

# Mount Isa City Council News



Everyone is welcome this Saturday to our annual Sign On Expo being held at the Mount Isa Mines Entertainment Centre, Buchanan Park.

The event is held from 9am to 12 noon.

It's a great way to find out what is available in Mount Isa for all ages.

There will be over 80 stallholders in attendance that will cater for sporting codes, community groups, hobby clubs and local organisations.

It's a perfect opportunity to find out what's on offer in the community.

There will be plenty to eat and



drink, with our local Rodeo Queen Quest entrants and the Zonta Club of Mount Isa providing refreshments to purchase.

Our second event to help new

residents know what's on offer is the Welcome to Mount Isa event on Friday, February 7, at the Civic Centre starting at 6.30pm. This event is open to all the community, with the emphasis on our newcomers to Mount Isa.

The cover price is \$15, which gets you a welcome drink on arrival and grazing tables, and We Love Vinyl will be entertaining everyone. Goldfish races will be held on the night which was a great success last year.

More information about the event – including how to book your tickets – can be found at [www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/arts-leisure/community-council-events](http://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/arts-leisure/community-council-events).

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Over the past few weeks, I had the opportunity to sit down with the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and the Queensland Premier, David Crisafulli, to discuss Mount Isa and the challenges we are facing this year.

A presentation was given to both on what industries could come to Mount Isa to diversify our economy.

We have been working extremely hard for more than 12 months to lay the groundwork for Mount Isa's future economy.

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[mountisa.qld.gov.au](http://mountisa.qld.gov.au)

## Mount Isans Recognised at Awards

Sue Wicks is Mount Isa's Citizen of the Year for 2025.

The announcement was made at the Mount Isa Australia Day Awards, held at the Civic Centre auditorium on Sunday, January 26.

Mayor Peta MacRae, in making the announcement at the awards presentation ceremony, said Sue is an indispensable, long-time member of the Zonta Club of Mount Isa.

"She leads a vibrant team that are always doing events in Mount Isa to raise funds for worthy causes," Cr MacRae said.

"Sue co-ordinates events for Zonta, ensuring people are on board for all events and all shifts are covered.

"She is also famous for her fudge, which she bakes to sell for Zonta at events.

"The founding member of the Mount Isa Zonta Club, Cherry Brosnan, has described Sue as the think tank and ideas person of the group, and says she never stops coming up with projects to improve the club.

"Sue also prepares meals at the Salvation Army each week for the less fortunate."

The Young Citizen of the Year is **Ashlea Lavell**.

Sixteen-year-old Ashlea is a lover of the arts, excelling in all aspects of music and visual arts.

She is also a very well-respected student at

Spinifex State College and will be representing Spinifex at the North Queensland State Honours Ensemble Program in Cairns in March this year.

The Senior Citizen of the Year is **Keith Ballard**. Words do not do Keith, 71, justice.

A recently retired jockey, he spent 55 years in the saddle – a feat that will never be repeated in horse racing in Australia.

In November 2024, Keith hung up the reins on a career that began with his first winner in 1969 and saw him ride more than 1700 winners over six decades, in front of crowds all over Queensland.

The Senior Sportspeople of the Year are **Sunny Raitava** and **Allan Hazle**.

Sunny has been competing in boxing since he was young.

A heavyweight competitor who trains at Derrick's Boxing, he has won gold for boxing in the Great Western Games, and in 2022 won the World Boxing Foundation's Amateur Heavyweight title.

Allan, 53, last year claimed the title of World Boxing Foundation World Masters Welterweight champion, after a victory at the Masters Cup in Germany.

Allan is training for an upcoming fight in Townsville and is looking to inspire local young up-and-coming boxers.

The Junior Sportspeople of the Year are **Jean Lavell** and **Yasmin Wyld-Hill**.

Jean has been competing in motocross and enduro racing since he was five years old. In the past 12 months, he has competed in many races all over Queensland, and has been an active member of the Mount Isa Dirt Bike Club for many years.

Yasmin is an avid IsaRoos soccer player who last year won the Junior Player's Player Award for the club, as well as the Golden Boot Award for the senior women's team, who were also premiers in 2024.

She was also Spinifex State College's 2024 Junior Sportspeople of the Year.

