

# COUNCIL NEWS

MAHON BRIDGE WORKS TO COMMENCE - PAGE 6



COMMUNITY CENTRE OPEN



HAVE YOUR SAY - WASTE



SAFEGUARDING MT SYLVIA

# MEET YOUR ELECTED MEMBERS



**MAYOR TANYA MILLIGAN**  
Civic Leadership and  
Regional Development

**DEPUTY MAYOR  
CHRIS WILSON**  
Corporate Services

**CR MICHAEL HAGAN**  
Infrastructure

**CR DAVID NEUENDORF**  
Planning and Development



**CR JULIE RECK**  
Liveability and the  
Circular Economy

**CR CHERYL STEINHARDT**  
Environment and  
Regulatory Services

**CR ANTHONY WILSON**  
Sport and Recreation

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Lockyer Valley Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the region, the Ugarapul and Yuggera people and pays our respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of other communities who may live here. Lockyer Valley Regional Council is committed to cultivating inclusive environments for all staff, customers, residents and visitors.

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## LOCKYER WATERS COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENED

Lockyer Valley Regional Council recently finalised the \$850,000 project, which features a semi commercial kitchen, new appliances, ambulant and disability bathrooms, a storage room and a large undercover deck with ramp and stairs leading to a concrete disability carpark.

The community came together recently to officially open the new-look Lockyer Waters Community Centre.

Mayor, Cr Tanya Milligan said the hall would be widely used for a range of purposes.

“It was great to welcome so many community members to the family-friendly event and celebrate the official opening of the new centre.

“Council also used the opportunity to thank the Lockyer Waters Hall Committee and the local community for their support on the project.

“The new facility will be of great benefit to residents and will go a long way to help create a vital safe space for families and the community.

“As well as being a venue for community events, the Lockyer Waters Community Centre will be used as a Place of Shelter when needed.

“The building has more than 20,000L of water storage and is also equipped with emergency generator functionality,” she said.

Sport and Recreation Portfolio Councillor Anthony Wilson thanked the Australian Government, which funded the majority of the project through its Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Program.

“We’re all about ensuring the Lockyer Valley remains a great place to call home and where communities can thrive.

“The completion of this project marks a major milestone, and we look forward to seeing our residents utilise this vital community asset for years to come,” Cr Wilson said.

Construction of the Lockyer Waters Community Centre is part of a \$1.5 million grant awarded through the Australian Government’s Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program for the Community Safer Places project.





## MAHON BRIDGE WORKS TO COMMENCE

Upgrade works will soon commence on the single largest capital works project in Lockyer Valley Regional Council's 2024-25 Budget.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council received the tick of approval for their funding application to the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) for Mahon Bridge in Carpendale last year, and now works are about to get underway.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Mayor, Cr Tanya Milligan said the project would replace the existing concrete bridge that was constructed in 2009 and damaged in the 2013 floods.

"After the floods, third party consultants identified several deficiencies in the existing bridge condition, which resulted in several inspections and load rating assessments.

"To mitigate the risk, Council implemented a one-lane traffic arrangement across the bridge, with a 42.5-tonne load limit.

"This funding injection from the Australian Government will mean we will soon welcome a new two-lane concrete bridge of around 40m.

"The new bridge will provide preferred heavy vehicle access to one of the major businesses within our region, supporting hundreds of local jobs and contributing to numerous community events," Mayor Milligan said.

Council's Infrastructure Portfolio Councillor Michael Hagan encourages residents and local businesses to be patient throughout the construction process.

"The increase in traffic along Grantham Scrub Road, Grantham Winwill Road and Harris Street may cause additional noise and traffic for residents along these roads, however the long-term benefit will mean the number of heavy vehicles travelling these roads will be severely reduced," Cr Hagan said.

The BRP funds local government projects that upgrade and replace bridges to enhance access for local communities and facilitate higher productivity vehicle access



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024-30

Members of the Lockyer Valley community are invited to review and provide submissions for Lockyer Valley Regional Council's Draft Waste Management Strategy 2024-2030.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council's Waste Management Portfolio Councillor Julie Reck said the draft strategy sets a clear pathway for the management of solid waste in the Lockyer Valley region towards and beyond 2030.

"Late last year, we reached out to the community asking for feedback to understand community views, values, and attitudes on aspects of waste management to assist us in preparing this Strategy.

"We gathered feedback through a survey titled Community Views on Waste Management and have since incorporated the feedback from the survey results into the Strategy to ensure it reflects what the community told us.

"We're inviting the community to review the draft Strategy and provide formal submissions from Thursday, 19 September 2024 to Sunday, 27 October 2024.

