

**Mayors, Councillors and CEO's**  
**of**  
**Livingstone Shire Council**  
**1880 to 2018**

**INTRODUCTION**

This body of work has been thoroughly and painstakingly researched and then compiled to accurately record the details of Mayors, Councillors and Chief Executive Officers of Livingstone Shire Council from its inception in 1879 through to 11 November 2018.

Local Government for the present Livingstone Shire commenced on 11 November 1879, along with 73 others created on that day by the *Divisional Boards Act* of 1879. The new Local Government was called Gogango Divisional Board, and covered an area including the present Livingstone Shire, plus all of the former Fitzroy Shire and parts of the former Broadsound and Duaringa Shires. The first Gogango Divisional Board was elected in March 1880.

For completeness, references to Livingstone Shire Council include this entity under the two other names used since 1879, being Gogango Divisional Board and Gogango Shire Council. By natural extension then, all of the facts and figures, statistics and numbering in this collection of data, relate to this Local Government under its different names from its beginnings on 11 November 1879 through to 11 November 2018.

References to 'Councillors' are taken to include 'Members' as they were pre-1903.

References to 'Mayor' are taken to include 'Chairman' as they were pre-1994.

References to Divisions are context and period-specific – from 1879 to 1903, a Division was what is now a Shire (Division of Gogango, for example). During that time, Divisions had Subdivisions with elected Members to represent their interests. Since 1903, many Queensland Shires have been divided into Divisions. In Livingstone's case, financial Divisions existed up until 1972 while Divisions for electoral representation purposes existed up until 1990. Since 1991, all Councillors represent all of the Shire.

**MAYORS**

The details recorded here for Mayor may be considered complete and accurate as a result of checking research results against two lists prepared by Council staff in 1991. Again, records in Council keeping were extensively consulted to verify election details for every Mayor recorded here. It may be stated without equivocation that there have been 27 different persons hold the position of Mayor of Livingstone Shire Council between March 1880 and 11 November 2018.

Where a Mayor also at one time held the position of Councillor, they are recorded in both the lists for Councillors and Mayors.

Numbering our Mayors by counting the number of different people who have held the office of Mayor follows the format used to identify our Prime Ministers and accounts for multiple, non-sequential terms many Mayors served. Of the 27 different persons to have had the honour of leading the Shire as Mayor since 1880, only one has been a woman - Barbara WILDIN, our 26<sup>th</sup>, who was Mayor between March 1991 and March 2000. Wildin Way is named in her honour.

The longest serving Mayor was William TODD (20<sup>th</sup>) who led the Shire for a remarkable 25 years (1936 to 1961). Mr TODD also served as a Councillor for 9 years before becoming Chairman in January 1936. After resigning due to ill health in October 1961, Mr Todd went on to be Caretaker of the Council Camping Area on Farnborough Beach (north of The Bluff) until he finally retired in June 1965, having served Council continuously for 38 years. Todd Avenue was named in his honour at the April 1952 General Meeting of Council.

Our 27<sup>th</sup> and current Mayor, Bill LUDWIG, is our 2<sup>nd</sup> longest-serving Mayor at 12-plus-years. Mr LUDWIG also served as a Councillor on the 1997-elected Council and for the full 6 years as the Division 3 Councillor in the amalgamated Rockhampton Regional Council.

The Chairman at the time of the name change from Gogango to Livingstone (1903) was William TOFT, who served the Shire for a total of 12 years, 4 of those as Chairman.

We have had two sitting State Members lead the Shire – Owen DANIEL in 1933 and Lindsay HARTWIG in 1985. Despite both being hardened political survivors, neither completed their respective terms on Council.

The first was Owen DANIEL, (MLA Keppel) who was elected Chairman at the April 1933 poll. 1933 was the first time that a separate election was held for the Chairman and the Councillors – previously the Chairman had been elected by the Councillors – but only one ballot paper was used. Voting was also with numbers, rather than the previously used ‘x’.

Mr DANIEL had been elected Member for Keppel in 1929 and had seen off his rival William Francis CLAYTON at the 1932 State election.

Mr DANIEL didn't see out his term on Council, passing away after a prolonged illness on Sunday night, 5<sup>th</sup> January 1936.

Deputy Chairman William TODD was elected Chairman for the remainder of Mr Daniel's term at a Special Meeting on Tuesday 14 January 1936. Cr TODD had been Deputy Chairman from 1934.

Cr TODD was elected by 8 votes to 2 against the other nomination, Cr BEAK.

The second sitting State Member to serve as Chairman of Livingstone Shire Council was Lindsay Earle HARTWIG, elected to the Chair at the 1985 Local Government poll. HARTWIG was by then a political veteran and had survived the rigours of State Parliament including being the first politician expelled, in 1981, from the Country Party. In 1985, HARTWIG was the sitting Member for Callide as an Independent, having represented the same electorate from May 1972 until March 1981 as a Country Party Member. He had also served on Monto Shire Council as an elected Councillor, but none of this prepared him for life as Chairman of the 1985-elected Livingstone Shire Council. This Council lurched from one controversy to the next, was close on several occasions to being sacked by Russ Hinze, the Minister for Local Government in the Bjelke-Petersen Government, and saw HARTWIG

resign after just one year and one day in the job. He would go on to retire from politics altogether in November 1986.

