

Cherbourg

Community Newsletter

cherbourg.qld.gov.au **Winter-Spring 2023 Review**



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Early Childhood Education: Cherbourg's Path to Brighter Futures

In the heart of Cherbourg, Mayor Elvie Sandow places immense value on a solid early childhood foundation as the pathway to resolving youth-related challenges within the community. Through a statement she shared on a recent Wednesday, Mayor Elvie appealed for a "fair deal" regarding early childhood education and also stressed the importance of creating incentives to attract a dedicated workforce.

"This is where it starts ... we're changing the mindset, we're not just a child-minding centre," Mayor Elvie elaborated. She continued, "There's a lot of discussion at the moment around the Voice, but who is the voice for these little people here?"

Supporting the Mayor's stand, Aunty Jacqui Tapau, the director of Gundoo Early Learning Centre in Cherbourg, also emphasized the necessity of more training and incentives. This is not just for the existing workforce, but also to allure young individuals towards considering a career in early childhood education.

Aunty Jacqui is hopeful that local high school students will step forward to assist or even initiate traineeships. "We need younger people in our community to come along, walk through the centre, hopefully do an induction and be put on to our relief list," said Aunty Jacqui. She highlighted a broader vision saying, "We are targeting young people so that we can train them up. We need a succession plan as we're getting older; we need to train up our young people so we can keep our childcare centre within our community."



Continued page 2



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Gundoo's Learning Early

Cherbourg's Path to Brighter Futures

Continued from front page

Both Aunty Jacqui and Mayor Elvie acknowledged that the industry's pay rates and incentives within Australia are relatively low. "The workers are doing an excellent job, but we are seeing a lot of burnouts with staff leaving, it's all one big cycle," Aunty Jacqui remarked. "We train and retain. Training is offered on site at Gundoo, which I think we do really well. We do a wonderful job to give our people the opportunities and support to work toward achieving Certificates and Diploma qualifications on the ground at our centre."



However, the issue of retention looms large due to the scant incentives available. Mayor Elvie shed light on the positive impact of early childhood education on children's readiness for school. "They walk in, they sit down, they're ready to learn, they're in a routine. The kids that don't access early childhood education are bouncing off walls because they're not in a set routine," she pointed out.



Expressing the affordability of Gundoo, Mayor Elvie urged, "We just want our families to access (Gundoo) ... early learning is laying the foundation to transition them into school." The enduring endeavor of Mayor Elvie and Aunty Jacqui for better recognition of early learning's role spans over two decades. "We still haven't stopped, and I know government is slowly listening, setting up a peak body now for early childhood, (it's been) a long time coming," Mayor Elvie reflected. The community-run Gundoo Early Learning Centre operates independently of the council with its own board of directors and a committee formed by local residents.

Aunty Jacqui invites Cherbourg residents – "our elders, aunts, uncles, mums and dads, our community people" – to participate actively. "We have got an open door here, everybody is welcome," she encouraged.

Gundoo also serves as a community hub and drop-in centre, not just an early childhood education facility. It welcomes anyone to drop by, have a cuppa, and seek assistance with paperwork or connecting with health professionals.

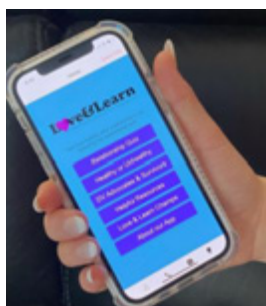
Volunteering at Gundoo is another aspect Aunty Jacqui highlighted. "If you've got a skill, or even if you just feel like getting out of the house ... come and read a book to our little ones or with your children," she invited warmly. "Maybe do some baking or make some damper with our babies, you're more than welcome."

The simplicity of such gestures could significantly brighten a child's day, she believes. "It really warms your heart the conversations you have here with the children, they're very warm," Aunty Jacqui shared. "If you have had a bad morning, they don't see that. They just see the person wanting to spend some time with them. Come in, kick a ball, do a painting, it's all beneficial and you will go away feeling all warm and respected."

Love&Learn

Championing Healthy Teen Relationships

Beyond DV have created the "Love and Learn" Teen Relationships app which helps young people understand what healthy / unhealthy relationships look like and how they can access other information and support if they are in an unhealthy relationship. Download the app for FREE now on Apple or Google play store



Cherbourg Adopts \$26m Budget

Cherbourg Council CEO Chatur Zala is hopeful a number of projects that have been in the pipeline will become a reality during the 2023-24 financial year.

These include the construction of a footpath on the Cherbourg-Murgon walking track, upgrades at the tip and further preliminary work on a proposed new community centre in Barambah Avenue.

Cherbourg councillors adopted their \$26 million Budget in July.

Good news for residents is there will be no increase in rents this year, and Council has also budgeted for seven new homes to be built in the town.

These are currently out for tender.

Other projects listed in the Budget include a new flood warning system for the community (which was completely cut off during the 2011 and 2013 floods); construction of a cubby house and a bike track at the Gundoo Early Childhood Learning Centre; more infrastructure for the town's call centre; and a range of Works For Queensland projects.

The Council will also spend \$1 million planning a new Cherbourg sub-division; \$500,000 on new plant; and will expand the amount of funding available for community projects.

In handing down the Budget, the Council acknowledged that it is likely to face challenges delivering some of its projects in a high-demand market.

However, it was confident that 80 to 90 per cent of its planned capital works could be delivered in the coming year.



Ahead of the Storm: Cherbourg's LDMG Meeting Maps Out Disaster Preparedness Strategies

In August, a Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) meeting was hosted in Cherbourg to review and strategize the community's preparedness for potential disaster scenarios, encompassing floods, fires, or health crises. Representatives from key sectors such as health, fire, police, and meteorological services, along with other significant government and supporting bodies, provided insights into the community's current state of readiness.

One of the key agenda items was the discussion of the upcoming evacuation training and drills set to be conducted in partnership with the Red Cross and local emergency services.

CEO Zala presented a detailed account of the allocation of approximately \$1.6 million in QRA funding toward various projects and infrastructure enhancements. Notable expenditures included upgrades to the kitchens at the Sports Complex, which is designated as the community's Evacuation Centre, and the acquisition of several generators to sustain critical services during disaster events. These generators have been positioned at essential locations like the water and sewage treatment plants, the works department, council chambers, and the radio station.

The funding allocation also encompassed a wide array of disaster response and preparedness equipment such as a disaster/emergency activation trailer, mobile catering trailer, emergency water storage at the evacuation centre, emergency supply containers and kits, a diesel tanker, upgrades to sewage infrastructure, clearing and re-contouring of drains, installation of flood cameras, real-time monitoring systems, electronic billboards, a community emergency siren, as well as enhancements and additions to street lighting.

During the meeting, attendees were briefed on the various flood and fire mitigation studies that had been, or were being, undertaken within the community. An update was also provided regarding the Bureau of Meteorology's plans to activate a Weather Radar for the Darling Downs Region by mid to late 2024, promising more accurate and updated weather readings for the region.

A notable discussion pointed to the likelihood of facing a harsh, dry summer season, albeit with a reminder not to overlook the potential of flood events, a common occurrence in Queensland annually.

Concerns were raised about community complacency in household preparedness for disaster scenarios. The emphasis was on the essential preparation with items like dry or canned foods, torches, batteries, long-life milk, water, and medicines. The meeting highlighted the need for intensified public awareness campaigns as the community approaches more critical periods of potential disaster risks.

