# MURWEH MESSENGER ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2024

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# AUGATHELLA'S SPIEGELTENT ON THE MOVE

**PLUS** NAIDOC WEEK MORVEN BALL AUSSIE HELPERS AND MORE



AUGATHELLA CHARLEVILLE COOLADDI MORVEN www.murweh.gld.gov.au

### **Contact Council**

Phone: (07) 4656 8355

After Hours: (07) 4656 8355 (and follow the prompts)

**IN PERSON:** 95-101 Alfred Street, Charleville Qld 4470

**IN WRITING:** All correspondence should be forwarded to:

The Chief Executive Officer

Murweh Shire Council

PO Box 63

Charleville Qld 4470

Email: mail@murweh.qld.gov.au



### CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

Mayor Cr Shaun (Zoro) Radnedge M: 0419 363 030 E: shaun\_radnedge@murweh.qld.gov.au

**Cr Teri Sommerfield** P: 0429 665 131 E: teri\_sommerfield@murweh.qld.gov.au

**Cr Michelle Ebsworth P:** 0428 104 024 E: michelle\_ebsworth@murweh.qld.gov.au

**Cr Peter Alexander** M: 0417 905 435

E: red\_alexander@murweh.qld.gov.au

Cr Robert Eckel M: 0438 870 101 E: robert\_eckel@murweh.qld.gov.au

Got a story or event for the Murweh Messenger? Email council on mail@murweh.qld.gov.au

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# From the Mayor



Hello Murweh,

The past six weeks have been hectic in the Murweh Shire. The Council has been working together to hand down our 24/25 budget. There is plenty of good news in the budget for the whole of Murweh.

The Council is also aware of issues impacting the Murweh Shire, such as housing and Insurance pricing. We are working very hard behind the scenes on both these issues and are happy to say we were successful with a grant to assess the Planning and Levels for our potential sub-division. This will help the Government build housing and have land available in flood-free areas.

Our Council has also been invited to present our case about Insurance pricing to the Federal Senate Committee on Insurance throughout Australia. We will advocate very hard to bring a fairer opportunity for sensible Insurance pricing in the Murweh Shire.

We feel that we have been unfairly included in the Insurance pricing criteria, especially given the flood levees in the Murweh Shire.

Over the last few years, we have invested heavily in maintaining those levees to make us safer during flooding events. We will keep you posted on those issues. It's great to see many tourists in our towns within our Shire experiencing our lifestyle and visiting the great tourism attractions we have in Murweh. On behalf of the Council, please stay safe and enjoy our Murweh Messenger. Stay Safe,

Cr Shaun "Zoro" Radnedge Mayor of Murweh Shire Council

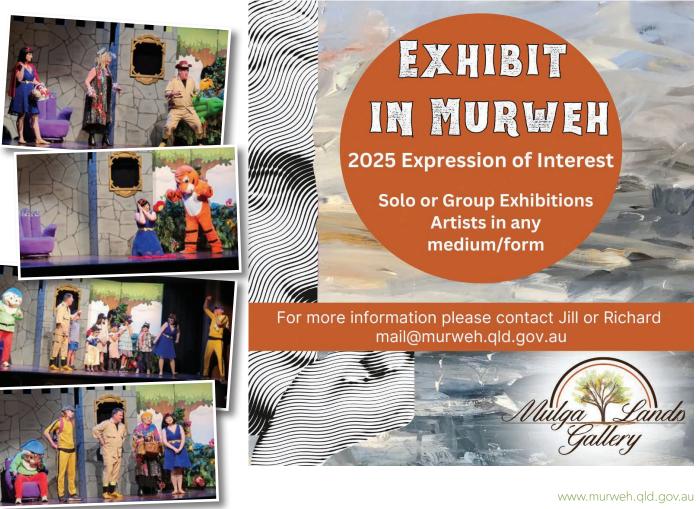


\*A family-friendly interactive performance\*

### **SNOWY AND THE SEVEN COOL DUDES**

On August 28th, Snowy and the Seven Cool Dudes will land in Charleville. This charming interactive production invites kids onto the stage to become various characters-including the Cool Dudes, who love to rap! Meanwhile, the Cool Dudes have decided it's time they started making healthier food choices and exercising. This highly entertaining show, full of positive messaging-aimed at kids 3-11-will be at the Charleville Town Hall on August 26th at 10.30am with access to the venue at 8.00am.







### THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT A COUNTRY MARKET!

We all love the thrill of discovering unique hand-made items, home-made goods —maybe finding that gift for someone special! The Charleville Sunday Markets are no exception. Held in the beautiful surrounds of Town Hall Park, the markets are held on the final Sunday of each month, from March to October, with the final three markets of 2024 being held on August 25, September 29 and October 27. Take the whole family and enjoy this wonderful community event!

# FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL

The council wishes to advise interested parties that landowners/ managers can undertake the treatment of meat/grain used for feral animal control, ably assisted by the Council's accredited officers. Please contact the Council's Administration Officer on 46568355, providing information as required, to enable the Stock Route Supervisor to plan for a mutually convenient day and time to treat your meat/grain.

A coordinated feral animal control program will commence on Monday, November 11, 2024. Information will be posted to all rural landholders registered in the Council's rates database. Should you wish to contact the Council before this date, please call 4656 8355 to discuss this control program. Bonus payments remain in the process. All scalps accepted by the Council must be dried and delivered to a Council depot.

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To book your spot, email wingsonthewarrego@murweh.qld.gov. au

## **29 SEPTEMBER 2024**

### Are you eligible for the two-percent deposit Queensland Housing Finance Loan Regional trial?

The Queensland Government is helping more Queenslanders living in country areas to become homeowners so they can stay close to their families, jobs, and community connections. The **Queensland Housing Finance** Loan is for people who can afford to buy or build a home but cannot get a loan through a bank or building society. The Queensland Government has extended the household income eligibility of the existing Queensland Housing Finance Loan from \$141,000 to \$201,000 per annum for a twoyear trial, allowing more people in regional Queensland to apply for the loan. This trial is open to eligible people living in 45 councils across Queensland and includes Murweh.

The loan offers a variable or fixed interest rate, a minimum deposit of 2% of the purchase price, or the difference between the maximum loan you're eligible for and the property's purchase price with no monthly account-keeping fees or lenders mortgage insurance. To learn more about eligibility:

### Phone 1300 654 322 Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

email hscsloaninformation @housing.qld.gov.au





# EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Written submissions are invited to lease the following parcels of land

- · Lot 77 OR 313 (132 ha approximately) commonly known as 4 Mile Pocket
- Lot 126 OR 328 (18.2 ha approximately) commonly known as Gowrie Crossing Paddock
- Lot 92 OR 290 (1020 ha approximately) commonly known as Mulga Research Paddock
- Showground Paddock west of yards and Rodeo/Campdraft arena
- Submissions must answer the following questions
- 1. A written submission for each parcel of land is required; and
- 2. The intended use of the land or purpose for lease; and
- 3. Maximum term of lease 3 years; and
- 4. Lease offer per parcel of land in dollars (\$)

Further details of the land can be obtained by contacting the Manager of Regulatory Services, Kay Crosby telephone 07 4656 8355, email kay\_crosby@murweh.qld.gov.au

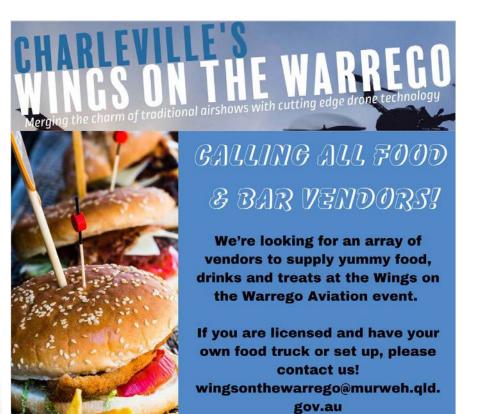
Council will evaluate the tender most advantageous to it in terms of Section 228 (9) and (10) of the Local Government Regulations 2012 and not necessarily the highest or any tender may be accepted.

