

Shire Clerks and CEO's to Livingstone Shire Council*

1. Arthur Percy Gossett – Divisional Clerk 6 July 1880 to 27 September 1886 (6 years 2 months 22 days)
2. Charles Hitchcock – Divisional Clerk 25th October 1886 to 1st August 1888 (1 year 9 months and 8 days)
3. James Hall – Divisional Clerk 1st August 1888 to 19 March 1894 (5 years 7 months 19 days)
4. William Henniges – Divisional Clerk 5 March 1894 to July 1897 (3 years 3 months 27 days)
5. Frederick Thomas Jackman – Divisional Clerk 21 August 1897 to 7 September 1898 (1 year 18 days)
6. Willingham Franklin Richardson – Divisional Clerk & Shire Clerk 4th October 1898 to 7th November 1933 (34 years 3 months 4 days)
7. William James (Bill) Smith – Shire Clerk 8th January 1935 to 7th May 1962 (27 years 4 months)
8. William John (Bill) Cass – Shire Clerk 8th May 1962 to Friday 30th January 1987 (24 years 8 months 23 days)
9. Arthur James (Jim) Brown – Shire Clerk & CEO 3rd March 1987 to 20th December 2002 (15 years 9 months 18 days)
10. Peter Franks - CEO 4th January 2003 to 14th March 2008 (5 years 2 months 11 days)
11. Andrew (Andy) Ireland – CEO 6th January 2014 to Friday 13th June 2014 (5 months 7 days)
12. Justin Brian Commons – CEO Tuesday 15th July 2014 to 22nd April 2016 (1 year 9 months, 8 days)
13. Christina Murdoch – CEO Tuesday 23rd April 2016 to(11 November 2018 will be 2 years 6 months and 20 days).

*Includes Gogango Divisional Board (11.11.1879 – 30.03.1903) and Gogango Shire Council (31.03.1903 – 07.08.1903) and Livingstone Shire Council (08.08.1903 – 14.03.2008 and 01.01.2014 onwards in perpetuity hopefully).

For the period 15.03.2008 through to 31.12.2013, Livingstone Shire Council did not exist as it was one of four Council's amalgamated by the Beatty Labour State Government to form the new Rockhampton Regional Council.

Livingstone Shire Council was reconstituted as a Local Government when it was de-amalgamated from the Rockhampton Regional Council, effective 01 January 2014.

1. Arthur Percy Gossett – Clerk 6 July 1880 to 26 September 1886

Mr A. P. Gossett was selected from 13 candidates for the position of the first Divisional Clerk for the Gogango Divisional Board at the Tuesday 6 July 1880 Meeting of the Board. The tenders received ranged from \$200 to \$500 per annum, the latter being the amount submitted by four applicants, including Mr Gossett. The then Acting Clerk, Mr M. J. Lillas Mulligan had tendered a figure of \$300 per annum, and the Board resolved that *"the late acting clerk be allowed, in consideration for the services he had rendered to the Board an amount equal to that which he had tendered for - \$300 per annum - from the time he commenced his duties"*. (source: TMB Thursday 8 July 1880)

Mr Gossett had served as the Chief Clerk and Accountant for the Roads Central Division Rockhampton from its inception in 1863. William Henry Standish had served the same authority as Foreman of Works for the same period. (source: *Maryborough Chronicle* Tuesday 20 April 1880)

Mr Gossett did not attend the August or September 1886 Meetings of the Board through illness and passed away on the morning of Monday 27 September 1886 after a *"lingering illness"*. The Board appointed the Superintendent of Works Mr William Henry Standish as Acting Clerk until a replacement Clerk could be appointed. Mr Gossett was held in very high esteem by the Board and staff evidenced by a statement by the Chairman Henry Jones at the start of the Special Meeting on 20 October 1886 called to consider applications for a replacement Clerk – *"The Board has received 22 applications for the Clerk's position and the best of the 22 would be way short of the late Clerk"*.

