

# ISAAC NEWS

PURE PEOPLE POWER

ISSUE 70 | MAY 2024

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### NEW ERA FOR COUNCIL

Meet Isaac region's newly elected councillors

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### INSPIRING WOMEN

Isaac celebrates inspiring women in our 17 communities

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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

Mayor Kelly Vea Vea and Isaac Region Councillors

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All content accurate as of May 2024.



FROM THE

# MAYOR'S OFFICE

Thank you to the community for choosing a Council with a fresh perspective and new energy, mixed with a diverse range of skill sets and backgrounds. This combination is the best recipe for driving outcomes in a region as large and diverse as ours. Though we may be considered a small, regional council, what we are achieving here is truly incredible.

We understand that Isaac is a region that feeds, powers, and builds communities across the globe. We feed millions through our thriving agricultural industry and are home to the second-largest herd of cattle in Queensland. We power with our thermal coal and emerging renewable sector, producing one-third of Australia's steel-making coal, generating billions in royalties, which are used to build communities and new industries worldwide.

That's why I am excited to share that we have secured \$2 million for Isaac Country Universities Centres in Clermont and Moranbah from the Queensland Government. This is the jumpstart we need to overcome geographical barriers. With only 13% of Isaac residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher level of education, there is a clear gap in support for higher education and vocational study in the region. These study hubs will play a crucial role in addressing this disparity and empowering residents to improve their prospects through education.

We have also received word that the State will bring funding forward towards Queensland Beef Corridor projects, part of our shared advocacy with six other Central Queensland councils. More than \$500

million has been committed to pave and seal roads, increasing the connectivity of our agricultural producers from paddock to plate. For Isaac alone, it will mean about \$210 million to fix four of our corridors - Clermont Alpha Road, Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road, May Downs Road, and Fitzroy Development Road. Funding is critical, as the agricultural industry in Central Queensland contributes \$1.7 billion annually to the national economy. We're now looking forward to working with the Federal Government in a collaborative roll-out to build these roads as soon as possible.

Whether we are working in parks and gardens, in a classroom, or a local business, we are all part of this huge, global economic story that is Isaac. It's something to be incredibly proud of because it defines who we are. We work hard, even in tough environments. Not just on mine sites, but in our communities, where we often work in underfunded, under-resourced organisations. We show up for those who need it most, and we look after each other, we look after our mates.

We may not be the largest council, but in the local government industry, the spotlight often shines on us because when we do something, it's usually with a lot of heart. Our communities have given so much to the nation, to our state, and to my family. It's the greatest privilege to serve as your Mayor.

## MAYOR KELLY VEA VEA

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# EVENTS CALENDAR

## JUNE

- 8** Isaac Coastal Community Fun Day
- 9** Peta Lloyd arts workshop
- 13** Middlemount Men's Health Week
- 13** Clermont Campdraft
- 14** Morning Melodies excursion from Coast to MECC
- 17** Ride2School Day (Moranbah State School)
- 21** St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend
- 22** Valkyrie State School 50 year celebration
- 22** Clermont Races
- 27** Nebo Campdraft

## JULY

- 2** Whalebone live theatre show & circus skills workshop
- 4** Kids Club Extreme 2024
- 7-14** NAIDOC Week
- 20** St Lawrence Men's Health Day

Visit [isaac.qld.gov.au/events](https://isaac.qld.gov.au/events)

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





# NEW ERA FOR THE ISAAC REGION TAKES DECLARATION OF OFFICE

The Isaac region's newly elected Council have taken their oath in the heart of the Bowen Basin on 4 April 2024.

The declaration of office ceremony, led by Isaac Regional Council Acting CEO Darren Fettell, welcomed a new Mayor and eight Councillors to their elected positions following 16 March poll results.

The ceremony was held at the Isaac Regional Council Batchelor Parade Chambers in Moranbah, with family and staff in attendance to witness this significant event.

Mayor Kelly Ve Ve, who served as Councillor for 12 years, said she was looking forward to another four-year term with a team that is committed to serving the community and driving positive change.

"It's an honour to serve the Isaac region, and I congratulate each of the divisional Councillors on their appointment," Mayor Ve Ve said.

"Together with the new council we will make Isaac a better place for all."

Mayor Ve Ve paid tribute to past councillors, who set a solid foundation for the new council team.

