

Cherbourg

Community Newsletter

cherbourg.qld.gov.au **Summer 2023-24 in Review**



The Next Prime Minister of Australia?

After winning a national contest, Cherbourg boy Reuben Simpson got the opportunity of a lifetime in February, travelling to Canberra's Parliament House to meet with Australian politicians including the current Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The 15-year-old 'born and bred' Cherbourg youth, who is currently a boarding student at Marist College Ashgrove in Brisbane, won the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation's 2024 'If I was Prime Minister' competition which earned him a trip to see the PM and talk politics.

Reuben was invited to enter in the contest by the AIEF, through which he receives a scholarship. The competition, he explained, involved him recording and submitting a video outlining his ideas should he become Australia's Prime Minister.

"If I was Prime Minister, I would bring down the cost of living, homelessness and youth crime – I think these all come together and affect each other," Reuben said.

When he learned his video was one of two that had convinced the jury, the Cherbourg youth could not believe his luck.

"I was very excited and proud of myself for accomplishing that," Reuben said.

"My family is proud, too."

Reuben travelled to Canberra on Monday, 12 February and met Australian PM Anthony Albanese that afternoon.

"He [Mr Albanese] was a pretty nice guy," Reuben said. "We made some jokes – he's

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pretty approachable." Reuben and his fellow contest co-winner, Aroha Parkinson from the Northern Territory, also met with other politicians including Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, opposition leader Peter Dutton, and NT senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price. "It was good meeting them – I learned a lot from them about their experiences," Reuben said.

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Reaching for the Skies and Beyond

If I was Prime Minister

(continued from page 1)

The 'If I was Prime Minister' contest winners were also guests at the Anniversary of the Apology to Members of the Stolen Generations commemorative breakfast the next morning, and got to sit in on the Australian Parliament's 'Question Time' segment. Reuben and Aroha were interviewed on national television about their experience, with a spokesperson for the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation saying the two students made a great impression.



"Reuben was an absolute superstar on TV – he was a complete natural with the autocue [teleprompter] in the studio," the AIEF spokesperson said. After graduating college, the Cherbourg youth wants to pursue a career in the Royal Australian Air Force, becoming one of the country's first-ever Indigenous fighter pilots.

"Maybe later on I could fly for NASA – become Cherbourg's first astronaut," Reuben said.

"I want to thank the AIEF for offering me my scholarship and taking me to Canberra to meet the Prime Minister," he added.

Original story with thanks to Burnett Today

New Council Leadership Team Starts Their Four Year Journey

Cherbourg made history again in March, becoming the first Council in Queensland to have its Mayor and Councillors officially declared elected after Saturday's local government elections. Incoming Mayor Bruce Simpson and the four successful councillors were declared on Tuesday March 19th following the Saturday 16th Polling day that saw locals Carla Fisher, Gordon Wragge, Daniel Weazel and Tom Langton elected into councillor positions.

A special meeting to swear in the new team was held in the community's Council Chambers on the Wednesday morning.

Special guests at the meeting were Cherbourg Elders (including Mayor Simpson's mother Aunty Ada Simpson), Council staff members, Cherbourg State School principal Boyd McLean and the school's captains.

Elder Uncle John Warry Stanley was invited to share a prayer before the meeting.

He congratulated the new councillors. "You are now in the footsteps of your former councillors who went before you," he said. "Bruce, it's going to be a challenging one for you. Four years is a long road to travel but in those four years you've got community, you've got people behind you."

He said the councillors were moving into four years of "unknowingness" "It is something that you have within yourself to make changes," he said. "The changes that you make will benefit this whole community, and this whole community will thrive on the decisions that you arrive at."



New Mayor: Bruce Simpson



Our newly elected Mayor Simpson acknowledged all the people, and council members, who had shaped Cherbourg into what it is today.

"The Cherbourg community has spoken," he said. "I guess they want some fresh ideas and new energy. We know that we're not going to get everything right but we know that you (can) show us, and talk to us, bring some solutions, bring some deadly ideas that you can all contribute to this community." CEO Chatur Zala congratulated the new councillors and thanked the previous council.

Returning Officer Eric Law AM was also thanked for his help during the election process. Uncle Eric took the opportunity to speak to the new councillors just as a Cherbourg community member. "I think this is going to be the most crucial Council we've ever had," he said. "I think some of the decisions that you're going to make around this table are really going to shine the light for us as a community. I think the best thing, and again this is my own personal opinion, I think what we need to do is to go back to our culture. Because if you look at it, everything revolves around it. If there's one thing the Referendum taught me is that we have to start (having) self-determination. We have to start determining our own future. I think you councillors are going to have the ability to do that."



New Disaster Warning Systems Roll Out

Keeping our mob informed and safe in the event of a disaster, with new disaster management and warning systems being installed for the community of Cherbourg in February.

When needed, sirens will alert residents to a major emergency that is likely to, or will, impact the community's safety.

The system includes a flood/fire warning siren, a flood camera and flooded road warning signs. The sound of the siren is a signal to community members to seek additional information from a reliable source, such as:

- The advice of police and other authorities on the ground.
- Our local Cherbourg Radio 94.1fm otherwise ABC Radio Wide Bay is the official disaster station
- ABC emergency website has up to date information on emergency situations and weather.
- Cherbourg Regional Council's Facebook page and website.



Also remember to keep your family and friends safe and keep out of floodwaters, flooded creeks and rivers.

Remember: If it's flooded, forget it. The sirens are not a standalone system for alerting the community. Residents should not solely rely on the siren sounding for all hazards. It is important for individuals and households to be responsible for their own personal safety and protection of their property by ensuring they are prepared for emergencies and disasters. Information on emergency preparation is available on the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council website under disaster management.

One Year of Recycling Success in Cherbourg!

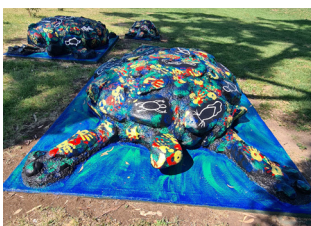
It's been a whole year since we rolled out the yellow lid bins, and what a journey it's been. Your efforts have made a real difference, and we've got some awesome stats to share:

First Collection (31.01.2023): 122kg from 21 bins! Highest Collection (06.06.2023): A whopping 780kg from 60 bins! Total Collections: 51 Tuesdays. Bins Collected: 2,523. Total Weight of Recyclables: An incredible 23,102kg (That's 23 tonnes!) Participating Households: 254 and counting.

Also, shoutout to the 'Bin Day Bingo' winners – your recycling spirit has been inspiring!

Thanks to your efforts, we're reducing landfill waste and caring for our beautiful country. Let's keep this momentum going. Every bin, every week counts.

2023 was a big year of change and doing things better ways, so a special thanks to everyone for adapting, doing your bit to fill our 'Big Jack' (rubbish truck) every week, and making recycling a part of our daily lives. Here's to many more years of mob helping to get Cherbourg clean and green!



