

Etheridge Shire Council
Inform Newsletter

www.etheridge.qld.gov.au

Edition 4, April 2019



ANZAC DAY SERVICE 2019 IN GREENS PARK, GEORGETOWN

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Good Day to all

I can't believe we are staring down the month of May already.

What's Council up to?

Council is in the planning stage of developing additional rural-residential allotments along the Georgetown – Forsayth Road with allotment sizes ranging from 2ha's to 7ha

Furthermore, Council has requested the CEO to provide Council with a concept plan for sub-dividing another lot of land also along the Georgetown-Forsayth Road at the southern end of Haldane street that will be suitable for units specifically designed for the elderly or disabled.

Council is also in the planning stage of developing a Council Depot in Einasleigh. Council conducted a workshop on Wednesday 24th April to discuss this concept and has requested the CEO to write to the Department of Natural Resources Mines & Energy regarding available land within the township suitable to accommodate a Depot operation.

Projects

The construction of the Multi-Purpose Sports complex has commenced and is still on target to be completed by the end of the financial year. Over the coming weeks the portal frames will be delivered and installed. This complex once finished will be a great asset for the shire.

The month of May will finally see contractors moving in to commence construction on the Charleston Dam. This will be a welcome sight! Not only for our community but also for Council.

Council's road construction crew(s) will be commencing approximately 4km of new pavement to the Forsayth – Einasleigh road. The section of upgrade will start from the end of the Bitumen just past Flags Lookout heading back towards Forsayth. This work is being funded through the Roads to Recovery Program and the State Governments TIDS program. Work on this section of Council's road network will be commencing from 27th April 2019 through to the 30th June 2019.

For some time now Council has been discussing the opportunity to create permanent positions within Parks & Gardens in the townships of Mt Surprise, Forsayth & Einasleigh. This is something that will create permanent positions in these townships giving job security whilst further enhancing the beauty of our smaller towns.

Meetings

I will be travelling to Brisbane on the 14, 15th May as part of the FNQROC delegation to meet with various State Ministers about local issues. I am pleased to be able to have deputations with the relevant Ministers regarding the Gulf Development Road, Gilbert River Bridge and Gilbert River Irrigation Project.

Meetings locked in to date include:

- Deputy Premier
- Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Trade
- Minister for Innovation & Tourism Industry Development
- Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
- Minister for Local Government, Racing and Multi-cultural Affairs
- Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
- Shadow Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
- Shadow Minister for Transport & Main Roads
- Shadow Minister for Environment, Science and GBR + Shadow Minister for Tourism
- Shadow Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Forestry
- Shadow Minister for Housing & Public Works, Shadow Minister for Energy, Shadow Minister for Innovation and Digital Technology
- Shadow Minister for Communities, Shadow Minister for Disability Services & Seniors, Shadow Minister for ATSI Partnerships and the Arts
- Chief of Staff to Hon Mick de Brenni, Minister for Housing & Public Works and Minister for Digital Technology and Sport
- Housing and Homelessness Advisor to Hon Mick de Brenni, Minister for Housing & Public Works and Minister for Digital Technology and Sport

Cheers for now

Warren Devlin | Mayor

PS. Please take care on our roads as mining operations have commenced at Agate Creek which has seen the use of Road Trains between Agate Creek and Georgetown then from Georgetown through to Charters Towers.

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DESK

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Fast Financial Facts

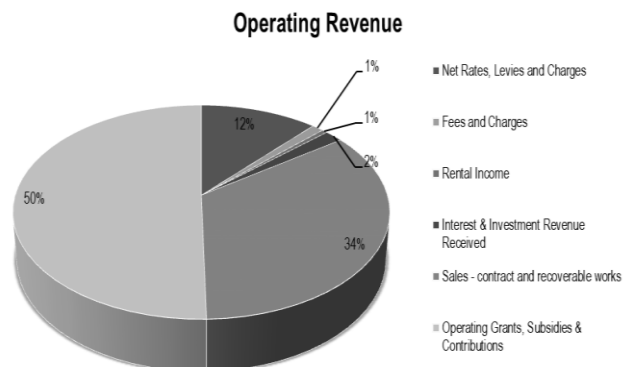
- Cash & Cash Investments as at 31st March - \$19.418M (\$9.085M constrained)



Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2019



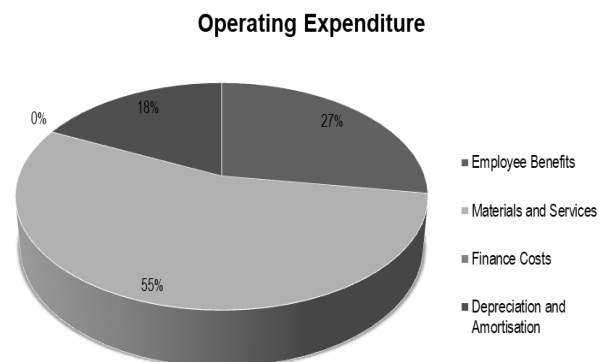
\$'s	Actuals 2018 2019	Budget 2018 2019	Percentage 2018 2019
Revenue			
Net Rates, Levies and Charges	\$ 2,270,321	\$ 2,188,939	103.72%
Fees and Charges	\$ 225,320	\$ 239,375	94.13%
Rental Income	\$ 103,779	\$ 176,000	58.97%
Interest & Investment Revenue Received	\$ 351,454	\$ 265,324	132.46%
Sales - contract and recoverable works	\$ 6,689,582	\$ 8,453,908	79.13%
Operating Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	\$ 9,783,794	\$ 10,763,853	90.89%
Total Recurrent Revenue	\$ 19,424,250	\$ 22,087,399	87.94%



Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2019



\$'s	Actuals 2018 2019	Budget 2018 2019	Percentage 2018 2019
Expenses			
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,367,253	\$ 5,393,163	80.98%
Materials and Services	\$ 8,686,094	\$ 14,322,225	60.65%
Finance Costs	\$ 6,621	\$ 10,733	61.69%
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$ 2,846,030	\$ 4,668,072	60.97%
Total Recurrent Expenses	\$ 15,905,998	\$ 24,394,193	65.20%
Total Expenses	\$ 15,905,998	\$ 24,394,193	65.20%



DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS (DRFA)

As mentioned within last month's Inform, the Etheridge Shire has been allocated Category B funding to assist the community recovery from the last weather event that impacted the Shire. Council has been working with Departmental Officers and various Ministers to seek additional assistance for the Shire under Category C arrangements. Council has been advised by the Department that Council's submission seeking Category C assistance has been declined.

To apply for the DRFA funding arrangements I would encourage you to visit the following website: www.gra.qld.gov.au/funding/drfa and click on the following link on the home page. This will take you to an information package which contains who to contact and what to do.



DRFA & SDRA information sheet - November 2018

Information sheet: Overview of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and the State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA). 319 KB

Latest Approvals under the Disaster Relief Funding Arrangement



Local Government Area	Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme	Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme	Counter Disaster Operations	Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets	Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans	Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business	Disaster Assistance (Not-for-profit) Loans	Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Not-for-profit	Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans	Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers	Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Small Business	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Not-for-profit
Charters Towers Regional Council	✓ ⁴ Activated 04/02/19	✓ ⁴ Activated 04/02/19	✓ Activated 01/02/19	✓ Activated 01/02/19	✓ Activated 20/02/19	✓ Activated 20/02/19			✓ Activated 15/02/19	✓ Activated 15/02/19	✓ Activated 15/02/19			
Cloncurry Shire Council	✓ ⁷ Activated 8/02/19	✓ ⁷ Activated 8/02/19	✓ Activated 03/02/19	✓ Activated 03/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 07/02/19	✓ Activated 15/02/19	✓ Activated 15/02/19
Cook Shire Council	✓ ² Activated 1/02/19	✓ ² Activated 1/02/19	✓ Activated 30/01/19	✓ Activated 30/01/19										
Croydon Shire Council			✓ Activated 04/02/19	✓ Activated 04/02/19	✓ Activated 20/02/19	✓ Activated 20/02/19			✓ Activated 15/02/19	✓ Activated 15/02/19	✓ Activated 15/02/19			
Diamantina Shire Council			✓ Activated 12/02/19	✓ Activated 12/02/19										
Douglas Shire Council	✓ ³ Activated 31/01/19	✓ ³ Activated 31/01/19	✓ Activated 30/01/19	✓ Activated 30/01/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 06/02/19	✓ Activated 07/02/19		
Etheridge Shire Council			✓ Activated 04/02/19	✓ Activated 04/02/19	✓ Activated 20/02/19	✓ Activated 20/02/19			✓ Activated 15/02/19	✓ Activated 15/02/19	✓ Activated 15/02/19			

2018|2019 AMENDED BUDGET

Council considers that its Budget is a fundamental instrument of accountability and an essential strategic document to ensure that the objectives under Council's Corporate Plan are implemented over the five (5) years. The 2018/2019 Budget has been developed within Councils overall planning framework.

It is good financial stewardship to review the Annual Budget in depth at regular intervals to ensure that what Revenue was forecasted is still likely to be achieved and that the Operating and Capital expenditure is in line with original costs estimates and also to make any amendments to either the Revenue and Expenditure streams.

In addition, Council may, by resolution, amend the budget for a financial year at any time before the end of the financial year, however if the Budget does not comply with S.169 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 when it is amended, the amendment of the budget is of no effect.

Summary

Over the past nine (9) months Council's Budget has been subject to additions to Capital Expenditure, and also subject to the reduction in Grant funded project. Therefore, it is timely to undertake a review of the 2018/19 Budget to make the necessary amendments to reflect a more accurate account of Revenue Streams and Expenditure. At the April 2019 General Meeting, Council resolved the following:

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Acknowledges that the 2018/2019 Amended Budget reveals total revenue from ordinary activities amounting to \$24,056.005, total expenses from ordinary activities (including depreciation) amounting to \$26,983,619 and capital funding operations amounting to \$12,826,956 and furthermore that Council Resolve pursuant to section 170(3) of the Local Government Act 2009 and sections 169 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, to amend Council's Budget for the 2018/2019 financial year, incorporating:

- i. The statements of financial position;***
- ii. The statements of cash flow;***
- iii. The statements of income and expenditure;***
- iv. The statements of changes in equity;***

as tabled be approved.

