The North Burnett Region has recently endured a major flood event which has made a huge impact on Council. On the 28th of December 2010 the Burnett River at Munduberra peaked at 18.89 metres and then peaked in Gayndah at 15.6 metres. These levels were above the 1954 heights and represent the second highest recorded level for Munduberra and 4th highest recording for Gayndah. Due to the extent of flooding the whole Council area was officially declared a natural disaster zone. Numerous homes were evacuated with four homes in Gayndah and twenty-two homes in Munduberra inundated with water. A Large number of rural properties were isolated for lengthy periods of time.

Considered one of the worst affected areas was the popular Mingo Crossing situated on the Burnett River between Gayndah and Mount Perry. The Bridge designed to withstand a one-in-one hundred year flood event was underwater. The entire caravan park and recreation area swamped, leaving behind a trail of debris and destruction.

Continued Page 2
What an unbelievable Christmas and New Year we have had! Unprecedented rain and flooding over a sustained period; devastating damage to homes, industry, road network and community infrastructure; and an enormous impact on people’s lives and social wellbeing.

Thankfully, the North Burnett did not suffer loss of life due to the floods as has happened in other areas and for this we are most grateful. Physical structures can be rebuilt but a life can never be replaced.

On behalf of all residents in the North Burnett, I thank those community volunteers, council and Ergon employees who worked tirelessly to ensure public health and safety was maintained throughout the peak of the floods and in the ensuing days. Your selfless efforts and dedication to your community saved lives and prevented further destruction to people and property.

In the short term, our community does have some major rebuilding to undertake and it will take time to heal the emotional turmoil created by this deluge.

The long term outlook for our region is positive. With all of our dams full and ground waters replenished, rural industry should reap the benefits which in turn supports our town business houses. Our country side looks magnificent and inviting to visitors. The oppressive spectre of drought hopefully is off our shoulders for some time.

Cr Joy Jensen
North Burnett Regional Council MAYOR

Flood Report continued from Page 1
Council advises that we are now well into with the Recovery Stage with the assessment of damage to roads, infrastructure and other property underway. The majority of our 4,000 Km road network, bridges and floodways have been effected to various degrees. Council is working hard to ensure access is returned to all properties. In a number of cases, roads are only capable of carrying light vehicles.

Council wishes to work with producers to identify options and solutions to allow supplies to be delivered to properties and for produce to be transported out. Please contact the NBRC Technical Services department on 07 4165 5711 to discuss your needs.

Expressions of Interest have been invited for contractors to assist in the repair of damaged infrastructure. If you are interested please contact Ron Smith on 07 4165 5711 for more information.

Damage sustained due to this flood event is so extensive that it will take a considerable length of time to rectify. Council understands that you may be inconvenienced during this time, but we assure you Council’s focus is clearly aimed at achieving a full recovery. Contact details for other agencies providing assistance can be found below.

Disaster Recovery Hotline - 1800 173 349
State Emergency Service - 132 500
Centrelink - 1802 22 66
Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) - 1300 728 228

Numerous Roads across the North Burnett are cut

Mowing of Footpaths

It’s that time of year again! The mowers are out and the grass is growing, especially with the good rains we’ve had recently. With this in mind, Council would like to remind all community members about their responsibilities when it comes to the mowing the nature strip (footpath) between your property boundary and the roadway.

While Council cares for much of the public space in our towns, we simply don’t have the resources to maintain nature strips in residential areas. For this reason, property owners and tenants are always encouraged to care for their footpaths to help keep our residential areas looking neat and tidy.

Please don’t let your nature strip become overgrown, littered or generally messy. By working together, we hope we can keep on top of the regular mowing required over summer and keep our North Burnett towns looking well presented, maintained and attractive, for not only our visitors, but our community as a whole.

For more information, please see the ‘Latest News’ area on the front page of our website http://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au for a link to the new Policy 216 – Maintenance of Footpaths and Nature Strips in Urban Areas.
The inaugural meeting of the Roads Advisory Committee was held in Gayndah on the 2nd December 2010 and serves as an opportunity for the community to provide input into Council on the extensive road network that exists within the North Burnett Regional Council area.

Director of Technical Services, Mr Ron Smith, updated members on the proposed Asset Management Plan which includes roads, bridges, stormwater and buildings. There will be nine different plans in total.

This graph displays General Rates levied per Differential Rate Category.

The next meeting of the Roads Advisory Committee is scheduled for 10th March, 2011 in Gayndah.
Funding received for Learn to Swim Program

The North Burnett Regional Council was successful in obtaining $49,600 funding towards the NBRC Learn to Swim Program from Sport and Recreation Qld.

The NBRC Learn to Swim Program will be made available to children aged 8 years and under and those in our community with a disability and the elderly. The Program is set to commence in September 2011, and will offer qualified lessons – 10 lessons per participants – at a heavily subsidised rate. Funding will include subsidy for travel costs for those communities who currently do not have access to a pool facility. Council will be working closely with the school communities.