All written offers must be emailed, mailed or handed into the Council office;

Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 63, Charleville Qld 4470; or Email: kay\_crosby@murweh.qld.gov.au at close of business on Friday 13 September 2024.

Bruce Scott OAM Chief Executive Officer

EXPRESSIONS OF INTERERST LEASE LAND



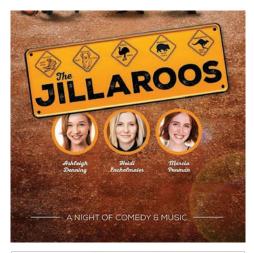
27-29 SEPTEMBER 2024



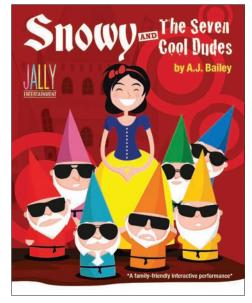


SUNDAY BTH SEPTEMBER

Join the Fight Against Extinction









27-29 SEPTEMBER 2024

6 MURWEH MESSENGER



### Community Spirit Shines Bright and Beautiful at Morven Winter Ball Fundraiser for LifeFlight South West

The always popular Morven Winter Ball was held last month. The Morven Progress Associationand Morven Arts collaborated beautifully to host 160 people at the Morven Winter Ball to raise money for LifeFlight-South West. Kate Scott, LifeFlight's Regional Advisory Committee Chair, South West Region, congratulated the community on hosting an outstanding fundraiser. "The South West LifeFlight helicopter and crew service the Morven area, and it was so wonderful to connect with this generous community," she said.

Mayor Shaun "Zoro" Radnedge said the Ball's success was testimony to the community's supportive spirit. "Murweh is a very close-knit community, and events like this Ball showcase the heart and soul of our residents. Our community's spirit makes Murweh a wonderful place to live, and I'm incredibly proud of everyone who contributed to making this event a success."

The outcome of the fundraiser has yet to be confirmed at the time of writing, partly because the multi-prize raffle will not be drawn until the end of July. LifeFlight South West ambassador and chair of the organising committee Louise Winten is delighted with the outcome.

"We are so grateful to all our sponsors and everyone who donated items for our auction," she said. "With the support of all our sponsors, donors, and generous guests, we believe our small community has raised significant money for LifeFlight South West." According to Mike Stewart, deputy chair of the LifeFlight Foundation, the LifeFlight base at Roma has already proven its worth in southwest Queensland."Our purpose is equitable access to the best possible care, and appropriate care, where people are," he said.

"We are committed to delivering the most appropriate care in the circumstances we're presented with."

The Morven Progress Association wanted the community to know that there are plans for the Augathella Airport JetA1 remote fuel pod (thanks to our friends at fuel-delivery service iOR), LifeFlight, and all emergency services will soon have the capabilities to go further and longer in the region.

# AUSSI AUSSI AUSSI BALIFICATION OF THE NEW OF THE NEW

### Aussie Helpers is Supporting Rural Communities with Financial Aid, Education, and Essential Supplies

Aussie Helpers was founded by Brian and Nerida Egan, a farming couple from Dalby, Queensland, familiar with life's challenges on the land. From humble beginnings, their vision is to provide financial assistance, counselling, educational assistance, livestock feed, and essentials to farming families that are doing it tough. This has helped our rural communities thrive and continue their vital work for our country. The Aussie Helper's team continues with this vision to support our dedicated farmers nationwide.

### WHAT DRIVES THE AUSSIE HELPERS?

Aussie Helpers knows that Aussie farmers are resilient, yet many struggle and need help. Farmers face adversity in many ways, from health to natural disasters, economic forces, family pressures, and personal loss. Farmers sometimes need help, and Aussie Helpers are driven to provide farming families and communities with the support they need to survive and thrive.

