

Mayors Corner to go to Goondiwindi Argus on Monday 7th Jan

Hi Folks

Voting for Local Government Election 15 March 2008

The decision has been released by the Minister of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation that the election for the new Goondiwindi Regional Council will be in the form of postal votes across the three shires: Goondiwindi Town, Waggamba and Inglewood. There is a web page for you to access the methods of voting for each new Regional Council on www.lgaq.asn.au/governmentelections.

Australia Day

Australia Day celebrations for Inglewood are to incorporate the opening of the upgraded Inglewood airstrip. Our guest will be Australia Day Ambassador, Mr Bill Bristow, Founder of Angel Flight, and we will be incorporating all the emergency services from Flying Doctors to the SES, Fire Brigades, Ambulance and Police etc.

The format for the day will be the opening of the new Inglewood sealed airstrip followed by our Australia Day awards and the presence of aircraft from many areas of Queensland to be part of an air pageant. It is anticipated that some aeroclubs would be very interested in conducting scenic flights. There will be a morning tea and barbeque lunch provided by the Inglewood and District Historical Society. This will all take place at the terminal at the Inglewood aerodrome. Full program details will be available in a couple of weeks so watch this space.

Water Savings

Inglewood has submitted their Drought Management Plan to the Department of Natural Resources & Water for approval. It was identified that the first level of implementation was to restrict watering to alternate days with "odds" and "evens" numbers for residences. Council noted that there was a need to comply with the Department's insistence a first level of restriction to apply regardless of the water availability. Education and encouragement to use water saving devices such as shower heads, rain water tanks, dual flushing toilets, timers on all hoses for garden purposes and the watering at night time to eliminate evaporation is an efficient method to reduce water wastage and Council will continue with this approach. There is also a need to support schools so that our future water wise community will regard water as a precious commodity with usage being sensible and appreciated.

Coolmunda Dam

The visitors and campers at Coolmunda Dam will be looking forward to the implementation of a Council policy to provide rubbish and sanitary facilities in the form of showers and toilets. Council is on track to have it operational by Easter which is one of our most popular times. There will be a charge for these services but the benefit will be enjoyed and appreciated by all campers and day visitor and fishing enthusiasts.

Wild Dogs

Andrew Granzotto, Council's Land Protection Officer (Animals) has recently conducted a Wild Dog Trapping workshop for interested parties from other Shires. It included hands on identification in the field as well as the basic theory and sharing of information. Andrew has also been accepted to study for a Diploma in Management of Pest Animals, Conservation in Land Management. There have only been two Queenslanders accepted to participate in this course. The course will be conducted in Canberra and Council wishes him every success.

Workforce Achievements for 2007

Inglewood Shire has always encouraged the training of our community and especially our youth. We also encourage the concept of adult education programs and Tafe courses to upgrade our workforce skills so that Local Government can become a career path for promotion and achievement. The Councillors would like to congratulate the 2007 achievers: Justine Colman – Certificate III in Library/Information Services, Kevin Lowery – Certificate III in Water Industry Operations, Debbie Elliott – Diploma of Local Government Planning, and Reece Thompson – Operating Load Shifting Equipment.

Inland Rail

The good news is that the Inland Rail route will be coming through Inglewood, according to the latest feasibility study that was funded by the Federal Government. This will be the fast rail corridor from Melbourne branching at Charlton to go Brisbane and Gladstone. It will be double decked container freight that will be capable of moving 1000's of tonnes. This could make Inglewood a very viable industrial hub for industry to develop and grow so products raw and manufactured are looking for export access through ports. There is the space and the economics is becoming extremely more viable with the increasing cost of oil and the fuel used in freight.

Plebiscite Results

Council would like to thank all those local residents who took time out to participate in the recent anti-amalgamation plebiscite. A resounding 86% of local residents voted against the forced amalgamation of local government.

Until next time,
Joan