

# MOUNT MORGAN ARGUS

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## 31 years forged in fire

For more than three decades, the sound of the emergency pager meant one thing for Darren Barnicoat: drop everything, gear up, and protect the community. After 31 years of dedicated service with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES, formerly QFRS), the Mount Morgan Auxiliary Fire Captain has officially hung up his

helmet.

It is the end of a remarkable era defined by deep camaraderie, life-saving rescues, and a passion for community safety that began nearly 44 years ago when he first stepped into emergency services as a young State Emergency Service (SES)

volunteer.

Now, as he steps away from the fire station to catch a well-earned breath, Darren shares an honest, reflective look back at the evolution of the service, the memories that linger, and the enduring bonds of the firefighter family. Stepping onto the station floor in the early 1990s looked vastly different than it does today. Over 30 years, Darren witnessed a major technological evolution that fundamentally changed how firefighters operate, making rescues faster and safer.

“The equipment has improved—we have the same equipment, but it has been enhanced,” Darren explains. He points to thermal imaging cameras as a game-changer, noting they do far more than just locate hot spots in a burning structure; they are now vital tools for finding missing persons in dense smoke or tracking down victims thrown from vehicle accidents. Similarly, the transition to battery-powered road crash rescue gear—like cordless drills, grinders, and reciprocating saws—has stripped away the need for cumbersome hydraulic hoses, allowing crews to set up and extricate patients in a fraction of the time. Personal protective clothing and structural training processes have seen similarly massive upgrades.

Yet, alongside these structural positives, Darren is candid about the challenges modern regional stations face. Recruiting auxiliary firefighters has become increasingly difficult, and

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## Forged in Fire...From Page 1

he notes a disappointing shift in the broader organisational culture and inter-service interaction over the decades.

“Years ago, we engaged with other services regularly. Now, apart from the SES, the only time we interact is on the job,” he reflects.

Ask any veteran first responder what hurts the most to leave behind, and the answer is always the same - the people. For Darren, walking away from the unique, tight-knit bond of the fire crew is the hardest part of retirement.

“I will miss leaving the firefighter family and not having that daily contact and leading our professional auxiliary firefighters at the Mount Morgan Station.”

That bond is forged through shared highs and lows. Among the finest moments of his career, Darren counts the privilege of watching junior volunteers grow into highly capable, professional men and women, alongside the profound reward of being a reassuring presence on someone’s worst day.

“Seeing the relief on someone’s face when we can be there to assist and reassure them—that stays with you,” he says.

But the role demands a heavy emotional toll. The firefighter family shares the grief of loss just as acutely as any household. For Darren, the most painful memory of his career remains the tragic loss of a fellow firefighter who passed away following a fire call they attended together.

“It is like losing a member of your own family,” he shares quietly. “Every call you attend where there was a death stays with you. Usually, when you drive past that spot, you still have that picture, the smell, and the associated memories.”

Throughout his decades in leadership, Darren took his role as a mentor seriously, instilling a culture of mutual respect and open communication within his crew. His number one rule enroute to an incident was simple: everyone has a voice, and safety is paramount.

“I would always tell everyone my action plan enroute to the fire based on a worst-case scenario,” Darren says.

“And I would encourage all in the crew to speak up if they saw something different or a better way to carry out the task.”

His advice to the next generation of first responders is rooted in observational learning and unyielding professionalism: watch the experienced officers, learn how a scene is controlled, listen to the way radio messages are structured, and act professionally at all times. For many first responders, mental health and trauma dictate the end of a career. Fortunately, that wasn’t the case for Darren. He still loved the sharp hit of adrenaline, the challenge of on-the-spot decision-making, and the operational environment of a live fire call. Instead, his decision to step back was catalysed by an 18-month battle against institutional friction. Always a fierce advocate for his local team and town, Darren found himself fighting an uphill battle regarding an increased workload placed on his auxiliary staff without adequate consultation.

A stark example of this friction is the town’s historic fire siren, which has sat silent due to needing repairs.

“I have been pushing to have it rectified, but I’ve been advised it won’t be repaired,” Darren says.

While some find the siren—a fixture of Mount Morgan since the mid-20th century—annoying, Darren stresses its critical safety function as a physical backup.

“When our paging system goes down—which has happened twice previously during major floods when we lost both mobile and landline reception—the siren is what calls the firefighters in.”

Faced with a situation that no longer aligned with his personal values or the best interests of his staff and community, Darren knew it was time. The period brought significant stress, and he credits his sister and brother-in-law for providing the unwavering support he needed to navigate the final stretch of his fire career. While his family fully backs his retirement, his sister Melissa—an auxiliary firefighter and Firecom Communications Operator herself—initially tried to talk him out of walking away from a role that has been central to his identity for so long.