2. Charles Hitchcock – Clerk 25th October 1886 to 1st August 1888

Mr Hitchcock was appointed Clerk to the Board at a Special Meeting on Wednesday 20 October 1886, called to consider applications for Clerk and make an appointment. Chosen from 22 applicants, Mr Hitchcock was currently an auditor for the Board and would have to resign that position. The appointment was conditional upon Mr Hitchcock entering into a fidelity bond, or to provide a guarantee of one kind for \$500 (250 pounds). Although Mr Hitchcock said he could take up duties no later than the

1st November, the Board, through the letter of appointment, required him to begin work on Monday morning next, 25th October 1886.

Upon his resignation in mid-1888, it was said at the Special Meeting of 3rd July 1888 that Mr Hitchcock had served the Board faithfully and well for 2 years and in that time had not had a rest from his duties. The Board resolved to grant Mr Hitchcock one month's leave on full pay, commencing 1st August 1888.

3. James Hall – Clerk 1st August 1888 to 19 March 1894

James Hall was appointed at a Special Meeting of the Gogango Divisional Board held on Tuesday 3rd July 1888 following the Monthly Meeting, chosen by the Board from 20 applicants. Mr Hall was at that time Acting Assistant Clerk of Petty Sessions, Rockhampton. Mr Hall was appointed to commence duties on 1st August 1888, conditional upon entering into a fidelity bond of \$500 (250 pounds) and to sign an agreement that 3 month's notice must be given on either side.

Mr Hall tendered his resignation at the January 1894 Meeting of the Board, giving 3 month's notice, to finish up on 19 March 1894. He requested and was granted, 2 month's leave of absence from the 19 January 1894, reminding the Board that he had not had a holiday in his 5¹/₂ year's service to the Board. The Board resolved that Mr Hennings, Assistant Clerk, would be Acting Clerk until a successor to Mr Hall was appointed.

4. William Hennings – Clerk 20 March 1894 to July 1897

William Hennings came to the Board from school on a character reference from the school-master. Mr Hennings was appointed Clerk, on a salary of \$400 per annum, at a Special Meeting of the Board on 5 March 1894. Mr Hennings was chosen from 26 applicants, had been working in the Board's office for 10 years, and was presently the Acting Clerk.

The Gogango Divisional Board suspended Mr Hennings before the Board Meeting on Tuesday 3 August 1897 and had appointed Assistant Clerk Mr Hugh Alexander McDonald as Acting Clerk and "*placed in charge*". Mr McDonald, the son of former Chairman Duncan McDonald, resigned from his position in October 1897 to take up a post in the commercial sector.

Mr Hennings was committed on 19 August 1897 for trial on a charge of embezzling \$2012 (1006 pounds), the property of the Gogango Divisional Board. After the Judge heard the case for the prosecution, Hennings pleaded not guilty and was remanded for a further period of 8 days, with "*bail further allowed, himself \$1000, and two sureties of \$500 each*". (*The Western Champion* Tuesday August 3 1897) The accused was committed for trial to the next sitting of the Supreme Court in Rockhampton set down for 14 September 1897. Several witnesses were called at the trial, including Messrs Beak, Jones and Hugh McDonald from the Board; Mr Hennings pleaded guilty and was remanded for sentence. The Chief Justice, in passing sentence a week later, admonished the former Clerk for his actions, and when he announced the sentence of "*7 years penal servitude, (it) created a*

considerable amount of sensation in the Court which was nearly crowded." (source: *The Week*, Brisbane Friday 24 September 1897)

5. Frederick Thomas Jackman – Clerk 21 August 1897 to 7 September 1898

Mr Jackman was appointed Divisional Clerk at a Special Meeting in the morning of Saturday 21 August 1897, called for the express purpose of appointing a Clerk. Chosen from 47 applicants, Mr Jackman, an accountant, was at that time an auditor for the Gogango Divisional Board, a position he was obliged to resign on being appointed Clerk.

