

MURGON BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT ASSN. INC.
PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017:

Murgon and our surrounding districts are synonymous with tough and changing times, but the recent rain and storms have set up our community for good summer crops, whilst also receiving record cattle prices.

We have again worked closely with our council, to gain the best possible future for an expanding population, and a very progressive community.

Our whole community should be proud of our town and its achievements and be a part of it, and with your help continue to improve the local economy and our quality of life.

Our popular breakfast meetings during the year have been well attended, and we look forward to further input from our members.

We extend a warm welcome to all our new Murgon residents and business owners to become part of our family. Murgon's main concerns as always in the coming year will be to get our share of any new development, and establishing further small industry and erecting houses on our estates.

We have seen record attendances at Bjelke-Petersen Dam and Boondooma Dam during this past year and Murgon has thrived on tourism and the fishing has been excellent which has also encouraged the many fishing comps being held. Combine this with our World class scenic views, first class sporting facilities, the wine and olive industry and the Queensland Dairy & Heritage Museum, our festivals and fun ... we have excelled in promoting these opportunities, as well as our courteous and friendly nature.

We have few shops to fill and there has been a major increase in town development with a lot of new businesses being established.

You all need to be congratulated and we wish you lots of success.

I would like to especially thank our hard working Secretary Margaret Long and Treasurer Stacey Perrett, and all office bearers and promotional committees, especially our Christmas Fair committee and all those who presented reports to our meetings.

I also wish to thank the volunteers for their commitment to our town at the Visitor Information Centre and the Museum, and those responsible for some of our major events that have included the magnificent Murgon Rotary Music Muster with 237 on site vans, the Graham House Outawak Concert, major festivities at the wineries (Moffatdale Ridge Italian Festival, Dusty Hill Dusty Day Out), The Murgon High School Annual Speech Night and Senior Formal, South Burnett and Cherbourg on Show, The Murgon Men's Shed, the rugby league sporting events, the opening of the South Burnett Rail Trail, the Indigenous Golf Tournament, the Farmers Nights at Tablelands Hall, the Anzac Day celebrations, the Pink Ladies Golf Day and many others including our annual local show and the Limousin Youth Camp.

Congratulations to the Murgon Crusaders Cricket team and the Murgon Mustangs senior football side for their success in the sporting arena. Congratulations to local Aboriginal artist Max Conlon with his winning Australian Christian book of the year (Our Mob, God's Story), depicting Christian Indigenous art and paintings. Congratulations to the Murgon Hospital Auxiliary who held their 20 Year Reunion recently.

Special thanks must go to Greg Griffiths and the council staff for their beautification of our central park area, and additions to the Rotary Park and skate board park area and also to the commitment shown by our area representative Deputy Mayor Councillor Kathy Duff.

I extend a very big thank you to all our Voluntary organisers, Service Clubs, Police, Ambulance, SES, Fire Services, SB PCYC and Security officers and look forward to a great 2018.

The 48 hour free camp ground in Murgon has seen many thousands of dollars being spent in our community whilst also promoting our other caravan parks for an extended stay and tour of our district. We are now RV friendly similar to other local towns.

To those wonderful people Stacey Perrett and Lorraine Goodchild, Murgon is very grateful for the updating of messages and news items on our web site murgon.net.au and our Facebook page.

Many thanks to our Federal representative Llew O'Brien MP for his commitment to the \$400,000 lighting and security cameras, the extension to the Murgon Men's Shed, and to the upgrade of acoustics at the SB PCYC.

Congratulations to those recipients of local and Australia Day Awards and to sporting representatives who have achieved higher honours and remember the 2018 South Burnett Australia Day Awards night is being held in Murgon this year and we have some fantastic nominations.

We are currently printing a minimum of 3,800 copies, 48 pages of The Murgon Moments and have now printed 134 monthly issues since enlarging our local newspaper 11 years ago, (special thanks to our newspaper experts, script writers, the many story tellers, and committee's for backing this local news production and to Mick Kemp and Darryl and Lyn Koy in delivering to the Murgon town and outlying areas). I would also like to thank our print setter Linda Urch and publisher Horton Media for their understanding and help.

Our long awaited 3 large town map signs were completed and two of them have been erected.

Once again during this past twelve months we have sadly lost some of our great community workers, volunteers and family and we extend our sympathy to all these families.

Our Christmas Fair committee has been hard at work this year organizing new entertainment and we wish to thank the business community for their valued support and I will leave our secretary Margaret tell you about the great world class entertainment that they have coming to this year's Christmas carnival.

I have enjoyed the time in the position but remember, new blood can only help and if you believe you would like to lead this organization, now is the time to tell us. I will be committing more time to my own business as major changes have occurred in the motor industry which have dramatically affected my business.

We need to appoint a new treasurer to help lift the workload off our secretary as Stacey has indicated she is not available to serve another term as Treasurer owing to other commitments.

With everyone's help and generosity we believe we will remain a major player in the promotion of a progressive and friendly Murgon.

Remember: Stay Awhile – Try Local – and Be Surprised.

And have a safe and wonderful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

LEO GERAGHTY – PRESIDENT