This Program was made possible thanks to Sport and Rec Qld, and the North Burnett Regional Council.

For further information please contact Manager Community Services, Trisha Hansen on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC).

Roll up! Roll up!

A Travelling Art Show by selected artists from the North Burnett will be touring the region holding artworks / workshops for the public to come and try / experience for free. Artworks and art pieces will be available for viewing or purchase.

The workshops, beginning in February, will be held on the third Saturday of the month at Community Halls throughout the region and will consist of 3 one-and-a-half-hour workshops in 5 different art forms.

Artworks / Workshops are scheduled for:

- 19th February - Biggenden
- 19th March - Mt Perry
- 18th June - Monto
- 16th July - Eidsvold
- 20th August - Mundubbera
- 17th September - Gayndah

Opening and sign on 9.00am
Session 1 – 9.30am to 11.00am
Session 2 – 11.30am to 1.00pm
Session 3 – 2.00pm to 3.30pm

We are also looking for individuals, groups and community organisations who may wish to hold an arts, crafts or food stall, perform or hold a sausage sizzle on the workshop days. For further information or to make a workshop booking, please call Trisha or Lata on 4165 5700.

Pest Management Plan Community Consultation

A North Burnett Regional Council local government area pest management plan has been developed for the community, as required under State legislation. The working group which included representatives from local and state government agencies, industry groups, environmental and other community groups and private landholders developed the draft Pest Management Plan that with cooperative management will control priority pests on all land within the regional boundaries, consists of actions that are to be implemented by all landholders and outlines priorities for the next 4 years.

The draft pest management plan can be viewed at any library, administration office or on council’s website www.northburnett.qld.gov.au during February 2011.

Comments can be submitted in writing to the CEO by post - PO Box 390, Gayndah 4625, by email admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au or to any council administration office prior to 28th February 2011.

Come and join the conversation!

You can now join the conversation with North Burnett Regional Council on Twitter. Just go to twitter.com and search for NorthBurnettRC.
**General Rate Levy**

*Excerpt from the Local Government profile report 2008-09*

Queensland’s rural large and very large councils for the purpose of this report have been defined as rural councils with population between 1,000 and 30,000 that have less than 90 per cent of council area located in an urban centre. Approximately 135,000 people reside in the nine local Government areas covered by this category.

**Gross general rate per person**

The graph below provides details of the gross general rate levy per person residing in each council area. Discount policies varied from council to council so the next general rate payment would be less than the amounts shown. The majority of councils across the state provide a discount of 10 per cent.

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**Council moves to protect its roads from further damage**

At its Policy & Strategy Meeting held Tuesday, 1 February 2011, Council discussed the damage being caused to its road network from heavy vehicles travelling on pavements that are super-saturated from the heavy rain and floods and resolved to load limit Council controlled roads to vehicles up to 15Tonne (T) GVM. In some locations, lower load limits apply and these limits will be maintained where necessary.

A permit has been introduced to exempt approved trucks over 15T GVM. Council will assess requests from property owners, transport carriers and others for higher load limits on the Council road network in order to reduce delays. To apply for a Permit to exempt approved trucks over 15T GVM, please complete the ‘Application for 15 tonne GVM Load Limit Exemption’ form which can be obtained at your local Council Administration Office or on Council’s website at www.northburnett.qld.gov.au.

Mayor Joy Jensen, said “The road network is in a catastrophic state and we need to move quickly to stop more damage occurring from vehicles that are too heavy for the pavements in their current wet condition. A number of heavy vehicles have fallen through our roads and caused severe damage and inconvenience to other road users. We need the community to work with us on this issue otherwise we will suffer more.”

It is acknowledged that with favourable weather conditions, road pavements will commence to dry out and may be capable of carrying heavy loads. It is further understood that it is imperative to open roads to higher load limits as soon as practicable to assist with the transport of goods and stock throughout the Council area.

For further information about the restrictions, please call Council’s Department of Technical Services on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC) or visit the website at www.northburnett.qld.gov.au.

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**Rural Accommodation House Unveiled in Bundaberg**

The launch by the Bundaberg Health Services Foundation of a long-awaited Rural Accommodation Project is great news for patients in the North Burnett who require medical treatment in Bundaberg.

The lease of the 5 bedroom house ‘Rotary Lodge’ in Bundaberg, just 550m walking distance from Bundaberg Hospital, will mean patients and their carers from the North Burnett will no longer need to use motels.

“Rotary Lodge” will be available for use from February 2011 and will be managed by the Bundaberg Health Services Foundation.

For further information or bookings, please contact Marie Burnet, Bundaberg Health Services Foundation Manager on 4150 2863.

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**Strategic Planning Workshops for the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre**

Strategic Planning Workshops to assist in the development of the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre’s future have been planned for the 25th & 26th of February 2011. An invitation will be sent to various groups and organisations that may wish to partner with the Centre in developing both short & long term strategies.