Mr Jackman resigned by letter to the Board dated 7 September 1898.

6. Willingham Franklin Richardson – Clerk 4 October 1898 to 7 November 1933

Mr Richardson was appointed Clerk to the Gogango Divisional Board at the Tuesday 4th October General Meeting in 1898. Chosen by ballot from no less than 46 applicants, Mr Richardson, who commenced on a \$400 (200 pounds) annual salary "on the undertaking to provide a fidelity bond in the sum of \$500 (250 pounds) and paying the premium on the same", went on to serve the Shire for 35 years, parting in controversial circumstances in 1933. It was reported in July 1928 that Mr Richardson was "employed on outside work for 9 Saturdays and 28 week-days and 22 Sundays in 1927. He was paid \$60/year for this work". (source: Council Meeting Minutes; *The Morning Bulletin*)

7. William James Smith – Shire Clerk 8 January 1935 to 7 May 1962

Bill Smith was engaged on 12th September 1933 for one month at assistant clerk's rate of pay, to 'help in office business'. Mr Smith was appointed temporary Clerk for 3 months following the dismissal of W.F. Richardson at the Special Meeting of 7 November 1933. Smith was re-appointed for a further 9 months as Acting Clerk on 6th February 1934. He was finally appointed Shire Clerk from 7 applicants at the Council Meeting of 8th January 1935. Bill Smith had served with the A.I.F in WW1. (source: *LSC Meeting Minutes*; *Livingstone A History of the Shire of Livingstone* by Leo. M. Carpenter 1988; *The Morning Bulletin* 9 January 1935)

There was a photograph in the 10th May 1962 edition of *The Morning Bulletin* of the 2 Shire Clerks – Bill Smith and Bill Cass. (source: *The Morning Bulletin*)

8. William (Bill) John Cass – Shire Clerk 8 May 1962 to 30 January 1987

Bill Cass started in Local Government in 1938 as a junior clerk at Blackall Shire Council. In 1942 he joined the then Main Roads Commission (now the Department of Transport and Main Roads) as a cost clerk and worked there until 1948. Then in May 1948 Mr Cass joined Wondai Shire Council, firstly as a cost clerk, and then a few months later as Deputy Shire Clerk. He became qualified as a Shire Clerk in 1953, as a health Inspector in 1956 and as a Local Government Auditor in 1957. In December 1958 Mr Cass left Wondai and started as Shire Clerk with Jericho Shire Council. Four years later in May 1962, he started as Shire Clerk with Livingstone Shire Council. The administrative headquarters were in Reaney Street, North Rockhampton and

Henry Beak was in his first term as Shire Chairman. After almost 25 years with Livingstone, Mr Cass retired on Friday 30 January 1987 and was looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 45 years, Gloria and their five children and grandchildren.

9. Arthur (Jim) James Brown – Shire Clerk & CEO 3 March 1987 to 20 December 2002

Although appointed to the position of Shire Clerk on 27 January 1987, Jim Brown's first day in the office was Tuesday 3rd March 1987. (source: *Michael Prior LSC work diary 1986/87 with advice from Pays Section of Council*). Mr Brown's last General Meeting was 18th December 2002 (source: *LSC Meeting Minutes*) Jim Brown was appointed Livingstone's ninth Clerk on 27 January 1987, having been selected from a short list of four, and a full list of 19 applicants. Notable among the applicants was Brian Cass, youngest son of former Shire Clerk, Bill Cass. Born Arthur James on 31 July 1945, Brown started his Local Government career with Winton Shire Council in 1963 as a junior cost clerk. His first post as Shire Clerk was at Peak Downs (1970-1978) after qualifying as a Local Government Clerk in 1970. He had also worked at Inglewood, Emerald and Warroo Shires, and 5^{1/2} years as Town Manager of Weipa Local Government area for Comalco, before accepting the position of Shire Clerk at Cambooya Shire in 1984. (source: *Special Meeting Report??*)