While Darren is officially off the QFES clock, he isn’t disappearing from community service entirely. For the last 11 years, he has been fortunate enough to turn his long-term hobby and passion into a full-time paid position with the SES—a journey that started nearly 44 years ago as a baseline volunteer.

“I would not have got where I am today in the SES, and previously in fire, without starting that journey as a volunteer,” Darren says gratefully.

“I will remain grounded by it.” Eventually, once the dust settles, he plans to return to the local SES ranks simply as a standard member, happily leaving executive titles behind.

As for his immediate plans? They include getting his boat back onto the water after a few years in dry dock and tackling a never-ending list of tasks around the house.

High on his list is –

“Sleeping in during the winter nights knowing that I won’t have to attend fire calls.”

When asked if he might take on new community leadership or consulting roles down the track, Darren’s response is delightfully candid.

“Unfortunately, I don’t think so. I have put a lot of effort into both SES and Fire for our community. Now it’s time to have a rest and maybe get a life.”

Summing up a 31-year journey is no easy task, but Darren looks back on the balance of his time with pride.

“Twenty-nine years of it has been a great journey where I’ve had the privilege to work with great, community-minded people, grow as a person, and mentor others to where they are today. The last two years have been not so good, but it has been an absolute pleasure serving our great little community—and Mount Morgan has an exciting future ahead.”

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# Standing together in the eye of the storm



When a life-altering medical diagnosis strikes, it doesn't just arrive; it lands like a tornado, lifting people out of their familiar routines and dropping them into a completely foreign world. For Mount Morgan locals Aaron and Cass Donald, the past months have been a whirlwind that has tested their strength, upended their lives, and reshaped their daily reality.

Yet, amid an overwhelming storm of medical jargon, endless tests, and hospital walls, the enduring power of family and a deep, unshakeable love between two people is lighting the way forward. What began as an unsettling blur has transitioned into a stressful and frightening reality. Aaron's recent diagnosis of Myeloid Sarcoma has meant being abruptly uprooted from home, family, and everything familiar. In a matter of weeks, personal autonomy has been replaced by a gruelling medical schedule. Aaron has faced an exhausting gauntlet of procedures: BAMTs, CT scans, X-rays, PET scans, skin punch biopsies, ECGs, respiratory tests, and the insertion of a PICC line.

Last Thursday, Aaron faced surgery to place protective nails in his femurs. Femur nailing (intramedullary nailing) for cancer patients is a surgical procedure that inserts a metal rod through the centre of the thigh bone to stabilize it. It is primarily used to relieve pain, restore mobility, and prevent or treat fractures caused by bone metastases. When cancer spreads to the femur, it destroys healthy bone tissue, leaving the bone brittle and susceptible to breaks. Nailing acts as an internal splint, offering longitudinal structural support. For a man used to moving freely through life, the physical toll is heavy, but his focus remains entirely on the future.

"I look forward to the day where I can stand by my wife again," he shares.

Losing the ability to make your own decisions can feel incredibly isolating. Aaron describes the experience as a fast-moving storm with no control. To find their bearings, both he and Cass have relied heavily on the healthcare

team around them. The Leukemia Foundation, dedicated hospital welfare workers, and patient nurses have become their anchor, patiently answering every question and offering a lifeline of guidance through the dense medical terminology.

Facing a crisis can fracture some relationships, but for Aaron and Cass, it has only solidified their bond as a team. When asked where he draws his strength from to handle this immense challenge, Aaron's answer is immediate:

"My wife, 100%. She is my rock."

For Cass, stepping into the role of primary caregiver and emotional anchor requires incredible resilience. She isn't walking that path alone, however; her husband and their extended network make sure she is looked after.

"My family ensure I am taking care of myself, and my husband is also always reminding me to do so," Cass said.

While time for herself is rare these days, she still tries to capture quiet moments to slip away into her passion for reading. In the quiet of the hospital room, the couple has found that the smallest moments carry the deepest meaning. They talk constantly, hold hands, and share quiet snuggles on the hospital bed.

Ironically, the peace they sometimes wished for during the beautiful chaos of normal family life has become a poignant reminder of what they miss most.

"We often complained that we never got a moment alone between the kids and grandkids wanting or needing us," they reflect.

"Now we would do anything to have one of them walk in and annoy us."

Above all else, Aaron's defining passion is his family. His friends, children, and beloved grandchildren are the fuel for his fight. The distance from them is the hardest part of this journey, and the feeling of isolation is a heavy burden to carry.

"No one is impervious to becoming sick," Aaron said. "Look after your health—it can happen to anyone."

