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

Published by Contact Media contactmedia.com.au.

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

The local government elections for the Murweh Shire Council were held on Saturday 16th of March, 2024. Here are the results.



Mayor Shaun "Zoro" Radnedge

Mayor Radnedge was re-elected uncontested as Mayor. He is a born-and-bred Charleville boy. Known affectionately as Zoro, Cr Radnedge and his wife operate a local business in Charleville. He was first elected to Council in 2016 and elected Mayor in 2020 and returns to the role for a second term. He has been involved in several clubs within the Shire, including Charleville R.S.L, Junior and Senior League, Western Rugby League, and Warrego Pony Club.



Councillor Robert Eckel

Councillor Eckel was re-elected, taking on a second term. He was born in Charleville and raised in Morven. He is married to Leonie and has two sons, Peter and Scott. He has had his own mechanical business, Robert Eckel Repairs, for 27 years. Robert is President of the Smallbore Rifle Club, a member of the Rural Fire Brigade and Historic House and involved in local sporting events. He is very passionate about good health and sport.



Councillor Michelle Ebsworth

Councillor Michelle Ebsworth was elected for her first term as a councillor. She has lived in Charleville since 2002, has a background in finance and commerce, a diploma in accounting, and extensive business experience. She has been involved in local organisations, including Show Society President, Rural Ambassador and Miss Showgirl for the Southwest, Girl Guide Leader, Treasurer for the St Mary's P & F Association, and Charleville Dance House.



Councillor Peter Alexander

Councillor Peter Alexander was re-elected. He was born and educated in Charleville and has 50-plus years working in the public service as well as a part-time bookmaker. Cr Alexander is married with two children, one still residing in Charleville and four grandchildren. A lifetime member of All Whites Rugby League Club, and a current member of the Central Warrego Race Club and involved with the indigenous community of SW Qld.



Councillor Teri Sommerfield

Councillor Teri Sommerfield was elected and starts her first term as a councillor. She is a fifth generation Murweh Shire resident who grew up on a local cattle property. Cr Sommerfield has extensive knowledge of the agriculture industry, five years of professional experience with the Queensland Department of Resources and has been the President of the Charleville Performing Arts Association for the last four years.

From the Mayor

I am humbled by the opportunity to continue in my role as Mayor of the Murweh shire for another four years. I'd like to express my gratitude to the community for their support, and to everyone who participated in our recent local elections. With the election results now finalised, we warmly welcome Cr Ebsworth and Cr Sommerfield to our Murweh Shire Council. I also extend a heartfelt thank you to Michael McKeller and Paul Taylor for their dedicated service over the last four years. Our collective efforts have led to significant achievements, and the Murweh Shire Council appreciates your contributions. As we look to the future, there is still much to be achieved. On behalf of those of us continuing in our roles, we look forward to working alongside our two new council members.

This time of year is always busy in the Murweh Shire Council, and 2024 is no

exception. We're excited to host the Queensland Music Festival on the 20th, promising a night to remember, along with our renowned Speed Shears event scheduled for May as well as the prestigious Outback Masters. Many events are in the coming months, so flick through the pages and mark your calendars.

Remember to take a look at the grant opportunities available for regional Queenslanders. These grants could be the stepping stone to realising your community projects or personal aspirations. Everyone eligible should consider applying. I urge you to check the job vacancies on our website, too. There are a lot of great opportunities.

Lastly, please turn to page 12 for a story about our insurance challenges. This matter impacts us all, and it's crucial to raise awareness among a broader audience. Anyway, as always, stay safe.

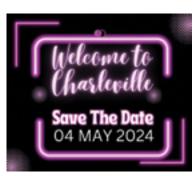


CLICK GO THE SHEARS

As a part of the Charleville Southwest Show 2024, the town is gearing up for a shearing showdown in May with some young guns lining up for Charleville's legendary Speed Shears competition. Shearers from far and wide are signing up to showcase their lightning-fast skills and compete for some seriously impressive cash prizes. Starting sharp at 4pm, the action kicks off with an unforgettable evening of sheep-shearing excellence. There's a bar till late with a DJ, lots of activities and camping is free.

Reminder Rates Are Due

If you haven't paid your rates, you can easily in person at Council or online. Head to Council's website to learn more.



MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

Make sure you're free on the May the 4th for the Charleville Golf Club's "Welcome to Charleville", an annual event introducing the Charleville community and new residents. It's a great event for community groups to connect and stallholders to showcase their products. Attracting over 700 people last year, the "Welcome to Charleville 2023" featured live music, fireworks, food stalls, a bar, face painting, a jumping castle, and other family-friendly activities. Please save the date.



