

APRIL/MAY 2025

# Desert YARNS

Diamantina Community Newsletter



## Green Awakening: Nature on Show in the Diamantina

Top: Majestic brolgas captured in Birdsville's green glow by Desert Soul Photography.  
Left: Lizard on log - Kev Barr. Right: Emu parade along Diamantina Development Road - Brent Reeman.

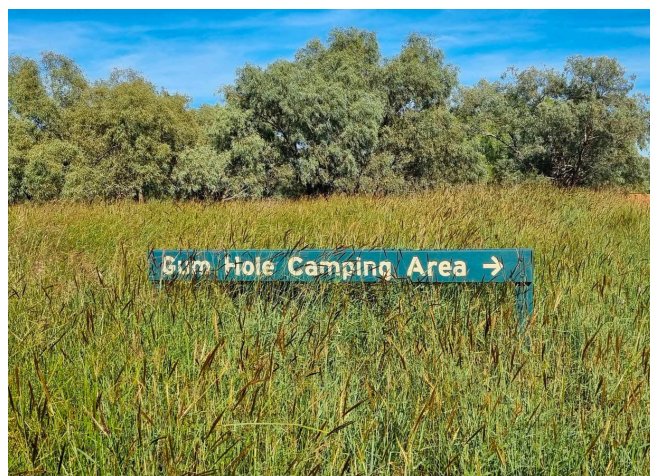


*Aerial view of Lake Machattie during flood, showcasing the beauty of our Outback Wetlands. Photo: [Birdsville Hotel](#) with Birdsville Aviation.*



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*Gum Hole transformed — lush grasslands bloom with the season's gift. Photo taken at Diamantina National Park by Kev Barr.*





# BIRDSVILLE HOTEL

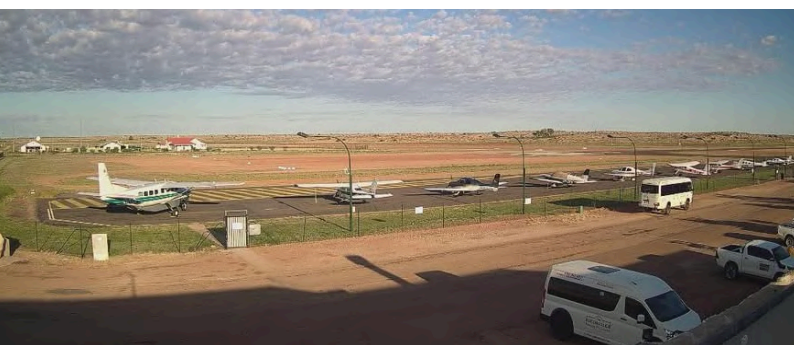
## Message from The Mayor

For 5 to 6 weeks we have been cut off by road, just as our tourist season should be in full swing. It has been a bit of a rough start for our tourism businesses. Hopefully when the roads open up there will be a lot of interest in Outback Queensland with the country looking at its best. I've been noticing a steady flow of planes visiting Birdsville to check out the floodwaters and stay overnight. This flow of tourism is greatly appreciated.



Mayor  
Francis Murray

I'd like to put a shout out to Diamantina Shire Council employees for the work they've been doing to get our roads ready for traffic. The day the water finally recedes to a level that allows us to open up for residents to access major centres will be a good day. I would also like to thank Transport and Main Roads and Boulia Shire Council for the permits and roadworks that allowed us to get our first supply trucks into Bedourie and Birdsville. It was greatly appreciated.



*With road closures in place, the iconic Birdsville Hotel has been hosting a number of fly-in groups choosing Birdsville as their base to witness the record-breaking floodwaters flowing through the Channel Country. Over the weekend, the Hotel welcomed the New Crown Pastoral crew, who took the opportunity for a short break from station life. Council thanks them for visiting and supporting our local businesses!*



Both Birdsville and Bedourie held services for ANZAC Day, which were well attended by the respective communities. I would like to give a special mention to Richard Cooley, who has been officiating ANZAC ceremonies in Bedourie for as long as I can remember. As Richard will be retiring from his role with Council, I would like to wish him a happy retirement and thank you for your service, Richard, to the Diamantina region.

