## PROJECT UPDATES

### PATCH REPAIRS

Council's stabiliser crew has completed the repairs at the Corduroy, pavement edge failures on the road to Karumba and pavement failures at Glenore on the road to Croydon. We have also repaired the road leading towards the fishing footbridge across the Norman river.



*Patch Repairs completed at the Corduroy.*



*Patch repairs on 92A Croydon Road.*

### NEW CULVERT

New Culvert on 89B (Sealed Section).



### SCHOOL DAM PROJECT – PUMP TRACK

A specialist pump track contractor has started the pump track and BMX tracks. Road base has been delivered to site by Council and the contractor is using it to construct the pump track.

Council has ordered several shelters for the pump and BMX tracks and a shelter for the walking track. The shelters have just arrived in Normanton.

Council is planning to construct a 2m wide gravel walking track around the dam including installing culvert crossings where required.



*Pump Track under construction at the School Dam.*



*Pump Track at the School Dam.*

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## PROJECT UPDATES

### KARUMBA REVETMENT WALL AND ROCK GROYSNE

The rock groyne has been completed. Smaller stones were placed on the top surface to allow pedestrian access. Visitors have been observed sitting on chairs at the groyne, sipping wine and watching the sunset. Wren Constructions have completed the concrete precast units required for the revetment wall. The footprint of the revetment wall site has been set out by a surveyor and construction is expected to commence in the coming days.



*Rock Groyne ground view.*



*Precast walls for the Revetment Wall under construction.*

### BARNETT PARK IN KARUMBA

Council has nearly completed the new park. All concrete works have been completed. Due to funding restrictions Council will complete the Park in stages when funds are available.

Works included in the first stage are:

- Council have ordered two shade structures, including BBQ and picnic tables;
- Preparing to construct footpaths and concrete edging for garden beds;
- Preparing the construction of landscape and plantings; and
- And ordered a basketball hoop assembly kit.



*Rock Groyne under construction.*



*Rock Groyne aerial view.*



*Rock Groyne ground view.*

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## PROJECT UPDATES

### CAMP AND WORKS UPDATE

Finally, all camps are out and all DRFA works are in progress.

- Donors Hill Camp
- Wondoola Camp
- Pioneer Camp
- Stirling Camp
- Coburn Camp 89B
- Koolatah Camp
- 7 Mile Camp stabilizing works have commenced Normanton to Burketown starting point end of the bitumen at 7-mile.

### TRACTOR SLASHING PROGRAM

- Normanton to boundary Cloncurry Road: **Complete**
- Normanton to Karumba: **Complete**
- Normanton Croydon Road: **In Progress**
- Normanton Burketown Road: **Next on List**



## MEETING DATES FOR AUGUST

The Council's Ordinary Meeting for August 2024 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday the 21st, starting at 9:00am in the Council's Boardroom located at Haig Street, Normanton.

To have a matter considered at the meeting, items must be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer by Tuesday of the week prior to the meeting.



Wednesday, 21st August  
Thursday, 22nd August



## CONTACT US

Address: 29-33 Haig Street, Normanton QLD 4890  
 Postal: PO Box 31, Normanton QLD 4890  
 Email: [council@carpentaria.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@carpentaria.qld.gov.au)  
 Website: [www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au](http://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au)

Normanton Office  
 Telephone: (07) 4745 2200  
 Fax: (07) 4745 1340

Karumba Library/Service Centre  
 Telephone: (07) 4747 7522  
 Fax: (07) 4747 7566

Visitor Information Centre  
 Normanton (07) 4747 8444  
 Karumba (07) 4745 2211

After Hours Emergencies  
 Telephone: (07) 4745 2200

Cr Jack Bawden - Mayor	0427 459 424
Cr Brad Hawkins – Deputy Mayor	0418 451 688
Cr Andrew Murphy	0428 451 085
Cr Cherie Schafer	0448 324 911
Cr Glenn Smerdon	0429 451 784
Cr Johnty O'Brien	0427 186 939
Cr Leslie Henry	0407 600 024