The next LDMG meeting was slated for early December, with the aim to continue these vital discussions and preparations.



CBG NAIDOC 23

Recognising & Honouring our Elders



Rain forced Cherbourg's annual NAIDOC Week celebration indoors held in Tuesday July 4th, but it didn't dampen community enthusiasm for the event. Cherbourg Town Hall was packed for the activities, which included a blessing by Pastor Max Conlon, the presentation of Cherbourg Council's NAIDOC Week Awards and a powerful performance by the Wakka Wakka Dancers. The theme for this year's NAIDOC Week is "For Our Elders", and Elders were very much a focus at Cherbourg. Former mayor Arnold Murray did the Welcome To Country and a special guest was Aunty Eva Collins, who turned 100 at Christmas. The audience broke into applause when Aunty Ada Simpson, 80, was named Cherbourg's 2023 NAIDOC "Elder of the Year". The former councillor and librarian at Cherbourg State School has volunteered for many years with the Barambah Local Justice Group and at The Ration Shed Museum.

The other NAIDOC award winners were:

- Samantha Cobbo – Special Achievement
- Charmaine Georgetown – Special Achievement
- Norman Pershouse – Special Achievement
- Jackson Cobbo – Special Achievement
- Harmony Clevens – Sports Person of the Year
- Mia Sandow – Youth of the Year
- Natasha Duncan – Artist of the Year
- Ian Bird – Aboriginal Person of the Community
- Cherbourg YAG – Organisation Serving the Community

After the awards were announced, the Wakka Wakka Dancers took over. Cherbourg's NAIDOC celebrations then continued on the Wednesday night with a Ball at the Sports Complex organised by the Cherbourg YAG group.



NAIDOC Ball Photos
on the CASC website



We're Growing

Siehana Mickelo has blossomed into a delightful success story for our growing digital business presence, embarking on a journey as a software tester at the global consulting firm DB Results, with a desk set up at our Cherbourg Digital Service Centre. Taking a break from her psychology studies to care for her children, Siehana dipped her toes into the tech world, despite it being a whole new playground for her.

Now, she meticulously irons out the tiny wrinkles in DB's apps and websites, ensuring they run smoothly for prominent clients like the National Disability Insurance Agency and New South Wales Police. Although DB Results has a worldwide presence, Siehana is one of the rare gems representing them in Queensland, and the sole ambassador in Cherbourg.

Diving into technology, especially software testing, has unfolded as a satisfying adventure for Siehana, who cherishes the lively challenges it brings. What excites Siehana is the potential to spark more employment opportunities for Cherbourg locals in software testing, with a relatively easy pathway to opening a door into this realm. Siehana's eyes are set on exploring the boundless horizons of the tech world, inviting others to share the journey with her.

Siehana Charts a New Course in Software Testing



Siehana Mickelo with Cherbourg Digital and fellow DB Results Consultants



Welcome to new team members who have just recently started with us here at CASC - Koby Douglas, who recently completed his CERT I in business is now one the friendly faces greeting visitors, answering the phones and sorting mail at our offices on Barambah Ave, Kara Clarke who spent some of her younger years living here in community is back with us now working in our operations department helping to chase down funding opportunities for CASC.... and it's great to have Alex Speedy on board as well up at our waste facility keeping an eye out for Illegal Dumpers.

"For Our Elders" read by Cr Bronwyn Murray at this Years Community Awards

Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families.

They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones.

Our loved ones who pick us up in our low moments and celebrate us in our high ones. Who cook us a feed to comfort us and pull us into line, when we need them too. They guide our generations and pave the way for us to take the paths we can take today.

Guidance, not only through generations of advocacy and activism, but in everyday life and how to place ourselves in the world.

We draw strength from their knowledge and experience, in everything from land management, cultural knowledge to justice and human rights. Across multiple sectors like health, education, the arts, politics and everything in between, they have set the many courses we follow. The struggles of our Elders help to move us forward today.

The equality we continue to fight for is found in their fight. Their tenacity and strength has carried the survival of our people.

It is their influence and through their learnings that we must ensure that when it comes to future decision making for our people, there is nothing about us – without us. We pay our respects to the Elders we've lost and to those who continue fighting for us across all our Nations and we pay homage to them.



Police Liaison Officers Engage in Community Spirit at MSHS NAIDOC Event

Roneece Cupitt - Senior Police Liaison officer based at Murgon, attended the Murgon State High School NAIDOC. The occasion was attended by service providers, community, families, Cherbourg Councillors, and CEO, alongside Murgon and Cherbourg Police Liaison Officers. Roneece says it was an honor to have Elders from both Murgon and Cherbourg join the MSHS students and staff in celebration. The event began with a welcome from Uncle John Stanley, followed by the presentation of the school's NAIDOC Senior & Junior Person Awards. A performance was then given by the girl student dancers, whose captivating routine added a rich texture to the event. Various stalls from service providers including Darling Downs Health, represented by Councillor Fred Cobbo. The Ration Shed stall engaged students in crafting message sticks that was both fun and educational. Clontarf boys along with Brownie and his team put on a fantastic sausage sizzle. In honor of the attending Elders, the school organised an afternoon tea, providing an atmosphere of appreciation and reflection.



NAIDOC For Our Elders at Ny-Ku Byan (Our Home)

Two funding submissions, many, many months of planning, several attempts at event promotion and continued commitment and efforts from a number of Pinangba employees! That is what it took for this years Ny-ku Byun Elders Village NAIDOC event to go ahead.

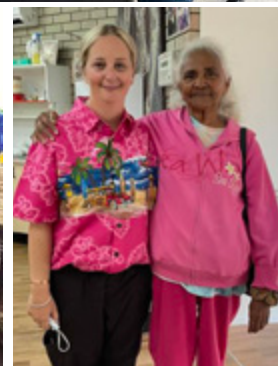
At the start of NAIDOC week, it was raining but that didn't dampen our spirits, we were determined to celebrate with and For Our Elders, whatever it took because our elders deserve it! Thankfully, Our Ancestors knew this and brought the sun out and the day was filled with immense joy! The Ny-Ku Byan "For Our Elders" NAIDOC event turned out better than any of us expected and our hearts were full.

It is an honour to work with Our Elders, I hear their stories and it often brings tears to my eyes. They endured the past injustices, and did it tough, their struggle paved the way for us and for future generations to walk with our heads held high, to celebrate and be proud of what is the oldest living culture in the world!

I have said it before and I will say it again, what you don't see, is that Our Elders..... Our knowledge holders, our trailblazers..... often come to these villages and rarely receive visitors. So, this event was not just any event, it was an opportunity to honour Our Elders and I believe we succeeded! Thank you to those that travelled far and wide to celebrate what will be a day to remember for a long time to come!

Our Elders will not be the forgotten ones; they will forever be remembered through their stories, their strength and their actions." **Residential Service Manager – Shane Lacey**

As a Senior Police Liaison Officer (PLO) for the Queensland Police Service (QPS), this event held a special meaning for me. It was uplifting to feel the warm embrace from everyone present, especially the students. My colleague Tom Langton and I were proudly wore the QPS Reconciliation Shirts "Look to the Stars," a sentiment that resonated with the day's purpose. The inclusivity and engagement across different age groups and authorities truly encapsulated the essence of community and respect for our Elders, which NAIDOC week fundamentally stands for.