MOVED: Cr Devlin

SECONDED: Cr Bethel

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2019/GM2600
5/0

Please find below comments on the Amended 2018/19 Budget.

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Amended)

Amended Budget No.1

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2019



	Actuals 2018 2019	Amended Budget 2018 2019	Budget 2018 2019	% 2018 2019
\$'s				
<i>Revenue</i>				
Net Rates, Levies and Charges	\$ 2,270,321	\$ 2,207,101	\$ 2,188,939	103%
Fees and Charges	\$ 225,320	\$ 261,441	\$ 239,375	86%
Rental Income	\$ 103,779	\$ 150,000	\$ 176,000	69%
Interest & Investment Revenue Received	\$ 351,454	\$ 295,267	\$ 265,324	119%
Sales - contract and recoverable works	\$ 6,689,582	\$ 10,294,110	\$ 8,453,908	65%
Operating Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	\$ 9,783,794	\$ 10,848,086	\$ 10,763,853	90%
Total Recurrent Revenue	\$ 19,424,250	\$ 24,056,005	\$ 22,087,399	81%

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2019



\$'s	Actuals 2018 2019	Amended Budget 2018 2019	Budget 2018 2019	Percentage 2018 2019
Expenses				
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,367,253	\$ 5,393,163	\$ 5,393,163	80.98%
Materials and Services	\$ 8,686,094	\$ 16,943,203	\$ 14,322,225	60.65%
Finance Costs	\$ 6,621	\$ 10,674	\$ 10,733	61.69%
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$ 2,846,030	\$ 4,622,985	\$ 4,668,072	60.97%
Total Recurrent Expenses	\$ 15,905,998	\$ 26,970,025	\$ 24,394,193	65.20%
Total Expenses	\$ 15,905,998	\$ 26,970,025	\$ 24,394,193	65.20%

The main expense item that has had amendments to it is within Materials & Services. This has had an increase in expenditure due to NDRRA Flood works and also the additional contract for the Hann Highway project. The majority of expenditure items within the original 2018/19 Budget have remained consistent with the amended 2018/19 Budget.

- Councils Operating Surplus / (Deficit) has been reduced from (\$2.306M) to (\$0.180M) which takes into consideration the adding back of the prepaid FAGs grant.
- Council's cash position decreases from \$12.483M to \$11.858M (\$0.625M). The cash position is still sufficient to cash back Councils Capital Reserves which as at 30/6/19 is estimated to be \$9.45M
- Councils Capital Expenditure has been reduced from \$16.489M to \$12.826M. The reduction is due to a number of projects that were identified within the original Budget which were dependent and reliant upon Grant Applications through either the State & Federal Governments or through Council's resolutions over the past 9 months to defer the capital project or capital acquisition. In addition the Capital Revenue has also decreased from \$10.935M to \$7.592M.

MINING ACTIVITIES

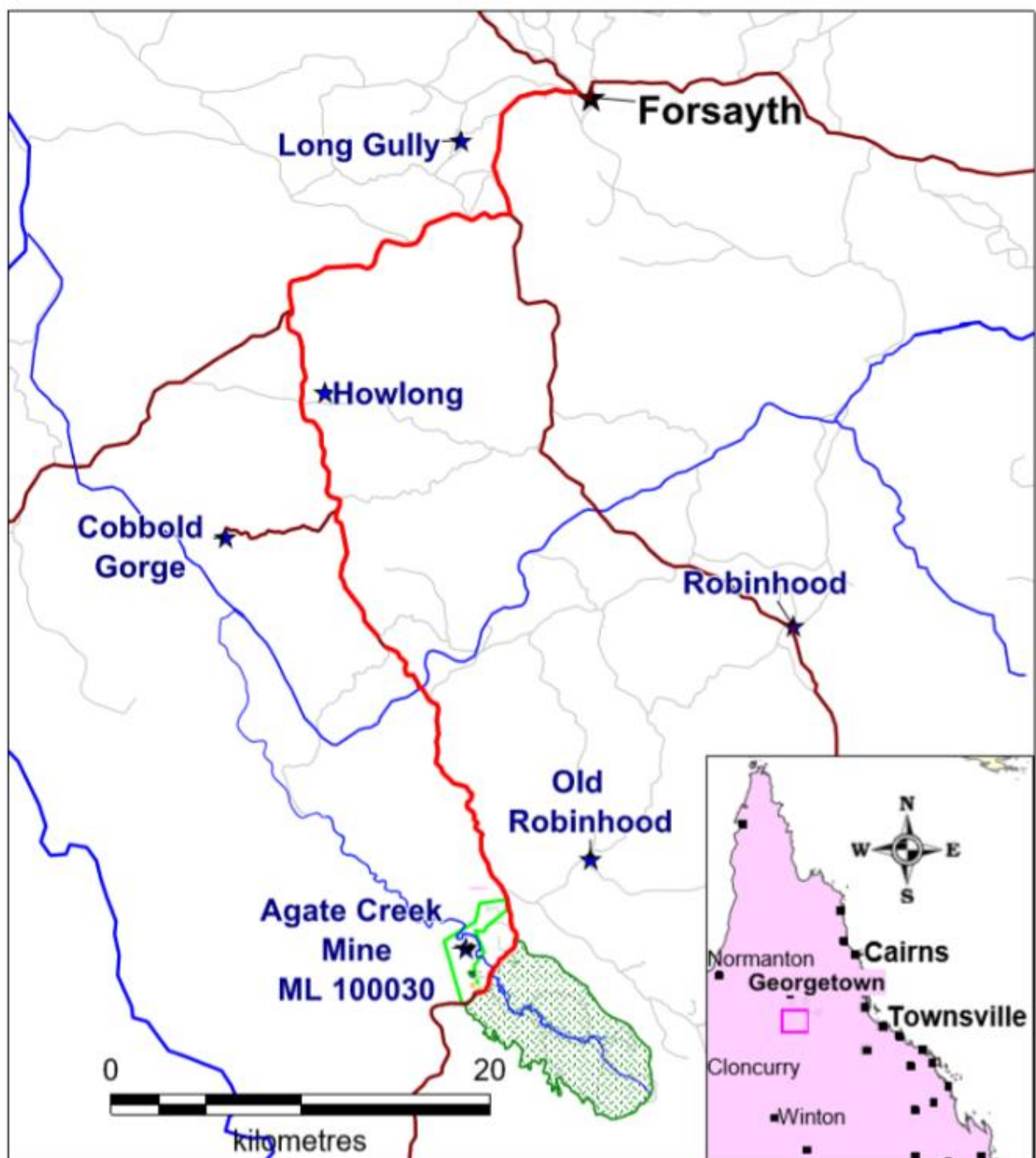
You may be or may not be aware of a new Mining Lease that was approved by the Mines Department in February 2019 for Laneway Resources which is situated at Agate Creek. This new mine has now commenced operating within the Etheridge Shire. The Mine is located along the Agate Creek Road. (Refer to the Map below).

The Mine is owned by Laneway Resources and is being managed by Maroon Gold. From the meetings that Council has conducted with this firm, the 1st phase of their mining operation will be ongoing for approximately 4-5 months. This means that the Mine will be hauling ore along the Agate Creek Road using B-Double configurations with approximately 12-14 truck movements per day.

This ore is transported from the Mine Site along the Agate Creek Road, along the Georgetown-Forsayth Road with the ore then being stockpiled at the old Mining processing plant just south of Georgetown. The ore is then loaded onto Triple's and hauled from the old mine processing plant via the internal haul road which intersects with the Gulf Developmental Road. From here the ore is transported along the Gulf Developmental Road, down the Kennedy Highway and then onto the Gregory Developmental Road to Charters Towers for processing.

Council would like to take this opportunity to advise the community to take care if you are travelling along the Agate Creek Road, Georgetown-Forsayth Road, Gulf Developmental Road, Kennedy Highway and the Gregory Developmental Road as there will be an increase in road activity.

Map No.1 – Haul Route from the Mine Site



EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

Council is in the recruitment process for a new Director of Engineering. This position has been vacant since March 2018, and Council has been unsuccessful to date in recruiting for this position. Council has engaged a recruitment firm to assist Council in this process. The closing date for this position is the 10th May.

In addition, Council has advertised for the role of Workplace Health & Safety Advisor, with the closing date being 6th May.

BUDGET 2019/2020

I am in the process of preparing the Draft 2019/20 Budget for Council which is developed in accordance with Councils 5 year Corporate Plan regarding projects and services.

In addition, Council has been revalued to take effect from 1 July 2019. The valuation changes have not been consistent within and between land use types. This is however fairly typical in revaluations across the State.

This is not an uncommon situation for a council to face following a revaluation, and while most councils seek to minimise the fluctuations in increases, it is technically not possible (lawfully) to achieve an even change in rate levies.

Grazing properties experienced an overall increase of 47%.

- **8 properties (7%) increase between 10-19%**
- **19 properties (15%) increase between 20-29%**
- **21 properties (17%) increase between 30-39%**
- **75 properties (61%) increase above 40%**

Section 74(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 states that a Local Government must calculate the rates for land by using the rateable value of the land

Council will work through these issues when developing its Rating Categories and Methodology for the 2019/20 Budget. This is not the first time that Council has been subjected to inconsistent values within land use types.

It is envisaged that Council will hold its first Budget work shop within the next two weeks and hold subsequent workshops to have the Budget finalised and adopted within the legislative period being on or before the 31st July.

PROJECT UPDATES

Multi-Purpose Sports Complex

- ☐ Council has awarded the contract;
- ☐ Council has signed off on the Building Contract;
- ☐ Construction work will commence in the first week of March 2019 with an estimated completion date still being around the 24th May 2019
- ☐ Onsite activities will be commencing on the 25 March 2019 and will be ongoing
- ☐ The Building Contractors have completed a number elements off-site, such as the portal frames, roofing, cladding, procured floor coverings, tiles, plumbing fixtures
- ☐ The portal frames will be delivered to site during between 1st to 10th May and will be installed during this period as well. Along with the frames will come the roofing materials and cladding materials which will be installed
- ☐ Once the roof is on the concrete service will be framed and poured.
- ☐ Over the coming weeks there will be a hive of activity on-site.
- ☐ The facility will cater for the following sports & activities:
 - Basketball; Netball, Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Squash, Gymnasium; Aerobics; Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis (just to name a few)

Funding for this project has been provided by the Works for Queensland 2017-2019 funding program with some additional funds from Council.