"It is vital we manage our waste in both an effective and responsible manner for the long-term future of our region, and we're taking this opportunity to ensure the draft strategy has accurately captured the community's views on this important topic," Cr Reck said.

To view the Waste Management Strategy 2024-2030, make a submission or find out more about how community feedback has shaped it, visit [lockyervalley.engagementhub.com.au/waste-management-strategy-2024-2030](https://lockyervalley.engagementhub.com.au/waste-management-strategy-2024-2030).

Hard copies of the Strategy are available to view at the Gatton and Laidley Customer Service Centres.

For more information, contact Council on 1300 005 872 or [mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au).



TO VIEW THE STRATEGY AND HAVE YOUR SAY, SCAN THE QR CODE



## MAJOR PROJECT SET TO HELP SAFEGUARD MOUNT SYLVIA FROM FUTURE FLOOD DAMAGE

A \$1.8M major rehabilitation project to help safeguard Mount Sylvania and surrounds from flooding will get underway later this month.

Resilient Rivers SEQ will soon commence works on installing creek bank stabilisation and road protection structures at three separate priority sites along Blackfellow Creek, adjacent to Mount Sylvania Road in the Woodbine to Mount Sylvania areas.

Council's Environment Portfolio Councillor Cheryl Steinhardt said the civil works and revegetation project was designed to stabilise the creek bank, reducing erosion and sediment loss and increasing protection for farmland and the key community asset of Mount Sylvania Road.

"This project will focus on three sites that have been prioritised through hydrological assessment.

"The project sites, located on Council and State-owned land, road reserves as well as private land, have experienced considerable impacts from flooding in the 2011, 2013 and 2022 flood events.

"The sites are at high risk of experiencing more damage during major flood events and these works will help prevent this from occurring," Cr Steinhardt said.

About 12,000 tonnes of rock will be used and 10,000 native trees and shrubs planted as part of the project, which is being delivered by Lockyer Valley Regional Council, in partnership with Resilient Rivers SEQ, the Australian Government, Queensland Government, and Council of Mayors (SEQ) through the SEQ City Deal.

Cr Steinhardt said works were expected to run from late September until the end of April 2025 and would provide significant benefits to nearby communities, road users and those downstream.

"The work will be positive for the community by helping to reduce further flood damage to the creek bank and road network as well as reduce downstream erosion by slowing the flow of water.

"Revegetation at the sites will commence from January 2025 and run for a period of three years, over which time the site will be monitored and maintained," Cr Steinhardt said.

The project complements work underway by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to repair Mount Sylvania Road. These additional works are being completed with assistance provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

## VOLUNTARY HOME BUY-BACK PROGRAM COMPLETE

Council has completed the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program in the Lockyer Valley.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council has now completed buy-back of all homes identified for purchase under the Voluntary Home Buy-Back (VHBB) program.

Council acquired 24 properties as part of the VHBB program, which was made available for homes that were the most severely impacted and at the greatest risk of future flooding following the rainfall and flooding events which impacted southern Queensland in 2021-22.

Planning and Development Portfolio Councillor David Neuendorf said Council acted quickly to buy back properties in highly vulnerable locations.

"All demolition and removal works were completed prior to the end of the 2023-24 financial year, which is a fantastic achievement," he said.

"Once the properties were purchased by Council, they had to be demolished or removed and the land returned to its natural state. The land was then rezoned to ensure it can never be re-developed for residential purposes."

In May 2022, the Australian and Queensland Governments introduced the \$741M Resilient Homes Fund (RHF) to help Queenslanders become more resilient to future flooding.

The RHF is a jointly funded initiative delivered through Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

The RHF also includes the Resilient Retrofit and Home Raising program options.

Council's property team has now been tasked with reviewing all parcels of land purchased under the VHBB program to identify the best use of the land, Cr Neuendorf said.

"This could be revegetation of the site to improve flood resilience and enhance native habitat, similar to what has already occurred at land near Lions Park at Lower Tenthill," he said.

Of the 24 properties that were bought back under the VHBB program, five houses were removed and 19 were demolished.

Thirteen properties were situated in Grantham, three in Glenore Grove, two each in Kensington Grove, Lower Tenthill and Lockyer Waters, and one each in Adare and Helidon.

During the project, there was a strong focus on recycling materials and salvaging items such as sheds, water tanks, windows, doors and fencing.



Photo Credit: Queensland Reconstruction Authority

# COUNCIL TO SELL GATTON CHILD CARE CENTRE

Lockyer Valley Regional Council will transition ownership of Gatton Child Care Centre to a new operator after identifying a suitable buyer.