I would also like to wish Alarna Achterberg all the best and thank her for her time with Council as the Birdsville Town Services Supervisor. I'd also like to give a shout out to the Parks and Gardens crews whose hard work is clear to see with both towns looking great after recent rains. There's been a lot of mowing, whipper snipping and spraying of weeds going on. Well done to Greg, Alarna, Rick and the teams.

Until next month, when we hopefully get back to normality with the reopening of our road network.

*Mayor*

Francis Murray



*As the sun rose over the desert in Bedourie on Anzac Day, our community gathered to honour our servicemen and women's bravery, sacrifice, and enduring spirit. Thank you to everyone who attended. Let's not forget. Photos: Valeri Fernandez, more pics on the [Birdsville, Bedourie & Betoota - The Diamantina](#) Facebook page.*





"It [Dawn Service] was a beautiful service, actually, both were lovely. It was amazing to see so many in town, the lovely Breakfast at the Brooks after the Dawn Service and the amazing display the Birdsville Primary School had with "Smoko" after the 10am Service. The horses and the amazing Community spirit is something the area should be very proud of." Danni Micah

Birdsville Anzac Day photos by Danni Micah.  
See more pics on the [Birdsville, Bedourie & Betoota](#)  
- The Diamantina Facebook page.



*Late afternoon at Vaughan Johnson Lookout, near the Diamantina and Boulia Shire boundary - access from the Diamantina Developmental Road.*



**Julianne Meier**  
Chief Executive Officer

## *CEO update*

Autumn has certainly brought some much-needed rains and, more recently, cooler weather to our region. Our thoughts are with those most affected by recent flooding across the west, as they endure the hardship of rebuilding.

The flooded creeks and rivers that have kept us stranded for weeks are now receding. This last week, we saw the opening of roads across the Shire that had been closed for many weeks. If you are travelling, be extra careful and observe any road signage, as roads may be damaged.

Although many of us expect to be stranded in the outback as we stock up on essentials prior to the wet season, it has been a trying time for some. A few stranded tourists have been able to make their way to their next adventure since the roads have opened. The resupply options provided during these times are welcomed.

I was amazed to see our staff spring into action during the past weeks of flooding, to do what they all do so well! It is true what they say, "Many hands make light work!" A big thank you to everyone for your efforts and understanding throughout the flooding. Tourists are beginning to make their way into Bedourie, so we must now get back into normality.

A lot of mozzies seem to be around as the flooding recedes, so please take care to avoid bites.



## Grant funding opportunities

Council now has a Community Grants Register, designed as an access point for the community to various grants available. Council may be able to assist with funding applications. Several funding opportunities arising from recent flooding are listed in the Community Grants Register. View and download the Community Grants Register at: [www.diamantina.qld.gov.au/community-grants-program/community-grants-program-1](http://www.diamantina.qld.gov.au/community-grants-program/community-grants-program-1)

There is also the Queensland Housing Finance Loan Regional Trial, where eligible applicants can get funding for rates relief (for overdue rates) and home loans with a 2% deposit. Learn more at: [www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home](http://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home)

Council has submitted a funding application to the Country Roads Connect Program. Council's top priority is the 'Sealing of Cuttaburra' project.

## Recruitment Drive

We have had success in recruiting key positions:

- Director of Corporate Services to start 13 May
- Technical projects Officer to start 12 May
- Diesel Mechanic to start 2 June

We look forward to welcoming them to the team.

Other vacant positions have been advertised:

- Administration Officer – Fleet
- Administration Officer – Infrastructure
- Carpenter/Tradesperson
- Tourism Manager

View the position descriptions at:

[www.diamantina.qld.gov.au/job-vacancies/job-vacancies-1](http://www.diamantina.qld.gov.au/job-vacancies/job-vacancies-1)

Please direct enquiries to [hr@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:hr@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

The first of three hands-on sessions on the 'Leading and Managing Teams' training program was delivered over two days to supervisors and managers. This training has been very well received.