Charleston Dam Project

- ☐ The construction of the Charleston Dam is still going ahead;
- ☐ Council has agreed and signed off on the Dam Designs last month;
- ☐ Council has engaged GHD to undertake the finalisation of the Designs and also be on-site during construction;
- ☐ Design & Construct drawings for the Recreational Area are completed;
- ☐ Council has secured an extension of time for its grant funding through the Federal Government via the National Stronger Regions Fund;
- ☐ Council has appointed Mr Tony Potter as Councils internal Project Manager for the construction of the Dam and Pipeline.
- ☐ At the March General Meeting, Council has awarded three (3) contracts for the construction of the Dam & Spillway, Design & Construction of the Pipeline, and the Construction of the Fishladder.
- ☐ Council has issued the necessary construction contracts for signing between the successful contractors and Council.
- ☐ The Dam contractor will be commencing in the month of May

In closing, If anyone has any issues or concerns regarding Council or Councils Operations please do not hesitate to contact me or call into the Shire's Administration Office, to discuss.

David Munro
Chief Executive Officer

FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IN AN EMERGENCY

CONTACT PERSONNEL:

Council's Chief Executive Officer, David Munro is nominated as the first point of contact.

PHONE: 0448 621 231 or SATELLITE PHONE: 0147 184 794.

If the LDMG (Local Disaster Management Group) is activated by the Chairperson (The Mayor) the Controlling Officer will be David Munro

PHONE: 0448 621 231



SUGGESTION BOX

A suggestion box is available for the staff and public in the foyer of the Etheridge Shire Council Main Office and within the Engineering Services.

All suggestions are welcome including anonymous or otherwise.



Let's work together to make the Shire better!



WATER SUPPLY GEORGETOWN

BASE LEVEL 0 RESTRICTIONS

Base level 0 restrictions will now apply to all water connections within the GEORGETOWN WATER SUPPLY SCHEME.

Notice is hereby given of water restrictions in accordance with the Local Government Act and the Water Act 2002 Section 388(1) Restricting water supply.

Level 0 Water Restrictions are effective from midnight on

Wednesday 19th of December 2018

1. No sprinklers on Mondays.
2. Sprinklers allowed Tuesday to Sunday between the hours of 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
3. Attended hand held hoses permitted at any time except Monday

WATER SUPPLY FORSAYTH

BASE LEVEL 0 RESTRICTIONS

Base level 0 restrictions will now apply to all water connections within the Forsayth Water Supply Scheme.

Notice is hereby given of water restrictions in accordance with the Local Government Act and the Water Act 2002 Section 388(1) Restricting water supply

1. No sprinklers on Mondays.
2. Sprinklers allowed Tuesday to Sunday between the hours of 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
3. Attended hand held hoses permitted at any time except Mondays.

(Watering permitted 36 hrs per week)

BREACHES OF THESE RESTRICTIONS MAY RESULT IN A PENALTY



Etheridge Shire Council

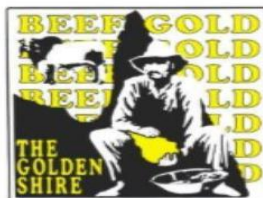
Public Notice of General Meetings for 2018/2019

In accordance with Section 277(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Etheridge Shire Council General Meetings for the 2019 calendar year are to be held on the following dates at Council's Chambers;

Month	Date	Venue	Time
<i>May</i>	<i>Friday, 17 May 2019</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>8.00am</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Wednesday, 19 June 2019</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>8.00am</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>Wednesday, 17 July 2019</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>8.00am</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>Wednesday, 21 August 2019</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>8.00am</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Wednesday, 18 September 2019</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>8.00am</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Wednesday, 16 October 2019</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>8.00am</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Wednesday, 20 November 2019</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>8.00am</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Wednesday, 18 December 2019</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>8.00am</i>

David Munro
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Po Box 12
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871



PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

Residents of the Etheridge Shire are advised that, in accordance with Section 277(4) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the General Meeting previously advertised to be held in Georgetown on Wednesday, 15 May 2019 has been changed and the meeting will now be held at **Georgetown on Friday, 17 May 2019** commencing at **8:00am**.

David Munro
Chief Executive Officer

PO Box 12
Georgetown QLD 4871

Position Vacant:

Works Supervisor

Etheridge Shire Council *The Golden Heart of the Gulf*

A vacancy exists with Etheridge Shire Council for a Works Supervisor. The Works Supervisor will provide leadership and deliver functions that contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of Council's Works Department.

The Works Supervisor's role is to coordinate Council's construction and maintenance projects and supervise all functions involved, ensuring that all projects are planned, resourced and delivered effectively and within designated timeframes.

Reporting to the Works Manager, the successful applicant will work autonomously to ensure an effective, smooth running service is provided.

As a supervisor, you will provide effective leadership to crews within the Works Department and also play a vital role in the strategic direction relating to operations of the Works Department.

The successful application will be required to camp in a Council owned caravan in various locations within the shire during the 9 day shift.

Applications to include:

Cover Letter

Updated Resume

Supporting Evidence of Qualifications

Minimum of 2 referees

Applications can be delivered to the Administration Office, emailed or posted to:

Applications Close: 12pm Friday 26th April 2019

Position Vacant –

Works Supervisor

The Chief Executive Officer

Etheridge Shire Council

PO Box 12

GEORGETOWN, QLD 4871



For more information call 07 4079 9090, email info@etheridge.qld.gov.au or visit www.etheridge.qld.gov.au

Position Vacant:

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR

Etheridge Shire Council *The Golden Heart of the Gulf*

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITHIN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT

PROVE YOUR PEOPLE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Etheridge Shire Council is seeking applications from highly motivated, enthusiastic and team orientated persons to advocate and ensure compliance throughout Etheridge Shire Council's departments with all relevant Safety policies and procedures.

The successful applicant must be able to fulfil or demonstrate how they can meet the key requirements and accountabilities as detailed within the position description.

Successful applicants will contribute to ensuring that Council is compliant with all relevant WHS legislation as well as implementing and enforcing measures to provide a safe and healthy work place for staff, contractors, suppliers and community contacts that work within Council's parameters.

Applications can be delivered to the Administration Office, emailed or posted to:

Applications Close: 4pm Monday 6 May 2018

Position Vacant –

Workplace Health and Safety Advisor

The Chief Executive Officer

Etheridge Shire Council

PO Box 12

GEORGETOWN, QLD 4871



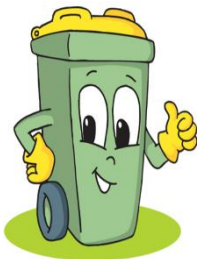
For more information call 07 4079 9090, email info@etheridge.qld.gov.au or visit www.etheridge.qld.gov.au

Rates – Council Pensioner Remission



Are you a Pensioner living in our Shire?
Have you applied for your Pensioner Remission?

The Etheridge Shire Council would like to advise all pensioners living in our Shire that are not currently receiving the Pensioner Remission to apply before the 30 June. Forms may be downloaded from our website: info@etheridge.qld.gov.au or by calling the Shire Office on 4079 9090.



IMPORTANT CHANGES to **HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION** in Georgetown



Council seeks your support and help in the continued successful collection of household waste in Georgetown. Residents can help in the ongoing efficient collection of household waste through following a few simple rules:

- **Don't over fill your bin** as this causes problems in emptying bins with truck mechanism and can also attract birds which pull rubbish out of bins
- Bin lids should be closed properly at all times
- Break up or squash bulky items such as cardboard boxes before putting in bin
- **Bins must be placed at kerb or edge of bitumen roadway for collection**
- Items on the ground beside the bins will not normally be picked up
- Due to council now permanently using the green garbage truck bins should be placed with **pull handles/lid hinge facing the road**

For Georgetown residents green waste can be deposited at the green waste area at the Georgetown Landfill on the Forsyth Road. In the future, the green waste at the tip will be converted to mulch for use in the town.

Help keep our town tidy

Thank you for your continued help and support.

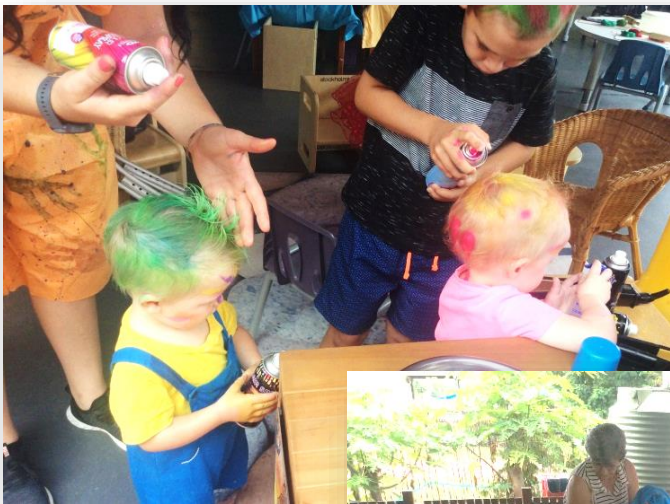


Whats Happening At Little Gems...

Funky Hair Day

Thank you to Georgetown State School and the our Community for donating and getting crazy for the Leukaemia Foundation!

We raised \$472.55 !!!!



Earth Day Breakfast- Thank you to everyone who joined us for Pancakes!





The sneaky Leprechaun returned for another St. Patrick's Day and brought mischief with them, with upturned tables & chairs, green toilet water and a mysteriously missing scrap bucket.



Good luck & safe travels to Jane & Lex as they begin their journey around Australia for 3 months.



Congratulations to Logan on her 1 year anniversary at Little Gem's!!!
YOU MADE IT!!!!

What's next at Little Gems...