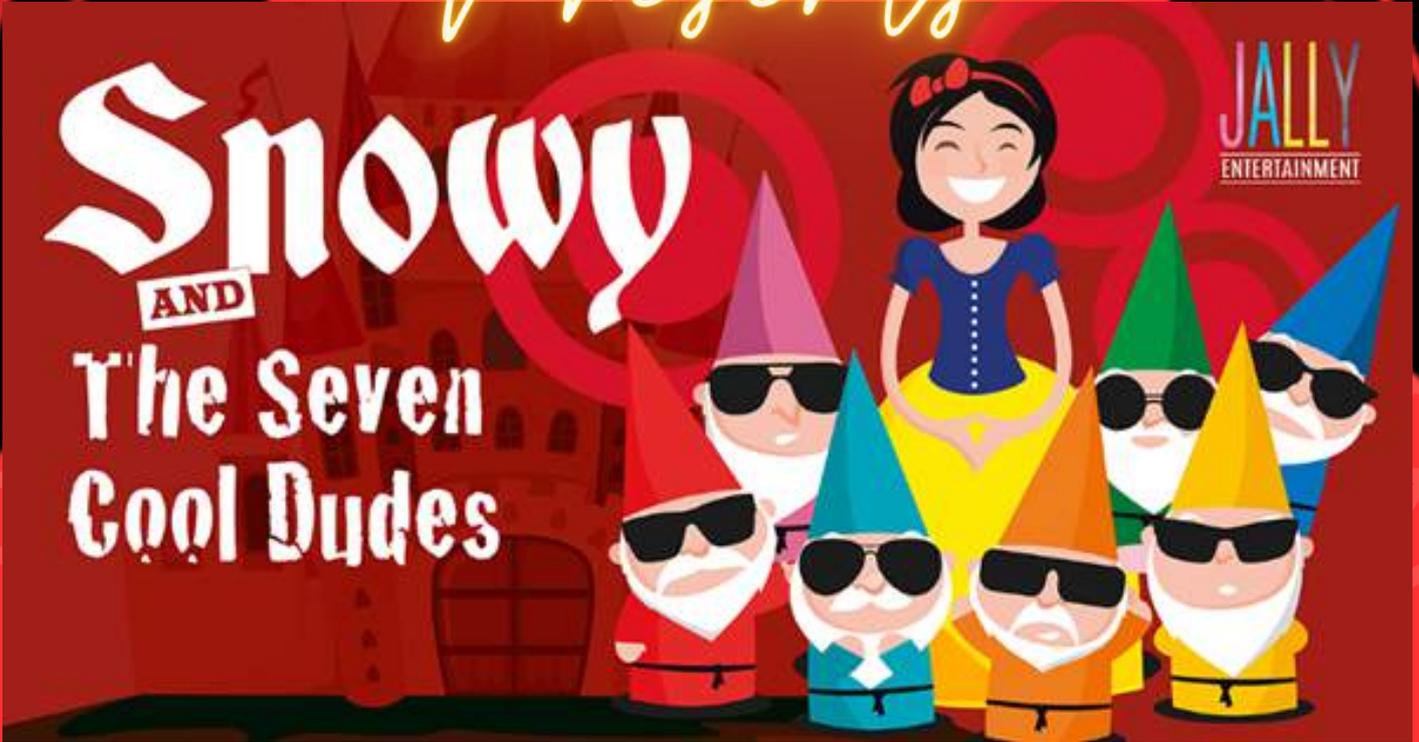
Anne Andrews  
 Chief Executive Officer 0417 306 412

Michael Wanrooy  
 Director Engineering Services 0428 131 289

Julianne Meier  
 Director Corporate Services 0417 337 547



*Presents*



A *Free* PERFORMANCE SUITED FOR CHILDREN FROM AGES 3 - 11

10:00 AM



6TH AUGUST 2024

NORMANTON SHIRE HALL

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT COUNCILS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM ON 47452200



## OUTDOOR SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

### FREE EVENT

6pm onwards

Karumba Recreation Club (Outside)

Come along, bring a picnic rug and enjoy up to 12 short films under the stars in a picturesque location. Live music, food, short films and celebrity judges!

### JUDGES



Tania  
Zaetta



Marcus  
Graham

For more information, please visit  
[www.ooff.com.au](http://www.ooff.com.au)



## FILMMAKING WORKSHOP

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

**FREE EVENT**

10am - 2pm

Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre, Karumba

Come along and learn how to make your own short film, hear from the experts and get inspired.

For more information, please visit

[www.ooff.com.au](http://www.ooff.com.au)



**CARPENTARIA SHIRE**

*Outback by the Sea®*