## Roads

- High-intensity management with the Local Disaster Management Group is now virtually complete for this 2025 flood event.
- We are still experiencing moderate flooding in the Diamantina River at Birdsville. Levels are slowly receding.
- Emergent work continues to make roads trafficable, with crews working on the sections:
  - o Betoota towards Birdsville
  - o Springvale to Boulia Shire Boundary Road
  - o King Creek to Monkira Road area
  - o Adria Downs access road
  - o Sandringham to Ethabuka Road, and Sandringham to Bedourie and Kamaran access road
- Bedourie to Boulia opened on April 25, 2025.
- Bedourie to King Creek opened on May 1.
- The Bedourie to Windorah road opened on Monday, May 5, 2025.

There is some road damage, so please observe any signage and "Drive to prevailing conditions".

Remember – **"If it's flooded, forget it"**.



Roadworks along the Lake Machattie detour, 5 May, 2025.



## Community Services and Facilities

- A master planning strategy for sports and recreation facilities across the Shire has been initiated. This planning will be Council-led, with community consultation in due course.
- An investigation into the suitability and pricing of family day care facilities in Birdsville and Birdsville has been initiated with the intent of enabling an external party to manage them.
- Our new look Bedourie Library has opened in the Community Centre.

Our Director of Communities has recently been promoting the Diamantina Shire and the Desert Champions Way: Outback Camel Trail at the NSW Caravan and Camping show in Sydney. Promotions for our 2025 event season are expanding across Queensland.

IVG Global Pty Ltd was the successful tenderer for managing the Birdsville and Bedourie Tourist Parks, and we look forward to building this partnership.

Council is looking to introduce a Certified Agreement, so we have developed a Log of Claims (or wish list) that we will shortly be able to share with our staff when we commence the consultation process.

Following the flooding event, we are updating the Local Resilience Action Plans, which will guide the Council in seeking funding for projects to boost our resilience, such as flood modelling, flood cameras, river gauges and air conditioning for the Shire's community halls.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is working with Council to develop documents that will facilitate the introduction of a 10/4 rostering arrangement for our construction crews.



*Council's Director of Communities, Patrice Brandenburg has been at the NSW Caravan & Camping Show with Drive Queensland.*

At our staff training sessions in February, our staff expressed interest in designing their own 'Fun Friday' shirts. We have sent several designs of Diamantina Shire Council "Fun Friday" shirts to the designer. Stay tuned for these exciting designs.

Last month, we welcomed Juanita as our Executive Assistant and Kiri as Tourism Officer at our Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre in Birdsville. We also farewelled Alana, the Town Supervisor in Birdsville and Richard, our Funding and Economic Development Manager. We are sorry to see them go and wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

Please stay safe and "Be Kind to Each Other".

*Julianne*  
Meier  
Chief Executive Officer



## Diamantina Eyes the Stars with Dark Sky Accreditation Plan

Diamantina Shire could soon shine as a leader in astro-tourism and sustainability, thanks to a bold plan to create a Dark Sky Community in Outback Queensland.

Part of the global dark-sky movement to reduce light pollution, the project aims to protect the region's pristine night skies and attract year-round, eco-conscious tourism. From stargazing experiences to science education, the benefits could be as vast as the Milky Way above.

Council has been installing light monitors across the Shire to gather essential data – the first step toward formal recognition.

*"There's magic in an outback night sky," says Director of Communities, Patrice Brandenburg. "This project is about sharing that wonder and building our tourism industry."*

Want to help? Volunteers are needed for light monitoring. Get in touch at:  
[patrice.brandenburg@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:patrice.brandenburg@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

The stars are aligning for Diamantina – and the future looks bright.

Tourism  
News

### NOMINATIONS EXTENDED FOR OLD TOURISM AWARDS

Nominations have been extended to Friday 23 May – giving you more time to shine! Whether you're a new operator, a dedicated team, or a long-standing industry icon, this is your chance to celebrate excellence and the impact you make across Queensland's tourism landscape. [NOMINATE TODAY](#)

## Birdsville-Betoota Business Group Update

This week, the Birdsville-Betoota Business Group met to discuss plans for the upcoming season. With roads now reopening, visitors can look forward to trips out to Lake Eyre, where the birdlife is thriving after recent rains.

More updates coming soon as the season kicks off!





# Outback Is Open Come & Say G'day



## Outback Queensland Tourism Association (OQTA) Launches Flood Recovery Campaign

In partnership with the Queensland Tourism Department, Tourism and Events Queensland, and key government leaders, OQTA has launched a major marketing campaign—reassuring travellers that the Outback is open and ready to welcome them.