Council resolved to accept the offer from VR Co Corporations Pty Ltd (VR Co Corporations) at its August Meeting.

The move comes after Council resolved earlier this year to conduct an open tender process to test the market for the sale of the centre as a 'going concern'.

Deputy Mayor Chris Wilson said a private sector operator specialising in childcare was best placed to meet the region's growing demand for childcare.

"We have achieved what we set out to do and this is great news for our childcare centre families, the community, ratepayers and our childcare centre staff," he said.

"The 59-place centre has been close to full occupancy for some time now and it's not viable for Council to expand the centre.

"Transitioning out of the childcare sector will allow Council to focus its resources on its core business, such as improving our roads and delivering cost-effective services that benefit our whole community and that are primarily Council's responsibility.

"This new operator also won't be hamstrung by regulatory constraints imposed on public sector entities and can respond more quickly to the needs of the business."

The centre was established by the former Gatton Shire Council in 1989 to address an identified need for childcare in the area. Since then, the sector has grown significantly and the region is now serviced by a range of industry-specialised operators.

This is not the first foray into childcare for VR Co Corporations, which also owns Little Rascals Child Care Centre in Killarney and First Steps Early Childhood Learning Centre in Atherton.

Cr Wilson said Council was committed to making the transition as smooth as possible for all involved.

"Most importantly, there will be no loss of service to the community during this process, which is something we wanted to avoid at all costs," he said.

"Parents and caregivers and our childcare staff have been kept regularly updated since we decided to embark on this process, and we will continue to work closely with all parties as the sale progresses.

"I extend my thanks to our wonderful and caring staff who have created such a warm and inviting centre which is not only well respected within the community, but also ranks 'excellent' on the National Quality Standard ratings."

The sale process is expected to be completed in December 2024.



# LAIDLEY SALEYARDS UPDATE

Lockyer Valley Regional Council continues to explore options to support the local cattle industry in the wake of its decision to close the Laidley Saleyards next year.

Last month, Councillors voted to decommission the cattle dip in February 2025 ahead of the full closure of the site in June 2025, citing the significant cost of addressing a range of compliance matters identified by an external consultant and the financial viability of the facility for its decision.

Since then, Council has met with the cattle sales agent, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, AgForce, the consultant and several local cattle producers to investigate solutions that could potentially see a saleyard continue to operate within the region.

"We are definitely open to exploring all of the options, including for other parties to operate a commercial saleyard in our region, especially if the compliance standards can be met more easily by another party," Mayor Tanya Milligan said.

"Council has no other plans for the current saleyards site. Council's only goal is to ensure compliance with the range of regulations and standards that apply to the saleyards, within a reasonable budget.

"At this point in time, the cost to undertake all of the identified required works are unreasonable, however we are looking into whether some works can be delayed without breaching our compliance obligations."

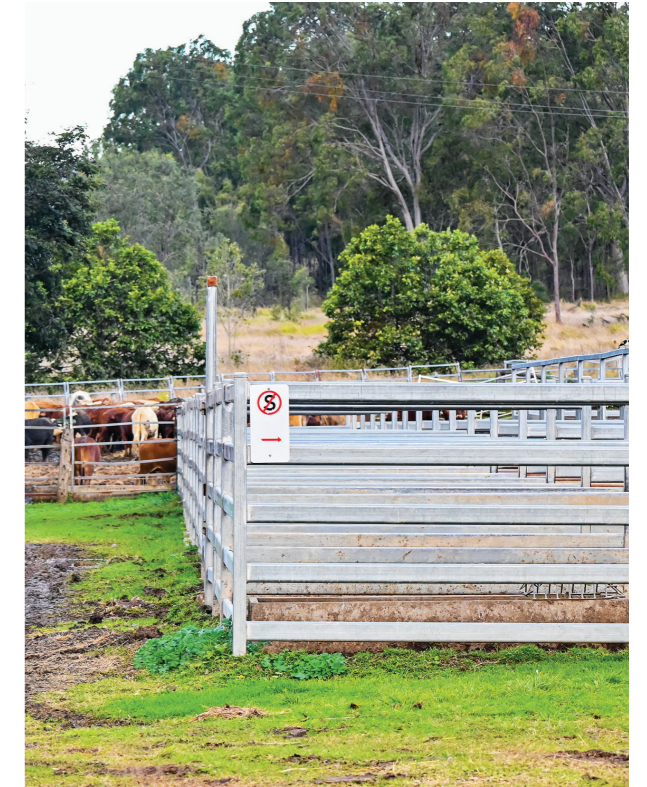
According to the independent expert reports issued in 2022 and 2023, the total cost to address the environmental and safety compliance issues at the site came to more than \$2M, with this estimate recently revised by the consultant to more than \$3.5M due to the sharp rises in the prices of goods and services.

