



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CIVIC CENTRE
101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE**

On 17 March 2020

Commencing at 9.00am

**Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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Elected Members

Councillor - Mayor M J Burnett
Councillor G G Churchill
Councillor K Goodluck
Councillor R A Hansen
Councillor P J Masters
Councillor D V O'Grady
Councillor P J Sobhanian
Councillor C A Trevor
Councillor N Muszkat

Officers

Mrs L Dowling (Chief Executive Officer)
Miss C Daly (Executive Secretary)
Mr M Holmes
Mrs B Saunders

G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE

Condolences were received for the passing of Mr Doug Burnett on 28 February 2020. Cr Trevor provided a copy of the eulogy presented at Mr Burnett's funeral – **refer Addendum 1.**

G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil.

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the staff, students, volunteers and the team at the GECC for the fantastic production of the combined schools musical. Seventy-Four students across twelve schools; Mount Larcom, catholic schools, state schools, high schools and primary schools. If you missed the Wizard of Oz, I'm sorry ladies and gentlemen you have missed a fantastic school musical. The students really did an amazing job with the support of their teachers, parents and the dedicated staff and volunteers.

We are currently hosting the 40th anniversary reunion of the Fremantle Class Patrol Boats. The HMAS Gladstone is one of the Fremantle boats currently at East Shores. Just reminding residents that we have written to the Minister of Defense and the Chief of the Navy previously on at least two occasions requesting the new offshore patrol vessels currently under construction in Perth that at least one of them be named after our great region Gladstone, would be great to see a HMAS Gladstone III.

Last night we hosted our first Youth Council meeting here at the Gladstone Regional Council Chambers. I would like to congratulate Max Thomson as the new chair and deputy chair Abbey Willis, Abbey is from our previous youth council, it's good to see Abbey taking on a leadership role and I'm sure Max will take on the role as chair very well. Goodluck to both Abbey and Max and our Youth Council team.

During the past four years we have worked hard to ensure higher levels of Government acknowledge the importance of the Gladstone Region to the State and National economy and we have been successful in securing significant State and Federal funding over the past four years.

Every dollar returned to our community from higher levels of Government allows us to continue to provide the services and infrastructure our growing community needs.

Supporting our local economy, local business and attracting job creating industries to the Region has been the priority with a number of small projects and major projects are now either under construction, approved, under EIS or in the final investment decision phase.

These job creating projects are exactly what our community needs.

With our world class Port facilities and our proximity to the Southern Great Barrier Reef the Gladstone Region will continue to develop and grow.

Over the past four years we have actively promoted our Region's lifestyle and supported many family friendly events.

Last year in partnership with our Youth Council we launched our new Festival of Summer specifically for under 17s.

This week long event wrapped up with the Festival of Summer Sounds.

Other family friendly events include Pop Con, Luminous and the Sport and Active Living Festival.

To celebrate 100 years of Gladstone Rugby League we hosted the Gold Coast Titans and Manly Sea Eagles, our first ever NRL match at Marley Brown Oval.

This was the beginning of many major events for our Region.

We have supported the economic growth by supporting tourism and small to medium business and through our local preference policy. Council is actively encouraging investment in aged care and

retirement living through our infrastructure charges incentive scheme. With one project already approved in Tannum Sands and the retirement village/aged care facility at the Philip Street Community Precinct is currently in the expression of interest phase.

This project would not be possible without the support of the Federal Government \$20M grant for the duplication of Philip Street. This was the major hurdle preventing retirement living/aged care providers proceeding at the site.

Through determination and strong leadership this project is well underway not only providing a community services precinct but ensuring our seniors can remain in their community.

Much more has been achieved for our community over the past four years and this wouldn't have been possible without an organisation of hard working officers led by our CEO Leisa Dowling, a team of dedicated Councillors, and an amazing network of community volunteers.

Something I'm most proud of is our trainees and apprentices, I have been working personally on that for four years not always with support but certainly with the envy of them. I'm so proud to be supporting trainees and apprentices as part of our culture to train, educate and deliver quality tradesmen and tradeswomen and quality traineeships and apprenticeships for our younger generation. I always believe that its fundamental to local government to get out to the schools to make students aware of it and if you do not give them the opportunity they will never know what local government offers. Whether the 20 trainees and apprentices stay or move on, they will share their experiences with all their friends and family as people do not understand they vast array of options and opportunities that local government has to offer.

To wrap up this term by thanking everybody, my Deputy Mayor, Councillors, CEO and all Council Staff and volunteers.

I wanted the final minutes to say thank you to Maureen Mason for forty years dedication, working for six mayors, a whole bunch of Councillors and more staff than you can imagine. Thank you very much on behalf of the entire Gladstone Region, for your service to our community.

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 3 MARCH 2020

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 3 March 2020.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 3 March 2020 be confirmed.