The Long Ride to Visit the Ville

In May Charleville will see over a hundred riders converge on the town for the final "long ride" of an RSL sponsored charity event dedicated to supporting the Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia. Since its inception in 2007, there's been over 14 rides across the vast expanse of Australia, tirelessly advocating for men's health and raising vital awareness about prostate cancer in communities nationwide. Give them a warm welcome in May.

Find out more and dontate at: rslaustralia.org/long-ride-2024



MURWEH MESSENGER

16 April	The Cubby by Flipside Circus
19 April	QMF Business Connect with Business Chamber Queensland
20 April	QMF Outback Sounds
25 April	ANZAC Day
28 April	Charleville Sunday Market
1 May	Labour Day
4 May	Welcome to Charleville
4 – 6 May	SouthWest Craft School
14 May	The TWITS Show
16 – 19 May	Charleville & District Agricultural Show
26 May	Charleville Sunday Market



OUTBACK

QUEENSLAND MASTERS

OUTBACK MASTERS IS BACK



Australia's most remote and richest amateur golf series—the 2024 Outback Queensland Masters—will be arriving in Charleville on 13 & 14 July 2024 on their penultimate stop. The Masters is a mammoth event, spanning an epic 1,650+ kilometres across Queensland's outback, and is staged over six consecutive weekends, 15 June – 21 July. Contestants could win one of five individual prizes from \$10,000 hole-in-one challenges culminating with the million-dollar hole-in-one challenge in Quilpie.

ROCK ON CHARLEVILLE

A few months ago, Queensland-based singer-songwriter Mario Vayne shot a music video in Charleville. The video premiered on YouTube. Mario and a host of locals bring Mario's song "Electric" to life against the backdrop of Charleville. Check it out on YouTube.



COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND GAMBLING COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

GAMBLING COMMUNITY FUND

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) is Queensland's largest one-off community grants program and distributes approximately \$60 million each year to not-for-profit community groups. The GCBF funding helps these groups to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Queensland communities. The GCBF will have three funding rounds in 2024. The first one has closed, leaving two.

CLOSING SOON: Round 121— \$100,000 30th Anniversary super round — closes 30 April.

Round 122—\$35,000 standard grant round—closes 30 November.





LOOK UP

Above are events to keep and eye out for. Charleville's Cosmos Centre says that it's planning a local event between May and June, when comet 12P/Pons-Brooks is approaching close to Earth.

Stay tuned on their FaceBook page: @ CharlevilleCosmosCentre



Grants and Funding Opportunities

There are some great funding opportunities across many sectors from Regional Development Australia! Visit their website and stay informed by subscribing to their newsletter. Regional Development Australia Darling Downs & South West

rda-ddsw.org.au



FIRST NATION SPORT

The Queensland Government has opened applications for Round 3 of the First Nations Sport and Recreation Program. The program provides funding to non-discrete communities to increase physical activity levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Organisations can apply for funding in four categories: employment, participation, equipment, and capability and capacity.

Applications close on 24 April 2024. Scan the QR to learn more:





Legal Aid Available

Have the recent disasters left you struggling with property damage, insurance headaches or other problems?

You can get free legal help from Legal Aid Queensland by calling 1300 527 700. Their lawyers can help with a range of legal problems stemming from disasters. Whether it be insurance claim issues or refusals, temporary housing difficulties, financial hardship, family law issues or other legal problems caused by a disaster, they can help. This is available to all Queenslanders. For more information about our Disaster Legal Help head to their website or call the number above. legalaid.qld.gov.au





In partnership with the Department of Housing,
The Queensland Housing Finance Loan may be available for
Queenslanders who can afford to buy or build a home but
can't get private finance from a bank or building society.
If you're eligible, you can use this loan to buy an established
house, unit, townhouse, or duplex, or to build a house.
Get more information on their website. Search "Queensland
housing finance loan" and check if you qualify.



WATER CHARGES EXPLAINED

Water charges now have two components: an "Access" charge and a "Consumption" charge per kilolitre (kl) or 1,000 litres. The typical Residential Access Charge is \$275 per half year and the Consumption charge is \$0.20 per kilolitre.

The average resident uses about 700,000 litres (700kl) of water. These residents will see little change from last year. Residents who use less water will be charged less. Residents who use more than 700kl and up to the previous maximum allocation of 1,300kl or 1.3 million litres will be charged up to \$60 per half year or \$120 per year more than their 2022/23 charge.



library to test our new book nook cushions at the library!

First 5 Forever is held weekly in Charleville and fortnightly in Morven and Augathella. Follow Murweh Libraries pages on Instagram and Facebook for updates.

The Library is starting up free digital literacy sessions once a month for the community. It's open to everyone with time for questions and help at the end of the session. Afternoon tea is

Murweh Story Walks - Kids will be able to read/walk along in the parks in Charleville, Morven, and Augathella with our new Murweh Story walks which will be installed this year.