If there is a silver lining to this experience, it is the overwhelming wave of love, care, and support that has flowed from their broader circle. It is this collective energy that keeps their twin goals firmly in sight: to beat this, and to come home. Though they are currently separated from their hometown, Aaron and Cass's hearts remain firmly rooted in the local community. When asked how the people of Mount Morgan could best support them during this challenging time, their request wasn't for grand gestures, but for a simple, profound return to grassroots kindness.

They ask that you honour their journey by looking out for one another. Check in on your neighbours, get actively involved in your community, and remember to share a smile with a stranger—because, as Aaron rightly points out, "It's contagious."

As Aaron prepared for surgery last week and the continuation of his treatment, the community sends its collective warmth, strength, and love to both him and Cass. A "Go Fund Me" page has been set up by Kerrilyn Page to raise funds for the couple to assist with costs and there is collection box located instore at Wattle Bee Next.

Go Fund Me Link: <https://gofund.me/e766b1898>.

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# New signage supports safe use of Mount Morgan No.7 Dam



Maritime Safety Queensland has recently installed new speed signage at Mount Morgan No. 7 Dam to reinforce safe use of the waterway and improve awareness of existing speed restrictions introduced many years ago. Mount Morgan No. 7 Dam has a fixed speed limit of six knots across all navigable waters.

The restriction applies to all vessels, including personal watercraft such as jet skis, and is designed to reduce

risks associated with submerged hazards, fluctuating water levels, and the relatively small size of the dam. The fixed speed limit was introduced following community consultation and safety assessments, which identified that relying solely on general boating rules and distance-off requirements could create confusion and increase risk. A consistent six-knot limit ensures the rules are clear, enforceable, and easier for all users to follow.

Safe speed is particularly important at Mount Morgan No. 7 Dam, where changing water levels can expose or conceal submerged hazards. Higher vessel speeds can also increase wash, contribute to shoreline erosion, and impact the environmental health of the dam.

The six-knot limit applies across the entire dam, meaning there are no designated areas for high-speed transit, including near the boat ramp or shoreline.

This approach supports safer conditions for all users, particularly during periods of increased activity. The new signage, installed by Maritime Safety Queensland at the main boat ramp and William Street access point, aims to improve visibility of the rules and support compliance.

Maritime Safety Queensland, along with Queensland Police Service (Water Police) and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, are responsible for enforcing speed limits and ensuring safe use of the waterway.

Maritime Safety Queensland continues to work with local councils and the community to promote safe, responsible boating and protect Queensland waterways.

*Submitted Maritime Safety Queensland*

# Disability support services strengthened on the Mount

The Mount Morgan Citizens Club is working in collaboration with Mable, to strengthen disability support services in the region by bringing together NDIS participants, families, carers, community members, and potential support workers through a series of community consultation meetings, one of which was held last Friday, 5 June 2026. This was attended by nine people, three of which signed up for the free training. The Rotary Club provided the catering.

The initiative has two key goals: to better understand the experiences of local people using the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and to encourage the development of a skilled local workforce that can provide quality support services within the community. A major focus of the programme is gathering feedback from NDIS participants, their families, and carers about their experiences accessing and using disability supports. Through consultation sessions, community members are invited to share what is working well, what challenges they face, and what improvements they would like to see in local service delivery.

Discussions explore topics such as access to disability services in the local area and associated costs of travel, gaps in available supports, challenges participants face

when implementing their NDIS plans, how people currently use their funding, ideas for improving services and outcomes for participants using a bulk buy methodology to attract services and what better support could look like in the Mount Morgan community. This feedback will help identify priority areas for workforce development and service improvement, ensuring that future training and support initiatives are shaped by the people who use them. The second part of the programme focuses on developing a stronger local disability support workforce.

Many communities face challenges in attracting and retaining disability support workers, often resulting in participants relying on providers from outside the region. By encouraging local people to consider support work as a flexible employment option, the programme aims to increase the availability of services while keeping employment opportunities and NDIS funding within the community. Community information sessions introduce support work, including what disability support work involves, the different ways support workers can assist participants, flexible work opportunities available in the sector, pathways for getting started in the industry and screening and training requirements.

*Continued on Page 7*

## Disability Services...From Page 6

Importantly, people considering a career in support work do not need formal qualifications to begin exploring opportunities, with flexible online training through Mable's chosen RTO to provide funded training pathways for potential eligible disability support workers, and the Citizens Club will cover the cost of the NDIS Worker Screening check. This is a huge saving, and is not just for those unemployed, but also anyone wanting to transition into another field, supplement their income, or are already in an unpaid caring role. Further meeting dates to be advised. We invite anyone interested in either providing feedback or participating in free training to contact us or attend one of the consultation meetings in the future.

Ph: Linda – 0482 173 151 (Mable) or Kirra – 0411 865 621.