The Outback is Open – Come & Say G'day campaign is aimed at boosting visitation, rebuilding confidence, and backing our hardworking operators.

Since the commencement of the campaign, OQTA has helped deliver more than 86 positive media stories, reaching close to 4 million Australians. Coverage has centred on flood recovery, the Qantas flight sale, and the [Outback Education Program](#). On social media, the campaign video has been viewed by just under 100,000 users, and the Meta Flood Recovery Campaign has achieved over 231,000 impressions, reaching nearly 95,000 unique users.

Read the [Operator Toolkit](#) to find out how to get involved in the campaign.





## Share the New Traveller's Guide

The 2025 Outback Traveller's Guide is now available. From Outback events and attractions to top spots for Insta and recommended drive routes, the guide includes all the information that travellers need to plan their next big adventure in Outback Queensland.

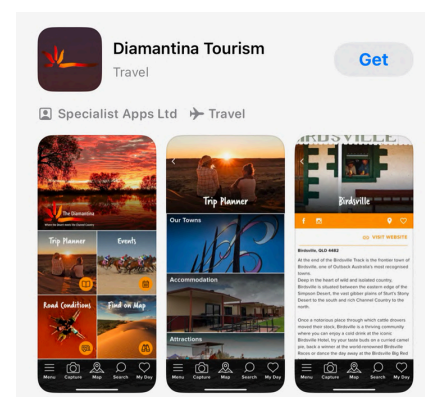
Share the link to the digital version of the guide on social media, in your email ribbon, your booking confirmations or in your email marketing.

Get the guide here:

[www.outbackqueensland.com.au/outback-travellers-guide/](http://www.outbackqueensland.com.au/outback-travellers-guide/)



A Celebration of Outback Queensland, the Outback Camel Trail, supported by the Outback Queensland Tourism Association and local councils, is designed to enhance cultural tourism across the region. It aligns with the Diamantina Shire's tourism strategy to expand arts and cultural events that highlight the region's distinct identity while fostering sustainable economic growth.





## The Outback is Open – Here Come the Camels and the Colour!

Five Events. Five Towns. Four Weekends of Epic Outback Adventure.

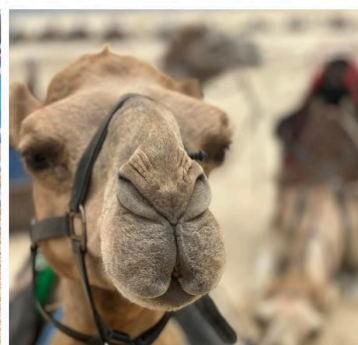
This could just be the most epic adventure ever!

After floods swept across Outback Queensland earlier this year, something extraordinary is happening. The desert is blooming. Wildflowers are bursting through red dirt. Grasses are glowing green. Birdlife is calling. And this July, right through the middle of it all charges the brand-new **Desert Champions Way: Outback Camel Trail** – five epic camel racing and cultural events across five legendary towns over four unforgettable weekends.

Running from July 5 to 26, this not-to-be-missed festival trail is a celebration of country, camels, community, and colour. It's not about walking – it's about road-tripping through the heart of Outback Queensland and experiencing the kind of bucket list adventure you'll talk about for years to come.

Spanning five iconic towns over four thrilling weekends – Jundah, Birdsville, Bedourie, Boulia and Winton – this is a self-guided, choose-your-own-adventure through a rare and spectacular Outback canvas, brought to life with epic camel races, live music, local stories, markets, and country hospitality.

Whether you're cheering on racing camels in Jundah, dancing under the stars in Birdsville, watching the Melbourne Cup of Camel Racing in Boulia, or soaking up Outback storytelling in Winton, the Desert Champions Way invites Aussies to explore a rare side of the desert – when it comes spectacularly to life.



[www.thediamantina.com.au/OutbackCamelTrail](http://www.thediamantina.com.au/OutbackCamelTrail)




The trail of FIVE EPIC EVENTS is set to become a cornerstone of sustainable tourism in Outback Queensland, drawing visitors to multiple iconic towns, as the region recovers into a once-in-a-lifetime kaleidoscope of colour following the floods of April.


