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Mayor's Desk by Mayor Cr Rachel Chambers



And just like that, it's Christmas (only 12 days for those who are counting) and soon we'll all be enjoying some down time to spend with family and enjoy the Christmas cheer.

There are lots of things to do in the region if you, like me, plan on staying home this Christmas.

My top 5 things to do around the region this Christmas break (brochures and more information are located for your convenience at each Council Library):

1. Visit the local Art Galleries. The North Burnett boasts a number of Art Galleries that are open to the public for free! All they ask is a gold coin donation to be able to view current exhibitions on display. Why not visit one with family before catching lunch at one of the local eateries.

2. Go for a family day out to one of the local waterways and enjoy a swim or kayak and a family BBQ or picnic. The North Burnett is home to many naturally beautiful waterways. Why not head into your local butcher for some BBQ meats and head out to one of the areas which provides free BBQ facilities like Mingo Crossing or Paradise Dam. Other areas that you could go to cool off include Kirar Weir in Eidsvold, Auburn River National Park in Mundubbera, Utopia Falls near Biggenden or Cania in Monto.

3. Explore the museums and Cultural Centres. The North Burnett houses a large variety of different museums and

centres offering information about the local area and can be an educational fun day out for the kids and visitors alike. Remember after your visit to treat the young and the not so young to an ice-cream from one of the local stores!

4. Walking trails and lookouts. Across the North Burnett there are kilometers of different walking trails and lookouts ready for you to explore. Why not head off after breakfast at one of your local cafes and spend the morning (or afternoon) exploring all the walking trails in your area. Why not try the Heritage walk in Mt Perry, visit the Mount Walsh or Woowoonga National Parks in Biggenden, explore the Cania Gorge or Kalpowar State Forest in Monto and why not lookout from the top of Mount Gayndah, or the Duke and Duchess in Gayndah.

5. Go on a quirky gift hunt by visiting the local shops and stores! As we all start to buy those last minute presents, or begin the Christmas present hunt, it's important to remember our local stores. When you buy from a small local business an actual person does a happy dance! For those of us staying within the North Burnett or visiting the region over the next few weeks and need to do a bit of last minute shopping, why not pop into a local store you haven't visited in a while and see what surprises they have for you!

Talk soon, Rachel.

NORTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL CREATES ARTS FOR ALL QLDERS WITH RADF ROUND 1 NOW OPEN!

If you've got a passion for the Arts, now is the time to bring those ideas to life with the opening of Round 1 of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), a partnership between the Queensland Government and regional councils.

Aspiring and professional artists can once more benefit from RADF, with the 2018-19 Round 1 grant funding now open to the North Burnett community. Applications are invited from individual residents, groups, schools and organisations for financial assistance to support arts and cultural activities.

Round 1 closes 5:00pm, Thursday 31 January 2019.

For further information on RADF contact Council's Community Development staff on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC), email admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au or download an application form and guidelines from Council's website at www.northburnett.qld.gov.au.

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a partnership between the Queensland Government



Pictured are participants from and North Burnett Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

'INTERIM ARTS' IN THE NORTH BURNETT

'Interim Arts', funded through North Burnett Regional Council and the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), aims to revitalise the CBDs of each town in the North Burnett. The project, developed by North Burnett Regional Council and delivered by a local project coordinator Rachel Koster, encourages partnerships between store owners and local artists / community organisations to fill as many empty shopfronts as possible with art / creative work / displays to showcase both the creative talents of our community members and highlight events such as local festivals.

Throughout the duration of the displays, an 'Interim Arts' poster will be placed in participating windows with a contact number for anyone wanting to lease the premises (alongside any other leasing details/real estate signage).

Already displays are starting to appear in the towns of Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Mundubbera, and soon Monto, with great community spirit being shown from shop owners and creatives. Mt Perry artists are invited to display in other centres as there is currently no suitable stores in their CBD.

One of the benefits of this kind of collaboration is the potential for new businesses to emerge through the process. Eidsvold has seen one of its new residents rent the entire building he was looking to display in, to base his inspirational poetry business and create an eye catching tourist stop.

