

Mount Isa City Council News



I would like to thank the Mount Isa community for the support they gave me for my 7in700 fundraising run in June.

I was really humbled by the number of people who turned up and the support that was shown at the event held on June 13 at Kruttschnitt Oval at the completion of the run.

Fiona and I always said that you give to your community because you get much more out of it than what you give.

And that was proven to me over and over during the run, with the amount of things that people gave and



the support they showed.

It was fantastic to see the number of people who were in Mount Isa for the six-day Queensland Representative School Sport rugby league State championships.

About 500 people from all over Queensland travelled to our city and stayed here for a week, and I'm confident that many of them went away with a very different appreciation of our town.

It was also good to see so many local residents coming along to watch the games.

Recently we've also had the Mount Isa Campdraft and the Mount Isa Cup, two events that attracted huge crowds to Mount Isa and boosted the local economy.

These types of events do a lot for the community and let people know

that Mount Isa is still here and we're going well.

I encourage residents to feel free to speak to councillors with any of their issues or thank-yous, or if they'd like to bring anything to our attention.

One way to do this is by attending one of our monthly Cuppa with the Councillors sessions.

They're held at 8.30am before each month's Ordinary Meeting, in the Council Chambers on West Street.

The dates for the next Cuppa with the Councillors are August 27, September 24, October 29, November 26, and December 17.

Local Residents Updated at Forum

Mayor Peta MacRae, Member for Traeger Robbie Katter MP, and Mount Isa Police District Officer Superintendent Tom Armitt spoke to local residents at a Crime Prevention Forum Annual Update at the Civic Centre on Tuesday, July 8.

Cr MacRae spoke about Council's advocacy work over the past year, since the first Crime Prevention Forum was held in May 2024.

"We've re-formed the Cross-Border Alliance with Tennant Creek (Barkly Regional) Council. Robbie, myself, and the Cross-Border Commissioner have paid a visit to Tennant Creek, and we're starting to work with that Council, looking at what processes we can streamline and identifying the push-and-pull factors that are between the two communities," Cr MacRae said.

"We're working with the local Liquor Accord, because I think a lot of us can identify that alcohol is an issue in our community – it doesn't only affect crime. We also see antisocial behaviour, where people are drinking in public. We're working with the Liquor Accord to see what things we can try and implement to help with those issues.

"We've been working with (former director-general of Queensland Corrective Services) Keith Hamburger, who's an expert in detention centres and also on rehabilitation and working with young people, on how we can start stakeholder engagement – so, if we were to have our own correctional facility in Mount Isa, what that could look like. We know the State Government is very supportive of us receiving funding for that. However, before you just go in and start something like that, you need to have a good idea on what you need – whether it's for youth or adults, what are your aims, what your programs are going to be. Hopefully working with Keith and starting



that stakeholder engagement will mean that it's really community-powered."

Cr MacRae said Council had also been working with not-for-profit organisations in Mount Isa "to make them work in a more streamlined, effective, and more cooperative manner".

Superintendent Armitt said crime statistics for Mount Isa for the 2024-25 financial year had decreased, with 69 fewer cases of assault – the first reduction for that offence in at least six years; 67 fewer stolen vehicles (a reduction of 35%); and 216 fewer burglaries (a reduction of 36%).

He spoke about crime-reduction initiatives and

activities in Mount Isa, including the Youth Co-Respondent Team that diverts children from high-risk activities; the PCYC; and the JT Academy.

"The aim of these groups is about holistic early intervention with the young offenders and their families. The intent is improving decision-making and looking to address a lot of those causal factors that go towards young people entering criminal behaviours," Superintendent Armitt said.

Mr Katter spoke about the Katter's Australian Party's policies about reducing crime, including mandatory minimum sentencing, "castle law", and relocation/remote sentencing.

Mount Isa NAIDOC Events Honour Generations

Council's Footprints of Legacy NAIDOC Week event was held at the Sunset Memorial Cemetery on Tuesday July 8, with Councillor John Doyle giving one of the opening speeches.

Other speakers included Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee members Natasha Storey and Iziah Hartman; as well as Dolly Hankin; Valerie Craigie; and Kerry Major.

The event provided an opportunity for attendees to recognise and honour the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, families, and long-serving community members whose contributions helped shape Mount Isa by gathering to reflect, heal, and celebrate their stories of inter-generational service, cultural strength, and community legacy.

The event featured a Welcome to Country and opening prayer.

There was a community barbecue and community gathering, and information stalls from Gidgee Healing, Let's Yarn About Sleep, North and West Remote Health, and the North West Hospital and Health Service.

Attendees also took part in reflection with families and a sharing of stories.

Cr Doyle thanked the members of the RAP Committee for the work



they did in organising and running the event. "On behalf of Mount Isa City Council, we wish to recognise and acknowledge all First Nations employees, past and present, and the contributions they have made to the Mount Isa and Camooweal communities and to Council itself," Cr Doyle said.

He said the theme of this year's NAIDOC Week – "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy" – called on all of us to reflect on those who had come before, and to continue their legacy through action.

Also during NAIDOC Week, Mayor Peta MacRae attended the Gidgee Healing NAIDOC Elders' Luncheon at the Overlander Hotel function room on Wednesday, July 9, and Council staff members took part in the NAIDOC Street March on the morning of Friday,



July 11. The Street March started at Outback at Isa before making its way along Marian Street and Rodeo Drive, finishing at the Civic Centre front lawns on West Street, where the MOB FM Family Fun Day was held.

The Family Fun Day featured live entertainment, information stalls from a range of local organisations and

services, as well as food and market stalls. The opening was emceed by MOB FM's Jacob Takurit.

Will Blackley gave the Welcome to Country, and Kalkutungu cultural practitioner Cameron Leon played the didgeridoo.

The Sundowners Kalkatungu Dancers also performed.

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News In Brief

- Council has awarded a contract that will help kickstart its Water Supply Network Reconfiguration Project by supplying pipework and fittings. The \$5.37 million Water Supply Network Reconfiguration Project – for which Council received \$2 million in funding from the State Government's Building Our Regions program – will provide a dedicated water supply line from the Mount Isa Water Board's supply connection point to two low-level reservoirs, where the water will be chlorinated before being distributed to the community. Councillor Dan Ballard said the project will help Council reduce its infrastructure maintenance costs and excessive wear and tear on the city's ageing water infrastructure, and would hopefully lead to a reduction in the number of water leaks in the water supply network. After the pipework and other materials are supplied, Council will request tenders for the pipeline construction, following a final design review. The pipework supply contract is valued at \$739,545. At its June Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, July 3, Council resolved to award the contract to Clover Pipelines Pty Ltd.

- For Welcoming Week this year, Council is looking to put together an e-book of local residents' favourite multicultural recipes. Have you got a recipe from your culture that you'd like included in the e-book? It could be a snack, soup, starter, main meal, or a dessert. You can send us details of the recipe at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CKWTK5K – you can even upload a photo of your dish.