"The Isaac region and its councillors are respected across the country for their advocacy and ability to drive change," Mayor Ve Ve said.

"I look forward to working with my team, industry and government to ensure that our region continues to be the powerhouse of the nation."

The Council appointed Cr Jane Pickels as Deputy Mayor at its post-election meeting on Friday, 5 April 2024.

## YOUR NEW ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL:

**Mayor** Kelly Ve Ve

**Division 1 - Rural Clermont, Coppabella and Glenden**  
Terry O'Neill

**Division 2 - Dysart**  
Vern Russell

**Division 3 - Moranbah**  
Melissa Westcott

**Division 4 - Moranbah**  
Simon West

**Division 5 - Moranbah**  
Alaina Earl

**Division 6 - Clermont (Deputy Mayor)**  
Jane Pickels

**Division 7 - Moranbah and Middlemount**  
Rachel Anderson

**Division 8 - Nebo and Isaac Coast**  
Viv Coleman

Visit [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au) for more details on the 2024 Local Government Elections.



### CR TERRY O'NEILL

**DIVISION 1 -  
CLERMONT RURAL  
AND GLENDEN**

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Proudly born and bred in Clermont, Cr Terry O'Neill began his professional journey in 1985 with the Belyando Shire Council, and later worked for Queensland Health and Isaac Regional Council. His expertise spans payroll, accounts payable, fleet management, and bookkeeping for a local grazing company. Cr O'Neill is a first time Councillor, being elected in Division 1, representing Glenden and rural communities. He is a passionate advocate for rural infrastructure with his primary goal is to improve roads in the Isaac region. Scan the QR code to learn more.



# \$2 MILLION INVESTMENT TO BUILD TWO ISAAC COUNTRY UNIVERSITIES

The Queensland Government has announced \$2 million to enhance educational access for Isaac residents living in the heart of coal and agricultural communities.

Thanks to this funding, Isaac Regional Council will establish two Isaac Country Universities Centres in Clermont and Moranbah, joining 21 other regional communities across Australia.

These centres are strategically designed to bridge the gap between regional students and campus resources.

Deputy Premier and Treasurer Cameron Dick said Every Queenslanders deserves opportunity regardless of where they live.

“This means opportunity to have a safe and secure home, access to quality and safe healthcare, good meaningful employment, and the ability to improve themselves through education,” Mr Dick said.

“That’s why the Miles Labor Government is investing \$2 million to help Isaac Regional Council establish two Isaac Country Universities Centres.”

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Kelly Vevea said as the cost of living continues to rise across the country, leaving home and the regions to access higher education is getting harder.

“Distance education can be challenging without the right support. This funding is about making sure our potential is not pre-determined by our postcodes,” Mayor Vevea said.

“Isaac Country Universities Centres in Clermont and Moranbah will offer quality facilities, educational support, programming, and social networks for those undertaking university.

“Together we can ensure this access to opportunity is at our doorstep.”



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**ISAAC REGION**



**CR VERN RUSSELL**

**DIVISION 2 - DYSART**

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Vern Russell, a dedicated community member and the newly elected Councillor for Division 2, brings a wealth of experience and a deep rooted connection to the region of Isaac. Born in Rockhampton and raised on the outskirts, specifically on a property at Ridglands, Cr Russell developed a strong affinity for rural living and community values from a young age. Growing up as one of 11 children, Vern learned the importance of cooperation, resilience, and the power of community support. These foundational values have guided her throughout her life and have shaped her vision for the future of Dysart and the wider Isaac region. Scan the QR code to learn more.





# ISAAC COMMEMORATES ANZAC DAY WITH TRIBUTE TO LOCAL HEROES

Communities across the Isaac region stood shoulder-to-shoulder at 18 services to honour those who served and died in military operations for Anzac Day.

Wearing war medals and ribbons with national pride, veterans, families and local RSL sub-branches marked 25 April with traditional dawn services, marches, and commemorative events.

Kelly Vea Vea, who is Mayor of the Isaac region, said it was important for communities to reflect on the bravery of those who served and continue to serve the nation.

"In the past 12 months, our region has lost many, including two men with an extraordinary Anzac spirit - Bill Bruce, 106, and Ivan

Bettridge, 100, both World War Two veterans," Cr Vea Vea said.

"They were both more than witnesses to history, they were both active participants in shaping our communities and our country.