G/20/4120 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Masters
Seconded Cr Sobhanian

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/3.1. OFFICER'S REPORTS

G/3.1.1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 25 FEBRUARY 2020

File Ref: FM15.1

Purpose:

This report seeks Council adoption of the Monthly Financial Statements for the 2019-20 year to date, for the period ended 25 February 2020.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Statements attached to the officer's report for the 2019-20 year to date, for the period ended 25 February 2020 as required under Section 204 *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

G/20/4121 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Hansen
Seconded Cr Churchill

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/3.1.2. REPEAL OF VACCINATION POLICY

File Ref: CM28.2

Purpose:

This report recommends that Council consider repealing its existing Vaccination Policy and manage this matter operationally through a Corporate Standard.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council repeal P-2017-07 Vaccination Policy.

G/20/4122 Council Resolution:

Moved Mayor Burnett
Seconded Cr Sobhanian

That Council retain P-2017-07 Vaccination Policy subject to minor amendments to the related documents section to reference the most current versions of the documents listed.

CARRIED

G/4. DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Nil.

G/6. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil.

G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil.

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 09.41am

CERTIFICATION

I hereby confirm that I have read the minutes and they are a true and correct record of the proceedings of the meeting. I certify that these 11 pages form the official copy of Gladstone Regional Council General Meeting Minutes of the 17 March 2020.

.....
Mayor Matt Burnett

...../...../.....
Date

ATTACHMENTS

ADDENDUM 1

Eulogy for Doug Burnett

Douglas Peddy Burnett ("Dougie Donut" as he was affectionately known) was born on the 23rd of March 1948 to George Burnett and Iris Burnett (nee Belz).

He was the 6th of their 8 children - Kathleen, Bobbie, Joe, Alan, Frank, Doug, Mervyn and Anna, and his sister Kathleen and brother Joe join us here today. Though Anna cannot be here today, she shared a very special bond with Doug and recently travelled from NSW to spend time with him towards the end of his battle with pancreatic cancer. Doug attended Gladstone Central State School with a number of his siblings, leaving to enter the workforce at the age of 13 to start his working life as a TV mechanic.

He was well known to spring surprises on family and friends and there was no better chuckle over the years than recalling when a young Doug and his Brother Joe were baptised in Beecher Creek after telling Father Pike of their decisions to become Baptist Priests. Those who got to hear some of Doug's stories over the years would agree that that career move was never likely to get off the ground. Indeed, some here will remember Doug's infamous "Jesus Christ James wadda mean you left the oven on".

One of Doug's favourite jobs was as a Ringer on Junee Station where he honed his skills as a horseman and consequently horses became a big part of his life including owning shares in thoroughbreds.

A perfect Saturday for Doug was checking the Best Bets and spending time at the track. For someone who was not up with the latest technology he mastered his TAB APP like a pro. He was notorious for calling the TAB to place a bet as the horses were about to jump and often 'vented his frustration' with some colourful words when the race was closed and he didn't get his bet on. He did love to have a punt.

After his stint on Junee Station he moved to Blackwater where he worked in the mines and played footy for the local Blackwater/Bluff footy team. He was a true clubman, and it was during that time the foundation stone for his lifelong dedication to rugby league was laid.

Moving home to Gladstone Doug took up a Painter's position at the Gladstone Power Station with his brother Frankie. This soon ended when Doug was asked to apply a couple of coats to the stacks. Workplace standards were almost non-existent in those days and though Doug loved to paint he had a terrible fear of heights so he quit the next day.

This was bittersweet for Doug as he was at his happiest with a paint brush or a roller in his hand. Anyone who knew him well would know that if there was a tin of Dulux or Taubmans laying around and he thought your lounge or patio needed a coat of paint the lid would be off, the roller in the tray and within no time a freshly coated wall emerged. Minor details

such as whether the colour of the paint matched the décor was secondary, though for Dougie it was all about never wasting a drop of paint.

Doug's early work life took another direction when he accepted a position at the meatworks in Lakes Creek Rockhampton. He was allocated a job on the kill floor ensuring his career in the meatworks was short lived – you guessed it, he quit the next day. Doug's two experiences at very short-term employment records became past history and distant memories when he took up a position with the Railway in Gladstone where he worked until the day he retired.

The Railway and his workmates there were a huge part of Doug's life, and his reputation for being at work at least 30 minutes prior to the start of every shift was soon well known and respected – especially by Station Master and good friend Paul Smith. Punctuality was always one of Doug's strongest points as anyone who ever kept him waiting found out! He had a strong work ethic and he especially enjoyed the years when his son Matthew worked in the railway alongside him. He made a pretend attempt to stifle a smile when it was Matt's job to empty the bins and mop the floors in Dougie's signal cabin at Callemondah.

During his years at the Railway Doug joined his Union, the RTBU, and proudly supported many actions and causes for the movement. He instilled in his family the value and importance of Unions and of fairness and solidarity not only in the workplace but in every aspect of life. Doug's skills as a ticket seller for his many causes were well known and anyone who entered the signal Cabin knew there would be a chance (AND a covert expectation) to buy a ticket in his cause for that week.

