

Barcaldine/Longreach, November 2009

# Community Cabinet News

Your voice where you live

7/10/10



## Premier's message

I was delighted to be in Barcaldine and Longreach for my 19th Community Cabinet. My ministers, department heads and I were able to discuss with you a wide range of issues both at the public forum and in a record number of deputations.

I was pleased to announce the return of QantasLink's third air service to Blackall and Barcaldine. The Government and the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council are jointly funding a \$360,000 upgrade for Blackall Airport, which will enable it to cater for the 74-seat QantasLink Q400 aircraft.

At the Barcaldine forum, I had the pleasure of being served kangaroo meat by Anna Easton (below left) and Ana Grant of the Barcaldine Girl Guides. I strongly recommend roo sirloin kebabs; very tasty.

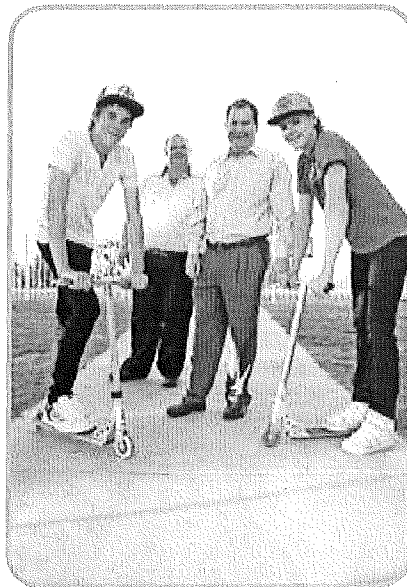
A highlight of my trip was meeting under the beautiful Tree of Knowledge memorial. It is a bold and artistically courageous memorial that will attract many tourists to Barcaldine.

Thank you for making us so welcome in Barcaldine and Longreach.

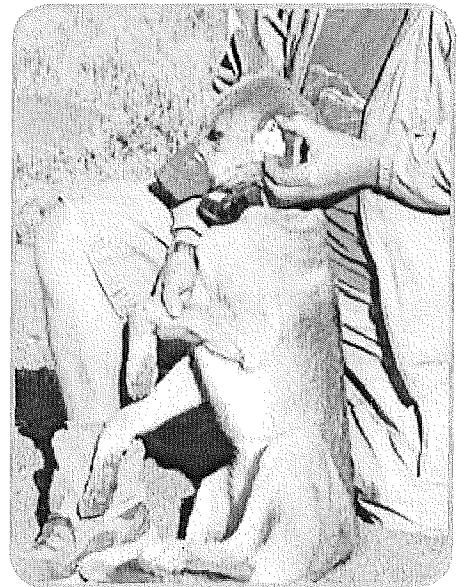
**Anna Bligh MP**  
Premier of Queensland



Premier Anna Bligh dropped into the Longreach School of Distance Education to chat online with students. Seated: Principal Robyn Conlin, Premier Bligh and Minister for Education Geoff Wilson. Standing: Deputy Principals Rachelle Moore and Nadine Stock, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education Carolyn Male.



Barcaldine 14-year-olds Sam Welsh (left) and Connor Jones became the youngest people ever to make a deputation at Community Cabinet. They met with Minister for Sport Phil Reeves to seek funding for a skateboard facility. They were accompanied to the deputation by Carl O'Neill of Home Assist Secure, Barcaldine (back).



At Community Cabinet in Longreach, Premier Anna Bligh announced the formation of the Queensland Dog Offensive Group (QDOG). The group will harness experts from industry, local communities and all levels of government to work together to tackle the problems caused to the grazing industries by wild dogs.

See more photos from Community Cabinet at [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au/newsroom/photos](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au/newsroom/photos)

# Announcements

## Three new coal projects proposed

More than 100 million extra tonnes of coal could be exported every year with \$25 billion worth of projects in the Galilee Basin under consideration by the State Government.

Premier Anna Bligh and Treasurer Andrew Fraser visited the area to the north of Alpha on their way to Community Cabinet, accompanied by Waratah Coal officials.

The Coordinator-General is conducting environment assessments into three projects: Galilee Coal, proposed by Waratah Coal; and Alpha Coal and Kevin's Corner, both proposed by Hancock Prospecting.

The projects could create up to 13,000 construction jobs and 4400 operational jobs.

## Sandy Creek crossing reopened

The Sandy Creek crossing on the Cramsie-Muttaburra Road near Longreach is now open.

Main Roads Minister Craig Wallace, who inspected the \$1.3 million crossing during Community Cabinet, said the project would benefit motorists during the wet season.

