



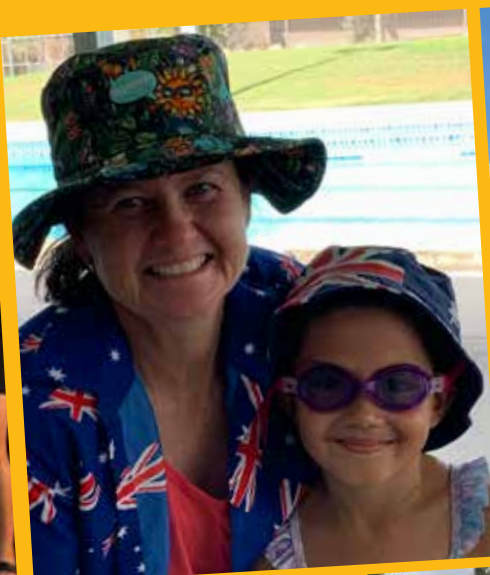
**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

Council news

Ilfracombe | Isisford | Longreach | Yaraka

JANUARY 2024 - EDITION 13

AUSTRALIA DAY 2024



Brett's Briefing

– with Brett Walsh

I hope this message finds you well as we move forward from the holiday season. I trust that you and your loved ones enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and a positive start to the New Year. In the lead up to local government elections on March 16, the caretaker conventions are now in effect. This means you'll be hearing from me until our new council is elected and in place.

I want to express my gratitude for your understanding and cooperation during the clean-up efforts following the recent summer storms. While our offices were closed over the holidays, our dedicated on-call team, along with several Council staff who voluntarily cut short their holidays, worked tirelessly to assist in the clean-up operations. The positive feedback received about their performance has been really encouraging, and I join in extending my thanks to these teams for their remarkable dedication and hard work. Our Council is truly fortunate to have such a committed and skilled workforce.

I'd like to remind residents that our 'Approved Inspection Program' is underway until 5 May 2024. This program permits Authorised Persons to enter your property to ensure compliance with animal-related regulations, focusing on registration, microchipping, and adherence to standards for keeping animals. This is an important initiative, as evidenced by the fact that 171 animals were impounded by Council officers in 2023, a significant increase from the previous year. Notably, only 26% of impounded dogs were registered. This would suggest that for every dog that is registered, there are three more which aren't. I urge you to register your pets to help maintain responsible pet ownership in our community and of course avoid penalties.

I'm pleased to acknowledge the enthusiastic response to our new Youth Council initiative. You can find more information in this edition of ILLY. In addition, we're opening our two-day youth retreat in February to all young people in our region. If you know someone who might benefit from this opportunity, please encourage them to register.

There's also more information in this issue about the caretaker conventions that Council will operate under up to the election. Importantly, although major decision making will cease, operationally we'll be busy as ever delivering our services and completing our works on schedule. If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch.

Our customer service team will gladly field any enquiry you make, and connect you to the right person. Call us, or email us, check our website, follow our socials, or read this newsletter.

You can contact Council directly anytime on (07) 4658 4111 (24hrs), or via email to council@longreach.qld.gov.au.



Left to right: Mahalia Devine, Christian Jackson, Jozette Jones, Leigh Frost, Elizabeth Neal.

Youth Council

Welcome to our five Youth Councillors 2024, **Elizabeth Neal, Jozetta Jones, Leigh Frost, Mahalia Devine** and **Christian Jackson**. In the next editions of ILLY you will find a spotlight on all of them.

The official introduction took place during a delightful morning tea where both seasoned Councillors and their youthful counterparts came together to foster a stronger connection between generations.

In the coming months, the community can look forward to witnessing the collaborative efforts of these dedicated individuals as they work hand in hand to address challenges, implement innovative solutions, and ensure that the needs of all residents are met. The voice of our youth will be heard.

