

# In and around Barcaldine

Local Links • December 2009

## A message from the Regional Director



As we approach the end of 2009, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on 2009. This period has been one of major change and a degree of upheaval for our staff with the former Queensland

Transport and Main Roads merged into a new amalgamated department, Transport and Main Roads.

We have embraced the challenges and are still working hard to finalise changes to our working relationships and roles and I am sure this will continue in the months to come. However I am very pleased that our regional staff worked hard to build new relationships and networks in the new era.

I am also very proud of the way Central West region has handled the increased Blackspot and Safer Roads Sooner Programs. This work will provide great opportunities to improve safety on many areas of the network. All our technical people have had to pull out the stops to put in submissions for and deliver the benefits to our road users.

Another major safety initiative in full swing in the Central West Region is the Safety Leadership program. This course will provide all people in a leadership role with enhanced skills to manage safety outcomes and move towards a zero harm environment.

I am looking forward to seeing the participants progress on the safety projects and sharing them across the Region. I hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas break.

**Eric Denham**  
Regional Director (Central West)

## Cultural Heritage Signing

An important step in community relations was reached at Boulia in November with the signing of the Road Corridor Cultural Heritage Agreement with the Pitta Pitta People. Representatives from Boulia Shire Council, Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Pitta Pitta People were one hand to sign and witness the agreement.

Regional Director Eric Denham said the Agreement would provide an opportunity to improve the efficiency of cultural heritage investigations for maintenance and construction activities.

“This agreement as a part of the Regional Action plan and it will give Indigenous communities a real say in managing their cultural heritage.”

Mr Denham said the intent of the Agreement is to form an overarching Cultural Heritage Agreement that will extend for five years.

“The department right across Western Queensland has established excellent relationships with native title claimants and Indigenous parties and it is very gratifying to know they will continue to be strong in the future.”



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## Q150 Bridge Naming

As a part of the state's 150th birthday celebrations, Main Roads Minister Craig Wallace announced the names of two bridges in Queensland's central west region.

"These names reflect the local history of this area and celebrate the early beginnings of this great state," Mr Wallace said.

"The Cooper Creek Bridge, which is located 11.6km north east of Windorah, will be retaining its original name as it was clear from the nominations received the community wanted to recognise the area's early history.

"The explorer Charles Sturt originally named the Cooper Creek when he was on an expedition to the area in 1845. Sturt named the creek after Charles Cooper, who was the first Chief Justice of South Australia."

Mr Wallace said the second bridge to be named, the Barcoo River Bridge, located 500 metres south of Blackall CBD, will be known as the Kargoolnah Bridge.

"The name Kargoolnah has significant meaning to local communities," he said.

Mr Wallace said also announced the third bridge to be named would be the Diamantina River Crossing, now to be known as the Karit-Juru Bridge.

"The new bridge name, Karit-Juru, reflects the Indigenous history of the area. The Wangkangurru and Yaluyandi people are the local Indigenous groups where the bridge is located, and Karit-Juru, reflects the Indigenous history of the area.

## Community Cabinet

Transport and Main Roads staff played host to an influx of politicians who came face to face and discuss a range of issues that impact their lives.

A number of staff volunteered their time on a Sunday to help out in the event, including Program Support Officer, Toni Austin and Manager Capability and Business Systems Gerry Fogarty (pictured). Staff were busy at the departments

information stall on Sunday, after helping to organise the Barcaldine Races the day before.

Gerry, an Iningai Elder, also delivered the official "Welcome to Country" at the Barcaldine Community Cabinet.

Central West Regional Director Eric Denham believed the event was a great success.

"The best thing was seeing the strong relationship between the department and local government, and witnessing how we work together to come up with the best solutions," Mr Denham said.



## Central West Projects

The Central West Region has a three exciting projects planned over the next few years. These plans will benefit all road users in the region.

They Include:

- An ongoing program of projects to seal the Blackall – Jericho Road.
- Replacing a timber bridge at Cornish Creek on the Aramac – Torrens Creek Road.
- An ongoing project to seal the Diamantina Developmental Road between Bedourie and Boulia.

For more information on projects in the Central West Region or in other regions please visit the 13 19 40 website at <http://131940.qld.gov.au/>

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