

Mount Isa City Council News



I am very pleased to see the creation of the new Mount Isa Rodeo Committee, and welcome and thank its members – chair Mark “Thommo” Thompson; Councillor John Tully, who is Council’s representative; Peter Gosch; Glencore representative Jonathan Eden; Tony “Tonka” Toholke; Mick Tully; Rotary representative Chris Kuhne; Marcus Curr; and Hannah Hacon.

The future of the Mount Isa Rodeo is in very good hands with this capable and experienced group of locals.

Their first meeting as a committee was held on Monday, January 3.



Mayor Peta MacRae

They have assured the community that this year’s Isa Rodeo is not only going ahead in August as scheduled, but it’s also getting back to its roots, returning to being a community-driven

– and, most importantly, a community-focused – three-day event that’s run by a dedicated and proud group of local volunteers.

The event has started a new chapter of its history and there is a lot to be confident about.

I wish the committee all the best and look forward to seeing the Mount Isa Rodeo thrive and continue to attract the country’s best cowboys and cowgirls, cementing its place as the largest rodeo in the Southern Hemisphere.

Council has put on a few major

community events in the past few weeks, and I would like to thank everyone who attended or took part in them – in particular, the Australia Day Awards and citizenship ceremony, the annual Sign On Expo at the Buchanan Park Mount Isa Mines Entertainment Centre on February 1, and the Welcome to Mount Isa event at the Civic Centre on February 7.

These events consistently draw in large crowds and I sincerely thank Mount Isa residents for supporting them, and the Council staff who work so hard to make these events happen.

Changes Ahead for the Batch Plant

Council is calling for Expressions of Interest from commercial business operators for the disposal of Council’s concrete batch plant, as well as the facility’s vehicles and equipment.

EoIs must be submitted through VendorPanel by no later than 3pm on Tuesday 25 February. Visit www.vendorpanel.com.au/publictenders.aspx for the EOI documentation.

An initial site visit open to interested parties will be held on Thursday 13 February at 10am. Additional inspections will be scheduled as required during the final tender process.

The Expressions of Interest received will inform Council’s decision regarding the future sale of the batch plant, which is at 183 Duchess Road, before Council invites for written tenders.

Council is looking at two options: selling the batch plant and land, with the new owners to operate on the site and have ownership of all of the associated equipment; or selling the batch plant, with the new owner to remove the existing infrastructure (including all gravel and soil pits), vehicles, and equipment.

Until a lease or sale is finalised, Council will continue to operate the batch plant as normal and



provide concrete to the public. However, the supply of landscaping materials (soil and gravel) will be limited to what is currently on hand. Once existing stocks are exhausted, the materials will no longer be available from Council.

The batch plant supplies ready-mix concrete and landscaping supplies for internal and external customers, with all products sourced from local suppliers. The facility includes two agitator trucks, a

single-axle tip truck, front-end loader, wheel loader, and a dual-cab utility. Current Council employees assigned to the batch plant will be transferred to other operational areas within Council, with consultation with affected employees to be carried out. The call for Expressions of Interest follows recommendations from financial advisors for Council to consider either selling the batch plant or divesting its operations to a commercial owner or operator.

2025 Environmental Grant Program Recipients Named

Six Mount Isa schools and a community organisation will share in \$21,825, thanks to Round 1 of Council’s 2024/25 Environmental Grant Program. The theme for this year’s program is recycling hub/stations. The recipients and their projects are:

- **Happy Valley Community Kindergarten:** \$1390. The school aims to enhance sustainability in the kindergarten’s educational program. The focus is on promoting recycling practices and food waste composting. The kindergarten has already incorporated daily recycling activities into its curriculum and will now expand these efforts by engaging families to contribute food waste for composting. The project will begin with the new cohort of students in 2025.
- **Good Shepherd Catholic College:** \$2345. The Recycling Hub/Stations project will introduce recycling practices across the school, aiming to educate students, staff, and the wider school community about the importance of recycling and sustainability. The project will be embedded into the school environment, and the team is committed to ensuring the recycling hubs become a key part of daily school routines.
- **Ngukuthati Children & Family Centre:** \$3105. The organisation focuses on embedding environmental sustainability into daily operations and community programs at



the centre. Employees will be encouraged to incorporate sustainable practices into their work routines. Additionally, environmental education will be integrated into the programs for children and families, to develop a culture of sustainability.

- **Mount Isa School of the Air:** \$2980. The School of the Air’s project aims to introduce waste-minimisation practices, supported by the Department of Education. Students and families, particularly those residing on geographically isolated stations, are encouraged to participate in recycling and waste-reduction efforts. The project will begin in term one of the 2025 school year.
- **Sunset State School:** \$2940. The school’s project focuses on integrating organic waste into the school’s compost system, which will be used for the Nutrition Centre Garden. They would also like to work on promoting recycling at the school. This project will not only benefit the

school but also teach students how to recycle effectively at home.

- **Happy Valley State School:** \$5000. The project aims to establish a comprehensive recycling program within the school, creating dedicated recycling hubs. The project will be overseen by a dedicated teacher and supported by a middle leader. Staff and students will receive training to ensure the hubs are used regularly and effectively integrated into the school’s daily routines.
- **Barkly Highway State School P&C Association:** \$4065. This initiative focuses on implementing a school-wide recycling program. Students, staff, and families will learn about recycling, its importance, and how it connects to daily life. The project aims to establish a culture of recycling within the school and its broader community.

Congratulations to all of the recipients.

Speaking at the January Ordinary Meeting of Council on Wednesday, January 29, Councillor James Coghlan said last year’s Environmental Grant Program was very successful.

“Having visited the schools, the kids get really involved in this environmental stuff. I think it’s money well spent,” Cr Coghlan said.

Council’s Environmental Grant Program is one of the projects funded by the Environmental Charge.

Hundreds Turn Out For Popular Sign On Expo

Council wishes to sincerely thank everyone who took part in or attended this year’s Sign On Expo and helped make this year’s event officially our biggest ever.

The expo was held on Saturday, February 1, in and around the Mount Isa Mines Entertainment Centre at Buchanan Park.

There were more than 80 stallholders – spanning a wide range of the community’s sports clubs, as well as community organisations, hobby groups, and sports-adjacent businesses – with hundreds of people walking through the door throughout the morning.

Council’s Waste Management Facility, Animal Management Facility, and Mount Isa City Library were all represented at the event, with information stalls, activities, and even a selection of puppies and kittens currently available for adoption.



News In Brief

- Council has approved an out-of-rounds events sponsorship application for \$5000 to the Zonta Club of Mount Isa for their 2025 International Women’s Day event, to be held in March. The out-of-rounds request was made due to the timing of the event. Following on from the success of the 2024 event, the celebrations will occur over two separate evenings. The first is a dinner for the Young Women of Achievement, which is offered to all senior schools in the community. Last year, Zonta honoured eight students across two categories in four schools. This gives young women the recognition of community achievement and inspirational behaviour. The second event will be an “Art, Bubbles, Tapas, and Tunes” night to celebrate all women. It will include a live band and a guest speaker, and will offer local female artists an opportunity to showcase their talent through a display of their artworks.
- Council’s Community Grants and Events Sponsorship applications round is now open. Applications close on 1 March 2025. Applications should be received in full by the due date, with a decision to be made by the elected officials of Council. Local community groups and organisations with eligible projects or events which make positive contributions to the quality of life in the Local Government Area of Mount Isa city are encouraged to apply for funding assistance. For application information and access to our new SmartyGrants Portal, visit www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/community/grants-funding-donations/community-grants.

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