UNDER 8'S WEEK IS 17th- 24th MAY
NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME IS 22ND MAY



Happy Easter from The Team at Little Gem's!
Hope you had a safe and happy holiday.

Ph: 40621265

Email: childcare@etheridge.qld.gov.au



HAPPY EASTER FROM



Little Gems
Children's Centre





Little Gems
Children's Centre



Royal Flying Doctor Service

Royal Flying Doctor's Service present Little Gem's Child Care Centre with a certificate of appreciation for the money raised through can recycling at the Service.



Thank you to Lyall Stacpoole & Savannah Freight for the collection and transportation of the cans.
Thank you to the community for recycling.





Can Recycling

Leave Your Aluminium Cans at Our Recycle Centre
All Money Raised Will Be Donated To The Royal Flying Doctors
Service.



No plastics or rubbish please!
Aluminium Cans Only



Cans are collected from the centre by **Lyle**, who takes them to the **Georgetown Roadhouse** for **free transportation** to the recyclers in Cairns. A great community effort.

Our last shipment of cans raised \$611.10 for the RFDS!

Georgetown Student Hostel est. 1968

The Georgetown Student Hostel prides itself on being a "home away from home" where children are cared for in a "family" environment. The hostel offers modern facilities and can accommodate up to 28 Primary School Students to complete their education at the Georgetown State School.

Anyone interested is welcome to visit and take a tour.

For all enquiries:

Phone: (07) 4062 1145

Email: hostel@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Hostel kids dressed up ready for Funky Hair Day.



The Georgetown Student Hostel still has vacancies for 2019 so if you would like to inquire about anything please ring Karen Remfrey (Manager) on 4062 1145 or 0438 069 077.

NOMINATIONS possible for Peninsula Selection.



RESULTS DISTRICT – Etheridge

FORSAYTH STATE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY 2019

YEAR	BOYS (SCHOOL)	GIRLS (SCHOOL)	Available Times
2007 Boys 2007 Girls	1. Liam Atkinson (Mt Surprise)	1. Amelia Pickering (Croydon)	B 14.01.44 G 20.01
	2. Tristan Hopkins (Mt Surprise)	2. Gracie Tincknell (Georgetown)	B 14.41.59 G 21.02
	3. Aidan Naidu (Croydon)		B 16.41.10
	4. Scott Ecclestone-Patchett		
	5.Travis Pugh		
2008 Boys 2008 Girls	1. Blake Bryan (Georgetown)	1. Christina Atkinson (Georgetown)	B 16.10 G 14.49
	2. Chase Tansey (Georgetown)	2. Chantal Wilson (Mt Surprise)	B 17.14 G 18.20
	3. Blaine Pezzoti (Forsayth)	3. Emma Pickering (Croydon)	B 24.04.62 G 19.24.3
		4. Josie Whittaker (Forsayth)	
		5. Adelle Bridge (Croydon)	
2009 Boys 2009 Girls	1. Darcy Cameron (Mt Surprise)	1.SheridanYoung (Georgetown)	
	2. Kaelan Atkinson(Mt Surprise)	2. Jorja Bethel (Georgetown)	
	3. Reece Pugh(Georgetown)	3. Hayley Butler (Georgetown)	
	4. Reggie Carlson(Croydon)		
2010 Boys 2010 Girls	1. Dylan Pozza (Mt Surprise)	1. Nikki Bethel (Georgetown)	
	2. Baylie Moody (Forsayth)	2. Shyamah-Rae Wildermuth (Croydon)	

2011 Boys 2011 Girls	1.Damien Pederson (Georgetown)	1.Georgia Cameron (Mt Surprise)	
	2.Aran Atkinson (Mt Surprise)	2. Jasmine Pickering (Croydon)	
	3.Kaiden Burns (Croydon)	3.Emily Coxhead (Croydon)	
	4.Bobby Bethel (Georgetown)		
	5.Wesley McFarlane (Croydon)		
2012 Boys 2012 Girls	1.Conner Kennedy (Mt Surprise)	1. Bree Pickering (Croydon)	
	2. Jordan Connell (Georgetown)	2.TahliaBurns-Fitzgerald (Croydon)	
	3. Justin Naidu (Croydon)	3.Savanna Oliver (Mt Surprise)	
2012 Boys	4. Bailey Hughes (Georgetown)		
2013 Boys 2013 Girls	1.Kody Connell (Mt Surprise)	1.Bronte Moody (Forsayth)	
	2.Thomas Kuskopf (Forsayth)	2.Miley Bryan (Georgetown)	
	3.Raymond Jenkins (Georgetown)	3. Jorja Pickering (Croydon)	
		4. Reuby Hinton (Mt Surprise)	
2014 Boys 2014 Girls	1.Archie Kennedy (Mt Surprise)		
	2.Timothy Kuskopf (Forsayth)		
	3. Coltan Kernan (Georgetown)		

TerrEstrial

The Ted Elliott Mineral Collection

Terrestrial is now open 7 days a week during our tourist season.

If you've never had the chance to look inside your own backyard, now is the time to pop in and wander through the amazing collection and our historical artefacts on display. The Ted Elliott Mineral Collection is not just a collection of rocks, we have fossils of which a lot have been found locally, two entire rooms of beautiful agate, one of those rooms solely dedicated to local agate from Agate Creek. Crystals and gems from Australia and around the world, a gold and silver room with enough worth to inspire you to buy a detector, a fluorescent room that glows under black light and a rough to smooth room showcasing the imagination of the minds that create stunning jewellery. The historical stories and letters on the walls of first settlers, gold and other metal mining days and photographs of days gone by will fascinate for hours.

Come in and see us at the visitor centre, you won't be disappointed.



Save the Date

81st Annual Georgetown Bushman's Ball

**Saturday 5th October
Etheridge Shire Hall, Georgetown**

Watch this space for more exciting information.



2019 ANNUALS

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May

Georgetown Golf Club Inc.

SATURDAY 18 Hole Event & Novelties 9am Tee Off

SUNDAY 18 Hole Event & Novelties

NOMINATIONS \$25.00 Per Day (includes smoko & lunch)*

PRESENTATIONS Approximately 3pm Sunday

Meals available from 7pm each night - All Welcome!!

BBQ Dinner Friday Night 11th - \$15 pp

Hot Dishes Saturday Night 12th - \$20 pp

Breakfast available Sat & Sun mornings - \$5 pp

President Phillip Kernan - M 0458 165 772

Secretary Jo Evans - P 4062 1278

Lots of prizes to be won



*It would be appreciated if you could nominate at your earliest convenience, to assist with catering.

TUXEDO

CONTRACTING

**ELECTRICAL
A/C INSTALLATION AND CLEANING
DAY RATE MUSTERING**

FOR ALL BOOKINGS CONTACT CASEY TASKER
0417463407 / CASEY@TUXEDOCONTRACTING.COM

MT LITTLE STATION. GEORGETOWN.

Electrical Contractor License 85850

SAVE THE DATE

2019 GEORGETOWN CAMPDRAFT

**Friday 31st May, Saturday 1st June and
Sunday 2nd June**

Come on down for a weekend of action packed camp drafting and enjoy the fun. Competitors BBQ Friday night, meals available all weekend from 'Bekky's Baking' and don't miss the entertainment on Saturday night!

Please jump onto Facebook and 'like' the Georgetown Campdraft page to keep up to date with information on the event and details on nominations.

Enquiries to Secretary Anna Christensen on 0419 619 880 or alternatively message the Facebook page.





S.S.A.A. FORSAYTH & DISTRICT BRANCH INC

Will be holding monthly Shoots and Bi Monthly General Meetings afterwards.

Where: S.S.A.A. Forsayth & District Branch Inc Gun Range

When: Every 1st Sunday of the month @ 9am

Rules:

Rifle – Must have S.S.A.A financial membership and present card

Pistol – Must have S.S.A.A. Forsayth & District Branch Inc Club membership

Sunday 5 th May	Shoot & General Meeting
Sunday 2 nd June	Shoot
Sunday 7 th July	Shoot & General Meeting
Sunday 4 th August	Shoot
Sunday 1 st September	Shoot & General Meeting
Sunday 6 th October	Shoot
Sunday 3 rd November	Shoot & General Meeting
Sunday 3 rd November	Shoot
Sunday 1 st December	Shoot & General Meeting
Sunday 5 th January	Shoot
Sunday 2 nd February	Shoot & General Meeting
Sunday 1 st March	Shoot
Sunday 5 th April	Shoot & General Meeting

Each event will have BBQ & Drinks available for purchase afterwards.

Raffles will also be held

For more details contact

President - Graham Loudon 0427 146 958

Vice President - Colin McFarlane 0427 578 957

Secretary – Jennifer Pugh 0448 164 684

Treasurer – Veronica Loudon 0428 716 022

Email: forsayth@ssaaqld.org.au

GEORGETOWN RURAL SUPPLIES

24 ST GEORGE STREET

PHONE

40 621 553 OR 0447 015 372

- ✓ RIDLEY LNT URAMOL BLOCKS
- ✓ OLSSONS LICK BLOCKS
- ✓ ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS INC POUR ONS, FLY SPRAYS
& WORMERS
- ✓ VACCINES
- ✓ WEANER FEED
- ✓ CALF REARING SUPPLIES INC MILK, TEATS, FEEDERS &
BOTTLES
- ✓ HORSE FEEDS & HORSE BLOCKS
- ✓ CHAFF, MILL RUN & POLLARD
- ✓ DOG & CAT BISCUITS
- ✓ BIRD SEED
- ✓ COARSE & FINE LAYER MASH & LAYER PELLETS
- ✓ POLY PIPE AND FITTINGS INC RURAL & HIGH PRESSURE
- ✓ FERTILISERS, POTTING MIX & GARDEN SUPPLIES
- ✓ PEST & WEED CONTROL
- ✓ STEEL INC FLAT, ROD & PAINTED OR GAL RHS & PIPE



GEORGETOWN PRIMAY HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

What's happening in April 2019...

For those who have been into the clinic recently you will have seen our '**Know How We are Doing**' board. This is a district display to let you know what is happening in the clinic.