Craig Makes A Turtle Difference

Local Artist Craig Hopkins has been busy, Craig whose artwork is now part of the new look waiting room at Cherbourg Hospital, has also given our popular "Turtles" rest area on the Cherbourg Murgon Road a fresh new look.... all part of the rest areas overall makeover and regeneration that has been taking place over the last few of months. It's important that our community put their mark on our hometown, taking pride and ownership of the outcomes we want to see for our mob is just another part of what makes things work. Much respect and pride here, thank you to everyone who is playing their part no matter what.



Meet The Kingaroy Team



Serving Our Communities One 10c Container at a Time

Kingaroy Container Refund Point Celebrates Expansion and Community Impact

Some great progress being reported by Kingaroy Container Refund Point (CRP), Manager Chrissy Beresford who shares the latest achievements and expansions that underscore the program’s positive impact on the community and environment. The Kingaroy CRP, a pivotal part of the Containers for Change initiative in our region, has seen remarkable growth and community engagement, particularly through its support of local schools and expansion into new areas.

Expanding Reach and Support for Education

With a strong team effort, the Kingaroy CRP has extended its services to 21 schools within the South Burnett region through the Wave of Change Program. This initiative involves collecting containers from schools, counting them at Kingaroy, and then directing the proceeds to the schools’ accounts. “I’m super proud of our team and the work we’re doing to support local schools,” says Chrissy. “Seeing the program grow to include 532 schools statewide, with over 1.6 million containers returned, is truly amazing.”

Statewide Success and Local Innovations

The Containers for Change program has made significant strides statewide, with Queenslanders returning over 1.73 billion containers in 2023 alone. The Kingaroy CRP has been a vital contributor to this success, offering innovative solutions to make container returns more accessible. The introduction of a 24/7 bag drop container destined for Blackbutt is a game-changer, allowing for extended service in Nanango and the addition of new drop-off points in Yarraman, Blackbutt, Kumbia, and Proston.

Record-Breaking Contributions to the Community

Highlighting the community’s enthusiastic participation, Chrissy reports a record-breaking day on December 20, 2023, with 80,694 containers returned, translating to \$8,069.40 reinvested into the South Burnett community. “It’s our biggest day since we opened in 2019,” Chrissy beams. “With the cost of living rising, people appreciate the value of returning containers for a refund. It’s not just about the money; it’s about the positive outcomes for our community and environment.”

Looking Forward

As the Kingaroy CRP continues to expand and innovate, its impact on the community and the environment grows stronger. Through dedicated efforts like those of Chrissy Beresford and her team, the Containers for Change program is making a tangible difference, encouraging recycling, supporting local schools, and fostering a sense of community pride. “We’re excited for what the future holds,” Chrissy concludes. “Every container returned is a step towards a cleaner environment and a stronger community. We’re grateful for the support and look forward to continuing our work in the South Burnett region and beyond.”

Thank You For Your Service



Outgoing Councillors Keep Pushing For The Long Term Goals



As four years as elected representatives of our community drew to a close, it was an important day that unfolded in February for our Mayor Elvie Sandow, Deputy Tom Langton, Councillors Leighton Costello, Bronwyn Murray, Fred Cobbo, and CEO Chatur Zala attending meetings at the Queensland Parliament House in Brisbane.

The first agenda item was a meeting to discuss significant issues surrounding law and order with the Hon. Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety. Topics of discussion included police response times, youth crime, the need for additional police resources and personnel. We conveyed to the minister our desire for improved law and order outcomes for our community, including the presence of Police Liaison Officers (PLOs) and a full complement of eight State Police Officers in Cherbourg, along with an enhanced relationship with the Officer in Charge (OIC) and State Police already based in our community.

Additionally, we discussed the establishment of a new police station on Barambah Avenue in Cherbourg and the introduction of a Protective Services Officer.

Subsequently, we met with the Hon. Charis Mullen MP, Queensland Minister for Child Safety, Seniors, Disability Services, and Multicultural Affairs.

Our final meeting involved a critical discussion about advancing funding for a Cherbourg Multipurpose & Civic Centre and for the current Cherbourg landfill development upgrade. We met with Champions Hon. Leanne Linard, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation, who was joined by Clare O'Connor, Director-General of the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities, and the Arts.

We highlighted the need for support from our Champion Minister and the Director-General to advocate for special funding for these projects, especially the Multipurpose & Civic Centre, for which a business case has already been completed, and the necessary upgrades for our landfill to comply with legislative requirements.



We wish to recognise and honour the dedication, leadership, and heartfelt service of former Mayor Elvie Sandow, Deputy Mayor Tom Langton, and Councillors Leighton Costello, Bronwyn Murray, and Fred Cobbo. Go to the CASC Website to read our tribute ***“Celebrating Four Years of Leadership”*** or use the QR Code here.

Cherbourg Farewells and Says Thank You to Pastor Max Conlon

Cherbourg councillors joined together in early February to farewell long-serving AIM Pastor Max Conlon, who is moving to Brisbane.

They thanked him for the work he has done over the years, and bowed their heads as he prayed with them for the future of the community.

Pastor Max was raised in Cherbourg but his ministry took him away from the town. “I wanted to come home,” he told the councillors.

“I planned to come home for four years and about 24 went by!”

Pastor Max said he had experienced a lot of joys and happiness in Cherbourg but also a lot of “downs”. However, he had always tried to contribute back to the community which he loved. Pastor Max said he was moving to Brisbane to assist his wife, who has health issues, but leaving Cherbourg wasn't an easy decision to make. A ministry team would be replacing him but he would still be overseeing the church, as well as helping to train young people in leadership and pastoral ministry.



Partners to Build, Grow & Strengthen Community.

In November we met with Wakka Wakka Native Title Aboriginal Corporation.

Chair Uncle Garry Cobbo and Council Mayor Elvie Sandow came to an agreement that will see us work together toward building more (much needed) homes for our community.

This is great news for Cherbourg as we work towards securing a better future with more opportunities and peace of mind for our mob.

Enjoying a Festive Season



Spreading Christmas Ham Happiness

Cherbourg Council works crew hit the streets of community in December to deliver Christmas Cheer in the form of a Leg of Ham for each Cherbourg household.

Driving decorated council utes, pumping out popular Christmas songs, it was such a wonderful experience for our workers, being excitedly greeted by children, receiving hugs and kisses from elders who overjoyed to receive this kind gesture.

Council was keen to do something nice for our mob, especially following so much recent bereavement (sorry business). With cost-of-living pressures increasing, community members were delighted to have such a thoughtful gift. Christmas time we see a lot of family coming home to Cherbourg to enjoy time with family on country, a ham to carve on the day is a welcome addition to the dinner table.

We work hard to build strong relationships with our service providers, to get value from funding we receive, it is these partnerships and good financial management that opens the door to opportunities like this, allowing us to make small gestures that strengthen our community spirit.

The hams were purchased locally from Swickers who came on board to help make this happen.

We think it is so important to support local businesses and employers, it just make sense, wins all round.



Cheers For The Year

Food & Fun for Everyone

There was plenty of food and fun to enjoy at Cherbourg's annual Christmas Fair, held at the town's Sports Complex....and Santa Claus even paid a visit!