Our Youth Councillors will start their year with a Youth Leadership Retreat which is open to all youth in our region. A great opportunity for all the leaders of tomorrow to spend a weekend with like-minded individuals. The program takes place on Saturday 17 February from 8.30am – 3.30pm and Sunday 18 February from 10.00am – 3.00pm at the Longreach Civic Centre. This workshop is free to attend for all Youth between 13-25 years and will cover inspiring workshops, empowering discussions, real-world impact, expert guidance, fun and networking, all facilitated by the amazing Wil Massara who is the founder of Youth Leadership Academy Australia.

Register now! Simply send us an email council@longreach.qld.gov.au with your best contact details and we will get in touch or give us a call (07) 4658 4111. Do not miss this amazing opportunity!



Kerbside Collection Survey – Feedback

We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who completed our survey regarding the kerbside bulky waste collection service. We had 97 responses and some very helpful comments and suggestions. Your input will help to inform our bulky waste disposal service going forward.

From the results, there has been an indication from the community that Council may wish to consider some changes, such as conducting the pick-up during the cooler months, using a pre-booked service at intervals during the year, and changing the process for large vehicle collections.

We will now start working through the feedback we have collected and put together a plan for moving forward.

It will be a priority to ensure that the laneways are tidied up before the kerbside (footpath) collection will take place. Please remember that you must not place any goods in the laneways or on footpaths unless Council has announced the collection service dates.

Thank you for your cooperation and input!

Australia Day

A day to reflect, respect and celebrate. All of our towns celebrated their local heroes, each with their own traditions.

Longreach commenced with a citizenship ceremony for five new Australian citizens followed by the awards ceremony and a free community breakfast. Special guest for the awards ceremony was Ambassador Ross McKinnon AM, retired Curator-in-Charge for the Brisbane Botanical Gardens. The Longreach pool was the place to be afterwards with inflatable, games and sausage sizzle.

Isisford started the morning with a free breakfast followed by the awards ceremony.

Longreach Award Recipients



Citizen of the year – Andrew Watts



Senior Achievement of the year – Melanie Palmer



Junior Achievement of the year – Jozetta Jones



Community event or group of the year – Longreach Rodeo Association

Afterwards everybody could cool down at the pool or enjoy the water slide. **Yaraka** came together the same night for a community BBQ at the Yaraka Hotel.

This year's celebrations in **Ilfracombe** where funded by Great Australian Bites and the day started with the traditional cricket. Kids were entertained with traditional Aussie games like egg and spoon races. Grown-ups enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere with live music, chill-out lounge and snack packs.

Isisford/Yaraka Awards Recipients



Citizen of the year – Robert Anderson



Senior Achievement of the year – Matthew Berryman



Community event or group of the year – Isisford Barcoo Recreational Fishing Association Inc.

A variety of food vendors provided dinner before the awards ceremony took place. The final bang for the night was live entertainment by Jag N the Rollers.

A special treat for the seniors was a free lunch in each town, RSL in Longreach, Wellshot Hotel in Ilfracombe and Whitman's Café in Isisford. All lunches were sponsored by the Great Australian Bites program.

Ilfracombe Awards Recipients



Citizen of the year – George Woodfield
**Award was accepted on George's behalf by his grandson Jordan.*



Junior Achievement of the year – Max Bruggeman



Congratulations to all the winners!



Navigating the Election: Understanding the Caretaker Period

With local government elections around the corner, you might have heard us talk about “caretaker period” or the “caretaker conventions”. But what exactly does that mean? Let's break it down in simple terms.

The caretaker period kicks off as soon as the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) announces the election date and lasts until the election is over. During this time, our local government follows some special rules to make sure everything stays fair and square.

First off, no election material can be published or distributed by the local government or any related entities. This means things like newsletters or fact sheets that might give an individual councillor a leg up in the election are a no-go.

Also, big policy decisions are put on hold. We're talking about

things like hiring or firing the Chief Executive Officer, signing big contracts, or changing local laws. This is to ensure that the incoming council has a say in these important matters.

But what if something urgent comes up? In exceptional cases, the local government can ask the Minister for approval to make a major decision during the caretaker period. This is only if it's really necessary and in the public's best interest.