The **Flu Vaccination** will be available later this month. Our supplies are expected to arrive after the 14th of April. Flyers will be put up once we have them. If you are not an eligible person to receive these Flu vaccinations, please talk to the nursing staff about organising a script from the doctor.

RIVER- electronic medical record system. We will be transitioning to RIVER over the coming months and have a go Live date in June 19. If you would like more details please talk to us in the clinic.

To help us with the transition, when you are in the clinic please let us know if you have changed address or phone numbers, so we can update our records.

RFDS CLINICS: May Dates.

Thursday 02/5/19 Doctor, Intern and Child Health Nurse

Friday 10/5/19 Doctor and Child Health Nurse

Thursday 16/5/19 Doctor, Intern and Child Health Nurse

Thursday 23/5/19 Doctor and Child Health Nurse

Thursday 30/5/19 Doctor, Intern and Child Health Nurse

TELEHEALTH -please ask if your appointment with a specialist can be done through this service.

Physio and OT (Allied Health Service)

- Next due 29th April -1s May

Mobile Women's Health

- No date as yet.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Service provided by NWRH

- Contact phone number 4781 9377
- You can be referred by a Doctor, Nurse or Self-Refer by calling the above number.

Regards,

Thelma Klein, DON Georgetown PHC 9/4/19

OUTREACH

PHYSIOTHERAPY

The outreach physiotherapist visits Mt Surprise, Einasleigh, Forsayth, Georgetown and Croydon on a 3-day trip about 5 times each year.

As a general overview, physiotherapists provide individual assessment and management for a range of conditions including:

- musculoskeletal/sports injuries including fractures and muscle/joint pain
- balance/mobility difficulties
- recovery post surgery
- respiratory conditions including pneumonia, COPD
- paediatric development
- neurological conditions such as stroke, nerve damage, spinal injury
- burns

Physiotherapy treatment generally consists of:

- Rehabilitation and facilitation of correct movement patterns
- Exercise prescription
- Manual therapy
- Patient and carer education
- Mobility aid prescription
- Injury prevention
- Pain relief
- Strapping/taping

If you think you may require physiotherapy intervention, please discuss it with the visiting RFDS Doctor or your local Clinic nurse and if indicated, they will send a referral to us to follow up at our next visit. There is also Telehealth available where consults can take place via videoconferencing as appropriate.

Occupational Therapy (Telehealth and Outreach Service)

Do you need an Occupational Therapist?

- Do you have trouble using your hands? Is it difficult to open jars/taps, do you have arthritis or a repetitive injury like carpal tunnel syndrome? Is it hard to use your hands as much as normal after a broken hand/wrist?
- Have you had a burn or hand injury that required medical treatment?
- Do you have swollen arms/legs or have a slow healing wound? Do you have a swollen or heavy/achy limb after cancer treatment?
- Do you have trouble getting on and off the toilet, or feel unbalanced when having a shower? Do you need to rock to get off your lounge chair or bed?
- Would you like to trial a shower chair/toilet frame/commode/bed stick to make things easier at home?
- Are you a carer for someone with dementia or a physical impairment? Would you like some tips on how to make it safer to do so?
- Do you find it difficult to see things around the home?
- Have you had falls around the home or are scared of falling?
- Have you had a stroke or a heart attack recently?
- Would you like some rails or a ramp at your home to increase your safety or independence?
- Do you have a pressure sore?
- Are there things you would like to do that you can't due to injury, frailty or illness?

If you've answered yes to any of the above questions, an Occupational Therapist may help!

Please talk to your clinic nurse or RFDS about a referral to the visiting Occupational Therapy service.

Who Can Refer to Occupational Therapy?

- Parent, carers or individuals
- Doctors – hospital or GP's
- Medical specialists
- Other Allied Health e.g. Physio, Speech Therapist
- Community nurses
- Community agencies

A doctor's referral is necessary for hand and compression therapy (swollen limbs).

If you would like to make or discuss a referral, please phone Atherton Hospital Occupational Therapy on 40910274

Who Can We Help?

Our service is available for all people need help with:

- Arthritis
- Amputation
- Hand injury

- Fractures
- Burns
- Cancer
- Recent surgery (eg. Joint replacements)
- Cardiac conditions
- Age related problems
- Neurological conditions e.g. Stroke, multiple sclerosis
- Head and spinal injury
- Visual problems
- Dementia
- Emotional/psychological issues
- Learning or developmental delays

The outreach physiotherapist visits Mt Surprise, Einasleigh, Forsayth, Georgetown and Croydon on a 3 day trip about 5 times each year. The dates for Outreach visits for 2019 are as below:

JULY 15-17	PT, OT, and SW
SEPT 16-18	PT and DT
NOV 25-27	PT and OT

As a general overview, physiotherapists provide individual assessment and management for a range of conditions including:

- musculoskeletal/sports injuries including fractures and muscle/joint pain
- balance/mobility difficulties
- recovery post surgery
- respiratory conditions including pneumonia, COPD
- paediatric development
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If you think you may require physiotherapy intervention, please discuss it with the visiting RFDS Doctor or your local Clinic nurse and if indicated, they will send a referral to us to follow up at our next visit. There is also Telehealth available where consults can take place via videoconferencing as appropriate.



Cootharinga North Queensland

Aged Care Services—Croydon & Etheridge Shire

"Tailoring Home Care solutions to assist older people live the life they want"

Cootharinga has now opened Cootharinga Home Care, a service which is designed to assist older people in their community who want to stay at home and access ongoing personal support services.

Our services include:

- Care service—includes products and services that support your health, wellbeing and independence at home through assistance with a variety of activities of daily living.
- Support services—Our trained and qualified support workers can assist you with jobs in the home and garden and also help you get out and about in the community
- Clinical care services— as part of your Home Care Package, our job is to work with you and other health professionals involved in your care, to help you achieve optimal health so that you can be as independent as possible at home.

Our friendly staff are waiting to help you achieve the life YOU want!

For more information contact our
Area Manager Regional Development **Terry Benkler on 0439 670 378**
our Cairns Office on 07 4036 7900



Cootharinga
North Queensland
Ability First!



Call the 1800 Cootharinga Centre
1800 Cootharinga
1800 266 842



Our vision:
"Building a better world
with people of all abilities!"

Do you have Plans to develop a Tourism Business?

Does Your Business Welcome Visitors?

Join Savannah Way Limited for a range of Support and Benefits!

Savannah Way Limited promotes businesses and communities on the route. It is not-for-profit, independent of government, and the official Local Tourism Organisation for Queensland's Gulf Savannah.

Benefits of Bronze Membership (\$220 per year) include:

- Membership Listing on www.savannahway.com.au
- Website Product Listings and Ads on www.savannahway.com.au
- SW Newsletter Promotion and Subscription, Social Media Linkages
- Grant Project Sourcing
- Regional Industry Workshops
- Priority Recommendations to Media
- Research and Industry Intelligence
- Voting Rights at AGM
- Lobbying and Advocacy
- \$50 Discount on Australian Tourism Data Warehouse listing to appear on multiple marketing websites around Australia including official Queensland and Australia websites.
- Savannah Way Logo Use
- Gulf Savannah Visitor Guide Discount
- Friends of Savannah Guides Membership and Guide Training School discounts
- Membership Certificate

This year there is a major new bonus from our Regional Tourism Organisation, Tourism Tropical North Queensland!

Tourism businesses who are members of Savannah Way limited can also join TTNQ at no cost to become an Ambassador of Tourism. This membership otherwise costs \$250. It entitles operators to:

- a website listing on TTNQ's corporate and consumer websites to drive bookings to the listed business
- attendance at TTNQ networking functions and industry events
- access to the image library
- receive social media and digital sharing opportunities
- invited to participate in familiarisations
- participation in the new TTNQ member card with access to exclusive member-only offers