There were gifts for the children, stalls and games and a free barbecue lunch. But probably the biggest hit on the day were the amusement rides. There were long queues of young children waiting for each of the carnival rides to open up after lunch. Plus our very own Selwyn Cobbo was on hand to kick out some signed footys for whoever could catch them.

The fair was sponsored by Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, South Burnett CTC, Stanwell, St Vinnies, the Salvation Army and Bribie Island Kindy.



Cherbourg Lights Up The Night

Congrats to EVERYONE that entered our Cherbourg Community Christmas Lights Competition - what a great way to cheer us all up and put us in the festive spirit. Judges took to the streets only to be blown away by all the amazing displays. Cherbourg Us Mob Radio dropped into our Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council December meeting to help us announce the winners live on-air and online.

4th Prize \$300 went to Shenna Cobbo & Sonny Murray

3rd Prize \$500 went to Darrie Lea-Murray

2nd Prize \$700 went to Jamie-Lee Wiley & Jack Combo

1st Prize \$1000 to Shantelle Arnold - Draysharn Arnold - Lalasa & Nalaya Speedy

South Burnett Councillor Kathy Duff also gave her encouragement awards to Daisy Carlo and Tara Priestly. Here are just some of the homes that stood out - big thanks to the Pink Lady Cr Kathy Duff for being part of the judging panel and sharing some of her photos.





Queenslanders Lending a Hand

Relationships That Work - Help Us Grow

It started with a casual conversation about football at the 2022 LGAQ conference in Cairns, a yarn with RACQ Foundation Board member Wally Tallis, a meeting then an offer to help with much needed improvements and upgrades for our community services and facilities. Not long after the ball started to roll as planning began with the RACQ Foundation, twelve months later teams of volunteers arrived in our community to take on projects not only at our football grounds, but also at the Cherbourg Ration Shed Historical Precinct, the new Youth Action Group Florist and Gift shop and Bert Button Lookout and picnic area. Deputy Mayor Tom Langton was enthusiastic about the outcome of work put in by the volunteers and what it means to our community offering a warm welcome and an invitation to return to Cherbourg at any time. A very thankful CEO Chatur Zala is thrilled with the outcomes, "We rely on relationships and partnerships, because we can't do everything by ourselves, so when RACQ showed up it gave us great hope, it shows that we are one people, one Queensland, we all work together." Foundation Chair Bronwyn Morris gave sincere thanks for giving the visiting volunteers "A Once in a lifetime opportunity" for opening their hearts in sharing of stories and culture.



Foundation Chair Bronwyn Morris



Councillor Bronwyn Murray

Along with the RACQ Foundation volunteers came business's that pitched in on the efforts, a special thank you going out "In Touch Projects", the team from "ARTIE", the RACQ education team as well as carpenter Alan from "ARC" and a very special thank you to retired roadside assist mechanic Albert Budworth who made Cherbourg his 20th project with the foundation. Councillor Bronwyn Murray was also on hand for a Friday afternoon "Thank You BBQ" to offer her gratitude for the beatification and improvements made, that are continuing to add to our communities apparent growing legend among those watching and following our stories, being progressive with our businesses and the opportunities we are working on creating to provide a better now and a brighter future for our generations growing here in Cherbourg.

What is it that they say? **"Teamwork, makes the Dream Work."**



See photos & video from the fashion show and YAG Shop opening Scan this QR Code



Youth Build Runway To Success

Cherbourg Youth Advisory Group - Open Doors to New Business and Services



Confident, colourful and creative ... this was the face of Cherbourg's young people on show at the official opening of the community's new "YAG Shop" in October. The shop, at Bert Button Lookout, is the latest project of Cherbourg's Youth Advisory Group (YAG). It sells floral arrangements, fashion items, handmade candles and jewellery, all designed by younger members of the Cherbourg community.

The business is an expansion of a project which YAG members began in early 2023 after taking workshops with Murgon florist Felicity Aitken.

The aim is for more workshops in both floristry and digital design to be held at the centre in the future.

Elders at the opening ceremony were presented with floral "crowns" which they wore with pride. The young Wirri-Wakka group also performed a series of traditional dances.

However, the highlight of the morning was the fashion parade, with formal wear, beach wear, scarves, wraps, bags, umbrellas – and even shoes! – modelled by community members. Designs by Martina, Yolandie, Wawida and Karla were digitised and then sent away to be incorporated into fashion items. Bundaberg businesswoman Julie Appo, who runs her own fashion shop on the coast, guided the process, led the design workshops and compered the fashion parade.

"I want us to have something where you could actually make a living from this," Julie said. She said having retail outlets where the items could be sold was really important.

The fashion items will be available to purchase at both the YAG Shop and at Julia's business in Bundaberg and, hopefully eventually, overseas.

The old Emu Farm building, which houses the YAG Shop, and surrounding lookout area also received a makeover thanks to the RACQ Foundation.

RACQ Chief Executive and Foundation Director David Carter said the Foundation had brought up 18 volunteers to work in the Cherbourg community for a week. They did painting as well as tidying up the gardens and barbecue area.



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Murray Road, Cherbourg

The group also helped out at The Ration Shed with some archive work.

Another 18 RACQ volunteers – mostly current office staff or retired employees – are working in the Cherbourg community this week, helping out with upgrades and repairs at the football oval. David said the Foundation had been doing volunteer projects in regional Queensland since 2016.

They aim to complete three projects every year.

This was the second time they had worked in an Indigenous community. The new shop is open Monday to Saturday and also open for various workshops, such as candle, soap and jewellery-making.

For more information and to check opening times contact Yolandie Gadd on 0498-882-337 or Wawida Collins on 0467-803-992.

Original Story by SouthBurnett.com.au



Recognising our Culture

Award For Parenting Tips is a Win For Mob

Cherbourg Us Mob Radio, has won an award at the prestigious First Nations 2023 Media Awards held in Canberra. The station picked up the trophy for “Best Promo or Station ID” award for its “D’arin Djanum Parenting Tips for Mob” segments which came out of the Triple P parenting program.

The award presentation acknowledges Us Mob Radio as the broadcaster that recorded and produced the segments, and the work done by station co-ordinator Michael Monk, broadcaster / content creator Arlene Langton, and broadcasters Kimberly Barrett, Tara Priestly and the late Harold Chapman. Michael Monk told local media “However we know this really was a ‘whole of community’ project that involved much research and consultation with parents and Elders, educators and mentors to ensure that the messages are culturally appropriate for our mob,” “This has become a wonderful resource for mob here in Cherbourg and is being shared and implemented in other First Nations communities. “To everyone involved (you know who you are), this award recognises each and every one of you.”



Cherbourg UsMob Radio hosted a morning tea inviting key stakeholders and a long list of community members who participated, advised, or lent their voices to the recorded segments that are now aired daily on UsMob Radio. Delivering the end product came after many months, of hard work coordinated by the project leads Psychologist Arvind Ponnappalli and University of Queensland Associate Professor Karen Turner with Michell Forster from Triple P, consulting with community parents and elders, refining the scripts, before Us Mob moved to recording interviews and the finished scripts.