Outback Queensland Tourism Association (OQTA) CEO, Denise Brown advised that the trail offered an authentic Outback experience like no other.


*"The trail has been designed to celebrate one of the Outback's most iconic attractions and allow visitors to have more opportunities to be involved with camel racing. Visitors are encouraged to explore a number of our townships providing a unique opportunity to meet more locals and really embrace an authentic Outback experience that is bursting with colour."* – Denise Brown





## The Desert Champions Way: Outback Camel Trail:

 **Jundah Camel Races – July 5, 2025:** Kicking off the Outback Camel Trail, Jundah Camel Races brings high-energy racing, vibrant community markets, and family-friendly entertainment.

 **NEW Birdsville Camel Carnival – July 8-10, 2025:** Experience Birdsville like never before at the inaugural Birdsville Camel Carnival, a spectacular new event celebrating the town's deep-rooted cameleer heritage and Outback spirit – combining camel-inspired attractions, captivating storytelling, vibrant local markets, and incredible live music—all set against the legendary backdrop of Birdsville.

 **Bedourie Camel Races – July 12, 2025:** Known as the "Town of Sand and Sun," Bedourie hosts a famous day of existing camel racing paired with family-friendly activities and local food stalls, showcasing the hospitality of the Diamantina Shire, in the iconic red dirt of the Queensland Outback.

 **Boulia Camel Races – July 18-20, 2025:** The "Melbourne Cup of Camel Racing," this three-day event draws thousands for high-stakes racing, entertainment, and a true festival atmosphere. 'Australia's Richest Camel Races', Boulia Camel Races, is the ultimate showdown on the Desert Champions Way.

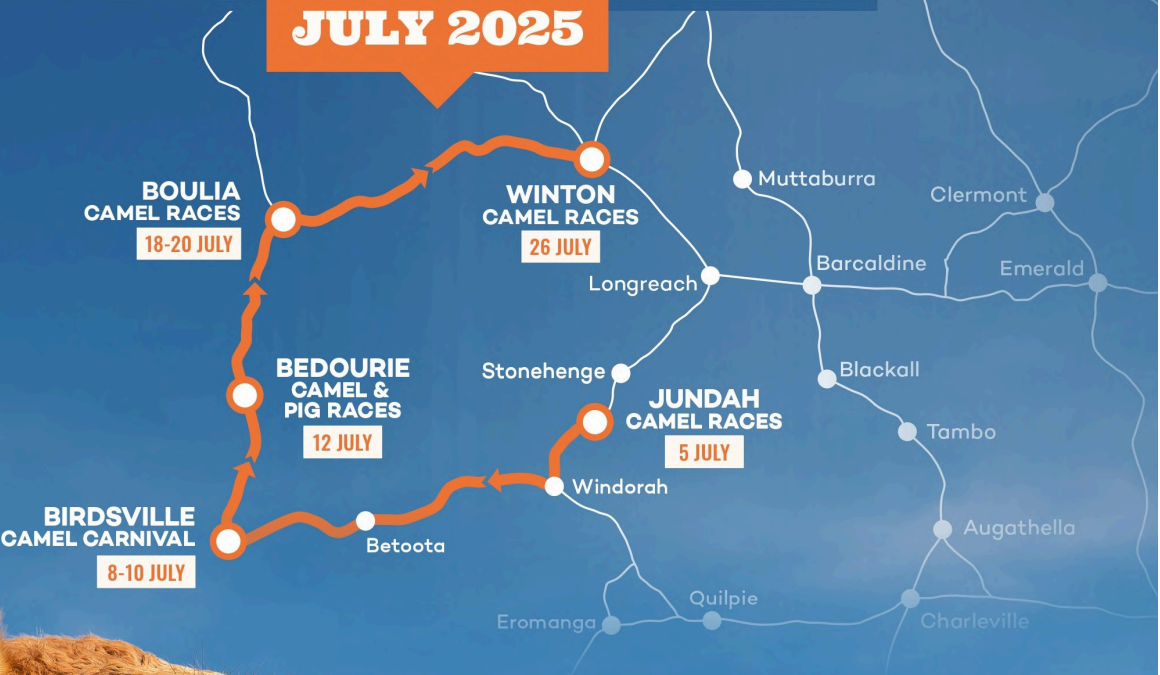
 **Winton Camel Races – July 26, 2025:** The finale of the trail takes place the legendary town of Winton, where visitors can enjoy camel racing alongside the town's vibrant arts and music scene.