Aussie Helpers knows many farmers continue to struggle alone. They want every farmer and rural community to know they are here for them and provide support in any way they need. Aussie Helpers is flexible, responding to the unique needs of individual farmers, families, and rural communities.

### HOW ARE AUSSIE HELPERS SUPPORTING OUR AUSSIE FARMERS?

Aussie Helpers is proud that with the help of our committed volunteer network and sponsors, they can deliver programs that reach those who need them most—the farmers and farming communities we are dedicated to serving.

AHVISE (Aussie Helpers Volunteer For Isolated Student Education) is one of our programs that is making a difference in the lives of rural children by matching volunteer teachers with farming kids undertaking distance education. Aussie Helpers offers both in-person and remote tutoring support.

### **BREKKIE IN A BAG**

Brekkie In a Bag is another program Aussie Farmers launched this year that provides nutritious breakfasts to hundreds of children attending rural schools. Academic disparities persist between rural and urban areas, highlighting the urgent need for healthy breakfasts and educational support for rural students. AHVISE and Brekkie in Bag initiatives address this disparity and aim to improve students' academic outcomes, wellbeing and confidence. Aussie Helpers' VOUCHER FOR A FARMER initiative allows everyday Australians to donate directly to farmers in need. Funds are managed without administrative fees, enabling 100 per cent of contributions to go directly to farming families. The vouchers are designed to be spent within a farmer's local township so they can support their local economy. The initiative respectfully gives farmers the autonomy to purchase the goods they need when they need them.

1300

Aussie Helpers also runs a Thrift Store at 18 Willis Street, Charleville. We offer quality products, including second-hand books, clothing, jewellery, pet supplies, and more, catering to various interests and needs. Every purchase supports our farming community, as all proceeds are reinvested into Aussie Helper initiatives.

### HOW DO FARMERS GET IN TOUCH WITH AUSSIE HELPERS?

Aussie Helpers is driven to ensure farmers know they are here to help. They have depots in Charleville and Dubbo and invite farmers to drop in on a Thursday for a cuppa and a chat between 10 am-3 pm. Although they don't offer morning tea over the phone they are there to listen and are open and flexible to responding wherever, whenever and however is needed. Get in touch by calling one of thier friendly team on 1300 665 232.

### HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

Only through generous donors, sponsors and volunteers can Aussie Helpers continue to deliver these initiatives and respond to provide immediate support to thousands of farmers every year. Aussie Helpers is a registered charity and endorsed as a DGR, which means donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. If you want to get involved and support our farmers, register your volunteer interest or donate today by scanning the QR code or visiting our website. **aussiehelpers.org.au** 





# Extension of contract for Murweh Shire CEO, Mr Bruce Scott OAM

Interim Murweh Shire Council CEO Bruce Scott OAM has extended his contract for an additional 12 months.

### BORN AND RAISED in Western

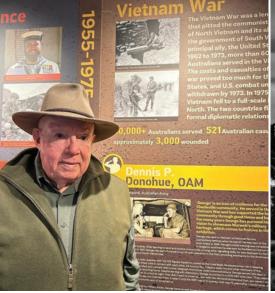
Queensland, Bruce Scott has spent 29 years in local government, public sector, and not-for-profit boards and was Mayor of the Shire of Barcoo for 16 years. He was also recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to local government and the community.

Bruce has a keen interest in health equity, access to telecommunication services in remote regions, renewable energy development, and responsible land use practices. He is also passionate about education and takes an integrated approach to building strong, resilient rural communities.

Bruce also believes that regional and remote Queensland has much to offer and is a major contributor to the economy of Queensland and Australia, and it should be recognised for this contribution. As Bruce further explains, "It is also a great place to live, invest and raise a family. I strongly believe that regional consultation, co-operation and collaboration is the only way to reach and achieve the many goals and outcomes needed to build and maintain sustainable and vibrant communities'.

Endorsing Mr Scott's contract extension, Murweh Shire Mayor Shaun "Zoro" Radnedge said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bruce for the work he has done over the last ten months in the interim CEO role.

