

Scenic Living

After a bumper year for the Scenic Rim in 2023 I am looking forward with great optimism to the boundless possibilities for our region in 2024.

It was particularly pleasing to see the Scenic Rim achieve state, national and international recognition during 2023, both as a leading visitor destination and for its innovation with a focus on environmental sustainability.

Based on data from 1.6 billion online conversations and content publicly available on 21,330 global destinations, the Scenic Rim was among the top 100 Most Loved Destinations ranked in the Tourism Sentiment Score ahead of the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne here in Australia and only slightly behind Niagara Falls in Canada and Bordeaux in France.

This result is a testament to the wealth of our region's tourism offerings combined with Council's sustained campaign to promote our region in conjunction with the local business community and tourism operators.

In May 2023, Tamborine Mountain was named as a finalist in the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's Top Town Tourism Awards. In November, the region's Eat Local Movement won the Bronze Award for Excellence in Food Tourism at the Queensland Tourism Awards in Cairns.

Our first-ever Scenic Rim Eat Local Month in June produced a cornucopia of economic benefits that added almost \$1.2 million to the region and enhanced the event's reputation as one of Australia's most authentic paddock-to-plate farming experiences.

This month-long celebration that included 139 events attracted some 11,697 visitors, most of whom were from outside the region, and planning is already in full swing for next year's program.

Council's commitment to enhancing our region's natural environment for future generations was recognised in October at the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia - Queensland and Northern Territory's 2023 Excellence Awards.

The Environment and Sustainability Award for the Lake Moogerah Caravan Park Upgrade Project acknowledged Council's achievement in activating this open space to meet the diverse needs of campers and caravanners while preserving the natural beauty of our spectacular Scenic Rim.

Also in October, Council's Disaster Waste Management Project took the top award at the national 2023 Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards in Melbourne.

The Outstanding Waste and Resource Recovery Project Award: Regional/Rural was presented for Council's plan, developed in conjunction with Talis Consultants, which aims to reduce the impact of natural disasters on the community.

The project included the development of a Waste Services Resilience Road Map, believed to be the first of its kind in Australia, and places Council at the forefront of the waste and recycling industry.

I am immensely proud of all that Council has achieved in partnership with the community during 2023 and I know we will continue to build on this success in the year ahead.



**Mayor
Greg Christensen**



Head Road reopens after a series of setbacks.

HEAD ROAD reopens

Head Road at Carneys Creek is now open after major works to repair damage caused by the 2019 Black Summer bushfires and subsequent flood events.

The works were originally postponed due to the border closure between Queensland and New South Wales during the COVID-19 pandemic which prevented the use of an alternative route during construction.

Extensive rain and flooding in 2021 and 2022 and further damage caused by landslides necessitated the closure of the road for safety reasons.

Council is grateful for funding which enabled the reinstatement of this important link to neighbouring regions to the west and south and has improved its ability to withstand future wet weather.

Assistance for this project was provided through the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

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SCENIC RIM
REGIONAL COUNCIL

scenicrim.qld.gov.au

FUNDS FLOW

for road and bridge works

Council is set to start works on Kerry Road, Hinchcliffe Bridge and Kengoon Bridge following the approval of more than \$12 million in federal funding.

The Australian Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program and Bridges Renewal Program will facilitate the upgrade of approximately two kilometres of Kerry Road and the replacement of two dilapidated timber crossings - Hinchcliffe Bridge at Kooralbyn and Kengoon Bridge at Kents Lagoon.

Council previously secured more than \$5 million in funding from the Australian Government for these projects under the 2022-2023 Budget and, due to significant cost increases, reapplied for funding securing a total of \$12.49 million.

Improvements to Kerry Road include realignment, width increase and pavement strengthening at a cost of \$9.60 million, with \$5 million in Australian Government funding secured.

Hinchcliffe Bridge will be upgraded to a two-lane concrete bridge featuring a higher load capacity and a separated shared path, and realignment of the adjoining intersection.

The low-level Kengoon Bridge will also be replaced with a concrete bridge to increase its load carrying capacity to current engineering standards, and the approaching road and associated infrastructure will be upgraded.

Council has allocated \$623,258 of its budget to this project and the remaining \$2.49 million will be provided under the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program.