But it is with some sadness that some who participated in in the journey of creating these segments passed before seeing this result.

We honour the memory of Uncle Rocko Langton who wrote and recorded the backing music along with Uncle Harold “Big Chance” Chapman who was consulted and lent his voice to one of the segments.

Investing in Our Leadership Team - Brings Rewards For Cherbourg

Here at council we feel blessed to be able to welcome regular visits from a much respected friend to our Cherbourg Council team in Brett De Chastel.

Brett is a 32 year veteran of Local Government who only recently retired as the Local Government Managers Australia Queensland (LGAQ) President.

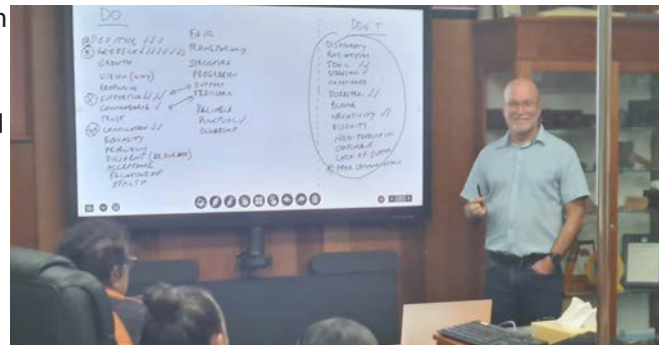
Brett volunteers with us here in Cherbourg, also working with some Cape York councils acting as a mentor; and continuing his passion for supporting indigenous communities.

Brett plays not only an advisory role, but also spends time with our Management and Leadership team, members who are at the heart of our operations imparting his many years of knowledge and significant people skills.

Brett quite often works one on one with our CEO and with the CASC senior management team, but in November Brett took a group of our key players through another in a series of leadership training sessions. It is here we speak as a group on good practice in managing people, and the work environment.... we discuss the Do’s and Don’ts that make a positive and productive workplace.

These sessions are valuable, bringing us together, strengthening us, reminding us why we are here and why we do what we do.

Here for Cherbourg and for our mob!



CBG Shines on National TV

Rob Drops a Line in Cherbourg

Cherbourg recently took centre stage on national television, featuring in an unforgettable episode of Fishing Australia that aired on the Nine Network and WIN-TV. The episode, which has been described by host Rob Paxevanos as “probably our most different, important, and memorable episodes to date,” showcased the rich culture, fishing traditions, and environmental initiatives of our Cherbourg community.

During his visit, Rob Paxevanos immersed himself in the local way of life, guided by a number of familiar Cherbourg faces. He explored some of our popular (and some secret) fishing spots, learned our local and traditional methods of catching shrimp, and even experienced the community on horseback with Uncle Kenny Gyemore. Robs journey also led him to our now famous Ration Shed Museum and Historical Precinct further enriching his visit.



“This is dead set a must-see for ALL AUSTRALIANS!” exclaimed Paxevanos, reflecting on the draft of the episode. He praised the brilliant fishing, amazing bush knowledge, and the culture of Cherbourg. The episode also delves into the real-life stories of resilience and positivity amongst our mob here in community and our First Nations people as a whole. Rob Paxevanos emphasised the importance of connecting with nature through fishing, especially for children. “Some of our most important and rewarding work is getting kids out and teaching them the essential life skill of connecting with nature through fishing,” he noted. The collaboration with local elder Charlie Speedy was a highlight, providing the crew with invaluable insights.

The Cherbourg episode of Fishing Australia is more than just a showcase of fishing and culture; it’s a heartfelt tribute to our community’s spirit, environmental stewardship, and the enduring legacy of its First Nations people. “I absolutely guarantee it will leave you informed, inspired, and proud,” Paxevanos assured viewers.

Scan the QR Code here or head to the Channel 9 Catch Up app to view episode 10 of Fishing Australia (2023 Season) filmed here in Cherbourg.



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Artist: Elaine Chambers

Binung Ma Na Du: Cultural Stories and Living Histories on Wakka Wakka Country



Binung Ma Na Du: Cultural Stories and Living Histories on Wakka Wakka Country brings together schools and Indigenous communities to create local curriculum resources that support Aboriginal language revitalisation programs.

Through this project, a series of digital and written stories from Wakka Wakka Country have been created to enhance language and Indigenous Studies curriculums in local schools, and support cultural resurgence and resilience across the community. These stories showcase the strengths and rich histories, cultures and knowledges of Wakka Wakka people and mob from the Cherbourg and Murgon communities in Queensland.

The team worked closely with Wakka Wakka teachers at Cherbourg State School and Murgon State High School to develop Wakka Wakka language teaching resources. This collaboration also resulted in the publication of two bilingual books written in English/Aboriginal English and Wakka Wakka.

The project also explores how the process of co-design with Indigenous communities can better support schools and educators to teach Indigenous languages and cultures, as well as develop cultural curriculum that reflects local and contemporary Indigenous knowledges.

All stories remain the property of the community after the project has finished to ensure the community has resources to support cultural resilience and intellectual ownership for generations to come.

The AIATSIS Indigenous Research Exchange grant funded this project. The project team acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners of the lands where these stories were developed, written and filmed, and the Wakka Wakka people. Digital stories from the project can be viewed via the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council website:



cherbourg.qld.gov.au/home/binung-ma-na-du/

Research team: Associate Professor Marnee Shay (The University of Queensland), Professor Grace Sarra (Queensland University of Technology), Cr Fred Cobbo (The University of Queensland), Professor Margaret Kettle (Central Queensland University), Iris-Jean Blow (The University of Queensland) and Arlene Langton (The University of Queensland).

Research partners: Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Cherbourg State School, and Murgon State High School.

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Artist: Elaine Chambers

Binung Ma Na Du: Cultural Stories and Living Histories on Wakka Wakka Country



CREATE CHANGE

Digital Stories



Keeping language alive
Uncle Eric Law



Education and history
Aunty Patty Bond



Growing up in Cherbourg — History and strength
Uncle Arnold Murray



Healing and community
Aunty Sylvia Bond



Working in education
Uncle Frank Malone



Binung Ma Na Du at Murgon State High School
Uncle Fred Cobbo and (now retired) Principal Simon Cotton



CGEN — Young women, identity and dance
Mia Sandow, Sam Cobbo, Nelly Bond, Belinda Crowley (not pictured)



Being a proud Wakka Wakka business owner
Tyrone Murray



Telling stories our way through Indigenous media
Arlene Langton



Leadership and role models
Leighton Costello



Growing up strong in Cherbourg
Kimberly Barrett



The power of our ancestors and keeping identity strong
Iris-Jean Blow



The power of storytelling
Aunty Venus Rabbitt



Watch our digital stories

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the lands where these stories were developed, written and filmed, and the Wakka Wakka people. We thank every contributor to this project.





RATION SHED MUSEUM

Our History our Stories

The Ration Shed Museum has kicked off 2024 with a hive of activity. With a calendar brimming with events for our community, 2023 saw us fully booked for tours for visitors from across the State as well as international visitors.