Bruce brings a wealth of experience, and, on behalf of the Council, we look forward to working collaboratively over the next 12 months to achieve the goals set down for Murweh into the future."









Captain Neville J. O'Connor of Charleville in Vietnam, 1968

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# FROM CHARLEVILLE TO VIETNAM

**NEV O'CONNOR'S STORY IS A** remarkable and a fitting addition to Charleville's rich and storied military history. Nev's parents came from Adavale, moved to Charleville and built a house in 1938 in Watson St. Nev was the eldest of eight children, and all but two received a tertiary education, something Nev proudly recounts of his parents.

Nev started early schooling in Charleville but attended high school at Nudgee College in Brisbane, where he earned himself a scholarship to the University of Queensland to study medicine.

During his fifth and sixth years of medical school, he received an army scholarship, which provided him with a much-needed wage and committed him to four years of military service in the Australian Army, just as the Vietnam War began in earnest.

His time in Vietnam started in January 1968 and lasted until January 1969, arriving during what became known as the Tet Offensive, a massive, coordinated series of enemy attacks against the US and its allies that started on January 30, 1968. Upon landing, he found himself in the thick of it.

"It was quite an introduction to Vietnam. I was in the middle of it," says Nev. In August of that same year, Nev found himself in the battles of Coral and Balmoral, a brutal three-week conflict around two fire-support bases called Coral and Balmoral that commenced with a vicious fire-fight and bombardment at 3.30 am on the first night.

"I arrived the next morning," said Nev. "Another doctor had been there but left when Nev arrived, leaving him as the only doctor. Nev stayed for a month. After the Seventh Battalion returned home, Nev was transferred to the 8th Field Ambulance, under the command of legendary physician and soldier Major General Brian "Digger" James, recipient of the military cross, MBE, and Order of Australia.

As the only doctor in his Battalion, Nev was responsible for 700 soldiers, treating numerous injuries, a host of tropical diseases, accidents and shootings.

When the doctor from the 3rd Battalion was injured, Nev filled in for three weeks before returning to the 8th Field Ambulance at Nui Dat.

Upon returning home, Nev was stationed at Puckapunyal. With his term in the Army ending, he was offered and accepted a two-year posting in Singapore. Nev and his family moved to Singapore, where he worked with the British medical staff at RAF Changi Hospital for 18 months.

While in Singapore, Nev took a keen interest in psychiatry, handling the psychiatric cases in the absence of a resident psychiatrist at Changi, unknowingly preparing him for the rest of his life's work back in Australia.

After two years in Singapore, Nev left the Army in 1973 and began to practice general medicine. One day, he bumped into his former professor of psychiatry, who offered him a job in psychiatry, a field he'd fallen in love with in Singapore. Nev accepted the position of psychiatry registrar at Lowson House at Royal Brisbane Hospital, for a year. Afterward, he worked as a psychiatrist in Toowoomba until his retirement. Now 85, Nev resides in Toowoomba.

Nev O'Connor features at the RSL Outback Heroes exhibit at the WWII Secret Base.

MURWEHME

# AUGATHELLA'S SPIEGELTENT ON THE MOVE

Wynnum Fringe and Murweh Shire Partner to Relocate and Restore Historic Spiegeltent

### IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH MURWEH

**SHIRE**, Wynnum Fringe plans to relocate the Augathella Spiegeltent —Dutch for mirror tent—to Wynnum, Brisbane's bayside suburb, and give it a new lease on life.

Wynnum Fringe is on a mission to rescue, reimagine, and revive the Augathella Spiegeltent, a unique cultural asset with a rich history. Initially known as the Q150 Shed, this historic tent was designed by the renowned Belgian Spiegeltent masters, the Klessens, and constructed in Brisbane. It was commissioned for Queensland's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2008 and toured across the State before settling in Augathella and serving as a community function and entertainment centre. However, it has lain dormant since 2013, gradually falling into disrepair.