Assistance for these projects has been provided under the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) and the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSP), which enables the upgrade and replacement of bridges to enhance access for local communities and facilitates higher productivity vehicle access (BRP) and increases the productivity and safety of heavy vehicle operations (HVSP).

RAISE A GLASS to Scenic Rim Eat Local Month

Scan the QR code to visit the Eat Local Month website.



Planning is in full swing for a second serving of Scenic Rim Eat Local Month, one of Australia's most authentic paddock-to-plate food and farming experience.

Mark the calendar from 1 to 30 June 2024 when more than 130 events, catering for all ages and including more than 50 farm experiences, will be staged across the region offering an opportunity to explore the Scenic Rim's spectacular natural beauty with family and friends.

The success of the region's Eat Local Movement was recognised with a bronze award for Excellence in Food Tourism at the 2023 Queensland Tourism Awards and its eat fresh, local and seasonal message will be the at the heart of events at farms, wineries and distilleries again in 2024.

This month-long celebration will feature hands-on workshops and masterclasses, farm tours and meet-the-producer events revealing the Scenic Rim's food and farming traditions.

Indulge in locally sourced, authentic dishes at long lunches, flavour-filled dinners, and exclusive dining experiences hosted by top Queensland chefs.

More than a food festival, Eat Local Month is a flavour-filled journey offering the opportunity to learn from culinary experts and to discover, savour and celebrate local produce at its finest.

PUBLIC ARTWORK CELEBRATES

Scenic Rim's fauna

Vibrant artworks featuring some of the Scenic Rim's celebrated wildlife have transformed an alleyway and block wall in Beaudesert's town centre into colourful public spaces.

Artist Ash Taylor's concept was chosen by the Scenic Rim Arts Reference Group and Clarke & Turton Lawyers to decorate the front and side of the law firm's building on William Street following a competitive selection process.

Inspired by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland's Yellow-bellied Glider Project, the murals feature two species threatened with extinction in Australia, the Feathertail Glider and the Greater Glider, along with their preferred food, the pink bloodwood tree.

Ash Taylor's artwork was one of three shortlisted entries chosen from eight submissions received by Scenic Rim Regional Council which were



Artist Ash Taylor's vibrant murals shine a spotlight on two threatened species.

considered by the Scenic Rim Arts Reference Group and building owner Clarke & Turton Lawyers.

In her proposal, Ms Taylor said her concept for the Beaudesert mural would highlight species found in the region that needed to be 'seen'.

"Conservation and bringing awareness to the local environmental concerns are initiatives I am engaged in and have adopted as a primary focus of my work," she said.

ENTERPRISE PRECINCT

offers a wealth of business opportunities

The launch of the Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct represents a landmark in the Scenic Rim's economic development with the 11-hectare site set to create a wealth of business and employment opportunities for the region.

The expansion of the industrial area at Enterprise Drive at Beaudesert is the culmination of four years of planning and construction to create 30 additional lots now available by tender for small to medium-sized businesses.

Council is grateful for the Queensland Government's funding injection of \$5 million which has enabled the expansion of the industrial estate on Council-owned land.

Funding for the expansion was announced in 2019 and operational works at the precinct were completed in February 2023

following a series of delays due to extreme weather events.

The 30 new lots range in size from 2,000m² to 5,000m², with the ability to be amalgamated if necessary, and include power, telecommunications, water, sewer and NBN connections.

The precinct's newly constructed roads, Don Franklin Court and Ric Enright Court, honour the contribution to the community of two members of the Beaudesert Development Board who, in the 1970s, served alongside Doug Sullivan and Dick Barram for whom two of the industrial estate's cul-de-sacs were named.

The Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct represents a golden opportunity for business and our region and Council is looking forward to seeing it realise its full potential.

The launch of the 11-hectare Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct was a landmark moment for the region.



Businesses seeking to establish or expand their operations at the Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct are encouraged to submit their tenders for lots through Vendor Panel. Tenders are now open and close 15 February 2024.

For details of the project or tendering process, see Council's website beaudesertenterpriseprecinct.com.au/ or contact Ray White Special Projects on (07) 3231 2241.

LIBRARY'S OPENING

a red-letter day

Scenic Rim Regional Council has thanked the Australian and Queensland governments for funding which has transformed the Tamborine Mountain Library into a vibrant community hub.