Interested shop owners are encouraged to contact Council's Community Development team on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC) to find out which artists are wanting to display and vice-versa.

Although not every store owner is able to take part due to pending rentals for their store, repairs being needed and plans to sell, there is a growing amount of business owners taking part.

FREE DOMESTIC WASTE DISPOSAL FOR RESIDENTS*

Did you know North Burnett Regional Council offers free disposal for domestic waste up to 1m3 for its residents?

To ensure this service can continue, Council requires residents utilising the free waste service available for dumping of domestic waste for up to 1m3 to provide evidence of residency.

Residents should be prepared and take proof of residency on every trip to their local waste management facility, or be ready to pay \$8 per wheelie bin, \$12 for a sedan or \$15 for a utility or small trailer.

See Council's website www.northburnett.qld.gov.au (go to Services / Waste Management) for a full run down of fees and charges applicable or contact one of our friendly staff on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC). *North Burnett Regional Council offers free disposal for domestic waste up to 1m3.

NBRC CHRISTMAS CLOSURES AROUND THE REGION

The following Christmas closures will be in place as of 5pm Friday, 21 December, until 2 January 2019. If you have an emergency that requires someone from Council to assist, you can call 1300 696 272.

COUNCIL OFFICES / CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES / LIBRARIES / DEPOTS:

Council advises that all Council Administration Offices, Customer Service Centres, Libraries (Including QGap and Centrelink Services) and Depots will be closed from **5pm Friday, 21 December 2018 through to Tuesday, 1 January 2019**, reopening normal business hours on Wednesday, 2 January 2019.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES / KERBSIDE COLLECTION

Council advises that all Council Waste Management Facilities will be closed on the following dates:

Christmas Eve – Mon, 24 December 2018
 Christmas Day – Tues, 25 December 2018
 Boxing Day – Wed, 26 December 2018
 New Year's Day – Tues, 1 January 2019

Kerbside rubbish collection services will operate as per normal collection days.

On behalf of Councillors and staff, the North Burnett Regional Council wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and enjoy.



POSITIONS VACANT

- Community Connection Manager
Via Leading Roles - Closes 17 December 2018
- Mechanic
- Mechanic (Small Engine)
Closes 17 December 2018

TENDERS / EOI

- Nil

FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

Over the next fortnight beginning 17 December, flood restoration works will be concentrated in the following locations:

- **Gayndah** - Gayndah Mundubbera Rd
- **Monto** - Monal Rd, Mungungo Creek Rd
- **Mt Perry** - Bilboolan Rd
- **Mundubbera** - Briggs Rd NO 1, Lochaber Boundary Rd



Bilboolan Rd Restoration works, Mount Perry under construction.

Council acknowledges the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding is a joint Commonwealth and State Government program.

IF IT'S FLOODED FORGET IT

Before storms hit, discuss options with your employer for not attending work, working from home, or having a delayed start or early finish.



Drivers come up with many reasons to enter floodwater.

For further information see the Queensland Government website: <http://floodwatersafety.initiatives.qld.gov.au/prepare-stay-safe/>

SUNWATER TO PROGRESS WORKS AT JONES WEIR

SunWater has advised that works have commenced at Jones Weir, Mundubbera.

The works, scheduled to occur over the next two weeks between the hours of 6:30am and 6:00pm, will involve the downstream protection on the right bank. The project will involve a mix of excavation work and rock basket/concrete repairs. Trucks will be used to deliver rock to the site.

The weir will operate as per normal for releases to ensure irrigation supply remains uninterrupted.



For further information regarding this project please contact SunWater direct on 13 15 89 or email IMPrivacyRequests@sunwater.com.au.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council's next **General Meeting** will be held in Monto on Wednesday, 16 January 2019 commencing 9am. All members of the public are welcome to attend Council's Public Question Time, held during Council's **General Meeting from 9:30am to 10:30am**. This is an opportunity to bring forth any items that you would like your Councillors to address. Prior indication of its appreciated. Please contact Executive Support on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC) or email executive.support@northburnett.qld.gov.au.

Gary Rinehart, CE