Caretaker period isn't about putting everything on pause. Our services and works continue as scheduled. It's more about making sure that the election is fair and that the new council gets to make the big decisions that affect our community.

If you have any questions or would like more information, visit longreach.qld.gov.au/elections.



Minutes in a Minute

January 2024 Council Meeting

Council met for its Ordinary Meeting at the Council Chambers in Longreach on 25 January. Among other matters, the meeting:

- ◇ Changed the date of Council's April meeting to now take place on 11 April;
- ◇ Received the second-quarter report on Council's 2023-24 Annual Operational Plan;
- ◇ Authorised the CEO to work with the state and commonwealth on funding for the Longreach Water Security Project;
- ◇ Resolved to apply to the state government for an additional town water allocation under the Water Plan (Cooper Creek) 2011;
- ◇ Approved the December quarterly budget review;
- ◇ Adopted the Longreach Community Flood Action Plan Report;
- ◇ Awarded a tender for the sale and removal of two former railway buildings; and,
- ◇ Considered a range of sponsorships and community donations.

COMMUNITY DONATIONS - GROUP

Organisation	Project Activity	Grant Approved
Longreach Junior Rugby League	Matt Scott Outback Carnival	\$5,000.00
Longreach Ilfracombe Tigers	Longreach Rugby League 9s Carnival	\$5,000.00

SPONSORSHIP

Organisation	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Longreach Show Society	2024 Longreach Annual Show	Financial \$7,312.00 In-Kind \$266.00

Our 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.



International Women's Day

Help us celebrate by decorating your business, shop front or house purple!



Let's forge a more inclusive world for women. Collectively, we can all **#InspireInclusion.**

March 8

www.internationalwomensday.com

Longreach Library – Extended opening hours

We are extending our library hours at the Longreach Library starting 1st February 2024. The library will continue to provide you with a comfortable space to relax and read a good book. You can still order books through our librarians. If you are in need of a space for a meeting or a group get-together, the library has the perfect space for you. Our desktop corner allows our community to be online, work on assignments, plan trips and you can print as well.

For all our families with little kids, the First 5 program is a weekly highlight on a Friday morning and a great way to meet and catch-up. Come and see it for yourself. The program starts at 09.30am during school term.

OPENING HOURS

Monday- Thursday: 9am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm

Friday: 12.30pm – 5pm

Saturday: 9am – 12pm



Clean-up Australia Day

Nominate your community group for the "Battle of the Trash"



Apex Park
Thomson River

3
March

From
8am – 12pm

Rates notices will be issued in the week ending 23 March 2024.

Council collaboration with Karen Monaghan



Today we are introducing the final painting by Karen Monaghan.

Iningai (Longreach) Dreaming by Karen Monaghan



Art: Acrylic on Canvas, 2023

When you can smell gidgee before you open your eyes and hear the black cockatoos you know the country is good.

Driving around Longreach region in the vast scrubs of the Gidgee trees is heavenly, the scent screams wake up, wake up. The stunning yellows always catching your eye.

Gidgee tree you have been so needed in life, in my dreaming's and in my today living. I can never live without you. You give me wood for everything, tools, weapons, fire, and medicine.

Sitting in the channel country around Longreach I always sit beneath a Gum and of course I dream, eat, and drink.

The Gum in flower on the black soil banks showing the country is in good season. Providing nectar for the native bees and honey eaters. Giving us shade when we fish, giving us wood for our quick fire to chase away any unwanted visitors. Providing new leaves for the hungry visiting mobs of Irrantass (black) and Kandangu (white) cockatoos.

I can clearly see the grazier's straight line of fence, the communities of privately owned properties and the big stations that weigh in on community life in the central west. Fat stock/ stock equals happy graziers.

Iningai land you have provided a place that is big and soulful. We come from everywhere to sit, learn, and listen, to soak in the culture that is the Longreach Region of the Central Western Queensland.

Artist: Grew up in Windorah, traditional descendant of The Wangkangurru Yarluyandi. Daughter of Maud and Spinny Monaghan. Partner to Kelly and mother to Amber, Venessa & Tom.

Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



ILLY