From Harsh Dormitories to Cherbourg Council:

Nan Eva Reflects on a Life Full of Service and Community

For Our Elders

Nan Eva Collins, who turned 100 years old last December, has been a resident of Ny-Ku Byun Elders Village since 2006. Taken from her family in Charleville in 1932 aged just 9, Ms Collins was moved to the Cherbourg Aboriginal Mission, where she spent her youth at the girls' dormitories. "After school, I didn't go out to work like the other girls had to," she recounted. "I was always so skinny – they thought I was sickly, so they put me at the hospital to work instead."

"But I worked harder at the hospital than anywhere else! It was owned by the State Government at the time, and there was nothing modern about it – we had to get on our knees and scrub the floor. It was very hard work," Nan Eva said.

After working at the local hospital for several years, she was then appointed as the person in charge of the girls' dormitory – the place she herself was forced to stay. "It was a big two-storey building," Nan Eva explained.

"They wouldn't let us go out alone or with our relatives.

They even had a place where they used to lock up the girls who would run away from their jobs. "It was a hard life, but you got used to it. We knew we were safe; we had good people looking after us." For her work as the dormitory supervisor, she received an Imperial Service Medal in 1979.

After growing up in Cherbourg, Ms Collins stayed in the Burnett, becoming one of the first-ever residents of the town to be appointed to the Cherbourg Community Council, which would later become the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council.

"I got married here [in Cherbourg], I got divorced here. I've been through the works!" she joked.

When asked about the elders' day event at Ny-Ku Byun, Nan Eva said she had a great time, adding the town "never had anything like it" back in the day.

"Once a fortnight, we used to go to dances at the hall – after that, we were escorted back to the dormitories," she said. "What I like most about Cherbourg is the friendship," Nan Eva said about her hometown.

"Here at the Village it's nice and friendly too. There's more freedom now, too. You can go out anywhere."

Regarding her secret to a long and fulfilling life, the Cherbourg elder said it was all about keeping healthy habits. "We never smoked or drank – never got a chance to," Nan Eva explained. "But looking back on it now, I'm glad they wouldn't allow it because I never got caught up in it!"

Cherbourg paid its respects to the town's beloved elders during a special NAIDOC Week event at Ny-Ku Byun Elders' Village in July. Residents of the Uniting Care-affiliated retirement village treated to lunch and live entertainment as well as given the chance to share their stories with Cherbourg's emerging generations. Our Cherbourg Wakka Wakka Dancer put on a display followed by the Cherbourg Youth Advisory Group's Gundoo Dancers.

Edgar Conlon sang acoustic ballads as the residents and visitors ate their lunch, and the event's attendees got the chance to yarn with Cherbourg's

elders and view a selection of artworks created by the residents at Ny-Ku Byun.

Mia Hampson, the Strategy Manager at Pinangba – the First Nations-led, independent business unit of UnitingCare which operates the Ny-Ku Byun Village at Cherbourg – helped organise the NAIDOC Week event for the residents. 'Ny-Ku Byun' means 'our home', and 'Pinangba' is actually also a Wakka Wakka word, which means 'remember'. It's really culturally-connected here. To her, 2023's NAIDOC Week theme was the perfect opportunity to show the village's elders just how appreciated and valuable they are. Kelly Hillier, admin officer at Ny-Ku Byun Elders Village, agreed.

"This NAIDOC Week theme is so important to us because of where we are here," she explained.

"We're here to look after our elders, so we really wanted to make it special for them and put in a lot of effort to make them realise how appreciated they are and how much of their culture they pass on to all of us," Ms Hillier said.



Original Story by
Julian Lehnert -Burnett Today








Congratulations to Bin Day Bingo Winners

Bin Day Bingo has painted many Tuesdays with excitement. Our winners over the last few months have happily embraced a \$150 shopping voucher, a welcome reward for their weekly eco-conscious habits. Every yellow-lid bin on the curb is another step to a greener tomorrow. It really is great to see our community, with every passing week, growing more keen on getting waste its right place. The Bingo balls will roll again next month, so let's keep the yellow-lid parade marching every Tuesday! Your green initiative could fetch you the next coveted \$150 shopping voucher.



Yellow Lid Bins goes out **TUESDAY** - Green Lid Bins goes out Monday and Thursday & Bulk Rubbish picked up **AFTER** Midday on Monday and Thursday

WHAT BIN - WHAT DAY?						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
X			X		X	X



CASC Team Spotlight

Shout out to JJ (Jeffery J) Alberts! a proud Wakka Wakka man, who joined our Joinery Workshop as a trade assistant recently, JJ is playing a crucial role in maintaining our joinery shed and constantly growing his skills. Learning key cutting, how to build and install kitchens, wardrobes, vanities, and is on his way to becoming a master cabinet maker. One of the highlights of his journey so far? JJ crafted the stunning trophies for our NAIDOC Week awards! Join us in celebrating JJ's dedication and hard work. We're excited to see where his journey takes him next. Keep up the fantastic work, JJ!



YAG - Bridging Generations

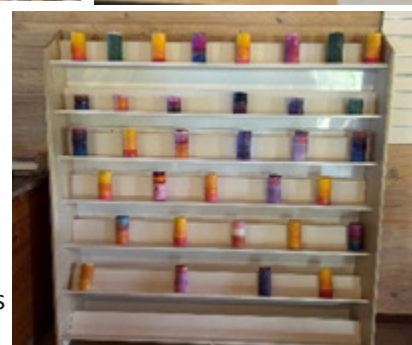
Cherbourg's Youth and Culture Flourish Together

August and September have seen a buzz of activity under the Indigenous Youth Connection to Culture (IYCC) initiative, thanks to the engaging efforts of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG). Our team leaders and youth officers have been relentless in their community engagement, fostering meaningful relationships with not only our Cherbourg youth but the community at large and several stakeholders. This period has showcased a blend of traditional knowledge and new skills, nurturing both the mind and the spirit of our youth.

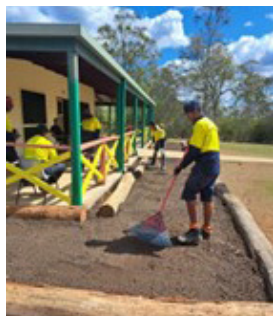


One of the many highlights during these two months was the collaborative efforts between our staff, YAG members, and various local entities like TAFE, the Office for Youth, Gnarla, Many Rivers, DATSIP, Felicity Aitken, and more. The goal is to create a supportive ecosystem that aids the holistic development of our young people. These partnerships have paved the way for some exciting ventures.

A series of workshops orchestrated alongside Felicity have kicked off, where YAG and community members dived into the therapeutic art of candle making for our community Shop. Our young ladies took the reins, cleaning, and setting up the shop, making it ready to welcome the community. The venture didn't stop at candles; retail floristry training was also on the agenda, adding another feather in the cap of skills our youth are garnering.



It was a scene of unity and hard work as community volunteers, Skill Centred personnel, the young men from Silver Lining School, and Shae, a devoted teacher, rolled up their sleeves to beautify the Emu Farm's gardens and ponds. The search is now on for grant opportunities to sustain and expand these uplifting workshops and potentially create employment avenues.



In a YAG meeting held on September 5th, the health of our young people and upcoming workshops were the focal points of discussion.