This, coupled with the ongoing maintenance costs, led Council to determine the continued use of the facility was not financially sustainable nor a responsible use of Council's limited funds,

"We acknowledge users of the site may disagree with the findings, however we acted in good faith on the basis of these reports and Council has a legal obligation to meet the compliance standards, Mayor Milligan said.

"We have listened to and understand the response from local cattle producers and are committed to working with them to explore solutions that are reasonable and sustainable.

"The local State Member has recently indicated there is funding available to assist, and we are hopeful both sides of politics can commit to providing funding assistance before the upcoming election."



For more information, visit [lockyervalley.engagementhub.com.au/laidleysaleyards](https://lockyervalley.engagementhub.com.au/laidleysaleyards)

# Woodlands Road works complete

After six months of extensive rehabilitation, Woodlands Road road works are now complete.

Proudly funded by the Queensland Government through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, this project has seen improvements to sight distances, the intersection layout, pavement condition and road surface drains.

The installation of guardrails, signage, line markings and sealing of works have also improved the overall safety, functionality, and traffic flow of the road.

We thank the community for its ongoing patience and understanding while these works were undertaken.



# ROAD WORKS

To keep up to date with current road works, visit [www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/road-works](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/road-works)

## Postmans Ridge Road

Rehabilitation works are currently underway at Postmans Ridge Road.

The existing road is a seven-metre wide, two-lane bitumen sealed road that connects Murphys Creek Road and the Warrego Highway at Helidon Spa. The existing pavement was in poor condition, with noticeable pavement cracking and surface deformations.

This project, funded by the Queensland Government through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and Lockyer Valley Regional Council, will involve profiling out the existing pavement and intersections to a depth of 480mm and reconstructing and widening the road's pavement to accommodate for heavy vehicles for the full length of 1.8km. The project will connect previously upgraded sections along Postmans Ridge Road and will provide a new design life, improve rideability, the intersection layout and road table drains.

Council's infrastructure capital delivery crews have completed the profiling and subbase works for two sections, with the base, shoulder and seal works underway. The project will remain under traffic lights for the duration of the project, which is expected to be completed in late December 2024.

# PARK WORKS

## Improved efficiency

Council has added to its mowing fleet with a new trail behind mower. The new machine cuts a five-metre path in one sweep, making it much more efficient than previous mowers used at the Laidley Recreation Grounds. This allows our mowing crews to get the job done quickly and spend more time in other areas of the region.

## Beautification works

Council's parks and gardens crew have been busy lining our main town centres with bright and cheerful garden beds to bring in spring and celebrate the 61st annual Laidley Spring Festival.

The delightful blooms will remain in place until about mid-October, when staff will commence removal of the spent flowers, replacing the planter boxes with new seedlings to flourish into beautiful displays just in time for the festive season.



## Community Environmental Grants opening soon

The Community Environmental Grants Program aims to support a healthy, sustainable and integrated natural environment within the Lockyer Valley through cooperative community projects.

Non-recurrent grants of between \$500 and \$5000 will be made available to schools and community organisations to undertake projects that will deliver demonstrated environmental outcomes, depending upon availability of funds and the merit of project proposals.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council's Environment Portfolio Councillor Cheryl Steinhardt said the Program was designed to support community-initiated projects that improve our local environment and/or inspire environmentally sustainable behaviour in the Lockyer Valley.

"Our Community Environmental Grants are focused on projects that involve the education, management and conservation of our natural environment," Cr Steinhardt said.

The Grants will be awarded to schools and community-based organisations in the Lockyer Valley that focus on: Environmental initiatives, education, management, conservation, enhancement and build capacity for long-term sustainability.

Applications open on 2 October 2024.

[www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/community-environmental-grants](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/community-environmental-grants)



## Household battery disposal

Did you know household batteries such as AAA, AA, button cells and others are not able to be disposed of in your general waste bin?

Household batteries contain many toxic chemicals that are hazardous to the environment.

They are also one of the contributors to fires in waste collection vehicles and landfills, causing risks to both operators and infrastructure.

Household batteries require the terminals to be taped with sticky tape before disposal, to prevent them from sparking and catching fire.

There are multiple B-cycle battery disposal points located across the region where batteries can be safely disposed of.

These include Coles, Woolworths, Aldi, Mitre 10, Bunnings, Withcott Foodworks and Gatton Return-It stores.

For further information on what types of batteries can be recycled please visit [bcycle.com.au](http://bcycle.com.au).