We were delighted to host visits from the Queensland Museum, State Archives, and the RACQ Foundation, whose invaluable contributions enhanced our grounds and aided in the documentation of our extensive photo and object collections.



2024 is shaping up to be another very busy year with new exhibitions planned and a series of workshops and markets. Our Barambah potters have been busy making their incredible pottery and it sells fast in our refurbished Gallery space. Come and look!

Congratulations to Maurice Mikelo whose work has been accepted for sale at the Jam Factory a high-end Gallery in Adelaide, you can buy Maurice's work in our Gallery here at The Ration Shed

We invite members to join our Barambah Potters team for pottery skill-building sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays, the sessions are free and all materials supplied



Our tour bookings are already filling up fast, with many overseas visitors also. If you would like to learn how to be a Tour Guide, give us a call or drop in your CV as we have casual spots available.

Meanwhile, the Threads Group has hit the ground running, crafting cushion covers bags and other apparel. They meet most Wednesdays in the Domestic Science Building. If you'd like to be part of this creative endeavour, don't hesitate to reach out.

The Ration shed will be conducting Art workshops in the Yiddling artists studios so if you are interested in learning how to paint and sell your work give us a call or drop us an email at info@rationshed.com.au



Strong Support for Mens Cherbourg Shed

Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien visited our Cherbourg Men's Shed in November to congratulate the fellas on receiving their latest grant funding of \$11000 from the Stronger Communities Program that has paid for a new outdoor workspace.

Mr O'Brien said this had made it possible for them to lay a concrete floor and build a steel bench to create an outdoor work space suitable for participants with a disability.

"This has increased the usable space where men can participate in personal and community projects, access health information and resources, and support each other in meaningful activities," Mr O'Brien said.

Trainees Dig Deep for Elders

Original Story by SouthBurnett.com.au



Four trainees have been making a big impact at the Ny-Ku Byun Elders Village in Cherbourg, thanks to a UnitingCare Queensland program.

The four – Graham Gyemore, Noah Maks, Cecil Fisher and James Stanley – are the first of at least 10 trainees that UnitingCare aims to support through its Indigenous Employee Initiative.

The trainees are completing the practical component of their TAFE Horticulture Certificate III qualification at Ny-Ku Byun and at the Canowindra Aged Care facility in Kingaroy.

They have been working to transform the grounds at the two sites by mulching, pruning, planting, weeding and watering as well as helping with maintenance tasks. A UnitingCare spokesperson said that when the four finish their 38-week course, they will not only be qualified in horticulture and garden maintenance, but will also have manual driving licences and understand what it takes to maintain a multi-resident facility.

“This is not like other jobs,” Noah said.

“Every day is different, and every hour in the day has a lot of variety and interesting things to do.”

James said the trainees liked to “divide and conquer”.

“But not in the normal way. We divide the work and then smash it so it’s done quickly and properly,” he said. Maintenance supervisor Mick Pratt said the four trainees were “passionate” and were enriching the lives of UnitingCare residents. “It’s almost a secondary bonus that the grounds now look the best they have ever been,” he said.

Ny-Ku Byun is run by Pinangba, an arm of UnitingCare, while Canowindra is run by BlueCare, another part of the UnitingCare family.



Memories Are Always Golden

Golden memories are the key to Cherbourg’s “Golden Oldies” celebration, which filled Cherbourg Community Hall with laughter (and some tears) again last September.

The event featured food, music and lots and lots of dancing!

But there was also a tinge of sadness, with Elders who have passed during the past 12 months remembered and candles lit in a small ceremony.



A special mention was made of the late Dr Honor Dell Cleary OAM, who started the original Golden Oldies back in 1986 in Brisbane with a cup of tea and sandwiches with Nana Hazel Mace and a group of old friends. It quickly grew and became a popular day out for “Golden Oldies” in Brisbane on Mother’s Day. Dr Cleary passed away in November of 2022.

In 1990, Dell’s sister Aunty Sandra Morgan launched the Cherbourg version, which is held towards the end of the year.

The “Golden Oldies” weekend for over 60s is now one of the community’s annual highlights.

The hall was packed with residents and visitors for Saturday’s event.

A special guest on stage was veteran entertainer Chad Morgan OAM who turned 90 this year. The Wakka Wakka and Kullilli man, known as the “Sheik of Scrubby Creek”, was born in Wondai and has been returning to Cherbourg often to perform.



Cherbourg Health Council - Two Years On

This January marks the second anniversary of the Cherbourg Health Council. Did you know that the Health Council has been tirelessly advocating for the health and well-being of the Cherbourg community? It's incredible to see such dedicated Community Members working towards a common goal and positively impacting the lives of so many people.

The Health Council meets every month to discuss health concerns the community raises, and advocates and lobbies for changes in health services. Mayor Elvie Sandow, Deputy Mayor Tom Langton, Councillor Leighton Costello, Councillor Bronwyn Murray, Councillor Fred Cobbo, Uncle Frank Malone, and Alex Speedy are all community members who lend a listening ear to the community. They provide feedback to health services on how improvements can be made to ensure that the people of Cherbourg can live longer and healthier lives.

During the COVID pandemic, the Council recognised the importance of community involvement in delivering health services. The Council led the health response and partnered

with health services to protect the community from COVID-19. This was achieved by improving vaccination rates, providing coordinated care for vulnerable individuals, and delivering emergency support packages for those in quarantine. The development of the Cherbourg Health Plan was initiated to focus on health priorities in Cherbourg. It allowed the Cherbourg Health Council to advocate for better health services and establish partnerships with providers. As a result, numerous improvements have been implemented to improve the people's health in Cherbourg.

The Healthy Skin, Healthy Heart Program is a good example of community-led initiatives. The Public Health Unit expressed concerns to the Cherbourg Health Council about the connection between skin health and heart health in children. The Council supported the initiative, and screening and treatment were carried out. As a result, the number of skin sores in the community and children was significantly reduced, and young adults with rheumatic heart disease received proper care. The Cherbourg Health Council has advocated for several new initiatives to improve the health of the people in Cherbourg.

These initiatives include:

- Establishing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer service at Cherbourg Hospital.
- Advocated for the Cherbourg Hospital Emergency waiting room upgrade.
- Advocated for the Hearing Health Screening catchups.
- Advocated for the continuation of immunisation services in Cherbourg.
- Creating an alternative complaints process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders consumers, which is now used across the Darling Downs Health region.
- Organising health promotion programs like the Healthy Heart, Healthy Skin International Legends of League
- Establishment of the transport officer position at Cherbourg Hospital
- Establishing the Chronic Disease and Preventative Health Clinic at Cherbourg Health Service to reduce waiting times in Cherbourg Hospital ED
- Improving sexual health services and collaborating with health agencies.
- Coordinating Health Agencies to improve the responsiveness and coordination of individuals who are sniffing.
- Working closely with the Queensland Mental Health Commission to improve the delivery of Mental Health Services in Cherbourg



- Developing a Cherbourg Cultural Capability program for all agencies to complete when working in Cherbourg.
- National award for excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Care
- Community representation on interview panels at the Cherbourg Health Service
- National and state recognition in community-led co-design in health.