Children enjoying "The Little Qu Botanic Gardens, Image: Calms Regional Council.

CHARLEVILLE STORYTIME Weekly Charleville Library Fortnightly Morven & Augathella



SCOUTS AND GUIDES CLEAN UP

The Charleville Girl Guides and Scouts, our Australia Day Environment Award recipients, demonstrated a commendable commitment to preserving the beauty of our Shire by actively participating in Clean Up Australia initiatives, the latest back in March. A big thank you to all involved.





Correction

In the last issue of the Murweh Messenger, we erroneously printed the wrong name denoted by the acronym (CWAATSICH). It should have read: Charleville and Western Areas Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Community Health. Contact details are on their website: cwaatsich.org.au

Train in the Regions, Stay in the Regions

The Mayor of Murweh Shire, Shaun "Zoro" Radnedge, has commended a groundbreaking educational initiative that uniquely bridges the gap between university healthcare education and regional communities. He emphasised that this innovative approach is the future for regional communities aiming to retain a skilled workforce.

"Train them in the regions, and they will stay in the regions," the Mayor said, underscoring the success of the University of Southern Queensland-led innovative program. This program has grown the pipeline of Southwest Queensland talent equipped for healthcare careers and effectively retained these professionals in the region.

The recent graduates, Bianca Bain, Phillipa Wallace, Em Hall, Shauna Mckinsley, Aly Fitzsimmons and Katie Lark, were the first students to complete the program and become registered nurses.

Launched in semester 1, 2022, and delivered in partnership between UniSQ, South West Hospital and Health Service and Southern Queensland Rural Health (SQRH), the program offers students the opportunity to study a Bachelor of Nursing at Charleville's SQRH Clinical Training Facility. This unique setup allows students to connect with others in their cohort, fostering a supportive learning environment.



Bianca Bain, a recent graduate and registered nurse at Charleville Hospital, said the program was convenient and enjoyable. "Having a study space here at Charleville created a more convenient way to complete my studies and was an amazing help over my two years of study."

"This program brings a university education to the bush," said the Mayor. "It's the way forward, and not just with healthcare. If we can train our youth train here, they'll likely stay here, in regional areas, where we need skills."





Churchill Trust

Established before his passing, this is an opportunity for everybody to travel and learn, with fellowships offered annually worth an average of \$35,000 each to Australians who want to make a difference. Churchill started the trust to make a scholarship scheme available

to all Australians who want to make a difference, no matter their profession, education, or background. You don't even have to have finished school. Learn more: www.churchilltrust.com.au

Churchill Fellowship applications are now open, and close 1 May 2024.













CHARLEVILLE'S WARREGO WINGS ON THE WARREGO Merging the charm of traditional airshows with cutting edge drone technology



27 - 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

Plans are underway to bring this one-of-a-kind event to Charleville and we're currently taking expressions of interest from the community and businesses.

OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE

- Catering
- Entertainment
- Aviation activities & displays

- Sponsorship
- Hobby & Community groups
 - Volunteers



Contact:

EH wingsonthewarrego@murweh.qld.gov.au



Regional Homeowners Smashed by Insurance Bills, not Water

Queensland homeowners are being slapped with \$10,000-a-year flood insurance hikes despite living in towns ringed by flood levee banks that have protected them against floodwater for decades.





Queensland councils are demanding answers from the insurance industry after receiving complaints from residents that bills have soared – in at least one case from \$3500 to \$\$13,500 a year. Murweh Shire Mayor Shaun 'Zoro' Radnedge said he feared residents would have no choice but to drop their insurance, meaning they were at risk of losing everything if their homes caught fire or were otherwise damaged or destroyed.

Balonne Mayor Samantha O'Toole said residents in her shire had been hit with 100-percent price rises year on year on year and soaring insurance bills risked a damaging knock-on effect for housing availability and affordability.

Mayor Radnedge said he had called insurance companies to ask how they were calculating the soaring premiums only to be told they did not realise Charleville had flood-proofing levee banks. "We are really asking the question of the insurance companies in Australia why our insurance premiums, especially in the Murweh Shire have risen sometimes up to 500 percent," Mayor Radnedge said.

"We are asking why because we have mitigation in place, we have a levee bank in Augathella and in Charleville but we have seen these huge rises in these places. Council and government have put a lot of money into maintaining that mitigation and we're asking where does the mapping come from that insurance companies are using to make

the assessments on these insurance policies.

"We've had rises from \$3500 to \$13,500. We advocated on behalf of that resident and the insurance company came back and said they were not even aware that we have a levee bank in place in Charleville." So my question, and South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils' question, is where are these insurance companies getting their information from as far as flood mapping goes.

"There's a huge deficiency all across Australia and we need the insurance companies to be more accountable. It's really scary in that people are choosing not to have insurance.