## Fire ants detected locally, treatment to commence

Dozens of fire ant nests have been discovered in the Plainland and Laidley areas, sparking calls for residents and landholders to be on the lookout to help halt the spread.

While previous cases detected locally were mostly on farmland, the invasive pest has recently been spotted in suburbia and public spaces.

It is crucial the community remains vigilant and immediately reports suspected sightings of fire ants to future-proof the region's agriculture, flora and fauna.

Our message to the community is to please, make sure you reach out to the National Fire Ant Program within 24 hours if you suspect fire ants are present on your property or on public land.

We're also urging landholders to cooperate with the Program and assist in its eradication efforts.

Following changes that came into effect in July 2024, councils are now responsible for treating fire ants detected on council-owned and managed land.

Members of the public should still report all suspected sightings to the National Fire Ant Program, with Council then actioning any suspected nests on Council land.

Moving forward, Council intends to work in conjunction with the National Fire Ant Program through both broadscale baiting and insect growth regulators, as per our General Biosecurity Obligation and the requirements of Queensland's biosecurity legislation.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has assessed the active ingredients and determined they are of low toxicity and deemed safe to humans and mammals.

Fire ants are a category 1 restricted pest under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and, if left uncontrolled, can cost the Australian economy \$2 billion per year.

Educating the community that fire ants exist in the Lockyer Valley, and the need to be on the lookout from them, is paramount.

Recently, community awareness resulted in the identification of more than 50 nests on a local footpath, directly where residents walk and park their cars.

Fire ant nests are usually found in open areas such as lawns, garden beds, potted plants, near water sources, along roadsides and in newly developed areas. They are also extremely aggressive and swarm distinctively when disturbed.

Protecting ourselves against this invasive pest is vital – not only for our environment and agriculture, but our economy and health too.

To report fire ants, visit [fireants.org.au](http://fireants.org.au) or contact 13 25 23.



To learn how to identify fire ants, visit [www.fireants.org.au/look/appearance](http://www.fireants.org.au/look/appearance)



## Best Laidley Spring Festival ever

The finest spring weather, coupled with attendees from near and far made the 61st annual Laidley Spring Festival one to remember.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Mayor, Cr Tanya Milligan said the three-day event attracted record crowds to the region.

“The Laidley Spring Festival has cemented itself as a much-loved event for not only the Lockyer Valley, but across Queensland and interstate too.

“Looking around as I was out and about at the event, I felt such pride to see residents and visitors of all ages enjoying the Festival fun.

“Day one of the event really was all about our families, with everything from face painting to magicians, children’s potting and colouring activities at the Spring Gardening Fair, the Under 5s Day at the Laidley District State School and mural painting at the Lutheran Church.

“Saturday’s Spring Gardening Fair, Quilt and Craft Expo, Spring Gem Show, Open Gardens, artisan market stalls and the Show ‘n’ Shine car show were again incredibly well supported.

“Renowned Australian chef, gardener and media personality Paul West, who returned this year to once again fulfil the role of Festival Ambassador, shared his top kitchen tips, tricks, and stories during his much-anticipated cooking demonstration at the Laidley Recreational Reserve, much to the delight of festivalgoers.

“Saturday saw crowds line Patrick Street for the Street Parade, where Tabeel Aged Care took out the title of Grand Champion Float.

“Congratulations also must go to the Supreme Car winner of the Show ‘n’ Shine, Jason Mutzelburg with his 1964 EH Holden, beating out more than 100 other vehicles to take home the trophy.

“Sunday’s Bee Happy Day was again an incredible success, with everyone flocking to Forest Hill to enjoy the Makers Markets, live entertainment, Cluster Arts performance, and children’s craft activities.

“I’m also very grateful for the support of our media partners and sponsors, along with the countless volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make the event so successful,” Mayor Milligan said.

Congratulations to this year’s parade winners:

- **Grand Champion:** Tabeel Aged Care
- **Best Children’s/Primary/High School:** St Mary’s Catholic Primary School
- **Best Sporting Group:** Moove & Groove
- **Best Community Group/Cultural/Creative:** Falun Dafa
- **Historic/Motor Vehicle Group Float:** Laidley Pioneer Village
- **Best Business Float:** Tabeel Aged Care



Did you get snapped by our roving photographer?

Check out the full gallery on the Laidley Spring Festival Facebook page.

## Lockyer Valley Libraries to host multiple author talks

Lockyer Valley readers have the chance to gain insight into the latest book releases through a series of upcoming author talks.

Lockyer Valley Libraries will play host to a range of bestselling fiction authors throughout October.

Author and poet Nerelie Teese will visit first to share her recently published title, ‘Sense of Place’.