[www.thediamantina.com.au/OutbackCamelTrail](http://www.thediamantina.com.au/OutbackCamelTrail)



OUTBACK  
**Camel-Trail**  
— DESERT CHAMPIONS WAY —

**JULY 2025**



Embark on an epic journey through the heart of Outback Queensland, where the thrill of camel racing intertwines with the region’s rich history and lively culture.

[www.thediamantina.com.au/OutbackCamelTrail](http://www.thediamantina.com.au/OutbackCamelTrail)



The Crackup Company are bringing comedy to the paddock at Birdsville Camel Carnival this July!

They will be setting up their homestead and performing comedy shows with Australian stock whip and bullock whip cracking, kelpie dogs, knockabout acrobatics, live music and FUN!

There's different shows each day, whipcracking workshops AND original Birdsville Camel Carnival games. Award winning creators of outback Australian stories, The Crackup Sisters are Birdsville favourites at The Races, The Big Red Bash and now the Camel Carnival.



They hail from Winton in Outback Queensland, just two towns and 10 hours from Birdsville, pretty much neighbours. Through the Crackup Sisters 15-year touring career, the company of clowns have featured at Calgary Stampede in Canada, the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas and rodeos all over Australia including Mt Isa and Mareeba.

The Sisters have hosted the Big Red Bash, Ekka Main Arena and have performed at agricultural shows across Australia including the Perth, Darwin, Toowoomba, Bathurst and Brisbane. They've performed in Fred Brophy's Boxing Tent and even an 80th Birthday party!

Bring ya chair, ya mum, ya kids and your neighbour to watch a show and share a laugh.

**BIRDSVILLE CAMEL CARNIVAL  
JULY 8-10, 2025**

*This program is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.*



**Queensland  
Government**



## **Bedourie Library Has Reopened!**

We're excited to welcome you to Bedourie Library's new home at the Bedourie Community Centre, 18 Herbert Street.




Explore our inviting space designed for learning, creativity, and community connection. We look forward to seeing you soon!

### **Opening Hours:**

**8:30am to 2:30pm - Tuesday to Friday**

*(please note Bedourie Library and Playgroup will be closed 12-15 May as Lauren will be in Mt Isa for training).*

Visitors and Community Members are welcome to make use of the library's full range of services, including:

-  Borrowing books for all ages and interests
-  A quiet space to read, study, or relax
-  Access to information and assistance from friendly library staff

We are also proud to offer a variety of programs for families and young children:

### **Children's Movie Showings**

Enjoy regular screenings of family-friendly films in a relaxed, child-friendly setting. Please see our noticeboard or contact the library for upcoming showtimes.

### **Toy Library**

Available during opening hours, our Toy Library offers a wide range of toys for borrowing—supporting play-based learning and development at home.

### **First 5 Forever Program**

Held **once a fortnight**, our early literacy program supports parents and caregivers in fostering strong language and learning skills in children aged 0-5 through interactive sessions and resources.

We invite all Community members & Visitors to take advantage of these services and programs.



Photos: Bedourie Library Reopening by Valeri Fernandez

For further details, please visit the library or speak with our staff.

P: 07 4746 1600

E: [visitors@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:visitors@diamantina.qld.gov.au)



