



Bob Grant and his family.

Having made the break 3 years ago with my wife and two primary aged children from Cairns in FNQ, we still wish we had done this sooner.

The pace of life has slowed down and allowed us to enjoy the things that are truly important such as family time together.

We are both teachers in the local catholic school and the students and families have been wonderfully welcoming and supportive.

Our children have had opportunities to enjoy the outback country life. Something they would not have experienced on the coast. We feel they are very safe here and they have more freedom than they have had in the past.

The location has allowed us to travel to the many historically significant sites in far western Queensland and central Australia.

The town facilities and services are modern and well equipped and the town's social calendar is always very busy which allows for great community connections and support.

I would encourage anyone who has an opportunity to relocate to Cloncurry with their family to do so. You will take with you many wonderful memories and lifetime friendships will be formed.

**Bob Grant
Principal
St Joseph's School
Cloncurry
May 2012**



Sergeant Mick Hughes and PCYC Youth

My wife and I moved to Cloncurry nearly 5 years ago when I transferred with the Queensland Police from the Sunshine Coast.

Leaving our coastal lifestyle and families to live in a remote far north west Queensland town was a very big decision and one which to be honest, was made with some apprehension. However it did not take long at all to fit in with the laid back and friendly lifestyle experienced by the 'locals' in Cloncurry.

My new position as a police officer and manager of the local police youth club in the town, meant that I was immediately immersed in the community and the many events and different community groups that exist here.

What made our transition from the beaches of the Noosa area to this outback town so easy was the overwhelming acceptance and friendship of the local people. From the get go we were invited into people's homes and hearts and it was not long at all before we started to look forward to coming home any time we were away from 'the Curry'. Out here it doesn't matter whether you're talking to the local mechanic or publican, or you are visiting a cattle graziers massive station, the reception and hospitality you receive is the same. Sure, everybody knows everybody but that's part of the appeal. The sense of community and belonging is so much stronger here than in the city and regional centres.

After a while going to the local supermarket for a quick shop turns into a lengthy catch up and discussion with the locals and when you think it about, that is a really nice and sometimes old fashioned way to live your life. The other big attraction that I just had no appreciation of before I came out here, was the incredible beauty of Australia's outback. The wildlife, the harsh and yet stunning scenery, and the 'secret' postcard like camping spots are something that every Australian should experience and truly appreciate.

Astrid and I have loved living here and being part of a caring community. My role as police officer charged with improving the lives of young people has been both challenging and rewarding. Our youth face many challenges and it has been an honour and a privilege to work alongside them in trying to break down the barriers of growing up in what can sometimes be very difficult circumstances.

I don't know when our time in Cloncurry will come to an end, but if and when it does, one thing I do know is that it will be very hard to leave!"

**Mick Hughes
Branch Manager Cloncurry PCYC
Cloncurry May 2012**



Karen Elphick and her family

My partner and I moved to Cloncurry in March 2008 from South West NSW. My partner had been living and working up here prior to the move together – he was keen to return for work and I was keen to have a career change and experience a different part of the country. Initially I was trying for a career in the mines, when a job came up at Council in Community Services, I decided to give it a go as Community Development is a love of mine and Cloncurry seemed a place where I could make a difference and learn a lot, which would benefit the community and my personal development.

Since beginning employment with Cloncurry Shire Council as a community services officer I have moved up into a Management role and been given the opportunity to create a community department, which did not exist prior to my employment. This department now consists of 2.5 staff plus many staff in the Community departments business units. This opportunity for a management role (at my age) in larger centres could have been years down the track. Many friends and family are amazed at the enthusiasm and confidence that has been provided to me in Cloncurry. I feel that the Council can identify those who want to give to the community for the benefit of the community above themselves and are prepared to give them some line to let it develop. I have enjoyed 10 months Maternity leave, returning to work at the end of May 2012, this time has provided me with a new wealth of knowledge, which will carry determination to ensure Cloncurry continues to grow and develop into the future.

I have always been drawn to country living, and I think it is because of the pace, friendliness, opportunity to be involved and build a community. Some of these things can get lost when you live in a larger centre. Cloncurry lifestyle meets all this - it is friendly and has a wonderful country paced lifestyle. It is not slow, but moves in a way that you can enjoy yourself and immerse yourself into a positive environment. The fact you can walk down the street and it can take longer than the 5 minutes you intended because you bumped into someone you know and if you have a problem friends will rally around you. Country living also gives you different adventures, heading out bush for the weekend to camp on a beautiful river, for free and without hundreds of people camping around you. Heading out to the dam for a swim or kayak to be joined by my friends less than 5km from home.

Cloncurry has the best of both worlds that work similar to the seasons, the dry season is also the social season, with a different event every weekend – there is something on the calendar that is bound to suit your personal interests. The wet season allows for you to recuperate with amazing weather that allows you to simply sit and enjoy.

You can make friends in the Curry, without feeling too overwhelmed – you can be ensured that attending a local event you will know someone, or meet someone new. Cloncurry tends to identify if you are new and make you feel welcome and ensure you enjoy yourself!

I enjoy my visits to larger centres, but nothing makes me happier when I drive or fly back into the Curry and can breathe I sigh of relief that I am home.

Karen Elphick
Manager Community Development
Cloncurry Shire Council
Cloncurry May 2012