Longreach Regional Council carried out the roadworks, which involved raising the crossing 1.3 metres above the existing level.

## Resealing of Central Highlands roads

Work has started on an \$8 million program to reseal roads in the Central Highlands.

Roads to be resealed include: Capricorn Highway west of Gogango Range, Bluff; Gregory Highway between Clermont and Springsure; Dawson Highway between Moura and Springsure; Blackwater-Cooroora Road; Orion 10 Chain Road; Baralba-Woorabinda Road; Peak Downs Highway (Myall Creek); and Anakie-Sapphire Road.

The roadworks are expected to be completed by 11 December 2009, weather permitting. Call Main Roads on 4983 8700 for more information.

## Home support boost

Disability services in the Central West have received a \$478,000 funding boost from the Queensland Government under the Home and Community Care (HACC) program.

Local organisations sharing the extra funding include Barcoo Living, Tambo HACC, Blue Care Central Highlands and Ozcare Central Highlands.



Minister for Community Services and Housing Karen Struthers on the veranda of the Barcardine Shire Hall with Cr Dale Appleton, Isaacs Regional Council; Don Alexander, Rural Fire Brigades Assoc of Qld; John Chandler, AgForce; and Larry Lewis, Queensland Fire & Rescue. Larry was presented with a 20 years Meritorious Service Award at Community Cabinet.



Minister for Sport Phil Reeves inspected Queensland Government funded improvements at Longreach Aquatic Centre. L to r: Cr Mick Bischel and Mayor John Palmer, Longreach Regional Council; Minister Reeves; Maree and Brian Shorter, pool lessees.



Mayors came from throughout the west to attend Community Cabinet at Barcardine. Discussing development opportunities in the Galilee Basin were Gary Peoples, former Mayor of Aramac; Helen Stebhens, Hancock Coal; Robbie Dare, Diamantina Shire Mayor; and Bruce Scott, Barcoo Shire Mayor.



# Announcements

## Safe crossing for Tambo Teddies

New crossing signs have been erected outside the Tambo Teddies shop in Tambo.

Minister for Main Roads Craig Wallace said the signs, which were located outside the original Tambo Teddies shop several years ago, had been relocated in front of the new store in Arthur Street.

'The Tambo Teddies have become an iconic part of this town and I am pleased we are able to work with the Blackall/Tambo Regional Council to reunite the shop and the signs,' Minister Wallace said.

## Q150 bridge names announced

As part of Queensland's 150th birthday celebrations, Minister for Main Roads Craig Wallace revealed the names of two bridges in the Central West.

The Cooper Creek Bridge, located 11.6 kilometres north east of Windorah, will retain its original name, in honour of the area's early history. Explorer Charles Sturt named the creek after Charles Cooper, the first Chief Justice of South Australia.

The Barcoo River Bridge, located 500 metres south of the Blackall CBD will be known as the Kargoolnah Bridge. Kargoolnah was the earliest government authority in the Blackall area. The name honours Indigenous ancestors as well as pioneering families.

## Barcaldine and Blackall events secured

Two of the regions most popular events will receive a boost to their 2010 budgets through the Queensland Events Regional Development Program (QERDP).

Barcaldine's Tree of Knowledge Festival will receive \$29,000 and the Blackall Heartland Festival \$20,000 towards their 2010 events.

Treasurer Andrew Fraser said recipients commonly used the funding to employ staff, produce promotional material and websites, and hire infrastructure.

Submissions for the next round of funding closes on 12 February 2010, for events held in the second half of next year. Phone QERDP on 1300 881 255 or visit [www.queenslandevents.com.au](http://www.queenslandevents.com.au)



Minister for Local Government Desley Boyle (left) presented a cheque for \$11,197 to assist the Longreach Show Society Inc in staging next year's show. She inspected the main arena with Show Society President Cr Rae Bowden and Treasurer Doug Timms. Other Western Queensland show societies to receive assistance grants include Alpha, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Quilpie and Winton as well as Isisford Sheep & Wool Show Inc, Tambo Stock Show Inc and The Landsborough Flock Ewe Show Society Inc.



The fabulous handiwork of the district's quilters was displayed at the Airing of the Quilts in Barcaldine. The event raised money to support the Jennie Lockie Community Assistance Association. L to r: Suzy McKenzie, Betty Wason, Sue Denham, Jean Lennon, Sandra Musson, Sandy Gray and Tatiana McKenzie.