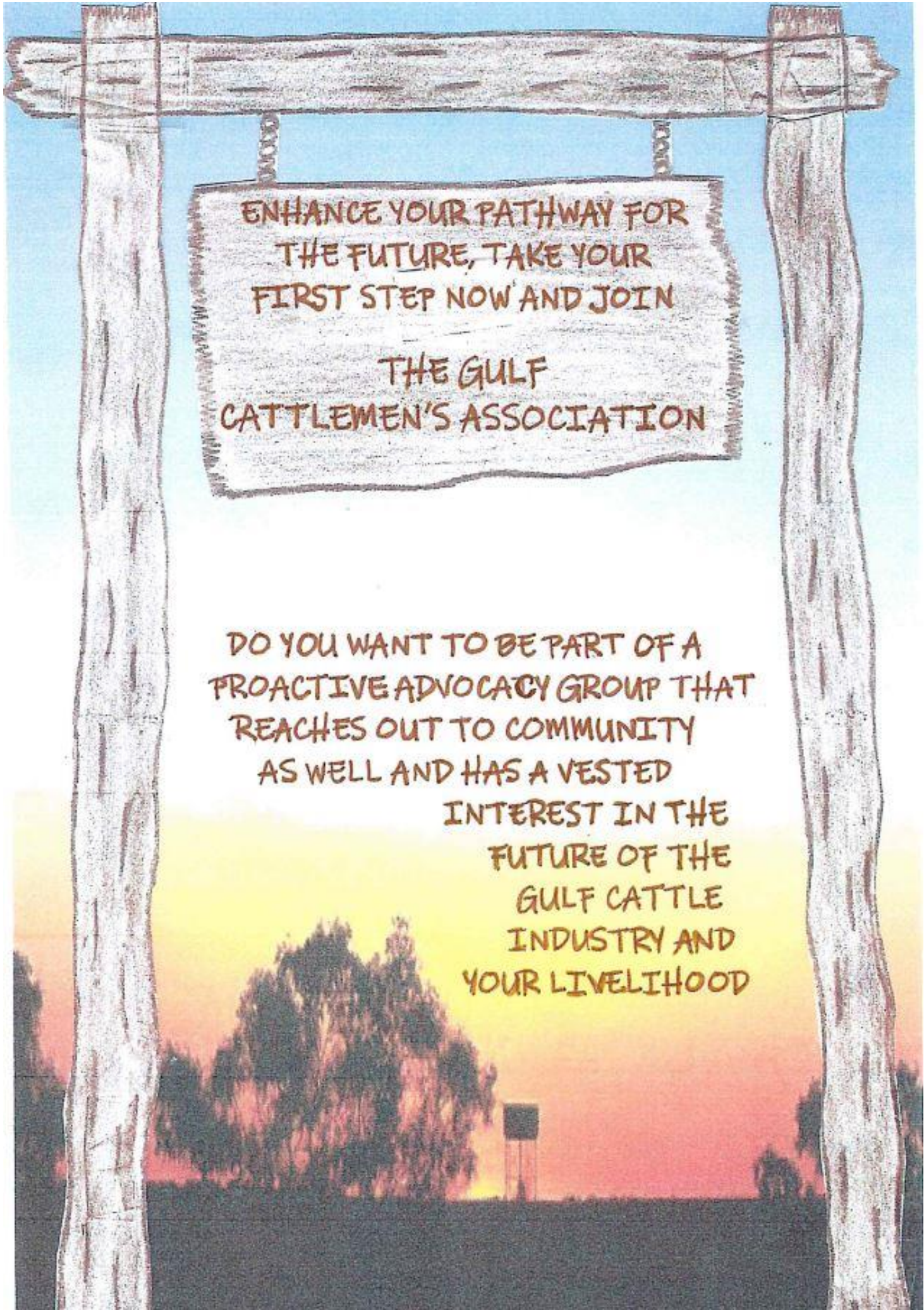


Australia's Adventure Drive

Savannah Way Limited is YOUR organisation. If you are involved in Tourism, as most businesses in the Shire are, either directly or indirectly, you should be a member.

Contact Russell for details on how to take advantage of these important opportunities

E: info@savannahway.com.au M: 0408 772 513 W: www.savannahway.com.au



ENHANCE YOUR PATHWAY FOR
THE FUTURE, TAKE YOUR
FIRST STEP NOW AND JOIN
THE GULF
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A
PROACTIVE ADVOCACY GROUP THAT
REACHES OUT TO COMMUNITY
AS WELL AND HAS A VESTED
INTEREST IN THE
FUTURE OF THE
GULF CATTLE
INDUSTRY AND
YOUR LIVELIHOOD

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T: 07 4062 5322

E: president@gulfcattle.org

Vice President

Greg Ryan
T: 07 4062 5365

E: vicepresident@gulfcattle.org

Secretary

Sharon Hughes
T: 07 4062 5354

E: paddystn@outlook.com

Treasurer

Allan Holmes
T: 07 40923848
M: 0498 977 632

E: treasurer@gulfcattle.org



Gulf Cattleman's Association Inc.

'A Graziers Alliance for Grassroots Issues'
PO Box 80, Georgetown QLD 4871
www.gulfcattle.org.au
Inc: IA42150
ABN: 63680779361



2018/2019 Membership

- The annual membership for the financial year 2018 - 2019 is now payable for members who wish to remain financial and have voting rights.
- The annual membership is:
 - ☐ Grazier's Membership: \$200 per PIC per annum with maximum of 2 votes.
 - ☐ Community Membership: \$75 per annum with no voting rights
 - ☐ Corporate Membership: \$500 per annum with no voting rights

PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW AND RETURN:

ENTITY NAME: _____

P.I.C: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ MOBILE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Please remit payment to the Gulf Cattleman's Association:

CHEQUES:

PO Box 80, Georgetown, QLD 4871

DIRECT DEPOSITS:

BSB: 633000

ACCOUNT: 152872776

REFERENCE: "membership & entity name"

Payment Options: Cheques to Gulf Cattleman's Association
Direct Deposits: Bendigo, BSB: 633 000, Account: 1528 72776

Australia's 55th National Gem & Mineral Show

Gemboree 2019 – Rockhampton

Australia only has one National Gem & Mineral Show each year. It is always held over the 4 days of Easter in a different region of the country. This is the furthest north it has ever been hosted. It will take up all the Rockhampton showgrounds.

This is an opportunity we could not miss. Pete has been faceting gemstones for some 30 years. During this time, we have got to know many of the people connected with this wonderful hobby of lapidary. To us it was a no brainer but to get there. With the input from etag and the partnership of businesses throughout the shire we have been able to get a brochure printed which while complimenting the existing Gorges, Trails and Gemstones map it focuses on the fossicking areas and minerals of our shire.

The committee in Rockhampton were delighted when I contacted them to make arrangements for a display table. Pete will be talking to as many of the traders and exhibitors as possible. There will be over 500 stalls filling the Rockhampton showgrounds. It's a lot to get through. There will be evening events and of course the prestigious judging and awards for the many categories of gem cutting etc. Most of the devout entrance have spent months mastering and fine tuning to the specific guide lines set just to get into the running. There are for the first time International representatives keen to show their minerals. The gem Symposium is sure to be well attended as the many experts in their fields impart knowledge and give food for thought.

Thank you to everyone especially the Etag committee who has helped us get this promotion together. Hopefully some visitors will take the opportunity to travel north from Rockhampton to experience our minerally rich region if not this year maybe next year or at least put it on their bucket list.





On August 2nd 2019, the Bondi to Batt Reef Bash will be coming to Georgetown in support of the Variety Children's Charity. There is expected to be about 300 people that will come into town as part of the car rally, staying overnight and then departing between 8 -9.30am on the Saturday morning. As you can imagine, it will be a fantastic little injection for the town's local economy, however all accommodation is already booked out for the weekend and there are still a number of people wanting beds for the Friday night.

The Bash participants will be fully catered for so literally will just need a bed, towel & shower for the Friday night. **If you're based in or around Georgetown and able to help out by billeting one or more people on the Friday night, please contact Bekky Haase, billeting coordinator for Georgetown.**



Ph: 4079 9002

Email: rebekah.haase@etheridge.qld.gov.au

For more details on the event itself head to:

<https://www.variety.org.au/bash/events/variety-brydens-lawyers-b-to-b-bash/>



Caïms and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service

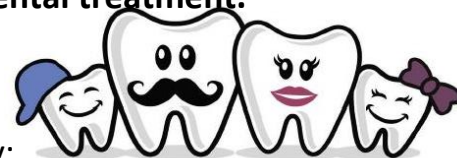
Oral Health

School Dental team visiting Georgetown and Croydon

All children aged 0-17 years are eligible for free dental treatment.

Visit Dates to **GEORGETOWN:**

- Tuesday 28th May, Wednesday 29th May, Thursday 30th May;
- Tuesday 11th June, Wednesday 12th June, Thursday 13th June



1300 300 850

Monday – Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Visit Dates to **CROYDON:**

- Tuesday 20th August, Wednesday 21st August, Thursday 22nd August;
- Tuesday 10th September, Wednesday 11th September, Thursday 12th September

Please call us on **1300 300 850** (between 8am – 4pm) to make an appointment. We look forward to seeing you!

CHAPTER FOUR

THE ADVENTURERS HEAD NORTH

By Rick Tomkies

The following abridged story is from the book "The Ghost of Cape York" and continues from the previous month's Inform. Although the actual story is fictitious, it is based on a persistent rumor that circulated around Cape York for many years of a Japanese Zero fighter plane shot down during WW2. It is said to have been recovered in recent years and now allegedly resides in an Australian museum.

Mainly four-wheel drive vehicles access the northern part of Cape York Peninsula up the Cape Development Road, as the main highway up the center of the Cape is officially called. Frequently, less polite titles have been bestowed upon this long, dusty and frequently badly corrugated highway, which has, however, some short and greatly appreciated stretches of smooth bitumen occurring in unexpected places from time to time. The intrepid traveler, wanting to proceed further north from the turnoff to Weipa and onto Bamaga near the tip of the Cape, the mainland of Australia's most northerly point, is faced with two alternatives by road, either to tackle the old Telegraph Track or travel via the relatively new by-pass track.



Long sections of the Cape York Highway were often very dusty and corrugated

While Blue drove, Alex rode "shot-gun" in the passenger seat, endeavoring to read a two-day old copy of the "Cairns Post" as the Landcruiser vibrated and bounced over the rough and corrugated road. About to give up his reading as a lost cause, a small article caught his attention.

"Hey, Blue, listen to this!" Alex exclaimed, folding the page smaller for ease of reading. "It says here that some blokes on a trawler reckon they saw a strange plane flying off the coast while they were fishing north of Portland Roads..."

'The skipper of the trawler, Mystic Lady, a Mr. Bryan Hunter, is reported to have seen an unidentified plane flying low off the eastern coast of Cape York two days ago. What drew Mr. Hunter's attention and that of two of his deckhands was the strange markings on the aircraft. All three men were

adamant that the unusual, single-engined aircraft resembled a World War 11 fighter plane, and that it appeared to have the Rising Sun emblem on its fuselage. The plane, heading in a northerly direction was in view for one or two minutes before disappearing.

'A spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Department when contacted by this paper, said that they had had no reports of any unauthorized aircraft in the area, and dismissed the sighting of a WW11 plane such as a Japanese Zero, as being highly improbable, since he claimed that few, if any, flying examples of this type of airplane have survived. Any sightings of small aircraft were most likely a civilian plane, he said.'

"Bloody strange, eh, Blue?"

The driver glanced across at his companion holding up the folded page of the newspaper. "Yeah, sounds a bit odd I must admit.... That reminds me," he added, thoughtfully, as he returned his attention to the road ahead. "I seem to remember my grandfather telling me some years ago, that when he was with the Northern Australian Observer Unit posted somewhere up the eastern coast of the Cape during the war, he'd experienced a bit of an incident with a Jap plane. Back around '42, it was, I think." Alex stuffed the newspaper under his seat and turned to his companion. "Oh? What happened, Blue?"

"Well, from what I can remember, Granddad was living somewhere roughly up north of Portland Roads, I think it was. He'd been stationed there for some time, and he'd have to report on any unusual sightings or anything – you know, like an unidentified ship or something. Evidently, he'd had a visit from some American naval and Australian Army officials who had arrived by launch, I think they wanted to question him about enemy movements in the area, or something." He paused, changing down a gear to negotiate an exceptionally rough patch on the road, the Landcruiser throwing up dense clouds of fine dust into the still, morning air to gradually settle, cloaking the surrounding vegetation with another coat of grey.