The relocation is the brainchild of Tom Oliver, founder of the Wynnum Fringe. "It revitalises a forgotten gem in Queensland's cultural history and gives the Brisbane region a new live performance venue," Mr Oliver said. The project aimed to raise \$500,000 through a groundbreaking community crowdfund. The community's response was overwhelming, with \$100,000 raised in just three weeks. Mr Oliver said that Wynnum Fringe has been creating shows and experiences in similar Spiegeltents for the past three years and now we have an opportunity to create an engine room of our own for Queensland-made product to get up and ready to tour the world. In late 2023, Mayor Zorro of Murweh Shire Council and Tom agreed that Wynnum Fringe would acquire this piece of history from the town, rename it 'The Augathella', and celebrate the regional QLD town wherever it plays in the world.

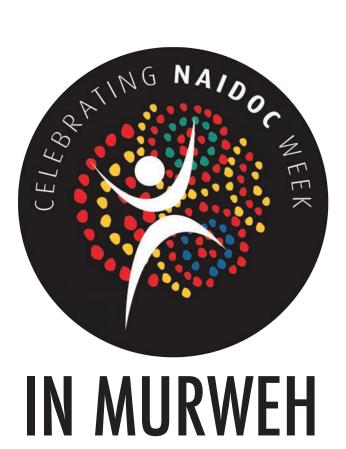
Wynnum Fringe has grown to become one of Australia's most vital annual festivals, not only for its cultural significance but also for its economic impact. It employs more than 2,500 creative workers, champions local artists, welcomes over 100,000 visitors and injects more than \$3 million into the local economy. Cr Shaun Radnedge, Mayor of Murweh Shire Council, enthusiastically endorsed the ambitious crowdfunding project. "We are extremely proud to partner with Wynnum Fringe to revitalise and restore this great asset, honour Queensland's history, and immortalise one of our great regional towns," said Cr Radnedge.

The project aims enough to cover the costs of relocation and extensive renovations. These include essential repairs like replacing rotting floors, fixing leaky windows, repairing UV-damaged roofs, and enhancements such as stained glass installation and interior finishings.

All donations over \$2 are fully taxdeductible, and both corporations and community members are invited to support this vital initiative.

For more details and to follow their progress, visit www.augathellaspiegeltent.com.







This year's NAIDOC theme was *Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud.* It's a powerful call to action honouring First Nations culture's strength and vitality.

Mayor Murweh Shire, Shaun "Zoro" Radnedge, said that this year's NAIDOC Week theme "reminds us of the importance of honouring the past, acknowledging the present, and committing to a future of unity and mutual respect.

"The Bidjara People have an unbroken connection to this land, and the Murweh Shire is blessed with a wealth of Aboriginal cultural and sacred sites, artifacts, and artwork, each a testament to the enduring legacy of the land's Traditional Owners."

Fittingly, the Shire recognised the week with a flurry of events. Saturday started the festivities with a netball carnival at the Charleville netball courts, followed by the official opening ceremony at Charleville State High School on Monday. Tuesday saw the Charleville Hospital Morning Tea at the new Community Allied Health Building on the Hospital grounds. On Wednesday, a three-on-three basketball competition was held at the high school hall. Basketball was followed by QPS & Healthy Ageing morning tea. On Thursday, the Waroona Multipurpose Centre held a lovely BBQ lunch, followed by a CWAATSICH & Drug Arm Trivia Night at the RSL. Volunteers conducted workshops on traditional yoga and boomerang throwing at both primary schools.

The highlight came on Friday, with the Community March commencing at Council Chambers, followed by formalities at St Mary's School and the mayor judging a RESQ Art Competition. After the march, there was a cake-cutting ceremony with elders.

The mayor said the week was a huge success and added that the Shire should look to the future regarding reconciliation. "Let's see a future where our children and grandchildren grow up in a community that values diversity, inclusivity, and respect for all cultures. A future where the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are acknowledged and celebrated and where their voices are heard and respected."









# Survey About Communications Help the Community Stay Informed

**MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL** has teamed up with The University of Southern Queensland to improve its communication with the community during major events, including events like the recent floods.