A \$1.75 million upgrade on the Capricorn Highway has given tourists improved access to the Tree of Knowledge Memorial in Barcaldine. L to r: Central West Regional Director of Main Roads Eric Denham, Premier Anna Bligh, Minister for Main Roads Craig Wallace and Mayor of Barcaldine Regional Council Rob Chandler.

# Announcements

## \$280,000 for Winton Neighbourhood Centre

Community Services Minister Karen Struthers announced funding of more than \$280,000 for the Winton Neighbourhood Centre.

In a report by Volunteering Australia, Winton was described as 'a safe place with friendly, resilient people'.

'Everyone needs somewhere to go and someone to turn to when times are tough. In Winton, they turn to the neighbourhood centre,' Minister Struthers said.

The centre provides counselling and support services, family therapy, homelessness and mental health services and educational opportunities for locals.

## Tourism careers for Central West jobseekers

Seventy jobseekers and early school leavers from Queensland's Central West will soon have the skills to begin tourism careers, thanks to two Longreach-based employment projects.

The projects, funded by \$286,520 from the State Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, are run by the Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD).

The Outback Tourism Up-skilling project is providing tourism training for 50 long-term unemployed and under-employed people.

The Tasting Tourism in the Outback project provides 20 students with various accredited training activities.

## Meals on Wheels volunteers honoured

Minister for Disability Services Anastacia Palaszczuk presented certificates to past and present Longreach Meals on Wheels volunteers during Community Cabinet.

The State Government's Home and Community Care program supports Longreach Meals on Wheels with \$14,400 a year so that 6000 meals can be delivered to the frail aged and people with a disability.

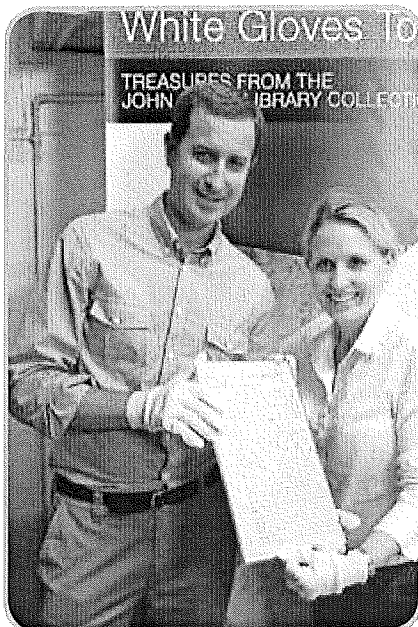
## Learning Indigenous tourism

Minister for Education Geoff Wilson and Minister for Tourism Peter Lawlor met with local students at the Qantas Founders Museum in Longreach during Community Cabinet.

Longreach State High School's Doug Hall, Emma Barrett and Zoe Morris are working towards a Certificate II in Tourism through the Australian College of Outback Tourism.



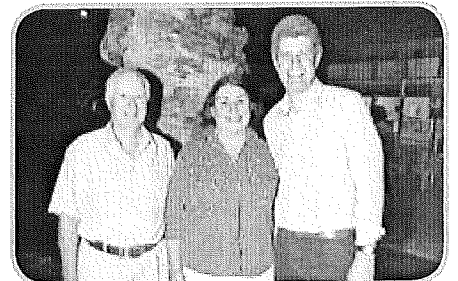
A deputation seeking support for a Kindergarten and Community Centre in Barcaldine met with Minister for Education and Training Geoff Wilson. Front: Louise Gronold; Minister Wilson; Member for Gregory Vaughan Johnson. Back: Graeme Wills and Principal of Barcaldine State School Robin Raynor.



Under the Tree of Knowledge Memorial at Barcaldine, Simon Farley, State Library of Queensland and Kate Jones, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability inspect the historic Manifesto of the Australian Labour Party.



Premier Anna Bligh presented Barcaldine Regional Mayor Rob Chandler with a photograph from the State Archives of Oak Street Barcaldine in 1938.



Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Stirling Hinchliffe (left) with Mayor of Blackall-Tambo Regional Council Jan Ross and John McKinnon of Barcaldine at the Government Reception at the Tree of Knowledge Memorial.



Barcaldine's Pearl Eatts was honoured for her work with the Indigenous community by Premier Anna Bligh and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Desley Boyle.



Barcaldine Main Roads staffers Toni Austin (left) and Gerry Fogarty had a busy weekend. They manned a stall at Community Cabinet after helping to organise Barcaldine Races the day before. Gerry, an Iningai Elder, also delivered the Welcome to Country. Pictured: Toni, race club treasurer, Gerry, president, and Hannah Whiteaker, secretary.

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Photos: Louise Gronold and Hugh O'Brien.