"Anyway," Blue continued, "it was while these officials were there, they had an unexpected visit from a solitary Japanese Zero, which, as Granddad put it, may have been on some sort of reconnoitering flight. Seems this Jap strafed the hut they were in, and an American officer and my granddad grabbed a machinegun or something and fired a few shots at the plane which had been real low. Apparently, they got lucky, 'cos the last they saw of the Zero, it was flying off with a stream of smoke pouring out of the engine. Presumably it crashed up the coast somewhere. From what my granddad told me, it was never found, so no one knows for sure."

"Wow! Was anyone killed or hurt from that attack from the Jap plane?" asked Alex.

"Nah! They were lucky, I guess. From what I was told, the building was knocked about a bit, didn't even catch fire, and nobody got even a scratch. It must have been some experience, but. I mean, here they were, on a quiet spot on the Queensland coast, the war going on somewhere else, when bang – all of a sudden, there they were being attacked by the enemy!"

Conversation ebbed, as Blue concentrated on his driving, and Alex took in the country side. They still had a long way to go and Blue planned to stop at Coen, some 250 kilometers further north, where he planned to stay that night.

Arriving in Coen, the pair drove down beside a small stream adjacent to the highway, and here they set up camp.

Alex set about building a small fire, while Blue arranged the two one-man tents that were to be their accommodation over the following weeks. The night air became colder and the two friends crouched around the fire, their conversation desultory as they gazed into the glowing embers. Blue got up and searched for a bit of firewood, which he tossed onto the flames, sparks rose up in a spectacular column, mingling with the smoke to dance briefly in the wintry air.

"OK, Blue," said Alex, rubbing his hands together, warming them in front of the flames.

"What's the plan for tomorrow?"

"Well, we'll head for the Archer River, and then on up the old Telegraph Track, there's some great country up that way - seeing we're in no particular hurry, we can go where we please - what d'you reckon, mate?"

"Sounds good to me - I've always wanted to explore the far north. I really thought I'd ruined my chances when the Suz' packed it in!"

Blue laughed, and, picking up a stick, drew a mud-map in the dirt beside the fire. "This is where we are now," he said, digging the end of the stick into the sandy soil, before drawing a line away from him, to illustrate their proposed route. "Here's the Archer River - there's a roadhouse there now and they always provide a good feed and one can camp there. Then we'll head on up this way further up, we pass the turn-off to Weipa. After that we cross the Wenlock River, which now has a bridge over it, then just after that, the old Moreton Telegraph Station. The going's pretty rough in places, but the scenery's great. There're some good camping spots along the way - there's usually no shortage of water, either, although we've enough with us should we need to use it! I'm going to head down a little-known track to the right, off the main bypass road. That's if I can find the track. It's been disused for years; last time I went down it, a couple of years ago, I gave up because the track was so overgrown, it took too long for me to battle my way to the coast."

* * * * *

A day or two later found the adventurous pair negotiating the faint outline of the track which Alex had been looking for. A year or so previously he had discovered found this particular trail which eventually led to the coast. However, on this occasion the track was badly overgrown that in some places the trail was so indistinct it became quite a driving feat, especially, when the faint, two-wheel ruts disappeared altogether into steep and often wide washed-out sections. Obviously, during the wet or monsoon season, during the summer months, sections of the track would have been completely under water and totally impassable to any vehicle.

"How long is it since you were last this way, did you say?" inquired Blue's companion, climbing back into the Toyota after cutting back some heavy branches of a tree that had fallen across the track.

" 'Bout two years, now. I must admit it was barely recognizable as a track even then! OK - hang on!" Yelled Blue as the front of the truck dropped into a deep washout, causing the two occupants to lurch forward against the dashboard and steering wheel. With the sun setting lower in the western sky, came lengthening shadows and an accompanying drop in temperature, and both men realized that they would soon have to find a suitable camping spot. This appeared sooner than anticipated when the Landcruiser broke clear of the thick brush, and they discovered the track meandering through open country which was bisected by a stream. Lining both sides of the stream were pandanus palms - a sure sign of fresh water. Pulling up in a reasonably clear

patch of ground near the edge of the bank, the two men got out to inspect the creek and find a suitable camping place.

"Well one thing's for sure," remarked Blue as he peered over the bank into the slow and murky water, "you won't catch me swimming in there!"

"What? 'Cos of the crocodiles, you mean? It's hardly big enough, surely!" Alex exclaimed, picking a long stick with which he began to probe the depths, which to his surprise, was deeper than he's expected.

"It surely is, mate! A big fella can hide quite comfortably in the bottom of stream barely a meter deep! The critters are numerous in these parts. Fact is, you don't always see them - especially in dark or murky water. Y'know, Alex, there's one sure rule I abide by when it comes to swimming in these northern coastal streams!"

"Oh? And that is?" queried Alex.

"Well, I won't swim or bathe in any water where it isn't clear and I can't see the bottom, it's gotta be in daylight hours and not deep or in shadow, and even then, I don't muck about, I have a wash, get cool and get out!"

"Uh, huh! So in that case, this stream's out as far as that's concerned?"

"Yep! Right on, mate! And, I don't like the look of this one, that's for sure!"

Their tents erected, well away from the bank of the stream, Alex got a fire going while Blue unpacked their table and chairs. Retrieving a collapsible fishing rod from the back of the Landcruiser, Blue selected a lure and proceeded to try his luck in catching their evening meal.

With a few well-placed casts landing the lure near a half-submerged log near the opposite bank, it wasn't long before the line suddenly screamed out, the tip of the rod bending as a sizeable fish took the lure. Blue quickly began reeling in the line, playing the fish as it struggled to escape the lure. Before long, the fish broke the placid surface with a tremendous leap to throw the lure clear – a typical action of a hooked barramundi.

Next morning found the pair of intrepid explorers still pushing their way through scrubby country on a badly overgrown track. The land around them was covered with wattle and casuarina, and in places, some rainforest. Periodically, Blue had to stop, when the two men would get out of the vehicle, to cut away fallen tree branches but at times, the obstruction would be too large or difficult to clear, and they would have to find a way around it.

By now it was midafternoon, and by Blue's reckoning, they only had less than an hour's traveling to reach the coast. The country they were now traversing was covered with great numbers of casuarinas, and here and there were pandanus palms growing in small, dry creek beds the bottoms of which were very sandy and covered with the dead fronds of the palms. Tall, dry grass obscured the ground from view, which necessitated slow and careful driving, sometimes the vehicle encountered fallen and rotting logs, which, if not too large, the Landcruiser climbed over, but otherwise it was simply a matter of reversing and driving around the obstacle. In four-wheel drive, the small sandy gullies were not a problem, and the two men made reasonably good progress as they pushed their way eastwards.

Suddenly, a glimpse of the Pacific Ocean appeared through the trees and they

came to a halt at the tree-line at the edge of a magnificent stretch of white sandy beach. Here both men leapt from the vehicle and ran down to the soft sandy dunes above the high-water mark to take in the view. The sea was relatively calm, despite a steady on-shore breeze which tempered the heat in the reasonably warm afternoon sunshine. Alex looked out across the blue sea towards the horizon - a smattering of white cotton-wool clouds broke up the vista. To the north, the land, separated from the sea by a line of white sand, disappeared in a soft blue haze into the distance. To the south, a headland jutted out into the ocean, treetops outlined against the blue sky. Sandy dunes formed a soft barrier above the highwater mark, and it was obvious that they had this vast expanse of beach to themselves.

"Fantastic!" breathed Alex as he turned and grinned at Blue. "Mister Stevens - I really gotta thank you for bringing me here. It's better than I ever expected! I can't wait to start exploring!"

Blue playfully punched him lightly on the shoulder. "Yeah! It's not bad, eh? - but first, I think we'd better find a place where we can set up camp."

Getting back into the 4WD, they set off along the beach heading north, after plowing their way through the sand dunes, both men keeping a sharp lookout for a likely spot with which to make their base camp. With the tide well out, the beach was firm, and the vehicle sped along making good time, the tires humming on the hard, wet sand. It was not long, however, before they came across fresh water running swiftly down to the sea. Blue braked hard and swung the truck around and headed up towards the high-water mark and the edge of the dunes. Here, they stopped to explore the area under a line of coconut trees which, they found, was clear of undergrowth. On the northern side, marked by casuarina trees and pandanus palms, ran the small, fresh-water stream. The gravel bottom could be clearly seen, and in the deeper pools, small fish darted to and fro.

Bending down, Blue scooped up a handful of the water to taste it. "Beautiful!" He exclaimed, "it's as sweet as anything!"

Alex followed suit, agreeing. "Well, what d'you reckon, Blue? That area over there under those coconut palms looks pretty good to me - and we've gotten plenty of good fresh water handy, too!"

They hurried back to the Toyota truck eager to set up camp.

The following day found Alex Beatie and Tony Stevens finishing off the final touches to their camp. It hadn't been difficult to find suitable pieces of timber, washed up on the beach with which to fashion a rough, but eminently suitable table, at which it was comfortable to sit with their folding chairs. Sitting in the shade with the sound of the palm fronds rustling gently above them in the mild sea breeze, the pair enjoyed their beer, the accompanying the regular swish of the gently lapping waves on the sloping beach added to the moment.

Alex stood up, stretching. "I reckon I could go a swim right now. It sure looks inviting!" "I wouldn't if I were you," replied Blue seriously.

"Hell! Why on earth not? There're no stingers out there at this time of the year, are there?" Alex was puzzled. He was referring to the poisonous jellyfish that inhabited the tropical northern waters during the summer.

"Salties..... Crocs - that's why! There're probably more out there in the sea than in the fresh water. You don't often see them, unless you're close and the waters very

calm, then, you may get to see two lumps - those of the nose, and then the eyes protruding above the surface. Sometimes you may get to see the back of a croc as it comes up above the surface a little. Around these parts, estuarine crocs are in most of the waters, both in the fresh and the sea. You gotta be careful! Me, I don't take the risk. If you want to have a bathe, I'd suggest you do so in the stream here, but take care, just the same!"