Mount Morgan Arts Precinct.

Thank You - What a wonderful turnout we had for the Community Sound Immersion facilitated by Tammy of Sounds of Healing. The ambience in the old St Enochs Church, now Art Gallery, bathed everyone in a warm and calming glow, with the sound reverberation completely enveloping all who attended. We must thank Tammy most sincerely, as this is the second free event she has gifted to our town, and her generosity of spirit is warmly appreciated by all who have experienced her talent.

Next Exhibition - Exploring with curiosity and empathy, we invite all Artists to express their concept of creativity without barriers and invite Artists with disability to respond to the theme interpreting their own experience. Fostering mutual understanding of the daily challenges and triumphs faced by individuals living with disability, we want to create unity, inclusiveness, consider accessibility, explore multi-sensory dynamics and expel limitations within our consciousness. The exhibition "Every Body, Every Mind, Every Sense – No Barriers" will run from the opening night on Saturday, 5 September until 18 December. Artworks to be submitted for exhibition by Wednesday, 2 September. For Exhibition entry forms please email [mountmorganartsprecinct@gmail.com](mailto:mountmorganartsprecinct@gmail.com) or call into the gallery.

Mount Morgan Soldiers Rooms.

Another fantastic event, with Quizmaster extraordinaire Peter Gerber, was our May Trivia Night. It was a well-attended evening with eight teams, lots of laughs and great stories, and some very happy winners. Team "Error 404" pulled off the win for a second time and took home the prizemoney. With the cooler weather, our social events will be slowing down, but Peter has said he is up for a September comeback. Community Partnership - Thank you to all who came along to our information forum last Friday to give feedback to help improve delivery of services for NDIS participants, as well as those who have expressed interest for the funded training and screening check. Our motivator for this program is to have locals looking after locals, making participants NDIS funding go further with reduction of travel costs, whilst simultaneously keeping the money in our community. A lovely morning tea and light lunch was served, with many thanks to Mount Morgan Rotary Club.

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# Powerful celebration of heritage and identity



A powerful celebration of heritage, identity, and storytelling is coming to Central Queensland this August. The Mount Morgan Showgrounds will play host to the Gangulu Language and Culture Camp on Saturday, 22 August, and Sunday, 23 August, 2026, offering a unique opportunity to celebrate, learn, and connect on Country. The language camp was first held in 2025 and following on from its success, the Camp has been expanded to include cultural activities.

The two-day event is dedicated to the revitalisation of Gangulu language and culture, blending private community reflection with immersive public education. To honour cultural protocols and create an environment for deep knowledge sharing, the weekend has been structured into two distinct formats.

Saturday, 22 August is reserved for Gangulu people only. Organisers kindly ask the broader public to respect the privacy and cultural protocols of this day, which is designed as a safe space for community connection, healing, and the passing down of traditional knowledge.

On Sunday, 23 August, the gates open to the wider community. Everyone is invited to step forward,



## DEE RIVER OLDIES

Hoping all our members who are mother's, grandmothers and great grandmothers and more had a very Happy Mother's Day. If you had the day alone, we are sure you were thought of. With seven day trading everyone is so busy. Making precious memories when you are able is so important for family.

With National Volunteer's Week starting on 18 May we sincerely thank all our members for their help in making our Dee River Oldies Group great. All our members no matter how big or small all play a part in making our group what it is today. Just turning up for our meetings, morning teas and bus trips helping out, joining in and catching up with family and friends make it all worthwhile.

Over the next few months our Morning Teas will be busy.

Our June Morning Tea we have the OIC from the Ambulance centre as our guest speaker. There will be a question time for members.

July Morning Tea we are looking at having Musical Bingo. This is always a fun morning.

New members are welcome. If you are aged over 50

experience Gangulu culture firsthand, and learn directly from Traditional Owners. Attendees joining the public day are in for a deeply hands-on, sensory experience.

The itinerary is packed with interactive activities designed for all ages, including learning fundamental Gangulu language words and sit together to listen to traditional "stories in the sand", participate in traditional games and join in with community singing and dancing, learn the art of making bush tea and damper (mayi, yanda), before wrapping up the evening with a classic camp oven feed.

For those staying overnight, the event features a guided night walk through the area before attendees unroll their swags to sleep out under the Central Queensland sky.

For the public day on August 23, organizers have kept pricing accessible to encourage families to join in.

Two main ticket tiers are available – full price (including camping, book, food and activities \$50 (adults) and \$80 family of four and Day Pass which includes food, book and activities (no camping). The Day Pass costs \$25 for adults and \$50 for a family of four.