# DIAMANTINA EVENTS 2025

## Bedourie Women's Conference

Bedourie  
31 May - 1 June

## Betoota Horse & Motorbike Gymkhana

Betoota  
20-22 June

## Birdsville Campdraft, Rodeo, Gymkhana & Bronco Branding National Finals

Birdsville  
27-29 June

## Betoota Outback Desert Muster

Betoota  
5 & 6 July

## John Williamson Big Red Sunset Concert

Birdsville  
8 & 9 July

## Bedourie Campdraft, Rodeo & Gymkhana

Bedourie  
September

## Melbourne Cup Day Diamantina Public Holiday

4 November

## Remembrance Day Service

Birdsville  
11 November



**NEW!**

## Birdsville Camel Carnival

8-10 July

## Bedourie Camel & Pig Races

12 July



## SIMPSON DESERT RACING CARNIVAL

## Betoota Rodeo & Races

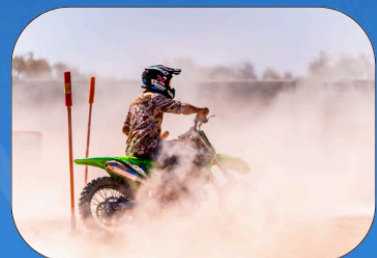
29 - 30 August

## Birdsville Races

5 - 6 September

## Bedourie Races

13 September



1300 794 257  
info@diamantina.qld.au  
www.thediamantina.com.au  
fb.me/TheDiamantina  
instagram.com/diamantinaqld  
#DiscoverDiamantina

 The Diamantina  
Birdsville Bedourie Betoota



A CELEBRATION OF HERITAGE, SPORT AND CULTURE | JULY 8 - 10 2025



*Birdsville  
The Black Book*  
FRANCES GAGE MCGINN EXHIBITION  
OPEN DAILY  
AT THE WIRRARRI GALLERY,  
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

*Street Food  
& Markets*  
MONDAY 7 JULY - THURSDAY 10 JULY  
AT CAMEL CORNER

*Family Friendly Entertainment,  
Live Music & Pig Races*  
TUESDAY 8 JULY - THURSDAY 10 JULY  
AT CAMEL CORNER,  
BESIDE THE WIRRARRI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

*Birdsville  
Courthouse Experience*  
DAILY GUIDED TOURS  
FEES APPLY

*Camel Rides*  
TUESDAY 8 - THURSDAY 10 JULY  
DAILY AT CAMEL CORNER  
FEES APPLY

*Live Music at the Birdsville Hotel*  
FT. MISSY LANCASTER, MICK LINDSEY AND CAITIN DREW  
MONDAY 7 - THURSDAY 10 JULY  
NO COVER CHARGE

This program is supported by the Queensland  
Government through Arts Queensland.



#DiscoverDiamantina [www.thediamantina.com.au/outbackcameltrail](http://www.thediamantina.com.au/outbackcameltrail)

**f** Birdsville Camel Carnival



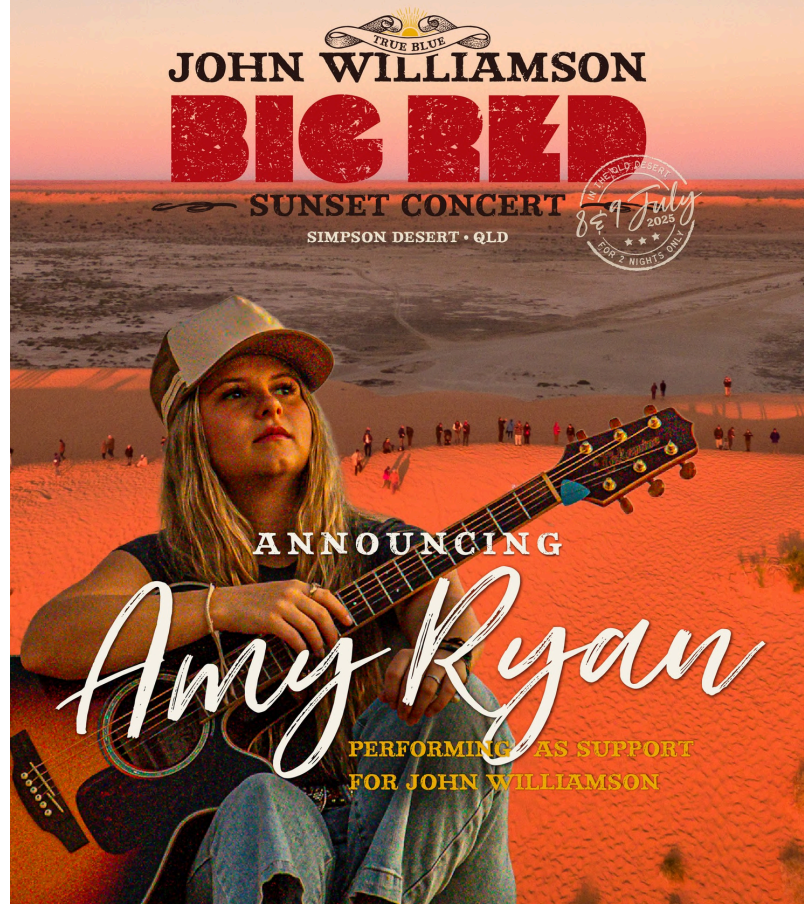
**LIVE IN THE BIRDSVILLE HOTEL BEER GARDEN**  
Missy Lancaster — Mick Lindsey — Caitlin Drew



