

ISAAC NEWS

PURE PEOPLE POWER

ISSUE 73 | DECEMBER 2024

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REGION

HELPING TO ENERGISE THE WORLD

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WHERE TO FIND US

CLERMONT

Cnr Karmoo & Daintree Streets
Clermont QLD 4721

DYSART

Shannon Crescent
Dysart QLD 4745

GLENDEN

Ewan Street
Glenden QLD 4743

MIDDLEMOUNT

Shopping Centre
Middlemount QLD 4746

MORANBAH

Grosvenor Complex,
Batchelor Parade
Moranbah QLD 4744

NEBO

10 Reynolds Street
Nebo QLD 4742

ST. LAWRENCE

36 Macartney Street
St Lawrence QLD 4707



OUR COVER

Annual Report.

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All content accurate as of November 2024.



FROM THE

MAYOR'S OFFICE

I'm extremely proud to be the Mayor of the Isaac region. Our 17 communities may be considered small, but our contribution to the state and country is big, and so much has happened here over the past year. In January, the Queensland Government invested \$40 million to establish the Isaac Resources Excellence Precinct (IREP). This is a partnership project with the Resources Centre of Excellence in Mackay, where IREP will effectively become their 'stage 3,' focused on skills and training, innovation, and opportunities in both new and existing industries. At the Australia Day Awards, we celebrated hardworking, talented, and community-minded local legends: Amanda Raymond, our Isaac Citizen of the Year from Moranbah, and Ciara Storch, our Young Isaac Citizen of the Year from Dysart, along with incredible volunteers from across the region. We completed community consultation and developed a long-term master plan for Theresa Creek Dam to guide maintenance and upgrades into the future. In June, our St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend attracted nearly 3,000 visitors and earned another gold at the Mackay Isaac Tourism Awards, showcasing Isaac's culture and pride. The town of Glenden has faced its share of challenges, but the latest was a unique one: a contest over water quality. Glenden's dedicated water treatment team entered the town's water in the prestigious Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test, a competition that ranks water from across Queensland for its taste. The town's water took out joint first place with Hervey Bay and will now head to national judging. This achievement is a testament to the skill and dedication of our small yet mighty two-person Glenden team. At the local government elections, I heard loud and clear from communities, workers, and industries that investment in our road network is essential to address existing pressures and unlock our region's potential. This is why I've taken on the role of committee chair for Queensland Beef Corridors (QBC). QBC is a collaboration of seven regional councils aimed at sealing key routes for the transport and agricultural sectors. So far, we have secured \$500 million in funding, with \$47.5 million in early works set to begin next year. Throughout the state election, Council advocated strongly to local candidates and decision-makers down south for further investment in upgrades and road maintenance. Here at Isaac Regional Council, half of our \$55.5 million capital works budget is dedicated to fixing roads and bridges. We will continue to advocate to the new state government to make travel safer and easier for everyone in 2025. There is no doubt the whole of Australia is in the grip of a housing affordability and availability crisis. Personally, I find it very disappointing that large-scale industry growth hasn't necessarily translated into growth of our residential housing stock, just more camp room applications. Our Council is proud to be part of the Isaac Affordable Housing Trust (IAHT), and this year they opened 16 new housing units for essential workers in Moranbah,