The enthusiasm is sky-high as the YAG team has embarked on planning an invigorating Youth Festival slated for early next year.

Levi from the Indigenous Futures Foundation came through for us by procuring some cafe equipment from a restaurant, a gesture that could be the starting point for a new community café???

School holiday time and we are thrilled to welcome a young Cherbourg woman to the YAG team. She'll be volunteering and completing her work placement for her CERT IV in Youth Work, blending academic pursuits with real-world community service. Here's to more learning, growing, and thriving together!





Us Mob - Our Cherbourg Voice

"Our Voice - Your Choice"

Cherbourg's very own radio station celebrated 25 years at its Barambah Avenue headquarters on 11 September 2023.

Cherbourg Radio, also known as 4UM – for 'Us Mob' – or by its 94.1FM frequency, has officially broadcast local music, local news and local voices from the First Nations community for a quarter of a century now, but its origins as a paragon of community media goes back even further. The practice of broadcasting music and shows from and throughout Cherbourg originated in the 1980's, with dedicated radio hosts transmitting from a number of pop-up locations like the town's old courthouse.



Kevin Watson, Ken Bone and Mertil (Doodie) Bond 1997
Inside the broadcast bus on loan from the ABC
which served as an early radio station.

That same year, Cherbourg's radio station moved into its now-iconic headquarters on Barambah Avenue, occupying and remodelling the space of what was once a canteen building during the town's settlement era. The move to brick-and-mortar in 1998 gave birth to the station's official 4UM callsign, and members of the community and council worked together to fundraise for equipment to outfit the town's brand-new radio station.

Over the following two-and-a-half decades, the station received different licenses, shut down briefly in 2017, and re-emerged under the supervision of Cherbourg's council soon after. Cherbourg Radio has seen numerous well-known local musicians and community legends pass through its hallowed halls and studios, including as managers and announcers. Household Cherbourg names like Merrill Doodie Bond, Mick Thaiday and Jeanette Brown have called 4UM home, and as Cherbourg Radio heads toward its

third decade in operation a range of new talent have taken up leadership roles both in the studio and out in the community.



"At first we didn't have modern technology – the antenna was tied to a post on the verandah," said late Cherbourg councillor and one of the radio station's longest-serving announcers, Rory Boney, in 2008. "Our music was played from cassette tapes only – no CDs or computers back in those days. "Most of the music was borrowed from our listeners in the community. Murri Request Hour was very popular, playing [our] listeners' favourite songs. "We had several call signs such as 4CAS meaning Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement, 4US Murries, or just Cherbourg Radio," he added. Radio in Cherbourg became more established over time, with then-mayor Ken Bone approaching the ABC in the early 1990's to negotiate a broadcast licence. After training workshops, two 'special event broadcasts' and one rejection, Cherbourg received its official low-powered open narrowcast licence in 1998, then transmitting at 87.8FM.



The Late Ken Bone and Rory Boney - Passionate about Community



Former Station Manager - Jeanette Brown
and Broadcaster Chrissy Collier-Bond with local students



Long Serving Broadcasters Harold "Big Chance" Chapman and Arlene Langton



Connected to Community

Our Voice - Your Choice - Continued from previous page

One such recent addition to the 94.1FM family has been Kimberly Barrett, who joined the station in mid-2020. Kimberly's involvement with Cherbourg Radio came about coincidentally; while on a job-hunt she was approached by station coordinator Michael Monk who suggested she have a go at radio. Bringing her decade-and-a-half's worth of experience in administration work to the table, Kimberly quickly got stuck in, first doing local 'shout-out' sports on air then exploring the technical side of broadcast.

Now, she can be seen out and about in the community, yarning with Cherbourg's residents, capturing livestreams and photos of important events, and hosting her own show.



Michael Monk - Station Coordinator
with Broadcasters Tara Priestly and Kimberly Barrett

This last part, Kimberly explained, was her favourite aspect of working at Cherbourg Radio; listening to herself on the air and knowing others are listening in, too. "I've learnt a lot as a person, too – about community, supporting your work mates, having a cuppa with them," she said. "Many visitors come, and I like sitting down to have a yarn with them and ask them how their journey's been. "[Radio] is a passion, now." Station coordinator Michael Monk is similarly thrilled with how Cherbourg Radio has become a community mainstay. "When you think about this little station and what it means to the community, it's quite significant," he said. "The station did close down for a short period [between 2017 and 2018] and it was at that time that the community as a whole came to really appreciate what it means to have that local voice," Michael, who was appointed station coordinator in 2018 in an effort to 'revive' the broadcaster, explained.

"We're very active in the community and so we're instrumental, quite often, in actually providing the opportunity or platform for people to speak." Having come to Cherbourg 12 years ago for what started out as just a short stint, Michael now feels truly at home in the Burnett's First Nations community, and his network of local knowledge and friends is growing steadily.

"[Cherbourg Radio] has opened up a huge opportunity, even just in my personal journey," he said. "It's really held a mirror up to myself and it's helped me to grow."



Original Story by
Julian Lehnert -Burnett Today


IT'S TIME TO

SNUFF OUT SNIFFING

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION?

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO LOCK UP YOUR MOWER FUEL

A LITTLE MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY CHERBOURG SNIFFING COMMITTEE

 Darling Downs Health
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Indigenous Liaison Service AT CHERBOURG AND MURGON HOSPITAL

Our Indigenous Liaison Service provides culturally appropriate support to First Nation patients and their families throughout their hospital stay or appointment.

We can help with:


- Patient advocacy
- Personal support
- Providing information about hospital services
- Organising referrals to other services.

Telehealth also available!

Available 7 days a week
8am to 8pm – Monday to Friday
8am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you want to chat or need support, let the staff know or contact us on
0417 285 132

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

 Queensland Government

Ending RHD Together

The Healthy Skin Healthy Heart clinic visited Cherbourg and Murgon in March and June this year, creating awareness around the connection between skin and heart health. A follow up International Legends of League promotional day took place in early July, continuing the healthy skin and heart focus and boasting Selwyn Cobbo as special guest.

More than 1200 South Burnett residents have taken part in the program to improve their skin health, and in turn their overall health and wellbeing. As part of Darling Downs Health's wholistic approach, skin checks, treatment and environmental health support were rolled out alongside community resources. Flyers, radio messaging and short video explained the potential for skin infections to cause acute rheumatic fever, which can lead to rheumatic heart disease.



At the pop-up clinics, healthcare workers from the Darling Downs Public Health Unit and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health team, along with health professionals from Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Toowoomba conducted skin checks and screening for rheumatic heart disease for people aged between five and 20 years.

As well as focusing on prevention and community education, the Healthy Skin Healthy Heart program offered education sessions. These sessions, hosted by Darling Downs Health, the Menzies School of Health Research and Queensland Health, were offered to doctors, nurses and health workers in the region to raise awareness and promote early diagnosis of rheumatic heart disease.

"Rheumatic heart disease is a serious disease, but the good news is that it is preventable," Darling Downs Public Health Physician Dr Priya Janagaraj said.

"This serious condition disproportionately affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with about 3-5 percent of Aboriginal people living in remote and rural areas with the disease."

"There is a direct correlation between having healthy skin and a healthy heart," Dr. Janagaraj said.

A simple course of antibiotics can treat Group A Streptococcus infection in the skin or throat but if these infections remain untreated, they can lead to acute rheumatic fever, which causes an inflammatory response in the body. Over time, recurrent episodes can damage the valves located in the heart causing a permanent condition known as rheumatic heart disease.