Those planning to attend are advised to pack a swag or camping gear (if staying overnight), comfortable clothing, a water bottle, and above all, respect for culture and community. The revitalization of Indigenous language is a massive undertaking, and this year's camp is heavily supported by a diverse group of community and corporate sponsors. Major backing for the event is provided by Ochre Australia, DCYS Inc, Anglo Coal, Jellinbah Mining, Whitehaven, BTP and Perenti Mining Service.

To learn more, book your spot, or view full event details, grab an official event flyer or scan the regional registration QR codes. For direct inquiries, please contact Natalee Forder, Aboriginal Language Consultant with Forder Aboriginal Language Consultant, at 0438 464 230.



years old come along and join us, you just need to fill in a membership form and the cost is \$5 to join.

Check out 'Save the Date' on the back page of the Argus for the upcoming dates for our meeting and morning tea date.

Stay happy and healthy. - The Steering Committee

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18 Pattison St, Mount Morgan  
3 bed, 1bath, 1/2 acre  
Offers over \$360,000  
**13 June - 11-11.30 am**



18 Pattison St, Mount Morgan  
3 bed, 1bath, 1/2 acre  
Offers over \$360,000  
**20 June - 11 -11.30 am**



17 Gordon Lane, Walterhall  
3 bed, 1 bath, Starter Home  
Offers over \$382,000  
**13 June - 12.05-12.35 pm**



17 Gordon Lane, Walterhall  
3 bed, 1 bath, Starter Home  
Offers over \$382,000  
**13 June - 12.05-12.35 pm**



54 D'Arcy St, Mount Morgan  
2 bed, 1 bath, Views!!  
Offers over \$435,000  
**13 June - 12.45 - 1.15 pm**



54 D'Arcy St, Mount Morgan  
2 bed, 1 bath, Views!!  
Offers over \$435,000  
**20 June - 12.45 - 1.15 pm**



12 James St, Mount Morgan  
2 bed, 1 bath, Renovator  
Offers over \$280,000  
**13 June - 1.25 - 1.55 pm**



12 James St, Mount Morgan  
2 bed, 1 bath, Renovator  
Offers over \$280,000  
**20 June - 1.25 - 1.55 pm**



Lot 171 Leichhardt H'way, Dululu  
3 acres Rural  
Offers over \$130,000  
**VIA PRIVATE INSPECTION**



Lot 171 Leichhardt H'way, Dululu  
3 acres Rural  
Offers over \$130,000  
**VIA PRIVATE INSPECTION**



14 Coronation Drive,  
Mount Morgan - Large house  
block. Offers over \$170,000  
**VIA PRIVATE INSPECTION**



14 Coronation Drive,  
Mount Morgan - Large house  
block. Offers over \$170,000  
**VIA PRIVATE INSPECTION**



31 D'Arcy Street  
2 bed, 1 bath, investment  
**VIA PRIVATE INSPECTION**



31 D'Arcy Street  
2 bed, 1 bath, investment  
**VIA PRIVATE INSPECTION**



# SES NEWS

The month of May was a notable one for the Mount Morgan State Emergency Service (SES) Group.

Firstly, one of our long - standing members, Darren Barnicoat was appointed to the position of SES Area Controller-Rockhampton. Darren's career path has been to hold this position, and his dream has finally come to fruition. He has been acting in this position for quite a few months and has an extensive knowledge of the operational and administrative side of the SES. Darren has also held the positions of Local Controller and Deputy Local Controller of the Mount Morgan Group which has given him firsthand experience in the needs of volunteers. Although he has stood down from the Deputy Local Controller position, he is still an active volunteer with the Group and has been for over 40 years. Darren always remembers where his career started and has the betterment of the volunteers at heart. Congratulation Darren on your appointment.

The 31 May saw the second of the SES Central Region Awards presentations, which were held at the Frenchville Sports Club. Three of our Mount Morgan members were recognised at the presentation.

Darren was presented with the Emergency Response Medal (ERM) which recognises SES members who have deployed in response to or in direct support of a determined event in Queensland or in another Australian

state or international jurisdiction, or an event recognised by the Chief Officer.

Eddie Cowie, Mount Morgan SES member and former Local Controller of the Rockhampton Unit was presented with an Australia Day Achievement Award. These awards are presented for performance of exceptional work, above and beyond the normal course of duty, to provide significant contribution to SES. Eddie was also presented with a SES Certificate of Appreciation.

Lastly Lyn Porter, Group Leader was recognised for 30 years' service to the SES and was presented with a 30 year clasp for her Meritorious Service Medal.

Congratulations to Darren, Eddie and Lyn on your awards and your dedication to the SES.