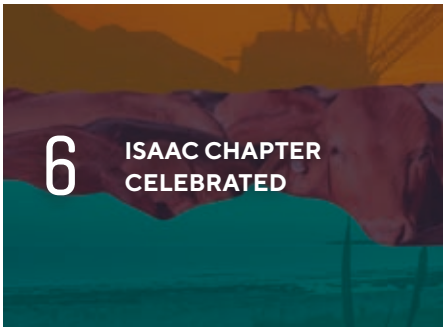
with another 14 on the way. IAHT is also working through new development approvals for Clermont. As regional communities, we know the cost-of-living is making it harder for kids to leave home and access higher education. That's why our Council is working tirelessly to establish Country University Centres here in Isaac. This year, we successfully secured \$2 million to fit out a space in Moranbah and build a new centre in Clermont that will provide students studying by distance free access to support staff, equipment, and create social connections. I'd like to thank the incredible, highly skilled volunteer board who are giving their time and guidance to bring this concept to life. It's safe to say I've taken on some new roles this year. I became the District 7 delegate on the Local Government Association of Queensland's (LGAQ) Policy Executive, representing Isaac, Whitsunday, and Mackay. This role allows me to advocate on behalf of our regions and be part of the advisory board to LGAQ. Following this appointment, I was also elected as a Board Member of LGAQ. After more than 12 years in local government, I'm really enjoying contributing to conversations on behalf of the sector. Reflecting on my first year as Mayor, there's much I'm extremely grateful for. One is my newly elected Council team. After three terms in Isaac, it's been energising to have new perspectives, and skill sets at the table and to be working with a team that truly cares for our communities. Three months ago, we welcomed our permanent CEO, Cale Dendle, and his wife Shelley to the region. It's a great privilege to represent an organisation of people who come to work every day to improve lives, and they continue to be a huge source of motivation to me. I'm also grateful for my family's support. Being Mayor means a lot of travel, no set hours, and a different schedule every week. My husband, Blair, has stepped up to manage our life admin as we prepare to send our kids off into the world next year. If you haven't met him already, he's the guy happy to chat while I disappear for 'duties' at most events (something Shelley seems to be a master of as well). I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to welcome me, the Councillors, and our new staff members into communities. The best part of this job is meeting everyday people doing incredible things for our communities, expecting nothing in return. This year has been tough as we come to terms with the loss of people close to the heart of our Council, mining industry, and communities. As we approach the holiday season, let's remember them and cherish their memory. I hope this time of year brings you comfort, peace, and the warmth of cherished moments with mates and loved ones. Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday season, Merry Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

MAYOR KELLY VEA VEA

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EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 6** Clermont Christmas in the Park
- 6** Moranbah Carols By Candlelight
- 7** St Lawrence Christmas Fair
- 7** Middlemount Christmas Carnival
- 7** Dysart Christmas Party/Carols
- 12** Carmila Carols by Candlelight
- 14** Carmila Christmas Tree
- 14** Hinterland Community Care Seniors Christmas Lunch

Visit isaac.qld.gov.au/events

Click 'Add an event', complete the simple form and save. Council reserves the right to approve event listings.

ISAAC

diary of a ...

LANDSCAPE

exhibition

The past is alive with stories waiting to be discovered. From the Dreaming, to pioneers, and modern-day road trippers, this exhibition explores tales of people travelling through the landscape, and the things they leave behind.

CLERMONT HISTORICAL CENTRE, GREGORY HIGHWAY, CLERMONT
ISAAC.QLD.GOV.AU 1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227)



MAYOR'S CHARITY BALL 2024

A 340-strong crowd came together to raise funds for higher education initiatives that will directly benefit residents and industries in the Isaac region.

The Isaac Regional Charity Fund - Mayor's Charity Ball 2024 took place at the Hornery Group Complex in Moranbah on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

Fund director Mayor Kelly Veve Veve thanked industry leaders, businesses, unions and the wider community for their support of the Isaac Country Universities Centre initiative.

"There's no denying that regional residents face greater barriers to accessing tertiary education. In fact, regional and rural students are 20% less likely to pursue tertiary education compared to their metropolitan counterparts," Mayor Veve Veve said.

"It is estimated that 90% of jobs in the next five years will require some form of degree or qualification, yet the national job shortage has driven many to seek employment over education.

"We know the study hubs address a critical gap in support for higher education and vocational training in the Isaac region."

Mayor Veve Veve said the Isaac Regional Charity Fund will make an announcement regarding funds raised for the project after the final tallies are done.

"I can't stress enough how thankful I am to our event partners, sponsors, and guests, this initiative will play a pivotal role in reskilling the workforce and supporting our communities in acquiring future skills across various industries, including health, resources, renewables, agriculture, technology, and critical minerals."



CR TERRY O'NEILL

**DIVISION 1 -
CLERMONT RURAL
AND GLENDEEN**

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As we approach the Christmas period, it's crucial to remember that this time of year often sees an increase in road accidents, which can have devastating consequences for many families. I urge everyone traveling to exercise extra caution, especially on long journeys. Speeding remains a leading cause of fatal accidents, so please drive within the speed limits. To combat driver fatigue, take regular breaks and always adjust your driving to the road conditions. Let's all do our part to ensure a safe and joyful Christmas season for everyone. Stay safe and enjoy the holidays.