10. Peter Franks – CEO January 2003 to 14 March 2008

Peter Franks' first Council Meeting as CEO was the Planning Development and Environment Committee Meeting of Tuesday 28th January 2003. Mr Franks' first General Meeting as CEO was 26th February 2003. The Minutes for the General Meeting of 5th February 2003 do not record a CEO or Deputy CEO being in attendance. (source: *LSC Meeting Minutes*)

11. Andrew (Andy) Ireland – CEO 6 January 2014 to 13 June 2014

Graeme Kanofski was appointed Transfer Manager for the de-amalgamating Livingstone Shire Council by the Campbell Newman-led Liberal State Government on Friday 12th April 2013. Mr Kanofski held this position until the appointment of Andrew Ireland as Livingstone Shire Council's eleventh Chief Executive Officer early in 2014.

Andy Ireland is a local government professional who came to Livingstone Shire Council with thirty-five years senior management experience in strategic and operational development in local government, the Vocational and Education sector, Tertiary Education, and private enterprise. He held senior positions in a number of Councils across Queensland and New South Wales, including Whitsunday Shire Council, Southern Downs Regional Council, and Bega Valley Shire Council.

Andy had strong credentials in managing significant change projects, including the amalgamation of two local governments in 2008. He joined the State Government appointed Transfer Manager, Graeme Kanofski, in 2013 to work on the de-amalgamation of Livingstone Shire from Rockhampton Regional Council, and

together Graeme and Andy established a new organisation within seven months – on time and within budget. Andy was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the newly formed Livingstone Shire Council in January 2014, and held the position until his resignation in June of that year.

Andy has managed large, complex councils within local government with responsibility for multi-disciplinary functions such as Corporate Planning and Strategy, Corporate Finance, IT, Human Resources and Industrial Relations, Communications and Engagement, Customer Service and Governance, Infrastructure Services, Planning, and Community Services. He is widely acknowledged as a personable and multi skilled executive, with significant experience in facilitating and operationalizing change.

Andy's formal qualifications comprise a Bachelor of Business (Accounting), a Bachelor of Educational Studies (Vocational & Educational Training), Graduate Diploma in Management, Master of Business Administration, Fellow CPA Australia' Member Local Government Managers Australia.

12. Justin (Justin) Brian Commons – CEO 15 July 2015 to 22 April 2016

Justin Commons had previously been appointed Director Corporate Services/Deputy CEO in March 2014. Mr Commons hailed from South Australia where he had served the City of Prospect in executive and leadership roles for 12 years. He had 8 years in public health sector before that time. (source: *LSC web-site 2016*). Mayor Bill Ludwig announced by memorandum to all staff on Wednesday 6th April 2016 that Mr. Commons had tendered his resignation but would continue in the role until the end of May to ensure a smooth transition to a new CEO. Council would consider a recruitment strategy for a new CEO at a Special Meeting to be held on Friday 8th April 2016. Mr Commons was leaving to take up an Executive role at Adelaide City under his former CEO at Prospect.

13. Christina (Chris) Murdoch – CEO Tuesday 23 April 2016 to

Mayor Bill Ludwig advised all staff by email memo on Tuesday 12th April 2016 that Council had appointed Ms Christina Murdoch to the position of Council CEO. Ms Murdoch commenced with Council as Director Corporate Services on 27th October 2014 having considerable senior executive leadership experience in both the public and private sectors prior to that. Ms Murdoch is a Chartered Accountant with a degree in Commerce and a post graduate Qualification in Psychology. She is highly experienced in strategic planning, organizational development, improving customer experience and corporate transformation, leading complex change through periods of growth. All staff were advised by email on Wednesday 27 April 2016 that, “ *Council is pleased to advise that Chris Murdoch has now formally commenced in her new role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective from 23 April 2016 and as such, all delegated authority of the CEO now rests with Chris.* “

Ms Murdoch is Livingstone's first female CEO and just the thirteenth appointed to this important position since 1880.