



# Council news

Ilfracombe | Isisford | Longreach | Yaraka

APRIL 2026 - EDITION 38

COMMUNITY

## Easter in Edkins

A morning of Easter celebrations in Edkins Park saw the park come alive with Easter cheer and beautiful weather, from the excitement of the Easter egg hunt to face painting, free rides, markets, and delicious food – there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The rides kept the kids entertained all morning! The inflatable waterslide was a little chilly to start with, but it was still a big hit as a giant slide. The bungee trampolines had kids of all ages bouncing and flipping with excitement, while the merry-go-round for the younger kids was constantly in motion and full of smiles.

Our incredibly talented face painter stayed busy all morning, creating some truly amazing artwork.

A special shoutout to the wonderfully patient parents who waited in line – the kids' faces looked absolutely incredible and were well worth the wait!

A big highlight was the visit from our special guests, Blazer Bear and of course the Easter Bunny, photo opportunities, and easter treats brought plenty of smiles along with them!

Our Easter competition was another standout, showcasing incredible creativity across decorated baskets, bonnets, and push bikes. The entries were fantastic – it certainly wasn't an easy job choosing the winners!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and made the morning so special. It was so good to see the community come together and can't wait to do it all again next year!

As usual, the face painting was a huge hit!





# Rayner's *Rundown* - with Mayor Tony Rayner

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Bignell, CEO and I were in Brisbane earlier this month for the annual Civic Leaders Forum. It's a gathering of Mayors and CEOs from all across Queensland for two days of workshops on policy and decision making related to local government. It's well supported by state government, and there's good access to important ministerial and departmental leaders at the event, making it a valuable fixture on the calendar in the lead up to the state budget in June.

A noise-making device (gas gun) was deployed in Longreach in April as part of a short-term wildlife deterrence program. We used the device around Edkins Park, the Longreach Civic and Cultural Centre, and Kite Street near the Showground yards - in the mornings mostly. The program was aimed at discouraging Corella from congregating in areas where damage is occurring to Council infrastructure. If you live in those areas, you may have heard the device; it produces a loud, startling noise at

irregular intervals to encourage the birds to move away from the area and relocate naturally. It doesn't discharge projectiles, chemicals, or traps, and is not designed to injure or kill wildlife - its purpose is to modify animal behaviour through sound only.

Council will now review the effectiveness of the program and monitor the behaviour of the birds. Noise-making devices such as gas guns are not a permanent solution and are used only where other measures have proven ineffective or impractical. I appreciate the understanding of the nearby residents as we trialled the measures.

Council held its bi-annual community forums in each of our communities this month. There's always lots to talk about across our region, and a big thank you to everyone who came along. If you couldn't make it to one of the forums, that's okay. We're available to answer your questions at any time of year, not just at these forums - all you have to do is reach out. My fellow Councillors and I make our contact details

freely available on the Council website, or you can simply contact Council at any time and our team would be happy to provide more information about anything you want to know. I know I speak for all Councillors when I say we're only too happy to chat, about anything that's on your mind.

ANZAC Day is always a solemn time, and in small towns, remembrance is deeply personal. Names on memorials are not abstract. They are family members, neighbours and friends. Stories are passed down across kitchen tables and remembered at dawn services year after year. This shared history binds our community together and reminds us that sacrifice is not distant or theoretical. It happened here too.

*ANZAC Day is also about gratitude. Gratitude to those who served overseas and at home. Gratitude to the families who carried the burden alongside them. And gratitude to those who continue to serve today, often without ceremony or recognition.*

At the ANZAC Day events I attend as Mayor, I always take a moment to remember why this day matters. Not only to honour the past, but to reflect on the responsibility we share to look after one another in the present. Lest we forget.

My thanks again to everyone across the region who continues to work together, support one another, and keep us moving forward with purpose. As always, I'm here to answer your questions or share more about what Council is doing. My contact details are available at [longreach.qld.gov.au/elected-members](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/elected-members). Alternatively, reach out to Council on (07) 4658 4111 or via email to [council@longreach.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@longreach.qld.gov.au).



## Minutes in a Minute

### April 2026 Council Meeting

Council met for its April Meeting at the Council Chambers in Longreach on 16 April. Among other matters, the meeting:

- ◇ Received reports from the Mayor and CEO;
- ◇ Approved a Development Application for a Material Change of Use in Longreach
- ◇ Endorsed Council's membership of the RAPAD Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Alliance of Councils Working Group
- ◇ Received various Director reports, including a Project Management update; and,
- ◇ Considered the following community funding applications:

#### Community Donation - Individual

| Organisation/Name                      | Event/Activity                                 | Event Date    | Grant Approved          |
|--|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| Vaya Jackson Paige Jackson             | 10 - 12 years North West Trials - Netball      | 29/03 - 30/03 | \$350 each              |
| Paige Jackson                          | 10 - 12 years State Championships - Netball    | 29/03 - 30/03 | \$350 each              |
| Mia Scott, Lara Palmer                 | 13 - 15 years State Championships - Netball    | 07/05 - 10/05 | \$350 each              |
| Lara Jackson Lily Worland, Ella Pitman | 16 - 19 years State Championships - Netball    | 07/05 - 10/05 | \$350 each              |
| Cooper Weldon Korbyn Heslin            | 13 - 16 years North West Trials - Basketball   | 08/03         | \$350 each              |
| Brax Taylor                            | 15 - 16 years North West Trials - Rugby League | 29/03         | \$350 each              |
|  |  |               | <b>Total \$3,850.00</b> |