CR VERN RUSSELL

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DYSART**

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A reminder to all residents that vandalism is a crime and is on the increase, particularly over school holidays. If you see something, say something. Vandalism not only incurs significant costs and time to repair, but it also impacts those who are doing the right thing by leading to restricted or even closed facilities. To report damage to public property, please contact Council at 1300 ISAACS. For emergencies, call the police on 000. For non-urgent reporting and inquiries, reach out to Policelink at 131 444.

OUR 2023-2024 ISAAC CHAPTER CELEBRATED

Our 17 unique communities, each contribute to the vibrant and diverse character of the Isaac region.

From modern mining towns to historical, coastal, and rural areas, we are united in our commitment to a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Reflecting on the past year, the resilience and determination have been truly inspiring in our communities.

Cost-of-living and housing challenges are front of mind but it has also reinstated our commitment to sustainable communities and their futures.

Our advocacy efforts bore fruit with the passage of the Mineral Resources (Glenden) Act, securing Glenden's future and ensuring sustainable community integration.

We completed 20-year plans to shape the future for Nebo Showgrounds and Theresa Creek Dam to boost agricultural and tourism industries.

More than \$60 million from state and federal funding will help build major infrastructure projects like the Philips Creek Bridge replacement, Isaac Resources Excellence Precinct and Isaac Country Universities Centre.

These are all vital for our mining, freight and agricultural industries that not only power our region but the rest of Queensland.

Through our partnerships in Queensland Beef Corridors, an incredible highlight is a bi-partisan commitment from all levels of government, securing \$500 million.

Together, we continue to forge a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

The extraordinary progress outlined in this report is a testament to the coordinated leadership of my fellow councillors - past and present, our executive, and everyone within the Isaac Regional Council team.

We look forward to another year of working alongside our community to shape a thriving and resilient region.



MAYOR KELLY VEA VEA
ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL



CR MELISSA WESTCOTT

DIVISION 3 - MORANBAH

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Just a quick update on the Moranbah Community Centre Redevelopment Project. There's been a slight delay, and now we're looking at late February 2025 for completion. With a 50-year-old building, it was bound to hit a few bumps along the way. You know what they say, "good things come to those who wait." I'm really looking forward to seeing the amazing and much-needed upgrades once it's all done!

WHAT WE'VE DELIVERED



scan the QR code for the full 2023-2024 Annual Report



CR SIMON WEST

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Just a quick thank you to all those who participated in the waterwise calendar competition - we got 52 entrants! These types of initiatives are not just about winning; they're about educating our kids on the importance of water saving. We had some top entrants, and I am truly looking forward to hanging up my 2025 calendar.



COUNCIL RALLIES QUEENSLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO SHAPE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Isaac Regional Council has achieved a significant milestone with the endorsement of its motions, paving the way to unite all 76 local government areas across Queensland in a shared mission to build a brighter future for every community. At October's 128th Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) annual conference, Council called for Queensland Government action to address pressing local needs.

Mayor Kelly Vea Vea said local governments today are stretched to new limits, moving beyond traditional roles of roads, rates, and rubbish to address the diverse needs of our communities.

"Our communities depend on us, the most accessible level of government, to guide them through pivotal changes and help reshape their futures," Mayor Vea Vea said.

Acknowledging the challenges that range from mine closures to changing community dynamics, the Mayor underscored the Council's commitment to ensuring prosperous outcomes for every resident.

The Brisbane-staged LGAQ conference provides an

opportunity for the Isaac region to advocate for policies that will positively impact Queensland councils, supported by LGAQ's representation to federal and state governments.

Isaac Regional Council's endorsed motions include:

- **Funded Positions in Impacted Councils:** Advocating for support to councils facing large-scale developments, including renewable and resource projects, through funded roles to better serve impacted areas.
- **Energy Opportunities in Mines:** Prioritising energy opportunities in both existing and decommissioned mines to benefit local economies.
- **Local Government Representation:** Seeking inclusion of local government representation on the Net Zero Economy Agency to ensure regional voices are heard in Australia's energy transition.

For more information on the Council's advocacy, visit isaac.qld.gov.au/advocacy and to learn about the LGAQ annual conference, visit lgaq.asn.au/events.