Nerelie found inspiration in living, working and participating in regional and rural communities. ‘Sense of Place’ is a collection of ten short stories, exploring the rich inter-generational connections that exist in small communities, country towns and regional centres.

**WHEN: Wednesday 23 October, Gatton Library (10am), Laidley Library (1pm).**

Rounding out the month will be authors Gillian Wills and Sarah Todman.

Author, music and arts journalist, Gillian Wills will visit on Thursday 24 October at the Laidley Library at 10am and the Gatton Library at 1pm.

Gillian publishes with Australian Book Review, InQueensland, Limelight Magazine, Australian Stage Online and Artist Profile.

Come and see author and poet Sarah Todman on Thursday 31 October at the Gatton Library at 10am as she shares her quirky debut novel, ‘New Year’s Eve’.

**To make a booking scan the QR code below, or visit <https://tinyurl.com/LVLibraryAuthorTalks>**

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Libraries and Galleries Portfolio Councillor Julie Reck encouraged bookings for these exciting in-person events.

“Our Libraries team is committed to bringing the best authors to our region, and once again they’ve done just that.

“What a treat to listen to authors of this calibre without leaving the region!

“Make sure you secure your booking now and we hope to see you there,” she said.



## 750 trees planted to restore habitat, improve erosion

Council partnered with Greening Australia, Council of Mayors SEQ via the Resilient Rivers project and the Lockyer Valley Turf Club to host the community tree planting day at Gatton Racecourse.

The planting worked to both restore habitat and improve erosion control along Lockyer Creek.

It was fantastic to see the community come together to plant more than 750 native trees and shrubs for this great cause.

Planting trees not only benefits the environment by enhancing air quality, protecting soil and supporting wildlife, but it also strengthens community spirit and makes the Lockyer Valley a more attractive place to live.

Getting involved in these sorts of events is a great way to get out, be active, meet new people and of course improve the natural habitat and biodiversity for native animals in the area.

Green spaces and trees are vital to the wellbeing of our community, so it is wonderful to see another site regenerated.





Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre

## Watch out for koalas

It's koala breeding season, and our local koalas are on the move and looking for love!

From August to October, koalas are at their most active, often crossing roads and coming into people's backyards, making them extremely vulnerable to vehicle strikes and dog attacks.

You can help keep them safe by slowing down at dawn and dusk, being alert for koalas crossing the road, keeping your dog on a leash when walking and inside overnight (where possible), placing a floating device in your pool to prevent drowning and an angled timber panel on your fence for easy escape.

To save your local wildlife carers' numbers to your phone, visit [www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/wildlife](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/wildlife) and click on the QR code.



## Laidley Pool refresh

The Dal Ryan Memorial Pool in Laidley is looking fresher and bluer than ever for the 2024-25 swim season.

Council's Facilities team recently completed the makeover, which included a full repaint, working in conjunction with BlueFit and the pool managers.

The four-day project adds vibrancy to this much-loved community facility for Laidley.

Repairs to expansion joints were completed last year, with the addition of a pool butler to support staff with rolling on and off the pool blankets

Council is committed to maintaining and investing in facilities such as the Laidley Pool to ensure they continue to meet the expectations and evolving needs of our community. The total cost of the \$13,000 project was funded by Council.



BEFORE



AFTER

## Housing Action Plan

At the 18 September Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council adopted the Lockyer Valley Local Housing Action Plan (LHAP).

The LHAP was developed through a joint initiative involving the Queensland Government, Council and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to respond to a range of immediate, emerging, and longer-term housing challenges in the Lockyer Valley local government area.

The LHAP provides an overview of key community and housing characteristics and emerging issues related to housing, and identifies targeted priority actions to respond to housing needs.

To view the LHAP in full, head to [www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/local-housing-action-plan](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/local-housing-action-plan)



## Cultural Burn workshop

Landholders and residents gathered at Kensington Grove Park on 21 September to learn about fire as a land management tool.

A collaboration between Council, RFS Queensland, the University of Queensland and Wurrinyah Conservation Services, attendees learned the importance of using fire in the right way to not only reduce bushfire risk but also benefit local ecosystems and wildlife.

Although conditions were too hot and dry for a cultural burn demonstration, the Indigenous fire practitioners took the cohort on a journey through the bush to impart their cultural knowledge on environmental indicators and determining the right time and way to burn different landscapes. Delivered thanks to the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery funding.



## Water Security Scheme

The Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative held two information sessions in late August to provide irrigators and industrial water users with an update on the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Security Scheme (LVSWS).

