

# It's all happening

## FROM MY DESK

**COLIN BOYCE**  
FLYNN MP



Last week, I visited the Central Highlands including the townships of Blackwater, Emerald, Rubyvale, and Sapphire.

The recent rain has again greened everything up which is terrific heading into the winter months.

The Fairbairn Dam level remains sitting under 45 per cent but just can't seem to crack above 50 per cent.

It was certain warm and humid but hopefully the temperatures will lessen coming into the school holidays and the Easter break.

While in Blackwater I visited the International Coal Centre, the Hunter Street Sports Complex, Aquatic Centre and spent the afternoon visiting local businesses around the town.

The Coal Centre is to exhibit a unique view into the operations and history of Australia's coal mining industry through its interactive Museum.

Additionally, the centre features three conference rooms, an auditorium, 3D Cinema, award-winning landscaped gardens, and cafe. These high-quality amenities are available for business, training organisations and the surrounding community.

The BICC is utilised to host special cultural events and delivers significant employment and economic benefits to the region.

It was nice to spend a day at Rubyvale and Sapphire where I caught up with some of the locals.

Although time didn't permit to do any



Flynn MP Colin Boyce with Hollie and Melissa from the new daycare centre First 5 Years, due to open soon offering 92 placements.

fossicking, I did learn from locals about the unique history of the area and possibly next time I can try my luck at finding some sapphires.

Businesses are gearing up for the tourist season and it is great to see the local establishments offer a variety of delicious foods.

While in Emerald I met with constituents, industry, and business representatives.

I had the opportunity to visit the nearly completed new daycare centre - First 5 Years and catch up with Director Melissa and Centre Manager Hollie.

Melissa and Hollie's vision for the centre is

amazing and it is fantastic to see local tradies being contracted for the build.

I look forward to returning to the centre upon its completion.

Plans for the Easter Sunflower Festival are in full swing with a full week of events planned from 2-9 April.

Highlights of the Festival are the High Tea, Entrant Speeches and Art Gallery Exhibition, the Parade and Queen Crowning, Races and Rodeo and the Music 'n' Mingle.

I always enjoy my time visiting the Central Highlands and it is exciting to see how vibrant all things industry is in the area I look forward to my next visit during April.

## And there was light...

As part of the Central Highlands council's 2022-23 capital budget, the Comet Hall received much-needed electrical upgrades to meet compliance standards and continue works identified in the 'make safe' program.

"The goal of the 'make safe' program is to improve aged components and provide reliable, resilient, and sustainable electrical installations," said General Manager Communities John McDougall.

Upgrades to the Comet Hall included the installation of new LED lighting and the replacement of pre-existing lighting with LED bulbs.

The main switch, ceiling fan selector switches, and safety switches were replaced and the weathered pipes in the air conditioning system were repaired.

Other halls also received upgrades as part of council's 2022-23 capital budget. The Willows Recreation Club received a complete overhaul, and the Rubyvale and Sapphire have received upgrades to the exterior wheelchair accessibility.



The Comet Hall upgrades.

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