Improving health in Cherbourg requires community-led changes.

The Cherbourg Health Council serves as a voice for the community and remains committed to its efforts.

Scan this QR Code to read this story and the full Cherbourg Health Plan Portrait





Healthy Skin Program Wins Award

Original Story by SouthBurnett.com.au

A program at Cherbourg this year which targeted the link between skin conditions and heart disease has won a national health award. "Healthy Skin, Healthy Heart" was a partnership between various stakeholders, including Darling Downs Health (DDH) and Cherbourg Council.

"During the program, we conducted 1255 skin checks, 300 echo screenings and 111 environmental health assessments," DDH Acting Director of Public Health Amanda Tucker said.

The program took out the award for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healthcare at the inaugural National Rural and Remote Health Awards held at Parliament House in Canberra in November of 2023.

"We partnered with local community stakeholders ... to ensure Healthy Skin, Healthy Heart met the specific needs of the community," Ms Tucker said, "This project demonstrates that partnerships are essential in a public health response and that grass roots programs do make a difference."

DDH Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Rica Lacey said that without the leadership of Cherbourg Council and Cherbourg Health Council, the success of the program would not have been possible.

DDH Chief Executive Annette Scott PSM said winning a category at the inaugural awards was an impressive accomplishment. "The win recognises the great work of Darling Downs Health Public Health Unit and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service, and our organisations commitment to work with communities to achieve health equity," Ms Scott said.

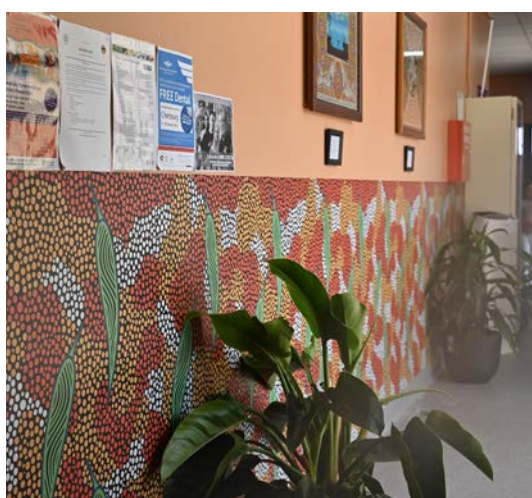


Cherbourg Assistant Director of Nursing Anna Moffitt, Cr Fred Cobbo, Rica Lacey, Dr Priya Janagaraj and Peter Boland, from the DDH Public Health Unit, at the National Rural and Remote Health Awards

Cherbourg Hospital Gets an Art Lift

The waiting room at Cherbourg Hospital has a bright new look, thanks to local artist Craig Hopkins and the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. A work by Craig, who has been painting for about 23 years, now stretches around the walls of the room. Cr Leighton Costello said about 12 months ago the Cherbourg Health Council began discussing how they could make the waiting area more "uplifting" and comfortable for patients and families.

They then approached the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation who jumped on board the project to support it financially. Charlie Waters, from Darling Downs Health which runs the hospital, said it was important to make culturally safe places for patients. The new refurbished waiting room was officially opened by Cherbourg Deputy Mayor Tom Langton on December 11.



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.



Our Healthy Local Arts Scene



Proud to Support and Local Artists

In November last year, CRAICCHS put out a call to our talented local First Nations artists to submit artwork for display across our clinics in Cherbourg, Wondai, & Kingaroy. Talk about being blown away, so much amazing talent here in our own backyard. Here at CRAICCHS we are very pleased to announce we've purchased a piece of artwork from each applicant! So...when you next visit any of our clinics, take a moment to admire the incredible talent and creativity of our local artists. Their stories and culture shine through each masterpiece. Congrats to Allira, Anthony, Barbara and Sharleece. Be sure to check out their stunning works on your next visit!



Anthony Donas



Sharleece Fisher



Allira McAdam



Barbara Stewart

Welcome Levi Moore – Clinical Services Manager

We are delighted to introduce Levi Moore, new Clinical Services Manager at CRAICCHS. Originally from Nigeria in Western Africa, Levi embarked on a journey to Australia in 2009.

His quest for education brought him here as an international student, where he earned two Bachelor's degrees followed by a Master's Degree in Health Services Management.

Levi's professional journey is marked by diverse experiences across various communities, including work with First Nations and mainstream organisations.

Levi's connection to Cherbourg began through colleagues who spoke highly of our community. Invited to join the CRAICCHS team, Levi expresses his excitement about being part of our family. Since his arrival, Levi has dedicated himself to understanding Cherbourg's pulse. He has been exploring the community, engaging with our team, meeting locals, visiting landmarks, and delving into our rich history. Levi appreciates the warm welcome and a more relaxed pace of life in Cherbourg, finding it a refreshing change from the hustle of mainstream society.

Levi notes profound similarities between his cultural heritage and the values cherished in Cherbourg. He highlights the paramount importance of respect within the family and the broader community, a sense of community mindedness, and the tribal way of life. "When you look at one person, you are looking at their entire community," Levi remarks, emphasising the collective spirit that defines both his and our cultural backgrounds.



With his deep-rooted understanding of cultural nuances and a master's degree in Health Services Management, Levi is well-equipped to contribute to CRAICCHS. His expertise promises to enhance our health service programs and bolster ongoing projects, aligning perfectly with our organisation's goals. CRAICCHS warmly welcomes Levi Moore to our organization. We look forward to the fresh perspectives and innovative approaches he brings to our team. Here's to a future filled with success and collaboration. Welcome aboard, Levi!

The Cherbourg Catch Up



School Holiday Programs

Christmas school holidays were a busy time with the delivery of programs and activities for young people and families in Cherbourg, this included supporting Cherbourg Council with the BBQ lunch at the Cherbourg Christmas Fair along with pool activities every Thursday evening and on Saturday and Sunday.

Alternate School Cultural Program

CTC staff are currently working in partnership with the team at Silver Linings to deliver a Cultural Program for young men enrolled in their school. This program is delivered two days a week and aims to increase school engagement whilst also fostering a sense of pride and belonging among young men from Cherbourg through the engagement in cultural activities.



Partners in Foster Care



CTC Partners in Foster Care has been running a foster carer recruitment drive to tackle a critical shortage of carers in the South Burnett region and Cherbourg.

"We need potential carers to step up, and we need them to step up now. Kids in our region deserve a safe place to call home," Jason Erbacher, CEO of CTC said.

"Every young person deserves a fair go." During this year alone CTC's Partners in Foster Care has provided 160 placements for kids on child protection orders throughout the region. But demand continues to grow. The campaign features Cherbourg local Ida Bligh and her call to action for the community to stand up for our kids.

Anyone interested in becoming a foster carer can contact CTC's Partners in Foster Care.

You can give us a call or request for one of our team members to visit you, including our Cultural Connections Officer Sharon on 07 4169 0587.



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



YOUNG, DEADLY, SYPHILIS FREE
#GETTESTED
I've had mine...have you had yours?