**Glen KELLY MP**  
 State Member for Mirani

*Standing Strong for Mount Morgan*



71-73 Broad St, Sarina  
 4806 0700  
 @mirani@parliament.qld.gov.au  
 www.glenkellymp.com.au  
 @GlenKellyMP

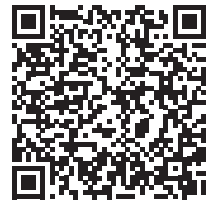
CHECK OUT MY FACEBOOK





# MOUNT MORGAN JOBS EXPO

Wednesday 10 June - 11am to 1pm  
Mount Morgan School of Arts, Morgan Street  
Head to [advancerockhampton.com.au/mountmorganjobs](http://advancerockhampton.com.au/mountmorganjobs)  
or call (07) 4936 8282



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# From the mechanic's floor to streetwear



For full-time diesel fitter Lachlan Buckton, the phrase “elbow deep” isn’t just a catchy brand name—it is a literal description of his day job. Working in the tractor shop at Hastings Deering in Rockhampton, Lachlan spends his days up to his elbows in grease. Now, he is channelling that exact grit into a bold new venture: Elbow Deep Clothing.

“I think it’s a strong gritty name, which is the style of clothing I was looking for—that strong, bold streetwear design,” Lachlan said of his burgeoning apparel brand.

The journey into the fashion industry began organically. Lachlan started by drawing and playing around with designs of his own cars on his iPad. As he expanded into different concepts, he decided to print a few shirts to wear himself.

“I started getting some positive feedback about them and a few people telling me I should try to sell them,” he recalled.

Taking a leap of faith to turn those initial drawings into a tangible business required a bit of encouragement. It was the overwhelming support and positive reinforcement from his inner circle that gave Lachlan the confidence to officially launch the brand and see if the wider public would buy his products.

Despite the early momentum, Lachlan is deliberately keeping the business close to home during its early stages, citing the massive advantages of a grassroots operation.

“Firstly, it allows me to build strong connections with the local community, fostering loyalty and repeat customers,” Lachlan explained.

“By focusing on local culture, I can create a unique brand identity that resonates with my audience.”

Operating locally also ensures strict quality control, allows him to directly oversee production, and provides the flexibility to pivot quickly based on customer feedback—all while keeping overhead costs manageable.

Launching a business is challenging on its own, but Lachlan is balancing the roles of a new business owner alongside a demanding sports schedule and a full-time trade.

On top of his work at Hastings Deering, he is deeply embedded in the local community as the vice-captain of the Mount Morgan Lorikeets Rugby Union team and an active committee member for the Gold Rush Rodeo, where he handles everything from arena setup to packing up.

“It’s a bit of a struggle at times to try and balance it all,” Lachlan admitted.

“Sometimes on my lunch break I have to jump on and do a few things on the website, like processing orders or giving customers extra information for one of my products.”

Managing social media and keeping content fresh, new, and consistent while working full-time has proven to be his most unexpected hurdle.

What makes the brand even more personal is that Lachlan is entirely self-taught.

Without formal graphic design training, he teaches himself by playing around with apps on his laptop and iPad and watching design videos online.

He describes the signature ethos of Elbow Deep Clothing as “bold streetwear—something that stands out but is still suitable for an event or occasion.” For anyone looking to understand the brand’s identity, Lachlan points directly to one particular item.

“I feel like the Marlboro t-shirt would be the best one to define the brand,” Lachlan said. “It’s got grit and personality, but still a clean finish, which is exactly what I want for the brand.”

Since officially hitting the market, the local community has rallied behind the brand.

Family and close friends continue to serve as a sounding board for design and business ideas, while other local businesses and residents have begun reaching out to order custom work shirts and personalized apparel for upcoming events.

“The support has truly been better than I could have asked for,” Lachlan said.

As Elbow Deep Clothing continues to grow, Lachlan remains hyper-focused on two key elements for sustained success: building a strong social media presence and maintaining uncompromising product quality.

“Quality is a massive part as well—ensuring customers are happy with the product and it stands up to the expectations.”

To check out the latest designs and support local, visit Elbow Deep Clothing online.



**Colin BOYCE MP**  
Federal Member for **Flynn**

**Gladstone** 📍 76 Goondoon Street, Gladstone QLD 4680 ☎️ (07) 4972 5465  
**Emerald** 📍 2/115 Egerton Street, Emerald QLD 4720 ☎️ (07) 4982 4266  
 📧 colin.boyce.mp@aph.gov.au 🌐 colinboyce.com.au 📱 ColinBoyceMP

The Inland Rail is a nation-building project designed to strengthen Australia's supply chains, reduce freight congestion, improve road safety, and deliver long-term economic growth for regional communities. I have consistently advocated for extending Inland Rail to the Port of Gladstone because regional Australia deserves infrastructure that serves the entire nation, not just the capital cities.