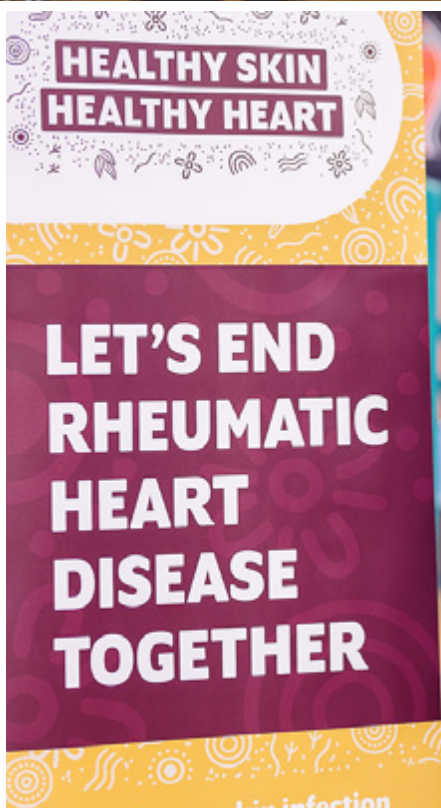
"Preventing Strep A infections in the skin or throat and treating it early with antibiotics is key to eliminating RHD," Dr Janagaraj said.

"This early screening will help to identify kids with rheumatic heart disease and provide an opportunity to stop the progression of heart damage," Dr. Janagaraj said.

For more information use the QR code here to find Healthy Skin, Healthy Heart resources on the Darling Downs Health Website.

If you have a sore throat or skin sore, visit your doctor or local community controlled health service today.





Cherbourg Preventative and Chronic Disease Clinic



Cherbourg Community
Health Building

Phone the Team on
4169 8931

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 4.30pm

All chronic disease and outpatient
appointments have been moved to
this Clinic



Cherbourg Community Health Service 07 41698900

Email DDHHS_STAY@health.qld.gov.au

Lifeline (available 24 hours) 13 11 14 | Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636

13 Yarn 13 92 76

Karis Ross: 0467 615 604



Darling Downs Health
Indigenous Health

Queensland
Government

A Heart to Heart on Health

Connect, Listen and Empower - Having a Healthy Yarn

In the heart of Cherbourg, CRAICCHS the Cherbourg Regional Aboriginal and Islander Community Controlled Health Services is looking after the health and well-being of our mob not only in Cherbourg but also in the wider South Burnett Region. Over the past months, CRAICCHS has been busy as always making sure our mob stays healthy and connected. Connection creates understanding, which is why you will see our Indigenous Health workers active all over our community, with a range of engagement activities at and outside of our Cherbourg and Kingaroy clinics.



In recent months these have included our team participating in community driven forums, triggered by a recent alarming surge in youth crime, at the last Youth Crime Forum, our partnership extended to working with South Burnett CTC to deliver a community BBQ. Part of the bigger community concerns has also been **Sniffing and Inhalant Dangers**: This has been a big discussion and a lot of awareness and education, we are working in partnership with families, and local stakeholders, we have talked openly about the dangers of sniffing inhalants and shared ways to help our at-risk youth in a loving and compassionate way. It's all about supporting them with care and understanding.



Liver Health: Where we teamed up with Hepatitis Queensland to run the Hep C and Love Your Liver Clinic. Our crew went to Cherbourg and Kingaroy to do liver scans and Hep checks. This helped our mob learn about keeping our livers healthy and why regular check-ups are important.

Mental Health: is a big focus for us, aside from our weekly pop-up stations around community where mob can sit, have a quiet cuppa and a yarn, we also supported our Cherbourg Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) on RUOK Day with a community march and BBQ at Cherbourg Wakka Wakka park. This day reminded us to ask each other, "are you OK?" and shows the strong support we have for each other in our community.

Honouring Our Elders: We host regular clinics and visits at our Ny KuByan Elders Village, to pay respect and check on the health and well-being of our elders. This years NAIDOC them is "For Our Elders", so we went the extra mile to host a special morning tea with our elders during NAIDOC week in community, it was more than just health checks; it was about showing care and respect to those who led the way for us.

Early Healthcare: At our Cherbourg and Kingaroy Clinics, we've been recently pushing for 6-month immunisations to keep our little ones safe. We even offered an Immunisation Pack Incentive to encourage parents to stick to the immunisation schedule.

Women's and Men's Health: We've had special events, field trips and discussions for our women and men to talk about health, learn from each other, and grow stronger together.



There is so much more to CRAICCHS, and it all starts with a 715 health check, this includes supports with NDIS, AODS, and Dental Health: Navigating the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), dealing with alcohol and other drugs, and keeping our smiles bright with dental check-ups are all part of a whole range of ways we are here to support our mob. At CRAICCHS, we're not just about health services; we're about being health partners with our community. We celebrate our culture and encourage everyone to take steps to look after their health. We're inviting you to join us on this health journey, where we respect our culture, support each other, and look after our whole well-being. Together, we make Cherbourg and the South Burnett Region a strong, healthy, and connected community.

Approaching Youth About the Dangers of Sniffing

Sniffing in our community has seen an increase in recent months, an issue that has frustrated and led to great concern from the wider community. It is important we understand the dangers of sniffing inhalants. It is also vital to understand this and know how to compassionately approach our young ones who might be engaging in this harmful activity. Sniffing substances can lead to severe health issues, including potential brain damage. It's often a result of curiosity or peer pressure, but the consequences can be dire. When addressing this with a young one, it's essential you remain calm and avoid passing judgment. Choose a peaceful environment where they feel at ease, and ensure you both have ample time for an open conversation.

Express your genuine concern for their well-being, saying things like, "I've noticed something, and I'm genuinely worried about you."

Encourage them to share their feelings and experiences, listening attentively without any interruptions. This shows them that you value and respect their perspective. While discussing, provide them with straightforward information about the dangers of sniffing, avoiding any scare tactics. Offer them your unwavering support, suggesting healthier coping mechanisms and activities they might enjoy.

If necessary, involve other trusted adults in the conversation, such as parents or counsellors, to offer additional guidance. Set clear boundaries, emphasizing that inhalant abuse is harmful and won't be supported. If the behaviour persists, consider seeking professional assistance from therapists or counsellors experienced in this area.

Tackling this issue requires love, patience, and understanding. We might encounter varied reactions, including denial or frustration, but our primary goal is to foster a nurturing community that steers our youth towards safer choices.

Together, as a united community, we can pave the way for positive change.



it's time to
Snuff out Sniffing
Here are some handy tips on
how you can help if you see
someone sniffing

Approach them slowly (if it's safe and you feel comfortable doing so)

Avoid scaring them— don't chase them, tell them off or get angry.

(Feeling scared or running can raise someone's heart rate. There is a risk of someone's heart stopping if their heart rate is elevated while sniffing)

Do your best to stay calm and positive.
(They might be more likely to talk to you)

Encourage them to tip the petrol out (don't wrestle them for it)

Offer them some water. If they can swallow water, then it's safe to offer some food.