"They can't afford it. We are talking sometimes up to \$270 a week just to have that insurance. Just imagine, if you are a landlord and your insurance is \$270 a week, and you are charging \$350 a week in rent, you are not making anything out of that investment.

"Where do we go to here from here? All our communities here in southwest Queensland have levee banks and we need the government to step in here and help us out — where is that flood mapping derived from and where do the insurance companies take that information?"

Mayor O'Toole said towns in her shire were protected by levees but insurers were still raising premiums even though none had been flooded."Councils and government are spending a lot of money maintaining these levees but the insurance premiums aren't recognising that," Mayor O'Toole said. "We have a housing shortage and these premiums could make it worse - to get a mortgage you need insurance cover. If fewer people can afford insurance then we are going to have fewer homes that we need."

Councils at last year's Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) annual conference backed calls for affordable, available flood cover for Queenslanders.

There has been a dramatic rise in the cost of flood insurance premiums faced by Queensland homeowners in the wake of recent natural disasters," LGAQ chief executive officer Alison Smith said. This surge in premiums has resulted in financial hardship for homeowners, as some have been offered unaffordable premiums, whilst others have been denied insurance coverage.

Councils have invested significantly in flood mitigation projects since 2012, yet the flood insurance costs hinders the effectiveness of these mitigation efforts and poses financial challenges for homeowners and councils alike. The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to urgently implement measures to alleviate the financial burdens imposed by unaffordable flood insurance premiums."



Get ready for the night of nights as Charleville comes alive to the sounds of Australia's Best musicians

GET READY TO EXPERIENCE a musical journey like never before as Queensland Music Trails brings the much-anticipated all-ages, family-friendly Outback Sounds event to Charleville Showgrounds on April 20, 2024!

The big day promises to be memorable, filled with incredible performances by some of Australia's most renowned artists, including Ball Park Music, Paul Dempsey, Pierce Brothers, Tori Forsyth, William Barton, Maddy Thomas, and so many more.

Tickets are now available at qldmusictrails. com, with a 20% Local Legends discount for all Murweh Shire Council residents! Ticket Purchasers can also donate to support the fantastic work that Drought Angels do at the point of sale.

Outback Sounds is the hero event of QLD Music Trails' Outback Trail, which runs from April 13 to 21st and visits Goondiwindi, Nindigully, Tambo, Quilpie, Charlotte Plains, and Roma along the way.

Brisbane's Ball Park Music, known for their infectious indie-pop tunes, expressed their excitement about the upcoming event. Lead vocalist Sam Cromack shared, "We

can't wait to jump in the van and head west to play in Charleville. We're always eager to take the rock 'n' roll adventure to new places and excited and curious about what will go down in the Outback. Looking forward to a loud night under the stars."

The legendary Paul Dempsey, lead vocalist from iconic Aussie band Something For Kate, is equally thrilled about the Outback Sounds event. Dempsey remarked, "Queensland holds a special place in my heart, and I genuinely look forward to performing at Outback Sounds. Music has the power to unite us all, and I am eager to create lasting memories with the residents of Charleville."

Tori Forsyth, a rising star in the country music scene, expressed her enthusiasm for being part of this unique musical experience in Charleville. Forsyth said, "I am honoured to be part of Outback Sounds, bringing my music to the charming community of Charleville. Music has the power to transcend boundaries, and I'm excited to connect with the audience through my songs."

Outback Sounds is not just about the music; it's also an opportunity for the community

to come together and celebrate the unique spirit of Charleville. The Charleville Showgrounds will provide the perfect backdrop for the musical festivities.

In addition to the stellar performances, attendees can look forward to various food stalls, art installations, and community activities. It's a chance for locals to showcase the warmth and hospitality that make Charleville a special place for visitors from all over.

As proud partners of Queensland Music Trails' Outback Trail, Murweh Shire Council invites all residents to mark their calendars for April 20, 2024, and to grab tickets now! Whether you're a fan of country music, indie-pop, alternative, or folk tunes, the Outback Sounds event promises a diverse musical experience that caters to all tastes!

Tickets for Outback Sounds are now available at qldmusictrails.com, and we encourage everyone to grab theirs early to ensure they take advantage of this incredible day of music and community celebration. Let's come together, enjoy Outback Sounds, and make this event an unforgettable experience for Charleville!







OUTBACK SOUNDS

BALL PARK MUSIC
PAUL DEMPSEY
THE PIERCE BROTHERS
TAYLOR MOSS
TORI FORSYTH
WILLIAM BARTON
NED AND THE KELLYS





20 APRIL CHARLEVILLE SHOWGROUNDS GET TIX @ QLDMUSICTRAILS.COM

Murweh Shire Council residents Local Legends have the chance to receive up to 20% off event tickets. Available until sold out!