One of his most well-known fundraisers was the Brothers Charity Golf Day, which raised funds for his beloved Gladstone Brothers Football Club. Always an Ambrose event the idea was to have fun and enjoy a beer or two or ten with mates while raising funds. That he certainly achieved. The Brothers Charity Golf Day was one of the biggest, or maybe even THE biggest annual fundraiser held at the Gladstone Golf Club, with more prizes per hole than any other event thanks to Doug's ability to source prizes.

Doug devoted much of his life to the Brothers Football Club both Juniors and Seniors, playing, coaching, volunteering his time for whatever the Club's needs may be. One story recently retold was the day before the grand final when Doug decided the Clubhouse needed a fresh coat of paint including the floor. Unfortunately he didn't use the best paint for the surface and needless to say when the boys came back to celebrate the win, after a few frothy spills the floor became very slippery and blue paint covered everyone in the Club looking like an annual gathering of smurfs.

"Were blue because we're blue because we're blue because we're blue had never been truer" and Dougie smiled and was as proud as punch.

Doug was respected by all Clubs but there was no doubt where his loyalty lay. He was rewarded with life membership to both the Past Brothers Junior Rugby League Football Club and Gladstone Brothers Seniors Rugby League Football Club in recognition of his tireless work and dedication. He was honoured with a minute's silence at local games last weekend and also at the Masters Carnival on the Gold Coast where players ran out wearing black arm bands out of respect for a true Brothers legend.

It was a fitting moment at the Masters Carnival for Dean O'Dowd, Leif Audet, Laurie Callinan, Snoopy Cameron and Matt Jones who were each awarded the Doug Burnett medal as man of the match. At a national level he was a mad keen unbending St George supporter, and probably one of his greatest disappointments was that his sons and grandchildren supported the Bulldogs and the Eels. His final footy celebration was last month when the St George ladies team won the Perth 9's and men's team made the grand final. Doug was involved in a number of other clubs including fishing and dog obedience. He also especially enjoyed playing darts and the mateship that went with it.

In 1972 Doug met Jennifer Littlemore, the only true love of his life. They were married in 1973 in Gladstone with Doug immediately taking on the role of Dad to Damien with no hesitation. Matthew was born the following year and their family was complete. Doug equally loved both his boys and spent many hours encouraging them and supporting them in whatever they chose to do. Even after Doug and Jenny's separation, Doug remained an active and important part of his boys' lives. Damien and Matthew could not have asked for a more supportive Dad.

The arrival of each of his grandchildren Blake, Jessi, Joshua and Mitchell was a proud moment for Doug each birth celebrated in style with the traditional head wetting. There was nothing he wouldn't do for any one of them and he didn't mind sharing some Grandfatherly advice - whether it was sought or not. He spoke often of his love and pride for his grandchildren, especially at special occasions and milestones. Becoming a Great Grandfather was also a great moment for Doug and he loved them all equally.

When his son Matthew was elected to Council in 2000 Doug's pride was evident for all to see. He supported every day of Matt's role and was in his element hammering in corflutes and was always there to look after the kids anytime he was needed. He was so proud when Matt was elected Mayor in 2016 but sadly passed away before he could apply for a postal vote for this month's election.

To his mates, a great many of whom are here today and too numerous to individually mention, Doug was always the first to put his hand up anywhere he was needed and was always the last one out. Everyone who knew Doug well also knew of his impulsive decisions! One time while he was at the Block in Baffle Creek he decided to jump on the ride on and

mow the long grass. After about 10 minutes he could be heard cursing that the mower was stuffed. That's putting it nicely. When his mates went to check what was going on, they found he hadn't engaged the blades. Promptly he cursed again, stormed off and had a few beers instead. They are many more stories like this I am sure we will hear later today over a beer or two.

Doug was also well loved and respected in his neighbourhood. When he moved into the area his address was 54 Hibiscus Avenue, on the corner of Mallee Court. However he felt such a strong connection with the few houses and the tight knit community in Mallee Court that he decided to change his address from 54 Hibiscus Avenue to 2 Mallee Court. Of course he didn't think to change his mailing address everywhere and therein was the cause of huge confusion to which Doug simply shrugged his shoulders and moved on!

Sadly Doug's health failed him when he was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2017, but he fought that battle and won it. His return to health was not for too long and he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in April 2018. Despite many months of gruelling treatment his periods of good health were short. However, he defied the odds and lived longer than medical experts ever expected.

Doug passed away in Gladstone on the 28th February listening to country music and surrounded by family and friends. Doug wore his heart on his sleeve, and we all know very well that he would give you the shirt off his back. He was dearly loved by his family, his many friends, and his community and it's appropriate that the street outside this footy club is named in his honour, Doug Burnett Place.

So on behalf of all of us as we try to fill that emptiness in our hearts you have left us today, thank you for the memories Doug, Dougie, Douglas, Dogie Do-Nut, the many laughs and great times we all shared but most of all thank you for being the beautiful, uncomplicated, loving, larrikin man with a heart of gold that we all loved.

Rest in Peace Dougie Donut.