Call a family member, someone who the young person respects, or a support service (e.g CRAICCHS AODS, CTC, QLD Health AODS)

(A message brought to you by Cherbourg Sniffing Committee)

Integrated Team Care



WE CAN HELP WITH CARE FOR

- DIABETES
- CANCER
- CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASE
- CHRONIC RENAL DISEASE
- MENTAL HEALTH

We are here for mob



Every Day Counts

Clontarf Boys Academy Update

Term 3

The MSHS Clontarf Academy had a full on term with Morning Trainings , Afternoon Activities, Camps , Carnivals and the Major trip for the Year 12's and a handful of Lucky Year 11's

1st Up it was the Year 7 – 9 boys going across to Toowoomba and competing against the other Darling Downs academies in AFL – 9's . They won most of their games but got beaten in the Semi's with a close game. The boys went really well considering they are all league players but gave it a go anyway.

Next was the Snr trip to Cairns. Some of our boys have

been in Clontarf since year 4 and now in year 12 are getting to graduate and go on these amazing trips. Everyday was something different with Mosman Gorge tours and swimming holes down to Babinda Boulders. We had a pit stop at Yarrabah where some boys caught up with family and the rest cracked open fresh coconuts on the beach and had a yarn. One of the Highlights would be the Villa Cook offs. The boys had to pick a meal and prepare it for staff and each other and got judged on it like My Kitchen Rules. The Year 12's + 1 year 11 served up a restaurant quality dish that won just on presentation alone. We got a Worksite visit in with Svitzer and a tour of Cairns Port and the Tug Boats that help the cruise ships on and off the reef.

The 10 + 11 fullas had a big couple days at the Gold Coast with the Annual Beach Rugby 5's. The boys went down a few short

due to footy final in the SB league but had a mad time anyway. They seen movies in 4d and got plenty of exercise and sun on the beach.

Next term on Wednesday the 18th October is The Annual Clontarf Awards Afternoon. We would love to see as many families and community there to help celebrate the incredible year these young men have had.



clontarf
foundation



Cherbourg State School

WE ARE STRONG, WE ARE SMART, WE ARE SAFE
NGARINGA TARING, NGARINGA BIYANANGGA MAU, NGARINGA YA-OR NGAN'YA
Fisher Street, Cherbourg QLD 4605 T: (07) 4169 9333
E: principal@cherbourgss.eq.edu.au
Cherbourg State School www.cherbourgss.eq.edu.au



Thank you to the NRL for coming out and working with our students.

Not only did our students have a great day, but they also had the opportunity to hone in on their skills on the football field and develop some great teamworking strategies.



A Message from Mr Boyd McLean - School Principal

Thank you for a great term 3. I believe strongly that we need three parties working together to make a great school. We need great students (which we have), incredibly driven teachers (we absolutely have a fantastic team) and we need supportive and engaged community and families, and this is evident by the way our families and community engage with our school. I would like to acknowledge all of the work that all of these three groups engaged in, as this has made for an absolutely brilliant term.



Lots of Highlights for Term 3 - including weekly spots on UsMob Cherbourg Radio, Year 7 Transition Visit to Murgon High, RUOK Day, Arts, Science and a big congratulations to Elvie Saltner for making it to the Queensland Athletics carnival....





Kindergarten Enrolments

NOW OPEN FOR 2024

FOR MORE INFO: 4169 9333
OR SEE ADMIN STAFF





UPDATE FROM THE BARAMBAH YOUTH SERVICES HUB

Barambah Youth Services Hub continues to provide a range of services to meet the health, wellbeing and social needs of young people across the South Burnett and Cherbourg communities. Located on Gore Street, Murgon (up from the Murgon State High School administration building), services are available to **all youth (aged 6 to and including 24)**.

The Youth Hub team (Gaye O'Sullivan and Matthew Malone) can assist you with navigating access to a confidential appointment. Did you know that the Youth Hub has a range of wellbeing services available (psychologists, counsellors and social workers), and a doctor (through the GP in Schools program), that can help if something is worrying you?

Recent Events

7 September 2023 – Rural Health Skills Expo

As part of a week long focus on careers, Southern Queensland Rural Health provided young people with an opportunity to explore rural health skills from a variety of health disciplines, including psychology, midwifery, nursing, exercise physiology and social work.



8 September 2023 – Careers Expo

The annual Careers Expo provided an opportunity for youth to explore a variety of employment opportunities. The over 20 stalls on display created the perfect environment for young people to focus on their future career directions! The many highlights from the day included: the live broadcast by Cherbourg Radio, informative presentations; a performance by an Australian Army band; and some fabulous material and activities provided by the stall holders.



Upcoming Programs/trainings

-Prep L Registration and Support: 3pm-5pm Thursdays (weekly). South Burnett CTC are offering Prep L support, to assist young people with gaining the knowledge to obtain their learner's licence. This includes the registration fee for the Prep L program.

-QUT Optometry Clinic: 4 October 2023. QUT School of Optometry will be providing free eye tests and prescription lenses.

-UniSC Griffith Roadshow: 10 October 2023. UniSC and Griffith University will deliver a workshop covering a diverse array of study areas to expose young people to a wide spectrum of career paths.

Please contact the Youth Services Hub if you have any questions or require support accessing a service:

Telephone: 41 729 728 Email: BarambahYouthServicesHub@qed.qld.gov.au

Opening Hours: 8:30am - 5:00pm, Monday – Friday (inclusive of school holiday periods).

Community Corrections dates for the rest of the year at the Cherbourg Courthouse are:

Wednesday 11th October – Cherbourg M/C & Murri Court (as required)

Wednesday 25th October

Wednesday 15th November

Wednesday 22nd November – Cherbourg M/C & Murri Court (as required)

Wednesday 29th November

Wednesday 6th December – Cherbourg M/C & Murri Court (as required)

Wednesday 13th December

Your appointment is scheduled – don't miss it!

If you need to check your reporting date or for any questions, please call your Case Manager at Community Corrections on 07 4172 8600.





School Leader – Pathways for Engagement Reconnect to Success Project

A massive thank you to Cherbourg Council and Mayor Elvie Sandow for offering to donate resources to our Reconnect to Success Project. The boys travelled to the Council Depot last fortnight to select a number of secondhand resources they could utilise for their Community Garden initiative. Some of the resources included old planks of timber and pallets to be used for shelving, an old tank the boys can utilise for a garden bed, and sheets of tin and paint for signage. The boys are also pretty eager to get this lawn mower back up and running as their future project.

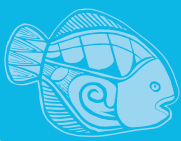
Another key focus of the Reconnect to Success Project is ensuring the students have opportunities to build their confidence in curriculum-related concepts – skills they can transfer back into classroom contexts. Currently, the boys are building their numeracy skills on topics that are related to what they are learning in Maths this term. Time, length, measurement, geometry, area and perimeter – all concepts that are directly transferable to their Community Garden project. Establishing connections between the classroom and real-life application is an effective tool when considering meaningful learning and engagement.



Ration Shed Partnership – Girls Program

The Ration Shed and Murgon State High School have teamed up! Ration Shed employees and local Elders have offered to visit our school to deliver a 5-week pilot program for a group of our Indigenous Year 7/8 girls. The program aims to connect the girls with Wakka Wakka culture and Cherbourg history. We can see the girls painting their first project, a wooden dingo art piece. Once they finish, they will have the opportunity to publicly display it in the Ration Shed Museum. The girls are taking great pride in their creations. We hope that this opportunity is the start of a sustained partnership between Murgon SHS and the Ration Shed, allowing more girls to engage in this experience in Term 4 and beyond. Thank you to Nellee and Gwen (Murgon SHS), and Carl Simpson and Nicola Tizzard (Ration Shed) for dedicating your time and efforts to this initiative.