This year's federal Budget confirmed that, instead of completing this transformational freight corridor and delivering the benefits long promised to regional Australians, the project will not proceed in full as originally envisaged.

This decision is not just short-sighted; it is a significant setback for Central Queensland, for regional businesses, and for the future productivity of our country. Importantly, it also has implications for road safety across our region and beyond.

The Flynn electorate is one of the booming economic engine rooms of Australia. The Bruce, Burnett, Capricorn, Dawson and Leichhardt highways within the electorate are among the nation's most critical freight routes, but they are also

under considerable strain.

Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads crash data shows that across these five highways, within Flynn alone, 2,125 crashes have resulted in fatalities or hospitalisations. On the Bruce Highway, 96 crashes resulted in 112 fatalities, with a concerning 56 per cent of those fatal crashes involving 63 trucks.

These figures clearly highlight the need to reduce the pressure and burden of freight movements on our roads.

Inland Rail was projected to remove around 200,000 truck movements from our roads each year, while saving approximately 280 million litres of diesel annually.

That is why there is strong support for shifting more freight from road to rail. Existing policy initiatives recognise the importance of improving freight resilience and capacity through rail networks, yet the opportunity to fully realise Inland Rail's benefits remains unresolved.


This raises an important question: how do we best prioritise infrastructure investment to improve safety outcomes for regional communities? Why are regional Australians continuing to carry a disproportionate share of the freight task on increasingly strained road networks?

At the same time, significant funding is being directed to major metropolitan infrastructure projects. While these projects are important, there is a clear need to ensure regional Australia is not overlooked in national infrastructure planning.

Inland Rail is more than just an infrastructure project, it is about productivity, affordability, road safety, and ensuring regional Australia receives its fair share of investment.

This is a critical moment for Central Queensland including Mount Morgan. I will continue to advocate for practical, long-term infrastructure solutions that deliver real benefits for regional communities.

I encourage regional families, workers, and businesses to make their voices heard and support efforts to see Inland Rail completed, including the link to the Port of Gladstone. Learn more and show your support at <http://www.rescueourrail.com>.



**Public Notice – Airborne Geophysical Surveys**

**Capricorn MINERALS PTY LTD**

Notice is given that an airborne geophysical survey will be conducted in the vicinity of Mt Morgan, Bouldercombe, Bajool and surrounds, commencing on or after 15<sup>th</sup> June, running until late June - early July 2026. The survey covers the green (AMagRad) area on the map and relates to the active EPM numbers shown

The survey will be conducted by helicopter flying at low altitude along parallel, north-south lines spaced 100m apart. East-west tie lines are flown 1km apart.

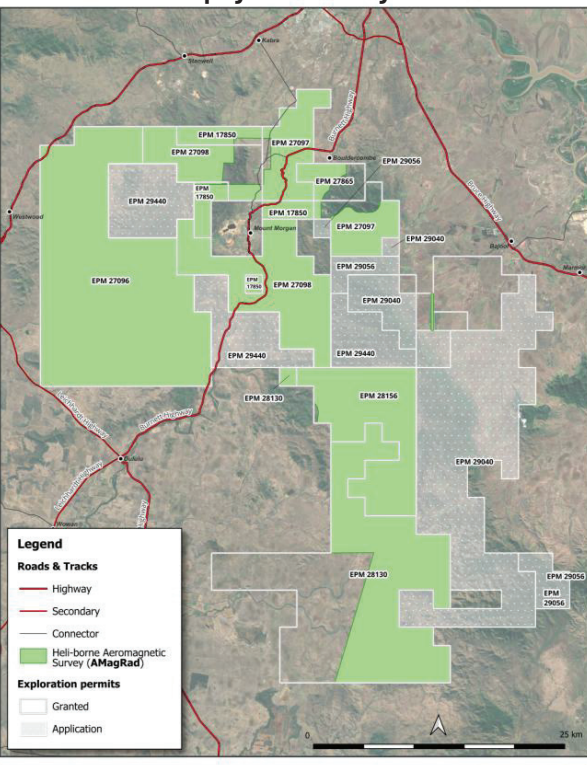
The survey is part of a scientific project to collect geo-magnetic data to determine the potential for underground mineral deposits.

The survey is *non-invasive* with no ground disturbance. The equipment simply measures natural properties of the earth from the air.

The operation will be conducted in accordance with aviation safety regulations. We appreciate the community's understanding while this important data collection work is carried out.