The Community Event of the Year is the **Great Northern Rodeo Series**.

The Arts and Cultural Award goes to **Shaylee McGregor**.

A Mount Isa dance teacher with 15 years' experience, she holds nationally recognised qualifications in jazz, tap, and ballet, and teaches students from toddlers to teens across various dance styles.

The Spirit of Mount Isa Awards recipients are **John Davies, Kate Fischer, Lee Allice, Phoebe Ryder, Zara Kuskopf, Jay Morris, Dave Bartolo,** and **Aubrey Liyanage**. The awards presentation was followed by a citizenship ceremony.

### News In Brief

- The annual round of the Coles Nurture Fund has opened, providing grants of up to \$500,000 to small and medium Australian businesses, to help them drive innovation and produce outstanding sustainability benefits. Businesses with innovative ideas, fewer than 50 fulltime employees and turnover of less than \$25 million in annual revenue are eligible to apply. To apply for Round 13 of the Coles Nurture Fund, visit [www.coles.com.au/nurturefund](http://www.coles.com.au/nurturefund). Applications close at 4pm on February 14.

- The Australian Government Mobile Service Centre will be in Camooweal on January 30 from 11am to 3pm. It will be set up at the Williejudarra Hall carpark. Visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, jobseekers, people with disability, carers, farmers, and self-employed people. Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online. Visit <https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice>.**

- Please be aware that the North West Hospital and Health Service is carrying out demolition works at the former The Club building on Isa Street. Demolition started on January 20 and is expected to take 11 weeks, with an anticipated completion of early April. To facilitate this process, the car parks located between The Club building and the Leichhardt Medical Centre will be temporarily closed, to enable the installation of construction fencing around the entire block, to create a secured exclusion zone.



The Mount Isa Material Recovery Facility at the Waste Management Facility.

## Residents Praised for Use of New Yellow-Top Recycling Bins

Mount Isa community members are responding well to the implementation of kerbside residential recycling, which came into effect in early December 2024.

Council's Director of Community Services Chad King spoke with ABC North West Queensland recently and said Council is very pleased with how the community is adapting to the new yellow-top recycling bins.

"For a community that's brand new to recycling, we're quite pleased with how people have jumped on board listening to the messaging, and putting the right things in the right bin," Mr King said.

"We think, so far, the community's doing a really good job.

"There's a measurement of what goes into the bins called

'contamination rate' – how many things are in the bins that shouldn't be – and compared to the state average, we're actually tracking really well.

"By volume, a lot of what we put into the general-waste bin can be recycled.

"Recycling, over time, is going to save the Mount Isa City Council and the community money in terms of avoiding the Waste Levy, and it's something that the State Government is encouraging councils to do across the state, through the implementation of the Waste Strategy."

Residents are kindly asked to remember to keep their recyclable items loose – please place the items straight into the yellow-top bin.

Don't put them in bags when you dispose of them.

You can save a lot of space in your bin by flattening and folding cardboard boxes, or crushing milk cartons or containers.

"The way that the sorting process works at the MRF – the Material Recovery Facility – is that if it's a bag of recycling, it goes straight to landfill," Mr King said.

"So if people could remember not to bag your recyclables, that will certainly help."

Remember, soft plastics such as wrappers – plastics that can be easily crunched up in your hand – as well as styrofoam, and greasy food containers such as pizza boxes should be placed in your general-waste red-top bin.

Find out more at [www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/Home-Property/Waste-Recycling](http://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/Home-Property/Waste-Recycling).

## Ideas Discussed With Qld Premier

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli sat down with Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan, Councillors John Tully and Dan Ballard, and Council CEO Tim Rose and Community Services Director Chad King in the Council Chambers, with Mayor Peta MacRae taking part via a conference call, on Friday, January 17.

The topics discussed focused on Council's economic development advocacy, the projects of which Council is looking to secure government funding for.

The projects include the proposed Critical Minerals and Rare Earths Research Centre, to support local mineral extraction activities; a Mount Isa correctional facility; Green Gravity renewable energy generation and storage; and the Cobalt Blue pyrite roaster, which is looking to create sulphuric acid and extract minerals such as cobalt from the mine's tailings dam.