ABSTUDY helps you make the most of school



ABSTUDY line: **1800 132 317**



Services
Australia

servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy

Starting at a new high school, university or TAFE is a big change.

It could even mean moving away and leaving home.

ABSTUDY is there to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians with the costs of study.

How do you make a claim?

This depends on whether you're a high school student or a tertiary student. High school students and their parents or guardians can claim over the phone by calling ABSTUDY on 1800 132 317. Try to claim early, around October, so your ABSTUDY is set up before the school year starts. We need to process your claim before we can help with the cost of travel to and from school.

You don't need to know which payments you can get before you claim. When you call we'll talk with you and work out which ones are right for you.

Tertiary students and Australian Apprentices can claim online.

You'll need a Centrelink account linked to myGov to do this. You can claim up to 13 weeks before your course or apprenticeship starts. When you claim, we'll ask for details about the school and living arrangements, why you need to study away from home, plus details like tax file numbers, documents that prove your identity and how much your parents or guardians earn.

You can lodge most of your documents online. This means you may not even need to visit a service centre or a Centrelink Agent.

For more information about claiming ABSTUDY, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy or call us on 1800 132 317.



SILVER LINING FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA

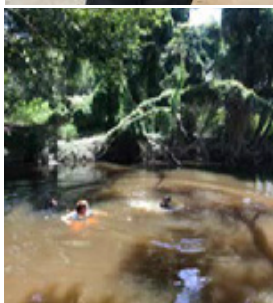
Pathways to Understanding

Nurturing Spirits, Cultivating Futures, and Celebrating our Youth

A letter from Jo Campbell - Principal at Silver Lining School - Ficks Crossing

Many of you will know of Silver Lining, but not sure what happens out our way.

We have two schools now, for the Young Men, and the Young Women. Both schools run separately, although sometimes we try and do activities together. In many ways, our young people are learning to love learning again. Mainstream school can be stressful for many young people, and so we do things a little differently. Understanding that we prioritise the whole young person, not just literacy and numeracy and more traditional forms of schooling.



Learning about how to manage your big emotions, your relationships and what are your responsibilities within your family and community are also fundamental things to learn about. Learning the stories of this land, connecting to country and culture are important pieces of the puzzle.

Kids ask for love sometimes in the most unloving ways, so we are often dealing with behaviours that show that our young people are hurting.

We also do laughs, kindness, love, fun, loud, food, new skills, Ranger Program, Floristry, camps, fishing, trips, art, sport.... and so much more.

We work with local schools to ensure that young people have the best opportunity to thrive, either by being at Silver Lining for a short time to get things sorted, or a long time to finish high school learning. We are very lucky to have a staff team that work hard to bring out the best in each and every young person.

We often hear that Silver Lining is for the bad kids... I would argue that there are not bad kids, just bad decisions, and we support young people to take responsibility for their mistakes and poor decisions. It's not always easy, but we continue to try.

We will never be a big school, and so currently the Young Men's school is at maximum, however there still are a few spaces in the Young Women's school.

Belonging to a school community that is supportive, kind, authentic, trauma informed and flexible is a protective factor in the lives of disenfranchised young people, our end game is to see them grow into young men and women who have a strong sense of self, their community and their place within it and the broader world.

Give us a wave when you see us cruising around community on pick ups!



Contributing To Community

CTC Youth and Family Services

Culture, Cooking, Care, and Community Connections

Cultural Program – CTC staff have worked in collaboration with Silver Linings this term to deliver a cultural program two days a week. The program seeks to increase engagement and attendance of young men at school. This term saw the young men finish their didgeridoos before cutting out maps of Australia to paint. There has also been time spent exploring the bush around Cherbourg.

Safe Haven – did you know we conduct weekly healthy cooking programs at our Connections office in Murgon for people involved in our Safe Haven Program? These sessions focus on preparing budget-friendly healthy meals for the whole family whilst giving people the opportunity to engage with other families at the same time. There is often a variety of delicious meals being prepared that participants can take home. Link in with our Safe Haven team by having a yarn to us in community or giving us a call on 4169 5940.



NAIDOC Week - CTC were excited to participate in NAIDOC Week activities in Cherbourg celebrating the theme "For our Elders". Recognising the role our Elders have played, and continue to play, in our communities and families.



CTC Disability Services

Kendall Siddans works as a Client Contact Officer with CTC Disability Services.

He is based in Kingaroy and visits the Murgon / Cherbourg area once a fortnight. Kendall is happy to answer your questions around applying for the NDIS, can assist you with understanding your NDIS plan and linking with the local NDIS Providers and services in the area.

If you would like to arrange a time to speak to Kendall you can either contact him by phone on 0499 603 066 or email kendalls@sbctc.com.au. Otherwise, drop into the Connections Office in Murgon and they will be more than happy to assist you in arranging a time for you to meet with Kendall.



CTC Partners in Foster Care

We urgently need more foster carers to provide safe and loving homes for the growing number of children and young people who are unable to live at home with their own families. More foster carers will help us to provide safe homes for children and young people within their own communities and maintain connections to family, culture and country. While you are required to hold a valid Blue Card, you don't require any special set of skills when you apply to become a foster carer. Partners in Foster Care provide ongoing training and will support you through the process.

Do you think that you could foster a child and help us keep children and young people within their own community? If you do, or if you are interested in finding out more about foster caring, please take that first step and give us a call on 4169 0587.



How to access a CTC service

- Talk to us in community – see the Patrol team when they are travelling around or our Safe Haven Team at community events
- Drop in and see us at the CTC Connections Office at 35 Lamb Street Murgon
- Call our Murgon office on 4169 5940
- Email the Murgon team on connections@sbctc.com.au

Closing the Gap



How Selwyn Inspires Generations

Original Story by and Reprinted here with permission Peter Badel - Courier Mail

His exploits on the rugby league field are legendary, but then Selwyn Cobbo comes from something of a sporting dynasty. The pride of his great great grandfather's achievements, however, are marred by what he had to endure just to play for his state. Selwyn Cobbo didn't realise he was making a difference until he saw the difference with his own eyes. He only celebrated his 21st birthday this year, but being a Broncos rugby league star has forced him to grow up quickly and appreciate the power of flying the flag for his Indigenous people. The kid from Cherbourg with the 1000-kilowatt smile once idolised Queensland Origin legend Greg Inglis and dreamt of playing for the Broncos.

Now Cobbo is living his dream.

And beyond the trappings of NRL fame, Cobbo has a greater purpose – to emulate Inglis and South Sydney superstar Latrell Mitchell by being an Indigenous influencer. While he charges through gaps on the football field, he wants to close the gap off it: a living, breathing example of homespun success, driven by sacrifice and self-belief.

"I think sometimes Indigenous kids lack confidence or might feel some shame to go for things in life, but I'm trying to make a change for Aboriginal people," he said. "Growing up I idolised Greg Inglis.

The way he played on the field and also how he carried himself off the field,



he's done a lot for his mob.