Leaders of Tomorrow

Celebrating Katie Langton: Murgon High's Distinguished Dux

Katie Langton, a proud student from Murgon High School, has been honoured as the 2023 School Dux, a testament to her academic excellence and leadership. Winning awards in Mathematical Methods, Modern History, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies, Food & Nutrition Studies, and more, Katie's journey is a beacon of inspiration for her peers.

From securing the Harding Miller Education Foundation scholarship in Year 9, valued at over \$20,000, to her consistent academic achievements, Katie's path has been marked by determination and a deep love for learning. "I want to use my education to build a better world," Katie expressed, highlighting her ambition to make a significant impact.

Katie's interests span from history, where she learned about Australia's frontier wars, to culinary arts, showcasing her versatility and curiosity.

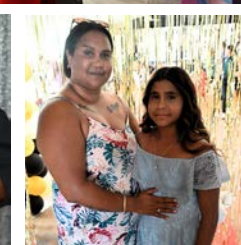


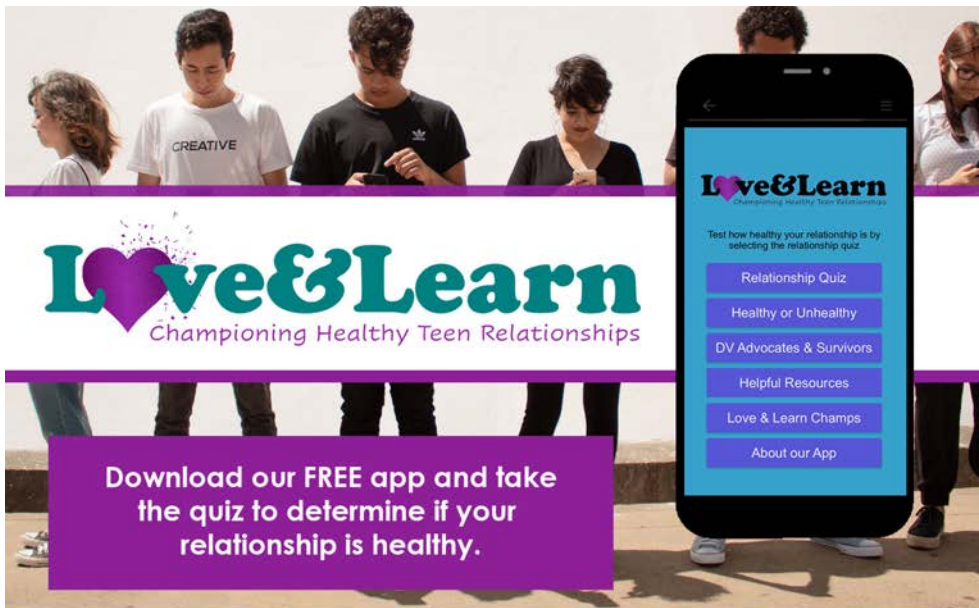
Influenced by the story of Vincent Lingiari, she takes pride in her Indigenous heritage, stating, "I am proud to be an indigenous person." Her parents, Pat and Tom, have been pivotal in her journey, offering unwavering support and encouragement. "Be yourself, it doesn't matter what race (you are) you can do anything you put your mind to," Katie advises, echoing her parents' guidance.

Katie's recognition as a Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Foundation Young Leader further underscores her ability to inspire and lead. As she looks forward to university, Katie Langton remains a symbol of hard work, resilience, and the belief that from little things, big things grow.



Cherbourg State School - 2023 Graduation Celebration





Love & Learn

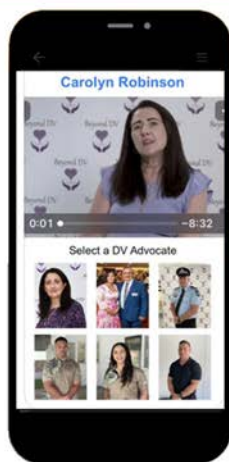
Championing Healthy Teen Relationships

Download our FREE app and take the quiz to determine if your relationship is healthy.

Love & Learn New Teen Relationship App

Teaching young people about healthy & unhealthy relationships. Learn the signs of healthy/unhealthy relationship behaviours.

Find out where and how to get more information and support...



Download it today



App developed by Carolyn Robinson | School Educator | Founder of Beyond DV
www.beyonddv.org.au

A Place Men Can Reach Out When They Need To

A Men's Behaviour Change Program was run here in Cherbourg over the last few months of 2023. The program was facilitated by Uncle Les Stewart and Stu Guerin from Graham House Community Centre. The men who attended had the opportunity to learn how abuse affects family and community, and what beliefs drive abusive thinking and behaviour.

One participant said "It really opened my eyes on the importance of loved ones feelings and also ours." Graham House will be running another program in May 2024. Anyone can self refer, and intake interviews will began in January.

Stuart Guerin - Men's Domestic Violence Counsellor

Ph: 07 4169 8400

Mobile: 0492 971 619

Email: stuartg@grahamhouse.org.au



1800RESPECT

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

Are you the subject of a repeated pattern of behaviour by a partner or family member
 1800RESPECT is a national domestic family and sexual violence counselling service
 It operates 24/7 for confidential information, counselling and support for persons impacted

Don't let someone break your stuff. Don't let your partner isolate you from family or friends. Speak to your family about your concerns. DV affects the entire family. Seek to strengthen yourself and watch for danger signs.

Domestic Violence Risk Factors

Is DV in your home becoming more frequent?
 Has there been a significant change in your circumstances with your partner?
 Is there drug and alcohol abuse in the family home? These are DV risk factors.

What can you do about it.

Call Cherbourg Police on
4179 5555

for advice and support.

TEENS & DATING VIOLENCE

Don't interpret your partner's possessiveness as a sign of love
 Abuse can also be verbal and emotional
 Look for signs of jealousy and intimidation

NEW APP FOR TEENAGERS

Beyond DV have created the "Love and Learn" Teen Relationship 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 it now.

His Legend Still Lingers

Cherbourg Celebrates Prestigious Recognition at the Anthem Awards

Cherbourg has once again made headlines, this time for being honoured at the 2024 Anthem Awards, where the inspiring story of “The Legend of Eddie Gilbert” clinched two prestigious accolades. This recognition not only highlights the rich cultural heritage of Cherbourg but also shines a spotlight on the community’s dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



A Story of Legacy and Inspiration

“The Legend of Eddie Gilbert,” a film created by NRMA and Bastion Make, was awarded a silver trophy in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion category, and also won the Community Voice Award, a testament to its widespread acclaim and impact. The film pays tribute to Eddie Gilbert, the cricket legend whose prowess on the field and connection to Cherbourg have inspired generations.

Eddie Gilbert, known for being one of the fastest bowlers ever faced by Sir Donald Bradman, has a special place in the hearts of our Cherbourg community. His legacy is kept alive by Lavina (Aunt Bena) Dynevor, who runs the local Cherbourg Council sports complex and uses Gilbert’s story to inspire young cricketers. “Eddie Gilbert made it a part of his home. A lot of Cherbourg people claim what he has done, and this place as where he learned to play,” Lavina shared.