What residents can expect:

- Aircraft operating at low altitude
- Flight passes along straight lines, spaced at 100 apart
- Flights during daylight hours only



**Capricorn Project Geophysical Survey (2026)**


Projection: GDA94 / MGA zone 56



**Capricorn MINERALS**

**Capricorn Project Geophysical Survey (2026)**

Projection: GDA94 / MGA zone 56



For further information please contact:

- **Chris Bee, Land Access Manager – 0404 969 373**
- [contact@capricornminerals.com.au](mailto:contact@capricornminerals.com.au)
- [www.capricornminerals.com.au](http://www.capricornminerals.com.au)

# SAVE THE DATE!

**JUN 13:** Baree Markets. Baree Hall 8 am - 12 noon.

**JUN 16:** Dee River Oldies Group - June Monthly Meeting. It starts at 2 pm and is held in St Mary's Hall, Gordon Street, Mount Morgan. (Behind the Anglican Church).

**JUN 20:** Lorikeets "Pink Day". Home Game at Newman Oval from 12 noon. Raising money for Breast Cancer.

**JUN 24:** Dee River Oldies Group - June Morning Tea. It starts at 10.00 am and is held in St Mary's Hall, Gordon Street, Mount Morgan. (Behind the Anglican Church). Cost is \$5. Raffle and lucky door prizes.

**JUL 11:** Baree Markets. Baree Hall 8 am - 12 noon.

**JUL 17:** Gold Rush Family Festival. 3 - 6 pm. Mount Morgan School of Arts.

**JUL 17:** Gold Rush Hill Spirit Parade of cars. Leaves Mount Morgan Range at 3.30 pm. Finishes in Morgan Street.

**JUL 18:** Annual Kalapa Auction at Kalapa Hall. Bookings through TOPX Gracemere: Gavin Tickle 0488 580 730 or Kane Weazel 0460 426 830

**JUL 21:** Dee River Oldies Group - July Monthly Meeting. It starts at 2 pm and is held in St Mary's Hall, Gordon Street, Mount Morgan. (Behind the Anglican Church).

**JUL 22:** Dee River Oldies Group - July Morning Tea. It starts at 10.00 am and is held in St Mary's Hall, Gordon Street, Mount Morgan. (Behind the Anglican Church). Cost is \$5. Raffle and lucky door prizes.

**AUG 8:** Mount Morgan Show at Showgrounds from 8 am.

**SEP 5:** Annual Kalapa Horse Sports at Kalapa Hall. Enquiries Greg Heath 0444 594 984, Peter Scott 0458 347 100 or Helen Howkins 0417 815 351

**NOV 11:** Kalapa Hall Centenary. Enquiries Greg Heath 0444 594 984, Vince Reynolds 0749 347 256, Annette Coombs 0488 347 110 or Lorraine Orr on 0407 382 438.

## MOUNT MORGAN QCWA BRANCH

MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE GREEN SHED THOMPSON AVE 9.00 AM TO 12 NOON

## MOUNT MORGAN MEN'S SHED INC.

Meets 9 am - 12 noon - Wednesdays & Saturdays  
Phone: John 0429 055 165



## Mt Morgan Historical Museum

Best display out side Brisbane History Records and Graves Records. Adults \$6, Pensioners, \$4, Children \$2. Group over 15 \$4 ea

87 Morgan Street      mmhmuseum@yahoo.com.au  
Mt Morgan Qld      07-49382122  
Po Box 158 Mt Morgan 4714      open 10am-4pm  
7 Days a Week

# CLASSIFIEDS

## LIGHT ON THE HILL CHURCH

**EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT**

Green Shed from 7 pm. Phone 0412 502 937

Free sausage sizzle and sale 25 July 2026. Men's Shed at old Dee Bowls Club. 9.30 am start. 50726 Burnett Highway. Phone John on 0429 055 165.

*\* Massage \* Reflexology \* Lymphatic Drainage*



Contact: Karen

**0428 202 037**

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MOUNT MORGAN

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*Projecting a positive future*

## ROTARY CLUB OF MOUNT MORGAN

1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month -  
Grand Hotel - 6 pm for 6.30 pm. Visitors Welcome!  
E: mount.morgan@rotary9560.org

## TRASH AND TREASURE

Trash and Treasure, 21 Gordon Street.  
Every Friday from 8.30 am to 12 noon. Every first Saturday of the month from 8.30 am to 12 noon. Clothing \$1.00 unless otherwise marked.. Any donations please leave at 21 Gordon Street during opening hours

## MOUNT MORGAN WELFARE BOWLS CLUB

Social bowls - Sundays 9 am for 9.30 am start.  
All welcome. Phone: 0418 239 871 (Julie)

**THE NEXT EDITION WILL BE PUBLISHED ON**

**WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2026**

All inclusions required by:

Tuesday, 16 JUNE 2026 by 4 p.m.

Ph: 4938 2312

Email: mmpad@mountmorgan.org.au

If you don't receive your Argus, please contact us.