"This Anzac Day, we will remember these iconic gentlemen and all the men and women who served in past and present conflicts."

Following their military careers, Bill Bruce organised Anzac Day celebrations in Nebo for 50 years and served 25 years as the president of the RSL and Ivan Bettridge was a passionate supporter of the Clermont Bears and his footy, and a cherished member of the community.



**CR MELISSA WESTCOTT**

**DIVISION 3 - MORANBAH**

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Melissa Westcott's narrative embodies the ethos of industriousness and community involvement before being elected as Division 3 Councillor in 2024. Nurtured within a lineage of small business proprietors, Cr Westcott gained a steadfast work ethic and an ardor for entrepreneurial ventures from an early age. Venturing into Moranbah over two decades ago as a fledgling educator fresh from university, Cr Westcott found not just a new abode but a canvas for her enterprising spirit. Moranbah became the nurturing ground for businesses. For the past 15 years, she has spearheaded ventures such as Big On Shoes, Moranbah Blooms, and Fox and Frank, each a testament to her acumen in leadership, strategic foresight, and community engagement. Scan the QR code to learn more.





**CR SIMON WEST**

**DIVISION 4 - MORANBAH**

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With years of experience in hospitality management, the mining sector and through union roles, Cr Simon West is a well-recognised community representative. Cr West was first appointed as Division 4 Councillor in 2019 and was re-elected unopposed in 2020. Elected as an executive member of the Mining and Energy Union (MEU) in 2008, Cr West is currently the President of the Goonyella Riverside MEU. He has represented MEU members around Moranbah as a former elected member of the Queensland Board of Management of the Union's Mining and Energy Division. Scan the QR code to learn more.





# WETLANDS WEEKEND HEADLINERS SET TO STUN AS TICKETS GO ON SALE

The ultimate gardening and cooking duo are back for the multi-award-winning St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend as they are joined by one of Australia's rising country music stars for the first time.

Chef Matt Golinski of Ready Steady Cook fame returns after a year's hiatus and will reunite with Australia's renowned landscape architect, Costa Georgiadis, to share their passions.

Loren Ryan, the winner of the Star Maker 2023 at the Tamworth Country Music Festival, will headline one of the most spectacular sunset experiences in Central Queensland.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Kelly Vea Vea said the three-day family-friendly festival offers a bit of everything including art, food, culture, and environmental activities.

"People from all walks of life can connect with nature, awaken the imagination, enjoy feel-good foods and celebrate one of the world's oldest living cultures," Mayor Vea Vea said.

"Guests and locals will be able to explore the picturesque wetlands, learn about the environment, birdlife and be part of regenerating the landscape by planting trees for future generations."

Returning Division 8 Councillor Viv Coleman, who is based on the

Isaac coast, said the Wetlands Weekend's must-do is the Sunset Cultural Experience.

"As the sun sets, cultural groups perform songs and dances against a backdrop of vivid pink and orange sky over the wetlands," Cr Coleman said.

"Be creative and join an art workshop, explore local market stalls and groove to great music while you witness crab races – a quirky local highlight."

This event is proudly brought to the region by Isaac Regional Council in partnership with the Koinjmal People from Koinmerburra Country and the community. St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend is supported by the Australian Government through the Festival Arts program and Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland.

Tickets for St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend are now on sale. Camping and caravan facilities are available on-site or stay in style in a glamping tent.

For more information on all the festival activities and to purchase tickets visit [www.isaac.qld.gov.au/wetlands-weekend](http://www.isaac.qld.gov.au/wetlands-weekend), phone 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27) or visit an Isaac Regional Council office.



**CR ALAINA EARL**

**DIVISION 5 - MORANBAH**

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Cr Alaina Earl's path is a testament to her profound bond with the region and her diverse skills, leading to her uncontested election in 2024. As a first-time Councillor for Division 5, she has been a significant contributor to the Isaac region for more than twenty years. Raised in Tieri and later relocating to Moranbah, she swiftly became a vital member of the coal mining community through the local radio station 4RFM and Moranbah Arts. Cr Earl's professional journey commenced as an independent journalist, making contributions to local newspapers and radio stations. She is also an artist who facilitated paint and sip art classes, promoting creativity and community involvement. Scan the QR code to learn more.