Prior to 1921, the Chairman was elected by his fellow Councillors, serving both the Division for which he was elected, and as Chairman with a casting vote if necessary.

In terms of the total period of time served by a Councillor or Mayor, the total numbers of days has been taken from and including the date of the election, through to and including the day before the next election at which they ceased to be either a Councillor or Mayor, as the case may be. The period served has been termed in 'days' rather than years, months and days so that terms are comparable, which would not be possible due to the presence of an additional day in leap years for the latter descriptor.

In reality, elected representatives should not be considered 'elected' until the results of the poll are 'declared'. For the period 1880 through to but excluding the July 1921 Local Government election, the Chairman was elected to the position by his fellow Members.

Incredibly only 3 Mayors have failed to complete their respective terms – DANIEL in 1933 (died in office), TODD in 1961 (ill-health) at the end of his long reign, and HARTWIG in 1985 (resigned).

## **COUNCILLORS**

There is a high level of confidence that the record of Members and Councillors prior to 1952 is accurate and complete given the level of detail recorded in the various newspapers and available on the Internet through Trove. There is a reasonable level of confidence in the records pertaining to elected Councillors between 1952 and 1961, although every effort has been expended to minimise the chances of a Councillor having been missed. It is possible that one or more elected members may have been missed but it is more likely to be in the period between 1952 and 1961, if indeed this is the case at all. There is a high level of confidence in the Councillor records from 1961 through to November 2018.

Where possible, records have been cross checked – for example up until the 1930's, local newspapers reported the number of Council meetings attended by each of the elected members for the preceding year. This was found to be a reliable way to check for any resignations or elections for new Councillors.

Council records were also used extensively in compiling this manifest – Council Meeting Attendance Records, Newspaper Cutting Scrapbooks and Minutes of Council Meetings were all pored over in an attempt to ensure a high level of accuracy.

There have been 71 Councils served by a total of 225 Councillors, 15 of whom have been women. The first female Councillor was Beryl DOWLING, elected to represent Division 2 in 1964. Mrs DOWLING was also the first woman to nominate for Council. The 1964 to 1967 Council was to be Beryl DOWLING's only foray into Local Government - beaten by almost 100 votes at the 1967 Poll, she didn't nominate again for Council.

Of the 225 Councillors there have been:

- 27 with a first name of William
- 23 with a first name of John
- 11 with a first name of James
- 6 with the surname of SMITH
- 5 with the surname of BEAK
- 4 with the surname of HUTTON

The most number of candidates for a single Councillor position was 23 in a by-election caused by the resignation of Cr Jean McRUVIE in July 2003.

## **COUNCILS**

Each of the 71 Councils elected between 1880 and 2016 have had their relevant details, including elections, by-elections and appointments researched and recorded here.

A great deal of research time was expended in checking to the fullest extent possible, all instances where a Councillor failed to complete an elected term, and the circumstances and the results of any consequential by-election or appointment.

Remarkably there have been 30 instances of an elected Council being unchanged at the conclusion of its elected term.

Coincidentally, both the 1933 and 1985 Councils are the only ones in our history to be the subject of ouster proceedings, both of which ultimately failed.

Both Councils were also responsible for sacking a senior officer – the Shire Clerk in 1933 and the Shire Engineer in 1985.

The details of 2 'Councils' are presented here in 2 parts:

Board of 1899 – had 2 forms - firstly the Board elected in February 1899, with Members representing the then 3 Subdivisions of the Division of Gogango, and secondly the Board that comprised 2 Subdivisions where Subdivision 1 of Gogango became Fitzroy Division, Subdivision 2 of Gogango became Subdivision 1 of Gogango and Subdivision 3 of Gogango became Subdivision 2 of Gogango.

Although in 2 forms, the 1899 Board has been counted as 'one' on the basis that it retained the originally elected Members and Chairman and simply 'lost' Subdivision 1 to form the new Fitzroy Division.

Council of 1930 – had 2 forms – firstly the Council elected in April 1930, with Councillors representing the then 3 Divisions and secondly the Council that had Division 4 added in October and resulted in by-elections for Divisions 2 and 4 only. (the new Division 4 was excised from the original Division 2)

The 1930 Council has been counted as 'one' on the basis that a Division was added but the Chairman and the Councillors for the existing Divisions 1 and 3 did not change.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Livingstone Shire Council has been served by just 13 CEO's – our latest, Chris Murdoch, is the first female CEO and is our 9<sup>th</sup> longest serving. By October 2019, Chris will move past the current 8<sup>th</sup> ranked CEO, William Hennings, whose tenure was ultimately marked by his serving 7 years penal servitude for embezzling 1006 pounds, the property of the Gogango Divisional Board.

Our longest serving Shire Clerk (CEO) was Willingham Richardson (Clerk October 1898 to November 1933), who, having served the Shire with distinction for 35 years, was unceremoniously sacked by the controversy-laden 1933 Council.