According to Mayor Shaun 'Zoro' Radnedge, "We have recently had several different disasters within our community, including Christmas Day storms, power outages, and the recent flood event, and it has once again highlighted one of the Murweh Shire's main objectives, which is to keep the community safe and informed."

Dr. Ashley Jones of the University of Southern Queensland reminds us that, "we always need to review our processes and know how people are communicating. We have so many different tools available to us today. It is not just one but many ways we connect."

With the recent floods affecting the community, this is a good time to check in and learn how to improve our current communication methods.

"Whether it's the day-to-day business of Council, community events in towns, or alerts that the community needs to be made aware of, we want to understand how residents would like this information shared, and this survey is an opportunity for the community to have their say," Mayor Shaun 'Zoro' Radnedge said.

Dr. Jones states that the data will inform

future communication methods during major events, like the flood, and future plans for general communication within the community.

"We need as many people as possible to complete the short, anonymous online survey. It will take a few minutes to complete," Dr Jones said.

Dr. Jones further explains, "There is a section for those who belong to community groups and take the lead in one or more groups. This is aimed at finding out what groups use to communicate."

We currently share information through various media services and social media platforms, and it's important to know what residents are currently utilising today to source their information during major events so we can update our current communication tactics.

Residents are encouraged to scan the QR code and anonymously complete the short survey. The link will also be shared across all

Council social media platforms for those who cannot access QR codes.











Pop along to the Charleville Library where we talk, read, sing and play every week!





Storytime anytime for you and vour little ones!

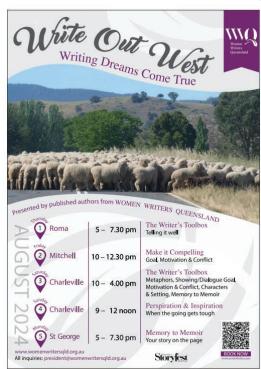




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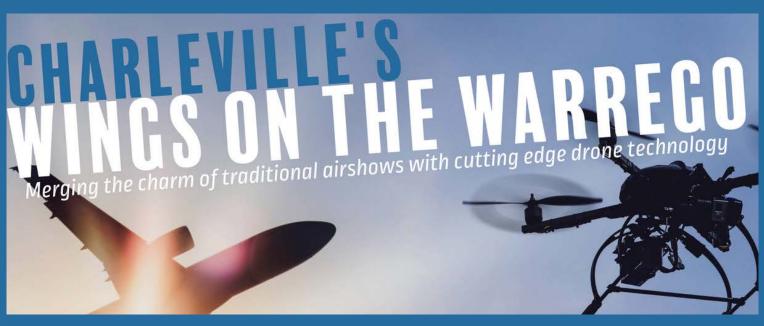


The one tap library app all for you! Download with app & check out our magazines, e-books and audiobooks.



So many exciting authors coming out to Charleville, don't miss the Writer's Toolbox or the Perspiration & Inspiration workshops!





# **27-29 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Come and be a part of aviation history at the first-of-its -kind aeronautical extravaganza in Charleville, QLD! Wings on the Warrego will have something for everyone, so if you're an aviation enthusiast, it's an event you do not want

### DAY1

Rocket Making Workshops with the Flying Scientists

**Drone Racing Competition** 

Movie Night Under the Stars

Opportunities to sponsor or exhibit. Contact us now! to miss!

### DAY 2

Fly in & Aircraft Tarmac Static Display at Charleville Airport

**Adventure Joy Flights** 

Official Opening of the Aviation Museum

Career Expo focusing on pathways into the aviation and drone industries

Vintage Car & Bike Meetup Remote Control Aeroplane Display

Wings on the Warrego Shindig - live entertainment from The 78 Sound and drone mustering demo from Sky Kelpie. Food and Bar.

### DAY 3

Land Sailing Races by the Australian Blokart Association

Wings on the Warrego Market: stallholders, live music, food and good coffee.



### Contact: wingsonthewarrego@murweh.qld.gov.au

skykelpie