CR ALAINA EARL

DIVISION 5 - MORANBAH

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The Moranbah Miners' Memorial in November is an annual event that profoundly touches the hearts of our communities. It is an evening devoted to honouring those who went to work but never returned home. This moment of reflection is dedicated to the brave men and women who laboured to provide for their families. It is a heart-wrenching reality for many. The year 2024 has been especially challenging for those in the mining industry, and we can only hope that 2025 is safer and better for all.

AUSTRALIA DAY

POOL party

FREE ENTRY

TO ALL ISAAC POOLS ACROSS THE ISAAC REGION

CLERMONT | DYSART | FLAGGY ROCK | GLENDEN
 MIDDLEMOUNT | MORANBAH | NEBO | ST LAWRENCE

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ISAAC REGION 



CR JANE PICKELS

**DEPUTY MAYOR
DIVISION 6 -
CLERMONT**

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Could the Isaac region possibly have any more superstars? What a fantastic night we had at Mt Isa for the annual North Queensland Sportstar Awards! Three incredibly talented individuals represented our region, with Quincey Barwick earning runner-up in the Rural and Remote Sportstar category. It's always a joy to travel outside our region and attend such inspiring events—this is exactly why I love what I do. Keep shining, Isaac! We look forward to seeing even more superstars in the future!

SENIORS MONTH

In celebration of Queensland Seniors Month, eight events were held across the region in October, bringing joy and connection to our senior community. Isaac Coast seniors embarked on an exciting bus trip to Mackay, where they explored op shops, enjoyed a delightful lunch, and socialised with one another. In Glenden and Nebo, residents had a creative and relaxing time at the Paint and Sip events, showcasing their artistic talents while enjoying good company. Dysart and Clermont hosted a fun-filled morning of bingo, followed by a rejuvenating session of chair yoga, promoting both mental and physical well-being. Meanwhile, Moranbah seniors had a lively morning with music, dancing, lucky door prizes, bingo, and a delicious morning tea, creating wonderful memories. These events not only provided entertainment but also fostered a sense of community and well-being among our seniors. It was a month full of laughter, creativity, and connection in a region that can sometimes be isolating.



CR RACHEL ANDERSON

**DIVISION 7 -
MIDDLEMOUNT**

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A while has passed since the Middlemount races, but I still wanted to give a shoutout to the organisers who managed to raise \$10,000 for CQ rescue, one of the most important organisations when you live regional. A mammoth effort by all involved, and by the patrons who dug deep and donated generously. This is just one of the many examples that shows how well our town comes together to support greatness.



CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Nineteen proud new citizens were officially welcomed to the Isaac region in a moving ceremony held outside the familiar Council office in Moranbah at the end of October. Standing together, these individuals took the pledge, marking the beginning of their journey as Australians and embracing their roles as part of our community.

Each new citizen brings a unique story and background, contributing to the beautiful mosaic of cultures that make the Isaac region so vibrant. Our citizenship ceremonies serve as a powerful reminder of the strength in diversity, enriching our community with varied perspectives and fostering a deeper understanding among neighbours.



CR VIV COLEMAN
DIVISION 8 -
NEBO AND SURROUNDS

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What a memorable night we had at the 2025 Mackay Isaac Tourism Awards, with St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend taking home gold in the Festivals and Events category! I am so proud of everyone who helped make this event such a huge success. What once was a small gathering of people interested in the arts and culture industry has now grown into an event that attracts thousands from near and far to enjoy a magical weekend set against the backdrop of St Lawrence Wetlands. Mark your calendars for next year's event from June 27-29.

ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL FESTIVE PERIOD CLOSURES AND INFORMATION



Council's customer service counters,
community facilities halls, centres,
branch libraries

Friday, 20 December 2024

Re-opening Monday, 6 January 2025



Clermont Historical Museum,
Historic Nebo Museum will close from:

Saturday, 30 November 2024

Re-opening **Wednesday, 26 March 2025**



Kerbside waste and recycling collections
will go ahead as normal on public holidays
across the region.



Temporary closures to Waste Management
Facilities over the festive season:

Closed:

25 - 26 December 2024

Resume normal operating hours:

Friday, 27 December 2024

Closed:

Wednesday, 1 January 2025

Resume normal operating hours:

Thursday, 2 January 2025



All pools will be **closed**
Christmas Day, Boxing Day,
and **New Years Day.**

Operating times will differ
during school holidays.

To find out about pool closure times
in your community, visit Council's website.