

Mount Isa City Council News



Recently, this current term of Council marked 100 days since being elected.

For many of the current councillors, including myself, these first 100 days have been a steep learning curve.

In that time, we've learnt a lot. We've attended many meetings and undertaken a lot of training – particularly on the governance side of things – to ensure we're getting up to speed as quick as we can.

It's of major importance for all of us to be on top of everything that our positions as elected members of Mount Isa City Council entails, to ensure we're making informed decisions.

NAIDOC Week activities and events



in Mount Isa were held in the second week of July.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone involved in planning and holding these events, for the wonderful work they all did.

I'd also like to congratulate all of

the very deserving winners of this year's Mount Isa NAIDOC Awards.

It's been pleasing to see the progress the Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee (RJC) project has been making in recent weeks.

The RJC is a collaborative effort led by Council, in partnership with the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT).

The project, funded until June 2025, is focused on identifying local workforce challenges and solutions, and is empowered to deliver actionable outcomes.

Council's RJC Project Manager recently attended the RJC Workforce

Strategy Workshop in Brisbane, which was attended by representatives of the 11 other RJC's across Queensland.

Together, they discussed workforce participation, local solutions, school-to-work transitions, workforce attraction and retention, and skilling Queenslanders for the future.

The 10 members of the Mount Isa RJC have recently been confirmed.

They will collectively be tasked with bringing local workforce issues to attention for consideration, and engaging with industry and community stakeholders to identify and actively tackle workforce, training, and skills issues in the Mount Isa region.

Site Picked for EV Charging Station

Council has agreed to allow the NRMA to construct an electric-vehicle (EV) DC fast-charging station in Mount Isa, with 34 Miles Street (the site of the public toilet blocks) chosen as the preferred location.

A Yurika two-car charging station was installed on Mullan Street, near Outback at Isa, in mid-2023, however the NRMA is seeking to provide an additional four-vehicle fast-charging station in Mount Isa to support future demand.

At its July Ordinary Meeting on July 24, Council agreed to let the NRMA know it preferred 34 Miles Street as the location of the fast-charging station, followed by – in order – 17-19 Atherton Street (on the corner of Marian Street), and the Centennial Place carpark (corner of Grace and Miles streets).

As part of the decision, the redundant toilet block and old substation at 34 Miles Street will be demolished.

At the meeting, Councillor Travis Crowther said



the NRMA will pay for the demolition and removal of the existing infrastructure at 34 Miles Street.

"It's been a lot of work getting this organised," Cr Crowther said.

"EV stations are going to need to be popping up a lot more around the city, but this will be the first of a DC fast-charging station.

"It puts a newer set-up where people can charge up there, and also go on and visit a lot of local businesses in that area, so they'll be able to benefit from that."

The NRMA is installing EV charging stations across the country, as part of the Federal Government's Driving the Nation program. This will see the NRMA install and operate more than 200 DC fast-charging sites, which will provide "future-fit" EV charging infrastructure throughout Australia.

Mount Isa and Camooweal have been identified as being crucial to the network, given the distances between towns.

Council will carry out consultation with adjoining affected residences and business owners about the proposed project, as well as seek ministerial consent from the Department of Resources to permit the land to be used for commercial purposes as an EV fast-charging station, if required.

Mining Royalties to be Discussed

Council will put forward a motion at this year's Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) AGM, asking for mining royalties to go towards supporting mining communities.

Mayor Peta MacRae presented a motion at Council's July Ordinary Meeting on July 24, calling on Council to submit the motion at the AGM, where it will be discussed and debated by Councils from across Queensland.

The AGM will be held from October 21-23 in Brisbane. The motion asks for the State Government to work

in conjunction with the LGAQ and resources-reliant councils across Queensland to create a dedicated funding program, enabling mining royalties to be set aside and used to support communities when their mines close.

"Mount Isa has received only \$20 million in support from the State Government for the upcoming copper mine closure. This is not sufficient to recover from the loss of the mine, and the wages and business activity that it produces," Cr MacRae said.

Groups Receive Environmental Grants

Ten local schools and community groups will share in more than \$33,100, thanks to the latest round of Council's Environmental Grants Program.