Catering for all ages and interests, the library was officially opened last month by Mayor Greg Christensen, Councillor Michael Enright and Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Major General Jake Ellwood (Retd).

An investment of more than \$2.14 million through the Local Economic Recovery (LER) Program to support areas impacted by the 2019 Queensland bushfires has delivered a new facility almost three times the size of the former library space on the site of the former IGA supermarket within the Main Street shopping centre at Tamborine Mountain.

The new library has been wholeheartedly embraced by the Tamborine Mountain community with a 30 per cent surge in attendance soon after it opened to the public in July 2023. More than 20,000 visitors passed through the library's door during the first quarter of the 2023-2024 financial year.

Major General Ellwood said the new Tamborine Mountain Library embodies the resilience of the Scenic Rim and its people.



Officially opening the Tamborine Mountain Library are (from left) Uncle Steve Watson who provided the Welcome to Country, National Emergency Management Agency Director George Hodgson, Cr Virginia West, Scenic Rim Mayor Greg Christensen, Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Major General Jake Ellwood (Retd), Deputy Mayor Jeff McConnell, Cr Amanda Hay and Cr Michael Enright.

"This official opening is a reminder of how communities pull together following disaster events, not only to recover but to rebound better and stronger than before," he said.

"The QRA is proud to have played a part in making this facility a reality through the state and federal Local Economic Recovery Program.

"In total, seven Scenic Rim projects have been funded through the LER Program,

representing an investment of more than \$3.6 million into the region.

"This library revitalisation is a wonderful outcome for the community, delivering a facility that will continue bringing people together for years to come."

Assistance for this project has been provided through the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

YOUR SCENIC RIM

Councillors



Mayor

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DIVISION 1

Cr Amanda Hay
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Deputy Mayor

DIVISION 2

Cr Jeff McConnell
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DIVISION 3

Cr Virginia West
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DIVISION 4

Cr Michael Enright
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DIVISION 5

Cr Marshall Chalk
Phone: 07 5540 5405



DIVISION 6

Cr Duncan McInnes OAM
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Divisional Map



DON'T WASTE IT - LET'S EXCHANGE IT



Council has partnered with Container Exchange to help keep more drink containers out of landfill and deliver greater value to the community through recycling.

As part of a pilot program, Containers for Change baskets are fitted to eight public place litter bins across Beaudesert's main street areas.

Members of the community who, while out and about, consume drinks from bottles eligible for a 10-cent refund – such as soft drinks, water bottles, juices or flavoured milks – are encouraged to dispose of their empties in the dedicated Containers for Change baskets around town.

The baskets also offer visitors a way to safely leave or collect empty containers, which can then be returned for a 10-cent refund at the nearest Container Refund Point.

See the **Containers For Change** website, containersforchange.com.au/qld/how-it-works, for details of the nearest container refund points in the Scenic Rim.

METAL – WHICH BIN DOES IT GO IN?



Scenic Rim Residents are keen recyclers, with Council's annual kerbside collection audit showing 82 per cent of materials being correctly placed in recycling bins.

However, there's still room for improvement when it comes to disposing of accepted metals as currently 50 per cent end up in landfill after being placed in general waste bins.

Common metals accepted in the yellow-topped recycling bin are:

- ✓ **aluminium foil** (scrunched into a fist-sized ball)
- ✓ **baby formula tins, coffee tins, grocery and pet food tins**

- ✓ **lids**, such as those from **jam** and **pasta sauce jars**, and

- ✓ **empty aerosol cans.**

Gas bottles, fire extinguishers, tins containing paint and tins of oil cannot go in recycling bins but can be taken to Council's Waste Transfer Stations.

When placing recyclable materials in the yellow-lidded bin, always keep them loose – not placed in a plastic bag.

DISASTER DASHBOARD

IT ONLY TAKES 5 MINUTES TO

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND PETS

Pets don't know what to do when disaster strikes. As their carer, it is important that you plan ahead and know how to help them when disaster strikes.

Council's Disaster Dashboard has all of the information you need to know before, during and after a disaster.

If your family's safety is important to you, **take 5 minutes now** to scan the QR code and sign up to receive potentially lifesaving information.