Groups and organisations that may partner the Centre include:

- Friends of the Centre
- Tourism Representatives
- Education / Educators
- Indigenous Groups

For further information, please contact North Burnett Regional Council CEO, Mark Pitt on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC).
Whip making, a Cracking good time!
The recent Whip Making workshop held over the weekend of the 4th & 5th December, 2010 was a huge success. Residents of all ages and all areas mustered at the centre, seeking to learn a new skill or update an old one. The workshop ran in conjunction with a grant provided by the Regional Arts Development Funds (RADF) and the North Burnett Regional Council.

Owners of the Dead Ringer Leather Works – Chris, Kerri and Codey Barr www.deadringer.com.au, instructed two groups (30 attendees) over two days, showing the fundamentals of leather craft and whip cracking.

The RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre staff wish to advise all persons wishing to participate in workshops, seminars and exhibitions are welcome to contact the centre on 4165 7272 to organise future events.

Dial Triple Zero (000) for emergency assistance!
The primary number to call for emergency assistance from any phone in Australia is Triple Zero (000) – unless you are hearing or speech impaired, in which case the number is 106.

Put simply, ‘Oh’ is a letter and ‘Zero’ is a number. In today’s SMS-savvy world, you will note that the letter ‘O’ sits on the 6 key, so dialling Triple Oh will result in actually dialling triple 666, which will not access emergency services!

Further information can be accessed from the Triple Zero website at www.triplezero.gov.au.

Counsellors

Joy Jensen - MAYOR
Joy.Jensen@northburnett.qld.gov.au - Phone: 0458 696 272

Peter Baker
Peter.Baker@northburnett.qld.gov.au
Phone: 0458 625 960

Paul Francis
Paul.Francis@northburnett.qld.gov.au
Phone: 0458 625 951

Peter Huth
Peter.Huth@northburnett.qld.gov.au
Phone: 0458 625 961

Paul Lobegeier
Paul.Lobegeier@northburnett.qld.gov.au
Phone: 0458 625 952

Lofty Wendt
Lofty.Wendt@northburnett.qld.gov.au
Phone: 0458 625 950

Faye Whelan
Faye.Whelan@northburnett.qld.gov.au
Phone: 0409 625 956

What’s on?
14 Jan to 17 Mar
- Mundubbera Regional Art Gallery: “With a little help from my friend” Exhibition by two Biggenden Artists, Ngari Pearce & Sue Nugent

1 Feb to 31 Mar
- Free BreastScreen appointment Wide Bay Service for Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mundubbera - Phone 132050 or www.breastscreen.qld.gov.au

31 Jan
- NBRC Infrastructure Awareness Asset Public Meeting – South – Mundubbera Community Hall at 2:00pm

February
- Ovarian Cancer Month
1 Feb
- NBRC Policy & Strategy Meeting – Eidsvold 9am
- NBRC Infrastructure Awareness Asset Public Meeting – North – RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre Eidsvold at 2:00pm

2 Feb
- Mt Perry QCWA “Flood Relief” Monster Cent Sale
9:30am – Sandra 4156 3225

4 Feb
- Monto Magic Public Meeting Community Hall 5pm
– Lyn 4166 5161

6 Feb
- Mundubbera 7-A-Side Cricket Carnival

7 Feb
- Biggenden QCWA Meeting 9:30am – Di 4129 9297

15 Feb
- NBRC General Meeting – Eidsvold 9am
- Biggenden QCWA Tombola 9:30am – Di 4129 9297

22 Feb
- Montonian Luncheon – Nancy 4166 1498

23 Feb
- Teal Ribbon Day – In support of Ovarian Cancer

25-26 Feb
- RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre, Eidsvold - Strategic Planning Workshops

19 Mar
Mundubbera Charity Concert – Martin Love Oval

FRIDAY NIGHTS
Biggenden Bowls Club – Social Bowling Fridays 6pm, all welcome – 4127 1268 (after 5pm)

COUNTRY MARKETS
1st Sun
Gayndah Markets – Steve 4140 8200

2nd Sat
Biggenden Markets – Wyn 4127 1294

3rd Sat
Mundubbera Country Markets – Jan 4165 4528

CATTLE SALES
9 Feb
TopX Eidsvold Store Cattle Sale

9 Feb
Monto Cattle & Country Special Store & Fat Sale

10 Feb
Biggenden Special Steer Sale

14 Feb
Biggenden Prime & Store Sale

23 Feb
Monto Cattle & Country Fat & Store Sale

28 Feb
Biggenden Prime & Store Sale

For all Council enquiries please call: 1300 696 272

Email: admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au | Website: www.northburnett.qld.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/north.burnett.regional.council | www.facebook.com/RMWilliamsABLC

Twitter: NorthBurnettRC

PO Box 390, 34-36 Capper Street, Gayndah Qld 4625

www.northburnett.qld.gov.au