#### Community Grant - Organisation

| Organisation/Name                    | Event/Activity                  | Grant Approved                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Longreach Bowls Club                 | Purchase a new PA               | Financial \$4,000.00                     |
| Isisford Sheep and Wool Show Society | 2026 Isisford Sheep & Wool Show | Financial \$4,154.00<br>In-kind \$846.00 |
|                                      |                                 | <b>Total \$5,000.00</b>                  |

Our monthly Council meetings are always open to the public, and you can find the full agenda and minutes online at: [longreach.qld.gov.au/meetings-agendas-minutes](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/meetings-agendas-minutes).



## Community Forums Strengthen Local Voices Across the Region

Recent community forums were held in Longreach, Yaraka, Isisford and Ilfracombe and have brought residents together for open, constructive conversations about the future of their towns and the broader region. The well-attended sessions provided a valuable opportunity for community members to share ideas, raise concerns and hear directly about current projects, priorities and challenges.

Across all four locations, discussion shared a commitment to keeping towns liveable, resilient and connected. Residents spoke about matters important to everyday life, including infrastructure, service delivery and community facilities. The forums also highlighted the unique character and needs of each town, while reinforcing the benefits of working together as a region.

Council representatives and staff were on hand to listen, answer questions and take on board feedback, reinforcing the importance of transparent decision-making and genuine community engagement.

Council thanks everyone who took the time to attend, contribute and engage. The insights shared will help inform future planning and decision-making, ensuring local voices continue to play a central role in shaping the direction of our communities.



Ilfracombe Community Forum – held 15 April 2026



Isisford Community Forum – held 14 April 2026



Yaraka Community Forum – held 14 April 2026

## Farewell to Anne Lines

We recently farewelled Anne Lines after more than 17 years of dedicated service to our community.

During her time with Council, Anne contributed in many roles, including working in finance, acting as Tourism Officer at the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre, and managing the Isisford Library. In every role she held, Anne warmly shared her deep affection for Isisford with all who visited, leaving a lasting impression on residents and visitors alike.

Beyond her formal duties, Anne has played a significant role in strengthening the fabric of the Isisford community where she served two terms as Councillor. She generously shared her knowledge of local history and inspired creativity by engaging both children and adults in arts and crafts.

Her thoughtful gestures will long be remembered, from crocheting beautiful blankets to welcome new staff babies, to the much loved hand crafted Christmas decorations that brought joy to the Isisford office each year.

Anne is a quiet and humble person who never sought the spotlight, yet her knowledge, commitment and genuine care for others have always spoken volumes. Her passion for preserving Isisford's history, along with her steady presence and willingness to help wherever needed, has made her an invaluable team member and a treasured part of the community.

Thank you, Anne, for your generosity of spirit, friendship, and years of dedicated service. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to have worked with you and wish you all the very best in your retirement.



L to R: David Wilson, Lisa Littlewood, Nicole Moulds, Sally Edwards, Anne Lines and Brett Walsh.



ISISFORD  
**SHEEP  
& WOOL  
SHOW**

# SATURDAY 30th May 2026

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT | LIVESTOCK  
ARTS & CRAFTS | COOKING & FOOD  
LIVE MUSIC | GARDENS & PRODUCE  
TRADE SITES & MARKET STALLS

*...and more!*





## Festival of Outback Opera 2026

22 - 25 May 2026

## FUN FACTS

- ◆ Bananas are berries, but strawberries aren't.
- ◆ The platypus is one of the only mammals in the world that lays eggs and it's found only in Australia!
- ◆ A marathon is exactly 42.195 kilometres long a distance set at the 1908 London Olympics so the race could start at Windsor Castle and finish in front of the royal box.
- ◆ Your brain generates enough electricity to power a small light bulb, all from tiny electrical signals between neurons.

## Ifracombe Pool & Spa

**WINTER OPENING HOURS**  
1 April to 30 September

| DAY             | OPENING HOURS    |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Monday - Friday | 3:30pm - 6:00pm  |
| Saturday        | 1:00pm - 5:00pm  |
| Sunday          | 10:00am - 1:00pm |
| and             | 2:00pm - 5:00pm  |

## Longreach Aquatic Centre

**WINTER OPENING HOURS**  
1 April to 30 September

| DAY             | OPENING HOURS   |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Monday - Friday | 6.30am-10.00am  |
| Monday- Friday  | 3.00pm- 6.00pm  |
| Saturday        | 10.00am- 5.00pm |
| Sunday          | 10.00am- 4.00pm |

# LONGREACH SHOW 2026

**FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> & SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026**

Sideshow Alley | Fireworks | Petting Zoo  
 MORE INFORMATION  
[LONGREACHANNUALSHOW.COM](http://LONGREACHANNUALSHOW.COM)