The recipients are: **St Joseph's Catholic School** – \$3405; the **Mount Isa Flexible Learning Centre** – \$3894; the **Ngukuthati Children & Family Centre** – \$5000; **Spinifex State College** – \$2980; **Healy State School** – \$1800; **Happy Valley State School** – \$2400; **Good Shepherd Catholic Parish** – \$3070; **St**

Kieran's Catholic School – \$3405; **Good Shepherd Catholic College** – \$3570; and **Barkly Highway State School** – \$3650.

Each of the 10 grant recipients will also receive a free caddy – worth a combined total of \$8750 – to help turn their food waste into garden mulch.

The grants will fund projects including community gardens for vegetables, herbs, and flowers, a composting system and worm farm, and a bush tucker garden.

New Hoops for Basketball Court

Council's carpenter/handyman, John Slatter, has done a fantastic job installing two new heavy-duty basketball hoops at the Lions Park basketball court recently.

Council wishes to sincerely thank Nathan and Louise Brogden from Hankinson Smash Repairs for the selfless work they've done in replacing the broken hoops themselves, at their own expense and often outside of business hours, several times over the past several months. Mayor Peta MacRae recently visited the Brogdens to present them with a gift as a token of Council's appreciation for their kindness and generosity.

For safety reasons, Council strongly urges those who use the basketball court to not hang from the hoops.



Exhibition of Legends

The Buckles Exhibition – a collection of portraits of Isa Rodeo greats and legends – is back on display, and is now up in the Mount Isa Civic Centre foyer. It will be on display until September 17.

There are 16 portraits in total, including:

- **Wally Mailman** – a keen horseman who contributed significantly to the racing and rodeo industry in Mount Isa. The Mailman Express time-trial horse race for non-thoroughbred horses, held during Isa Rodeo Week, is named in his honour.

- **Bonny Young** – talked about among rodeo folk as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, "legend".

- **Terry Lees** – he has three great passions: rodeo, radio, and Rotary. He spent his first Mount Isa Rodeo as a volunteer in 1976, and had a long association with Mount Isa Rotary Rodeo, including being its former chairman.

- **Lyman Craigie** – rode his first bull at the age of 14, started competing in 1995, and won his first buckle in 1996 in Mount Isa. He's the son of John, a buckle-winning bull rider.

- **Barry Harkin** – a long-time Rotary member and one of the 12 inaugural members of the Mount Isa Rodeo Hall of Fame. From the mid-1970s until 1996, he was the director of Carandotta Station, from where the rodeo roughstock horses were sourced.

- **Gary McPhee** – excelled in all aspects of rodeo. His horsemanship, roping skills, and capacity to breed and train outstanding quarter horses saw him dominate Australian rodeo's roping and steer wrestling events for decades, winning 17 national titles throughout his career.

- **Ray Hermann** – a legend of saddle bronc riding. Won his first World Title in 1978, aged 19, at a Sydney rodeo. He won the World Title again three years later, and has been the Australian National Champion seven times.

The original Buckles Exhibition was funded by Arts Queensland, the Regional Arts Fund, Youth Arts Queensland, 4LM, Mount Isa Rotary Rodeo Inc., and Mount Isa City Council. It originally opened at Rotary House, Barkly Highway, on August 8, 2001, in conjunction with the 2001 4LM Mount Isa Rotary Rodeo.

Did You Know?

- If your community group, sporting club, or local organisation has an event coming up, why not have it included for free on the Discover Mount Isa website's calendar of events? Visit <https://discovermountisa.com.au/events> to see the calendar, and click on the "Contact Us" link on the top of the page to have your event added.

- Council is looking to partner with enthusiastic and responsible individuals or groups to assist with the collection of beverage containers at Council events – including at the Isa Street Festival on Wednesday, August 7. If you are part of a sports club, community group/organisation, school, or a small business, this is a fantastic opportunity for you. Fill out the Expression of Interest form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SP35XQ2. Participants will be required to have Public Liability insurance of \$20 million; be present at all times during the events; inform attendees where and how to deposit their beverage containers; set up liner bags in the bins; collect bags when they are full; put bags in the skip bins; and provide their own PPE gloves. Council will provide 240L wheeie bins. A skip bin will be provided by the Refund Point Operator. Your organisation will get 10 cents for each beverage container collected. By participating, you will be earning money, contributing to a cleaner environment and helping us manage waste more efficiently.
- An interactive and fun performance for kids and families, "Snowy and the 7 Cool Dudes" will be performed at the Civic Centre on Saturday, August 3, from 10am-11am. Get your tickets at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/snowy-and-the-seven-cool-dudes-tickets-913029926087.