If successful, the LVSWS will increase the reliability of water supply to farms and industry in key parts of the Lockyer Valley and Somerset regions, providing enhanced food security and opportunities for long-term jobs stability and growth.

As part of the information sessions, interested parties were asked to identify their potential future water demands, to indicate to government that there is a demand for more water in the region.

First proposed in 2018, the LVSWS has recently secured significant government funding to explore the viability of the project. Read more here: [www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/water-collab-info-sessions](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/water-collab-info-sessions).





Lake Claredon

## Queensland Transport Museum Temporary Closure



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Queensland Transport Museum (QTM) is temporarily closed.

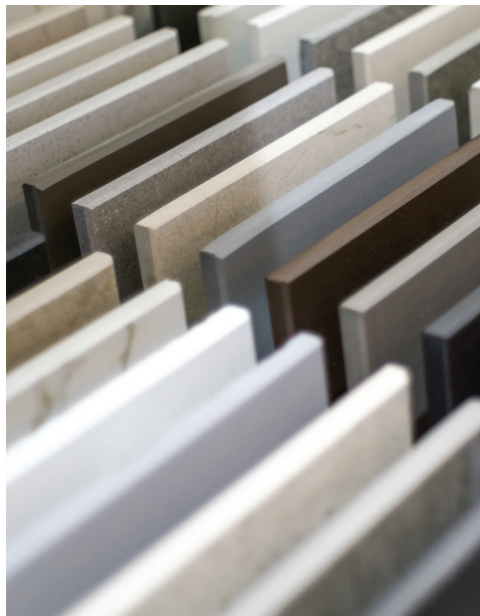
Planned maintenance of the QTM is due to take place in November, however Council had to bring forward the closure due to one of the main exhibitors needing to remove their vehicles at short notice.

Given the logistical challenges of removing the displays to facilitate this, it is not practical to return the remaining exhibits before the planned maintenance.

Council apologises for any inconvenience caused and looks forward to welcoming visitors back to the QTM as soon as possible. Council will update the community when the facility is ready to be re-opened.

You can also stay up to date by following QTM's Facebook page. [@qldtransportmuseum](#)

## Engineered stone



Under Worksafe Queensland Legislation, as of 1 July 2024, engineered stone is not able to be used, supplied, manufactured or installed.

This does not apply to currently-installed engineered stone, however engineered stone that is removed cannot be re-used, re-purposed or recovered and must be disposed of to landfill.

The ban focuses around a higher risk of silicosis (caused by crystalline silica) affecting workers during the manufacturing and processing of engineered stone products.

Engineered stone is exempt from the State Government's waste levy until 1 July 2025 and is accepted at the Gatton Landfill. Disposal fees and charges still apply. Currently the disposal fee is \$152/tonne.



## 'Sports for All' initiative

On 31 August, Cahill Park Sports Complex was buzzing with energy and excitement as we hosted our Summer Sports Bash.

The event, made possible thanks to the Australian Sports Commission's Play Well grant, encouraged residents to try, play and enjoy the wide range of sports available in the Lockyer Valley.

In partnership with Disability Sports Australia, we followed this up with our Abilities Unleashed event on 10 September. This event aimed to motivate and enable local children and adults of all abilities to discover active opportunities within a fun, safe and inclusive environment.

Both events are part of Council's 'Sport for All' initiative, dedicated to breaking down barriers to participation.

Keep an eye out for our Winter Sports Bash in 2025!



## Winwill Caravan Park

Lockyer Valley Regional Council has approved a Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Winwill Caravan Park.

The original application sought a Material Change of Use to allow a maximum of 264 persons/66 sites from Friday to Monday. However, an assessment concluded the proposed scale could not comply with assessment benchmarks and was not an appropriate outcome for the site.

Instead, Council approved the application with a reduced scale of a maximum of 100 persons/25 sites Friday to Monday and 20 persons/five sites Tuesday to Thursday.

To view the Minutes of the August Council meeting in full, visit [www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au)



## Gatton Industrial Precinct

Council has endorsed a budget commitment towards the Australian Government's Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) for the Gatton Industrial Precinct Road Improvement Project.

At its 18 September Ordinary Meeting, Council approved in principle a 20 per cent co-contribution of \$718,974 from the 2025-26 budget towards the proposed \$3.6M project.

If successful, the project would improve pavement and storm drains along Market Drive, Freemans Road and Brooking Drive to bring the roads up to standard for the heavy vehicle traffic experienced. The SLRIP is an application-based merit-assessed program and the outcome of Council's application is expected to be known in December 2024.

# WHAT'S ON!



## GET DISASTER READY



## Get Ready Queensland Week

8 - 13 OCTOBER 2024

This year's Get Ready Queensland Week campaign is 'Weather doesn't plan, but you can'.

