

Community Cabinet News

Your voice where you live

Highfields and Gatton April 2009



Clockwise: Anne Bousfield (back to camera), Genevieve Sayers, Elisa Lukes, Maryanne Donnelly Mitchell, Ros Beard and Liz Wilkes, all from the Maternity Coalition Darling Downs, Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine, Premier Anna Bligh and Deputy Premier and Minister for Health Paul Lucas.

Government to deliver birthing suite

Premier Anna Bligh has announced a \$1 million birthing suite and a \$2 million Emergency Department expansion for the Toowoomba Base Hospital.

Ms Bligh said the Toowoomba works would go to tender immediately following the State Budget in June.

Work on the birthing suite and the Emergency Department is expected to be completed by late 2010.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health Paul Lucas said more than 3000 people a year will benefit from the enhanced services.



Premier Anna Bligh and Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council Peter Taylor, leaving Skytrans' De Havilland Canada Dash 8 aircraft at Toowoomba Airport.

Western flights take off

The Q-Connect Skytrans air service, welcomed by Premier Anna Bligh and Minister for Transport Rachel Nolan, has taken off from Toowoomba Airport.

The four-times-a-week service will link Brisbane, Toowoomba, Charleville, Quilpie, Windorah, Birdsville, Bedourie, Boulia and Mount Isa. The service will continue on a trial basis until tenders are called for contracts later this year.



Getting in the groove ready for RockStock 2009 at Helidon on 5 and 6 September are dancers Lachlan Donahoe & Claire Kennedy and Brenda & Kevin McConnell. Cheering them on are Anna Wallace, Susan Lindsay, Val Bianchi, Margaret Postans and Robyn Fanning.

Events rock with funding

At Community Cabinet Premier Anna Bligh announced \$902,100 in funding under the latest round of the Queensland Events Regional Development Program.

Toowoomba and Golden West region events to benefit include RockStock 2009

in Helidon, Gourmet in Gundy 2009 in Goondiwindi, Food and Fire Fest 2009 in Roma, Orig'n8 Festival 2009 in Toowoomba and the Australian Camp Oven Festival 2010 in Milmerran.



Premier's message

Listening to the views and concerns of all Queenslanders is a high priority for me and I was pleased to hold my 14th Community Cabinet, and my first since the election, in Highfields and Gatton.

This is such a productive and progressive part of the State, and I am pleased that you were all so keen to voice your concerns to me, my ministers and heads of departments. There was standing room only at the community forum, and this Community Cabinet hosted the second highest number of deputations since I became Premier.

One of the joys of visiting Highfields and Gatton was meeting so many members of the region's community groups. As number one ticket holder for the Queensland Firebirds, I was delighted to meet our netball stars of tomorrow at the Highfields Sports Centre and shoot a few goals with Millie Burgis from Toowoomba and Laura McDougall from Dalby (pictured above). Both girls are members of the Ergon Energy Darling Downs Netball Academy.

We were able to announce and celebrate many initiatives for the region during the Community Cabinet and I thank you for making us so welcome.

Anna Bligh MP
Premier of Queensland



Ergon Energy Darling Downs Netball Academy. (back) L to r: Amanda Smythe, Kirby Brown, Imogen Genest, Carol French, Premier Anna Bligh, Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine, Cagney Gibson, Riley Waters, Belinda Schiller, Harriet Genest. Front: Madeline McDermid, Millie Burgis, Georgia Sandow, Laura McDougall, Hayley Bennet and Katie Hauser.



At the 'Find Your 30' Activity Day at Highfields are Deputy Principal of Highfields SS Greg Tucker, Toowoomba Regional Councillor Bill Cahill, Ross Stahlhut and daughter Emily, and Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine.



Treasurer Andrew Fraser addresses the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce Breakfast at Picnic Point. L to r: Vice-president, Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce Geoff McDonald; President Shane Charles; Director Melissa Taylor; Andrew Fraser; and Deputy Mayor, Toowoomba Regional Council Paul Antonio.

Announcements

Wild dogs – Government bites back

The State's control program for wild dog management will be overhauled following an independent review by former AgForce president Peter Kenny.

Premier Anna Bligh has announced the establishment of the Wild Dog Advisory Committee. Wild dogs cost the grazing industry an estimated \$33 million a year.

'From 1 July 2009, the Government will be appointing a senior officer to work with the committee to ensure the statewide effort on wild dogs is maintained,' Premier Bligh said.

Non-State school approvals fast-tracked

Queensland Cabinet has amended State planning regulations allowing non-State schools to fast-track delivery of projects worth over \$700 million, funded under the Federal Government's \$14.7 billion schools stimulus package.

Non-State schools will not have to go through local government approval to construct new buildings on their sites. This will allow jobs to be created quickly. The schools will still have to comply with safeguards to prevent inappropriate development and councils will be notified of approved projects.

21st century touch to 18th century windmill

The Department of Public Works has provided \$128,000 for reconstruction of an 1875 Tunstun timber windmill, coinciding with Queensland's 150th celebrations this year.

The windmill will be reconstructed using original 19th century castings, assisted by QBuild apprentices. The reconstructed windmill will join a collection of six steel windmills at the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE's Toowoomba campus in September.

New England Highway upgraded

The New England Highway between Crows Nest and Pechey has been upgraded at a cost of \$14.8 million, two months ahead of schedule.

Minister for Main Roads Craig Wallace said realigning a two-kilometre section to the east of the highway and construction of the southbound overtaking lane had significantly improved safety for road users. An average of 2300 vehicles use the road daily.