"No worries, mate," replied Alex, giving the swimming idea a miss. "Maybe I might throw out a line, and try for something for dinner, instead!"

"Good idea. I'll grab my rod and join you," said Blue searching for his tackle box.

The following morning saw the Toyota speeding south along the beach just above the water-line of the receding tide, the tyres humming as they drove over the hard, wet sand. Blue suddenly realized that the vehicle was driving through soft mud and rapidly slowing as the ground softened. Quickly, barely missing a beat, he rapidly changed down two gears, and at the same time began swinging the vehicle around to head further up the beach towards the direction they had come. He was non-too soon, for the Landcruiser's motor roared in protest as the wheels began to lose traction, but fortunately the vehicle had enough momentum to carry it back onto firmer ground.

"That's a trap for young players, mate," Blue said, as he brought the vehicle to a stop on firm sand. They both got out and surveyed the beach in the direction they had nearly become stuck. "I wasn't concentrating - I should have realized with those mangroves over there that this part of the beach might be boggy!"

Walking back, they saw where the receding tide had left shallow gutters of water, flowing from the mouth of a small mangrove-lined river. Proceeding through the fresh running water, their feet began to sink in the sticky mud. They stopped and Blue suddenly pointed with a raised arm.

"Take a look over there, Alex, old mate!"

"What?" asked the other, looking in the general direction indicated. "I don't see anything - what is it?"

"Look on the opposite side of the stream, below the mangroves, on the bank."

"Holy Dooley!" Alex exclaimed. "That's one heck of a large croc! - I didn't see it at first!"

The huge saurian, possibly twelve feet in length, was lying, apparently asleep, on the mud bank of the stream, soaking up the winter morning sunshine, its gray-brown body camouflaged nicely with its surroundings.

The intruders stood and watched it for a few minutes, before Alex turned to head back to the vehicle. "I think I'll 'git while the gittin's' good, matey!"

His companion grinned, nodding. "Discretion being the better part of valor, here, I reckon!" He turned, and as he moved, the crocodile, possibly disturbed by the men's movement, barely seventy meters away, swung around and rapidly slid down the mud into the water with a loud splash. Looking back at the surface of the stream, they saw the croc's head appear, facing in their direction as it watched them. Now in its own environment, it seemed to lose any fear of the humans, and it floated, watching them, its huge head looming even larger as it ever so slowly approached, swimming gently against the flowing water.

Their journey back towards camp was slower this time, as Blue drove along the seaward side of the high tide mark...

It was nearly lunchtime by the time they had gotten back to camp, so Blue set to and stoked the hot embers of the fire with small, dry pieces of driftwood. It was Alex's turn at being chef.

Realizing that their progress south towards the headland was impeded by the soft mud of the mangrove area, they two resolved to explore the beach further north in the days to come.

To be continued...

Copies of this popular book may be purchased by contacting the author:

silver_connect@bigpond.com or at various retail outlets including, locally, Undara Experience and The Top Shop in Mt. Garnet.

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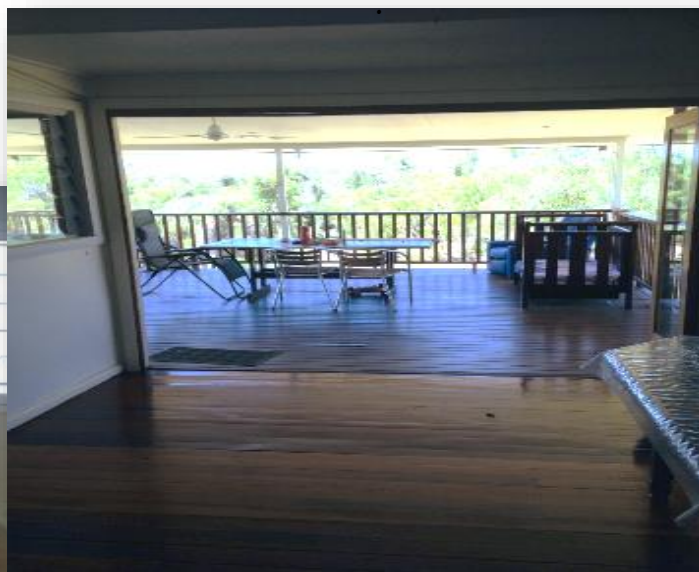
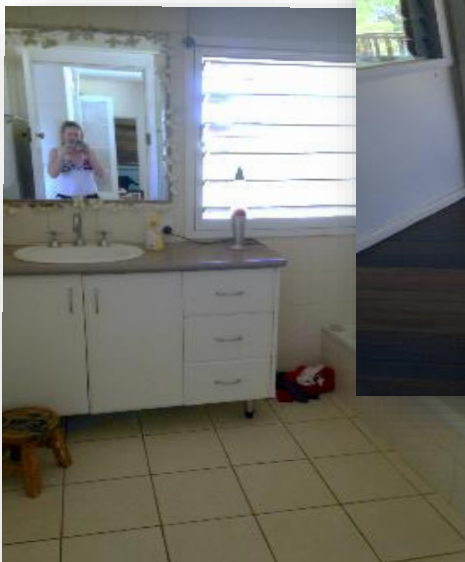
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Pastor Chris Guise (right), heading up the Kennedy Remote Area, which takes in the area from Atherton to Greenvale, and on to the Gulf, and up both sides of the Cape to the tip.

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You can contact Chris on
(07) 4001 2308 or email:
kennedy@frontierservices.org



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To volunteer and help someone doing it tough out bush, simply visit www.frontierservices.org/volunteer

Georgetown Primary Health Clinic

**M-F open 9am to 12pm then 2pm to 4pm.
S-S and Public Holidays 10am to 12pm.
Emergencies only outside of these hours.**

Re: - Clinic Phones

If you are ringing into the clinic and the phone is not answered quickly please stay on the line and your call will either be redirected to the clinic mobile phone or to the message bank.

If you have an emergency and cannot contact the nurse please call either the

RFDS 40400500 or 000 – Ambulance for advice.

A sign will be on the front door if the clinic nurse is on fatigue leave or out of the clinic attending to an emergency.

The Clinic needs more Volunteer Ambulance Drivers.

What you need-

1. A current driver's licence.
2. A willingness to be 'on call' overnight and weekends.
3. A reasonable level of fitness as you will need to help carry equipment and assist with the stretcher.
4. A good local knowledge of properties and roads.
5. While 'on call' you cannot drink Alcohol. It is a requirement from QAS.
6. The Nurse will give an orientation to the Ambulance including how to use the stretcher and the Radio.

By volunteering you will help support the local nurses who provide emergency response care to the community and visitors to this area. You will also help increase the numbers of our regular volunteers and reduce the amount of times that you are all asked to be available to drive.

**Please call the Georgetown Clinic
on 4062 12 66 for further
information.**





Royal Flying
Doctor Service
QUEENSLAND SECTION



Telehealth and video consultation services

The Royal Flying Doctor Service Cairns Base is now providing extended telehealth services for people living in North Queensland.

On Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm the Cairns Base will now have a dedicated second doctor based in the office to provide phone and video consultations, with access to electronic medical records.

To contact the weekend telehealth service:

- Call the RFDS Medical line on 07 4040 0500 or 1300MYRFDS (1300 69 7337).
- Talk to our on-call doctor.
- Make a video conference booking, however, if your matter is urgent, the doctor may request to do a video conference immediately.
- Video consults can be done using the Queensland Health TEMSU system in all Queensland Health clinics, or directly with patients in their home via the ZOOM app
- To use ZOOM you need:

A computer with internet, camera, speaker, mic and email access – no software downloads required.

OR

A mobile device (smartphone or tablet) which has an internet connection and a built-in camera, mic speaker.

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- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| • Telephone consultations | • Use live electronic medical records including My Health Record | • Arrange appropriate higher level care if required – including aeromedical or road retrieval, referral to hospital or appropriate specialists |
| • Video consultations | | |
| • Scheduled follow up consultations | • Prescribe medication including use of the RFDS medical chest | |
| • Review emails/ photos/ faxes/ECG's/x-rays etc. | | |

If you have any issues or questions call the Cairns Base on 07 4040 0444. If the telehealth doctor has already been consulted and you need to contact them directly, you can contact the direct mobile number on 0447 076 501.

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Anglican Church, St George Street
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Kids Church happens 9:30am Sundays for primary school aged students during the school term. Here we learn about the Bible and the Christian faith whilst having lots of fun with songs, games, stories and activities. Feel free to come check it out.



The Church gathers weekly on Sundays for informal services during the school term. These services often include contemporary worship songs, prayer, a Christian discussion or message and a catch up. Please contact Joe Haase to confirm the location.

These get togethers happen weekly where we read the Bible, consider what it says, explore the meaning and discuss it with each other. Anyone is welcome to join.



All enquires contact School Chaplain
Joe Haase on 0412 709 388

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Calendar of Community Events 2018

May

18 & 19
Georgetown Golf Club Annuals

31 – 2 June
Georgetown Campdraft

June

31 May – 2
Georgetown Campdraft

7
Astronomical 2 Theatre
Production, Mt Surprise

8
Astronomical 2 Theatre
Production, Einasleigh

9
Astronomical 2 Theatre
Production, Forsyth

12
Astronomical 2 Theatre
Production, Georgetown

28-30
Mt Surprise Campdraft

July

6-7
Georgetown Rodeo

12-14
Einasleigh Campdraft

25-28
Georgetown Boars 'n' Bowls

August

2
Etheridge Show Holiday


2
B to B Variety Bash
competitors stay overnight
in Georgetown

3
Forsyth Turnout &
Etheridge Show

October

5
Georgetown Bushman's
Ball

6
Georgetown Bush Races



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PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING

The next Council meeting will be held in
Georgetown on Friday 17th May 2019 commencing at 8.00am.

INFORM ARTICLES

The Inform will be distributed on the ***last Thursday of each month*** unless unforeseen circumstances prevent this. Articles need to be submitted electronically to info@etheridge.qld.gov.au by no later than ***1.00pm on the Wednesday prior***. *Late articles will not be published.* Previous versions of The Inform can be found at www.etheridge.qld.gov.au