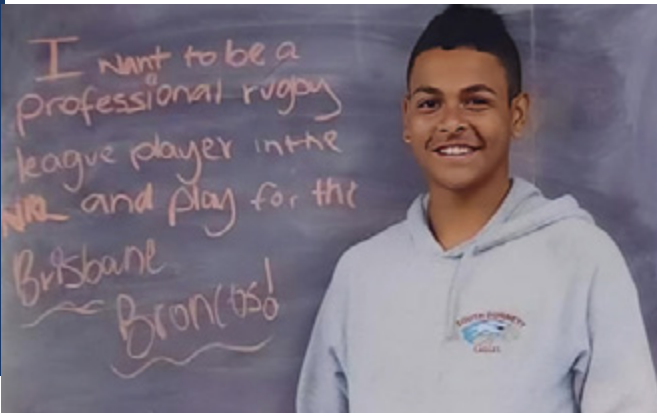
"It puts a smile on my face every time I go home and see the little kids. They come up to me saying, 'you're my hero'. That makes me proud.

"I would love to follow in the path of Latrell and do the things that he does for communities and Indigenous people.

"He does a lot for our people, he is passionate for his people, and I would love to be like that at the Broncos.

"It means a lot to me. I see myself as a young leader."

Before he even understood the term, Cobbo has been a trailblazer.



He attended Murgon State High, 6km from his hometown, and in the school's 75-year existence, no Indigenous boy had ever been school captain. Then Selwyn Cobbo broke the mould... made history... closed the gap.

Since his ascension, two other Indigenous kids have followed suit. "That achievement, becoming school captain, did a lot for me as a person," Cobbo said.

"I actually went for the sports captain, but everyone said I should put my hand up to be school captain.

"They said I had the ability and the leadership to do it, so I applied and I got it.

"It was a huge shock for me. I didn't think I was good enough for that position, but I feel that role helped prepare me for life after school."

To understand the meteoric rise of Cobbo, who made



his State of Origin debut three days after his 20th birthday, you need to spool back to explore the hardships his own flesh and blood were forced to endure. The Broncos rookie's family tree extends to Queensland cricket icon Eddie Gilbert, who is the great great grandfather to Cobbo. During his 23-game first-class career for Queensland, Gilbert famously dismissed Don Bradman for a duck in a Sheffield Shield game at the Gabba in 1931. Bradman described the five balls from Gilbert, who took 87 wickets at 28.97, as the fastest spell he faced in his decorated career. In a quirk of fate, Cobbo played his first ever game at the Gabba

Hornets U14s Bring it Home

Make Some Noise for our Cherbourg Boys

Original Story by SouthBurnett.com.au



While our A Grade Hornets team were not able to lift Premiership trophy this year, the clash between Chinchilla and Cherbourg in the Under 14s Grand Final was a different story, an arm-wrestle for the first 15 minutes.

The Bulldogs drew first blood with a try to Robert Hardy-Thompson.

Just before half-time, a desperate try-saving kick over the dead ball line by the Bulldogs gave back possession to Cherbourg from a goal line drop out. Kobe Saltner made the most of the opportunity and his try was converted by Lewis Hopkins.

Cherbourg almost scored again but were just short, leaving them ahead 6-4 at half-time.

Hornets scored first in the second half, via Lewis Hopkins, with Quayden Langton taking the successful kick. Ethan Underwood then hit back for Chinchilla, taking the score to 12-8. But Cherbourg weren't finished. Lewis Hopkins converted his own try with two minutes left, and Marlon Cobbo scored in the corner after the full-time siren. The final score was 22-8.



Selwyn Inspires....Continued from page 22

in July, some 92 years later. Sprinting on the same blades of grass as Gilbert, he scored a hat-trick in a man-of-the-match performance to inspire a 24-16 defeat of expansion rivals the Dolphins. Cobbo's magic was a world away from Gilbert's adversity of the 1930s, when the Aboriginal population was viewed as a "dying race". Under the Aborigines Protection Act, Gilbert needed written permission to travel from his Indigenous settlement in Cherbourg each time he played for Queensland in a first-class match.

The dark-skinned fast bowler was banned from rooming with his white teammates. Instead, he was made to sleep in a tent on a nearby practice pitch. Gilbert died at age 72, having battled alcoholism in his later years.

Such a tale has driven the Cobbo clan to bury the pain of segregation and strive for betterment. "Everything starts at home," says Cobbo's father Shamus. "Sitting around the dinner table, we taught all our kids, including Selwyn, what's right from wrong.

"We taught respect and discipline. "We always told Selwyn, you treat people how you want to be treated. I'm so proud of the man Selwyn has become.

"When I drive to work, kids will be singing out to me, 'where's Selwyn Cobbo, when's he coming home?' I say he's training at the Broncos.

"I can't put into words what he is achieving for Indigenous kids out here in the bush. Just his encouragement.

"Kids say they want to be like Selwyn Cobbo. The attendance numbers at school are higher because kids want to do what Selwyn is doing."



Cobbo's appeal is just as powerful in the rat race in Brisbane. "When he goes back to Cherbourg, he is royalty. In Brisbane, I've never had a player that's in demand like Selwyn," says his manager Tas Bartlett.

"Whether it's a 10-year-old Indigenous kid to an 80-year-old grandmother, they flock to him.

"It's that cheeky, disarming smile that he's got, he is an engaging guy, he has a special warmth about him.

"He is genuinely proud about being an Indigenous role model.

"Every conversation we have now is how does he build a legacy, create influence, mentor the younger generation and create opportunities for younger Indigenous kids?

"It might not be a sporting career, but how do we educate that person to keep their dream alive and chase their dreams? "He wants kids to know there is a pathway to a better life ... if you want it."

Rising Stars - Big Futures



Photo Credit: Stephen Mowbray Photography

Gallopin' an Sprintin' toward Healthy, Happy Horizons

The rising tide of enthusiasm towards sports and other health-driven outdoor activities among our youth is inspiring. The real charm lies not just in watching our young ones thrive but in the swell of pride and self-esteem among parents and caregivers. Every generation aims for a better, more fulfilled life for the next generation, and it's heartwarming to see that aspiration take shape before our eyes.

A notable young prodigy, Jonathan Carlo, affectionately known as John-John, has captured our hearts and imaginations. Unlike his peers hitting the football paddocks, John-John found his calling in the rodeo arena at the tender age of five. Inspired by dad Huey Carlo, Johnathan embraced the saddle and has been bagging champion rides ever since. In a recent conversation with UsMob Radio, he shared his love for Mini-Bull riding, a talent that has earned him admiration from both peers and teachers at St Mary's College in Kingaroy. A significant highlight of his budding rodeo career was at the Mt Isa Rodeo's Indigenous round earlier this year, where he tied for first with two other riders.

His post-ride celebratory corroboree dance in the ring, a tradition taught by his dad, has captured the hearts of many.

With his current standing at number 8 on the National Rodeo Association rankings for Seven- to Twelve-year-olds, the future seems bright for young John-John.

Cherbourg's Bella Barrett, Gertrude Saltner, and Elvie Saltner are also shining examples of young, healthy, and achieving individuals. Their athletic prowess has earned them a place in the Queensland Athletics Championships in Brisbane, representing the Wide Bay team. Success in this venture could catapult them onto the national stage in Tasmania later this year, further signifying the promising journey of Cherbourg's youth towards brighter futures.

Three future champions check out the Visiting NRL and NRLW trophies ...

