

Charges laid following drug operation in region

Fourteen people were charged as part of the ongoing drug enforcement operation, Operation Quebec Oxygen, with police executing 11 search warrants in Oakey, Kingsthorpe, Jondaryan, Ballard, Harristown and Cambooya.

Officers located small quantities of methylamphetamine, cannabis and cash during the search warrants.

Fourteen people were charged with a total of 644 drug related offences, including trafficking, supply and possession.

Detective Inspector Mat Kelly said these types of operations were aimed at reducing harm posed by illicit drugs within rural areas, a great win for police and the community.

"These operations, supported by local intelligence and valuable information from across the community, will continue to be executed across the South West District and throughout the Southern Policing Region," Detective Inspector Kelly said.

"By disrupting criminal behaviour in this way, we aim to deter future offending."

Last week's operation was a cooperative effort between Dalby Criminal Investigation Branch,



ABOVE and RIGHT: Quantities of drugs and cash were removed from properties during Operation Quebec Oxygen. - Photos courtesy Queensland Police Service

Toowoomba Criminal Investigation Branch, Toowoomba and Kingaroy Major and Organised Crime Squad and Toowoomba Tactical Crime Squad, assisted by the dog squad.



Funding boost for local shows

The Oakey and Goombungee Show Societies will benefit from extra funding thanks to the recent Queensland Government Show Societies Grants Program.

As part of the program the Oakey Show Society will receive \$7,747 and the Goombungee Show Society will be presented \$7,693.

The Show Societies Grants Program provides financial support for operating costs associated with annual agricultural shows, and costs towards the construction and maintenance of showground assets.

Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies General Manager Trevor Beckingham OAM welcomed the funding.

"This program is greatly appreciated by the societies, and in many cases, this funding is critical for them to be able

to conduct their show," Mr Beckingham said.

"I'd like to thank the government for its ongoing support, which is helping to keep the gates open and put smiles on faces all over the state."

Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the importance of a community's agricultural show goes beyond a day of family fun.

"There's no doubt, the ag show provides a moment of magic, excitement and utter enjoyment for kids of all ages, but it also provides vital economic and social benefits," Mr Hinchliffe said.

For information go to www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/ssgp

Two vehicle prang at Kingsthorpe

The occupants of two vehicles were lucky not to sustain any major injuries following a crash on the corner of Kingsthorpe-Haden Road and Gowrie Street on Wednesday.

Emergency services attended the scene of the incident with no one involved in the incident requiring further medical attention.

Shining a light on drought affects

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Mr Garratt said his operation is now fully reliant on trucking in feed for the cows.

"We have a reliance every day on fodder to feed the cows which we usually have the capacity to grow," he said.

Despite these challenges, Mr Garratt said he can see the silver lining in the drought.

"It is crucial for me... to acknowledge the good things we have," he said.

"If you always look to the bad things we would have sold up and gone to the coast long ago.

"We absolutely do have a problem.

"There have been, in my industry, good things that have come out of the drought.

"We have seen a shift

in the price of milk at the supermarket shelf.

"I don't think we would have got that if not for the drought.

"It is really hard but we have to look at what we can gain from it and about how we can deal with the next drought."

Mr Armitage said that all farmers should learn from those in the industry who are making a successful operation in the tough times.

"We will learn a lot from this drought as it is the worst one we have ever had," he said.

"There is some good farmers out there."

"There are lessons we can learn by sitting down with other farmers who are successfully getting through this drought.

The full 'in conversation'

discussion recording will be published online at a later date.

Led by children's author, Emma Mactaggart, Project 4401 will be an ongoing initiative and will involve school students and the wider community.

Upcoming programs will include picture book workshops and poetry and photographic competitions.

These will run into 2020 and focus on empowering the Oakey community through stories and promoting positive mental health behaviours.

Project 4401 received a \$33,000 grant from the Queensland Government's Tackling Regional Adversity through Integrated Care (TRAIC) Grants Program.

Released last month, only sixteen organisations across the state



Stuart Armitage during the 'in conversation' panel at Oakey Library.

were successful in receiving a share in \$1 million in funding.

Project 4401 is an initiative of the Oakey Wellness Committee.

IN STORE
Health Chat

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER
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Catherine Laird
Consultant Pharmacist
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