Ensure you and your family are prepared for storms, floods and bushfires by making your emergency plan today. Not sure where to start? Get Ready Qld has one you can do online! Head to [www.getready.qld.gov.au](http://www.getready.qld.gov.au).

Also, check out our 'Ready Together' video series and watch locals share their experiences and learnings from living through natural disasters in the Lockyer Valley.

Watch it here: [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa4Sb4BVgQwizeBIH\\_kx3OUQUAvXvIFbi](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa4Sb4BVgQwizeBIH_kx3OUQUAvXvIFbi)

## FIRST 5 FOREVER



## Colours, Colours Everywhere!

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER, 10AM  
JEAN BIGGS PARK, WITHCOTT

Are you joining us for our colourful explosions of fun coming to our local parks?

Enjoy messy sensory play and craft, share a story and sing songs with us at our First 5 Forever event!

To make a booking scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/musyphws>

## ART EXHIBITION



## Togetherness

SHOWING UNTIL 13 OCTOBER  
LOCKYER VALLEY ART GALLERY

'Togetherness' by High Schools of the Lockyer Valley is on now at the Lockyer Valley Art Gallery.

Showcasing the work of emerging local artists from high schools across the region, make sure you pay the exhibition a visit and see the amazing works for yourself.

'Togetherness' by High Schools of the Lockyer Valley is on display until 13 October 2024 with free entry.

## SPORT FOR ALL

Lockyer Valley Regional Council  
Committee Coaching Series



## Empowering Women in Sport

WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER, 6PM - 8.30PM  
LAIDLEY SPORTS COMPLEX, WHITES ROAD, LAIDLEY

Want to foster inclusivity, create opportunities and support female leadership at all levels?

Attend Workshop 2 of our Coaching Committee Series: Empowering Women in Sport: Female Leadership at Your Club.

Whether you're looking to proactively involve more women in your committee or explore female leadership in sports, this workshop has you covered.

Registrations close 5pm, Friday 4 October 2024.

For more information and to secure a seat, email [engagement@lvrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:engagement@lvrc.qld.gov.au).

## CHRISTMAS MAGIC



## Mayoral Carols

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER, 5.30PM - 8.30PM  
GATTON SHIRE HALL

Kick-start the festive season by joining us for the annual Mayoral Carols!

Gatton Shire Hall will come alive on Saturday, 30 November as the Nathan Walmsley Band lights up the stage with a steady stream of traditional and fun Christmas carols.

Festivities get underway from 5.30pm, with the stage show swinging into action at 6.30pm. An Auslan interpreter will be present to provide support.

Seats are limited, so jingle all the way over to [www.lockyervalleytickets.com.au](http://www.lockyervalleytickets.com.au) to secure your free admission tickets today.

# STAY IN THE KNOW



## ENGAGEMENT HUB

Council's online consultation platform, Engagement Hub offers a range of opportunities for the local community to have their say. Be sure to register to find out about new projects open for community review, to have your say, and to keep in touch. Keep an eye on Council's Have Your Say page for a full list of consultation projects.

<https://lockyervalley.engagementhub.com.au>

[www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/have-your-say](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/have-your-say)



## SWITCH TO E-NOTICES

Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive their rates and animal registration renewal notices by email. Not only will you avoid a \$2 fee per notice, you will help save the environment and avoid Australia Post delays!

Sign up at [www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/enotice-signup](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/enotice-signup) or collect and return your form in person at the Gatton or Laidley Customer Service Centres. Approved pensioners are exempt from the fee.



## CURRENT VACANCIES

To keep across the career opportunities available at Council and to apply, visit the Current Vacancies page on Council's website.

[www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/current-vacancies](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/current-vacancies)



## 3G CLOSURE

Residents still using the 3G network are reminded to switch to 4G or 5G before the 3G shutdown on 28 October 2024.

You can use the 3G checker to find out if you need to upgrade. Simply text 3 to 3498 to see if your device will work normally after the 3G closure. Don't forget to check medical aids and fall alerts.



## AUSTRALIA DAY NOMINATIONS OPEN

Honour a deserving local who has made a positive impact to the community by nominating them for a 2025 Lockyer Valley Australia Day award! Nominations close 22 November 2024. Forms are available online at [lockyervalley.smartygrants.com.au/AustraliaDayAwards2025](http://lockyervalley.smartygrants.com.au/AustraliaDayAwards2025)

TO VIEW PREVIOUS EDITIONS AND SUBSCRIBE TO EMAIL LIST, VISIT

[www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/council-news](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/council-news)



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