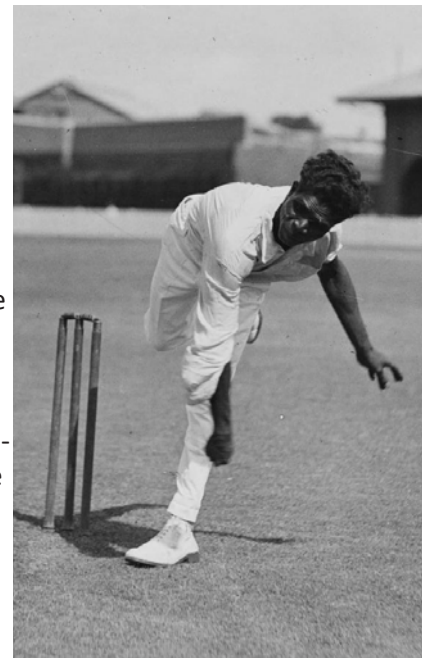
Impactful Work Recognized Internationally

The Anthem Awards, organized by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, celebrate impactful work that inspires action within communities. Cherbourg’s recognition in these awards underscores the significant efforts made by individuals like Aunt Bena (Lavina) Dynevor to foster a sense of belonging, community building, and hope through sports and storytelling.

Lavina’s dedication to sharing Eddie Gilbert’s story with the youth of Cherbourg not only honours his memory but also encourages children to believe in their potential. “Cricket is a very important part of the story of this community. Sharing Eddie’s story helps to inspire the kids to see that they can achieve anything if they just put their mind to it,”

A Win for the Community

The Anthem Awards’ recognition of “The Legend of Eddie Gilbert” is a double win for Cherbourg, celebrating both the community’s rich history and its ongoing commitment to inclusivity and empowerment through sports. This accolade brings indigenous communities to the forefront of the national conversation, especially during the cricket season, and highlights the extraordinary talents of one of Australia’s most gifted yet least known cricketers. As Cherbourg revels in this well-deserved recognition, the story of Eddie Gilbert and the Cherbourg community’s efforts to preserve and share his legacy continue to inspire and unite people, both within and beyond the boundaries of our community.



Archive Photos - Original Story by Burnett Today

A Message from Aunt Bena Dynevor: Updates from Cherbourg Sports Complex

This year at the Sports Complex, we’re kicking off a range of new activities for our community. From ladies’ workouts and men’s basketball to children’s sports like golf, gymnastics, and cricket, our complex is a hub of energy and inclusion. Inspired by a visit from Fishing Australia, we’ve added fishing to our cultural and sporting activities.

What a great start to 2024 with our community featured on national TV for with our fishing skills, plus the wonderful recognition of one of our local legends in Pop Eddie Gilbert.

His story continues to empower our youth, encouraging them to dream big and achieve their goals. Our recent recognition at the Anthem Awards in America for the NRMA short film about grassroots cricket in Cherbourg has filled us with pride.

Winning awards for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Community Engagement highlights our commitment to making a difference. To celebrate, we’re planning a community BBQ in March to share the film and our achievements.

With six workers and two relief staff supporting our growing programs, we’re excited for what the future holds. Join us as we continue to build a space of health, sport, and cultural pride at Cherbourg Sports Complex.



In an inspiring feature by The Toowoomba Chronicle, 15-year-old Patrick Malone from Cherbourg is spotlighted as a rising star in basketball, aiming to follow in the footsteps of NBA champion Patty Mills.

Transitioning from rugby league to basketball upon his sister's suggestion, Malone has not only found his passion but also a platform to dream big. "When I was playing league I had fun but I did get a bit bored with it...I picked basketball straight away," Malone shared.

His dedication saw him trial with the Toowoomba Mountaineers junior program and join the Indigenous Community Basketball League (ICBL), an initiative by Patty Mills to support Indigenous athletes. Malone's ambition is to emulate Mills, not just in his basketball achievements but also in inspiring other Indigenous youth.

"I love running the point, reading the play, facilitating for others and dunking.

I love it all," says Malone, expressing his love for the game and his admiration for Mills as a role model.

Malone's story, as reported by Jason Gibbs for The Chronicle, is a beacon of hope and motivation for young athletes to pursue their dreams with passion and dedication.



This Story and Photo Sourced From The Toowoomba Chronicle



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Vet visit
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2024



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DOCUMENTATION



CBG Boys Play With Heart

Cherbourg's Tribute to a Legend: The Winston Alberts Memorial Team's Victory

In a heartfelt tribute to a beloved figure, the Winston Alberts Memorial Team, led by Paddy Alberts, clinched victory at the Sunshine Coast Bunyas Carnival, honouring both Paddy's late father, Winston Alberts, and his partner, Rochelle Davidson. This win was not just about rugby league; it was a celebration of community, heritage, and resilience.

Winston Alberts, remembered for his passion for rugby and his role as a mentor and inspiration within the Cherbourg community, was commemorated by a team comprising relatives and players influenced by his legacy. "He was my hero," Paddy



The team's triumph at the carnival, where they showcased exceptional skill and teamwork, culminating in a victory over the defending champions, Coastal Blacks, was a testament to their spirit and dedication. Player of the Carnival, Vinnie Law, and the entire team's performance were a fitting homage to Winston Alberts' legacy and a source of immense pride for Cherbourg.

This victory at the Sunshine Coast Bunyas Carnival was more than a win in rugby league; it was a powerful statement of community strength, cultural pride, and the enduring impact of those who inspire us. Paddy Alberts and the Winston Alberts Memorial Team have indeed made Cherbourg proud, honouring their heritage and loved ones in the most fitting way possible – through unity, sport, and unwavering commitment to their roots.



Alberts reflected, emphasizing the profound impact his father had on him and many young people in Cherbourg. The team's jersey, incorporating the old Hornets 'V' design with a stripe of sky blue for Rochelle, bore the slogan, "We play for our community – past, present, and future," symbolizing their deep-rooted pride and connection to their heritage.

The journey to the carnival was marked by determination and a collective desire to honor their loved ones. Despite recent personal loss, Paddy rallied his team, driven by the memory of Rochelle's support and enthusiasm for the team and the community. "It's about having pride in ourselves and where we come from," Paddy stated, highlighting the importance of representing their background and history through the sport.



Pics from MMM Sports Photography - Original Stories from Burnett Today and SouthBurnett.com.au



Leroy Lined Up For The Broncos

At just 15, Leroy Watson-Malone has taken a significant step towards his NRL dream recently signing with the Brisbane Broncos.

In an interview with the Toowoomba Chronicle he says "It is pretty exciting...they have helped me and taught me a bunch of new things," Malone shared, reflecting on his journey from Cherbourg to boarding at Concordia Lutheran College and playing for Toowoomba Valleys.

Training now with the Broncos youth squad weekly, Malone is focused on improving his game, inspired by idols like Reece Walsh.

Despite his early success, Malone remains grounded, emphasizing the importance of education and hard work, "My parents are really proud, but they have told me I have to work really hard... Education is important because you must think about life after professional football."