'Pechey-Maclagan Road has also been extended by 200 metres to join the realigned section of the New England Highway,' Mr Wallace said.

\$3.4 million respite boost for Toowoomba families

Minister for Disability Services Annastacia Palaszczuk has announced an extra \$3.4 million in funding for the Toowoomba Respite Service Centre.

'This boost in funding will mean that Toowoomba families caring for people with a disability will benefit from an increase of 1800 nights of respite services in the region,' Ms Palaszczuk said.

'The \$3.4 million will also generate seven new permanent residential care officer jobs, as well as other part-time positions,' she said.



Former rugby league great Steve Renouf, Australian Under 23 discus and shot put champion Catherine Tattersall of Toowoomba and Minister for Sport Phil Reeves at the 'Find Your 30' Activity Day at Highfields.



A contingent from Dalby Regional Council meets with the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Stirling Hinchliffe. Back: (l to r) Cr Ian Staines, Minister Hinchliffe, Cr George Moore. Front: Deputy Mayor Mick Cosgrove, Mayor Ray Brown, CEO Phil Berting.



Rob McCreath from Friends of Felton, a group opposed to mining in the Felton Valley, west of Toowoomba, talks with Premier Anna Bligh outside Community Cabinet.

Toowoomba business finalist in green awards

Toowoomba-based company Wagners is a finalist in the 2009 Queensland Sustainable Industries Awards, Innovation in Sustainable Technologies category.

Wagners has developed a recyclable fibre composite material to replace hardwood in boardwalks, piers and decking.

Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability Kate Jones visited Wagners while in Toowoomba for the Community Cabinet.

'This Wagners product is six times stronger than steel and concrete, and at a fraction of the weight, it is easy to assemble and does not rot or rust,' Ms Jones said.

Funds for a healthy, active lifestyle

The Queensland Government has injected \$601,386 into Toowoomba and surrounding region to help the community become more physically active.

Minister for Sport Phil Reeves announced that Toowoomba Regional Council will receive \$40,000 to develop a strategic sport and recreation plan and \$25,000 to upgrade practice cricket nets at Hodgson Vale Oval. Funding has also been provided for construction of walk/cycleways - \$34,000 for Briggs/Yandilla/Hume Streets, Pittsworth; \$39,168 for Arthur Shooter Park, Oakey; \$99,937 for Ruthven Street, Kearney Springs; \$87,000 for Nelson Street, Kearney Springs; \$85,125 for Kearney Street, Kearney Springs; \$97,312 for Baker Street, Darling Heights; and \$93,844 for West Street, Darling Heights/South Toowoomba.

Pipeline's rapid progress

Construction of the Toowoomba Pipeline is making good progress, with just over 10 per cent of the 30 kilometre pipeline completed.

The \$187 million pipeline, running from Wivenhoe Dam to Cressbrook Dam is due to be completed by January 2019. Five crews are laying up to 350 metres of pipe a day.

'The rest of South East Queensland has had some good rain, but we have not forgotten Toowoomba's dams are under 10 per cent and the situation remains dire,' Premier Anna Bligh said.

The pipeline will have the capacity to deliver 14,200 megalitres of water a year to Cressbrook Dam.

Prison brings jobs to Lockyer Valley

Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Neil Roberts has visited Gatton and the construction site of the new 300-bed women's correctional centre.

The \$485 million facility will provide up to 450 jobs during construction and create 200 new jobs in a range of roles when the project is completed.

Mr Roberts said most of the structural work will be completed by Christmas.



At the launch of the Gateways Schools to Agribusiness Project at Pacific Seeds, Toowoomba, AgForce's Peter Kenny and John Cotter; Minister for Education and Training Geoff Wilson; St George SHS Gateway Coordinator Sheryl Rigg; CEO Pacific Seeds Chris Bazley; Kepnock SHS Principal Jenny Maier; Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland Tim Mulherin; Downlands College Principal Gillian Smith; Jandowae Prep-10 Principal Cathy Lindsay; Goondiwindi SHS Principal Dean Russell; Loganlea SHS Principal Allison Crane; Pittsworth SHS Principal Anthony Kennedy; and Nambour SHS Gateway Coordinator Ray Pembleton.



Inspecting the site of the new \$12 million electricity substation for the Highfields region, General Manager Operations, Ergon Energy David Heberlein; Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine; Premier Anna Bligh; Minister for Mines and Energy Stephen Robertson; and Cawdor Substation Project Manager Trevor Eden.



Premier Anna Bligh presents an historic photograph to Mayor of Lockyer Valley Regional Council Steve Jones.



Parliamentary secretaries and Directors-General take deputations at Gatton on Monday morning. L to r: Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment Jan Jarratt; Deborah Plehanoff and Pastor James Haak, Anuha Services, Gatton.



Local MPs out in force at Community Cabinet. L to r: Member for Toowoomba South Mike Horan; Mayor of Goondiwindi Regional Council Graeme Scheu; Goondiwindi Deputy Mayor Rick Kearney; Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Member for Southern Downs Lawrence Springborg; and Member for Lockyer Ian Rickuss.



At the Sunday night reception at Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE are South West Endeavour Foundation's Diana Johnston; Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs Annastacia Palaszczuk; and HACC's Lyn Maher.



School Crossing Supervisor Rell Perry receives a Certificate of Recognition for 25 years service from Premier Anna Bligh and Minister for Transport Rachel Nolan.