# WASTE MANAGEMENT WITH DARLING DAVE

Guess who's back? It's your favourite waste warrior, Darling Dave! He's rolling up his sleeves and is ready to shake things up! Stay tuned to our Facebook page for Dave's dynamite tips and tricks on all things waste! From knowing your bin day to what goes in which bin, Dave's got you covered!

Missed a collection? Don't worry, Dave's got a tip for that too! Just give us a ring at 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27) and we'll sort it out!

So, are you ready to join Dave on this exciting journey towards a cleaner and greener tomorrow?



**CR JANE PICKELS**

**DEPUTY MAYOR  
DIVISION 6 -  
CLERMONT**

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Cr Jane Pickels, who relocated to Queensland in 1984, swiftly engaged in community service through committee involvement and volunteering. She and her husband Greg are parents to four children and grandparents to three. In her leisure time, she enjoys hiking and adventure travels, and is an avid sports enthusiast, participating in various sports and contributing at an administrative level. Cr Pickels first represented Division 7 in 2012 and was re-elected unopposed in both 2016 and 2020. In the 2024 Local Government Elections, she was elected to represent Division 6 after making the move from Middlemount to Clermont and was appointed as Deputy Mayor. Scan the QR code to learn more.





# INSPIRING WOMEN

The Inspiring Women in Isaac events were some remarkable gatherings that celebrated the achievements, resilience, and leadership of women in our community. Held across seven Isaac town with special guest speaker, former Mayor Anne Baker, this empowering event brought together women from diverse backgrounds, ages, and professions.

As we celebrate these inspiring women, we look forward to a future where their impact continues to shape our community. Here are just some images from the people who attended across the region. For full galleries, view Council's Facebook page.



**CR RACHEL ANDERSON**

**DIVISION 7 - MIDDLEMOUNT**

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Cr Rachel Anderson is a dedicated community leader and advocate for the Isaac region. Elected unopposed in 2024 as Division 7 Councillor, Cr Anderson has a rich background intertwined with her upbringing, professional endeavors, and commitment to public service. Her boundary extends across Valkyrie, Middlemount, Dysart, and Moranbah, areas she passionately represents and advocates for. Cr Anderson has identified key areas of focus for the Isaac region, including infrastructure development, community services, and housing affordability. She tirelessly works towards improving and maintaining essential infrastructure, advocating for high-quality healthcare and other vital services, and addressing the pressing issue of housing affordability to enhance the lives of Isaac residents. Scan the QR code to learn more.





**CR VIV COLEMAN**

**DIVISION 8 -  
NEBO AND SURROUNDS**

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Cr Viv Coleman, with more than two decades of residency in the Isaac area and an active presence in St Lawrence, boasts a profound personal attachment to the locality. Drawing from a diverse professional background spanning construction, waste management, agriculture, tourism, and real estate, Cr Coleman brings a wealth of local business expertise to the table. Driven by a fervent desire to bridge the gap between the community and the Council, Cr Coleman is dedicated to advocating for the region. She volunteers her time and collaborates with local non-profit organisations, fostering meaningful connections with residents and honouring the region's Traditional Owners. Scan the QR code to learn more.



BEST HOLIDAY  
SCHOOL HOLIDAY  
WEEKEND!



21-23 June 2024

# St Lawrence WETLANDS WEEKEND

FOOD • ART • CULTURE • ENVIRONMENT

One of Queensland's best regional events is back tease the tastebuds and animate the artist within. Experience the world's oldest living cultures through art, food, dance and the environment as one of nature's finest wetlands burst into life.



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FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY**

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COUNTRY MUSIC STAR ON THE RISE LOREN RYAN | MUSTER DOGS TV STAR FRANK FINGER  
SUNSET CULTURAL EXPERIENCE | NIK FLACK'S FINE DINING EXPERIENCE | SIGNATURE LOCAL PRODUCE LUNCHEON  
ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOPS | CULTURAL DANCE PERFORMANCES | BIRDWATCHING AND HISTORICAL TOURS  
WETLANDS TREE PLANTING AND NATURE WALKS | CRAB RACES | LIVE MUSIC  
WILDLIFE DISPLAYS | MARKETS AND STALLS | COOKING DEMOS | KIDS WETLANDS ADVENTURER PROGRAM  
WETLANDS HIGH TEA GARDEN PARTY | CLYDESDALE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES | ROVING THEATRE | PLUS MORE



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