**Big Red Bash** are thrilled to announce that country singer-songwriter **Amy Ryan Music** will be performing as support for the John Williamson Sunset Concert this July!

Amy made history as the youngest performer ever on the Big Red Bash stage in 2024, and we're so excited to welcome her back to the red dirt in 2025!

With a deep love for the Diamantina region and a genuine passion for country music, Amy brings heart, soul, and a beautiful energy. If you haven't heard her yet - trust us, you'll love her!



JOHN WILLIAMSON  
**BIG RED**  
SUNSET CONCERT  
JULY 2025 • SIMPSON DESERT • QLD



Camping at Big Red with just 1,000 mates? Yes please!

Here's what you need to know:

- Camping Vehicle Pass = 1 night only
- Want to stay both nights (8 & 9 July)? Get tickets + passes for both
- No powered sites - BYO generator (8am-8pm only)
- No vehicle movement once set up
- Camp in convoy if you want to stay with your crew

More info on the website - pack smart, plan ahead, and get ready to live the dream in the Simpson Desert!

<https://bigredbash.com.au/john-williamson-big-red-sunset-concert-2025/>



July  
**12**

# BEDOURIE 2025 CAMEL RACES

**Camel Racing**  
**Pig races**  
**The Crack Up Sisters**  
**Novelty competitions**  
**Bar & Food available**  
**Market Stalls**  
**& many more highlights**



PLEASE JOIN US, AS  
BEDOURIE STATE  
SCHOOL MARKS ITS 1<sup>ST</sup>  
ANNUAL PEACE POLE  
CEREMONY THANKS TO  
THE ROTARY E-CLUB  
OF AUSTRALIA  
NOMADS AND  
BEDOURIE AMATEUR  
TURF CLUB



**15th of May 2025**  
**10:30am**

**Followed by**  
**Morning Tea**

**We would love to**  
**see you there!**



## Save The Date



**20TH- 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 25**

**HORSE**  
**GYMKHANA**  
**MOTORBIKE**  
**GYMKHANA**  
**CHALLENGE**



Get Stuffed Outback Events Presents

# BETOOTA

**OUTBACK • DESERT • MUSTER**

Starring  
**Adam Harvey**

**Darren Griffiths**   **Amy Ryan**   **Andrew Ryan**  
and Jukejoint

**5 -6 July 2025**



**GET TICKETS**





## Bedourie to host Women's Extravaganza Conference

### A Weekend of Inspiration and Celebration Around Women in Management

Locals and visitors are set to gather for a weekend of celebration, learning, and connection at the Bedourie Women's Extravaganza Conference, proudly hosted by the Desert Rivers Development Board, and supported by the Diamantina Shire Council and the Division of Sport and Recreation's Women and Girls Active Program.

This much-anticipated event, which will occur at the Bedourie Golf Club on Saturday, 31 May and Sunday, 1 June 2025, promises an unforgettable weekend filled with inspiration, empowerment, and warm outback hospitality.

By highlighting leadership, skill-building, and community engagement, the Bedourie International Women's Day Extravaganza is helping pave the way for a more inclusive and active future for women in the West. The event will offer practical resources on management and finance, while supporting greater opportunities for women and girls to participate and lead across all levels of clubs, communities, and organisations.

### A Full Program of Activities

The weekend kicks off on Saturday with registration, morning tea and the fabulous Bedourie local markets. Alongside, a Men's Ambrose Golf Tournament will be held as a formal opening of the Bedourie Golf Course. A welcome by Elisabeth Plant, convener of the conference and secretary of the Desert Rivers Development Board, will open the event. This will lead to the inaugural Women of the West panel, highlighting local voices from the region, supported by Richard Cooley, president of the Desert Rivers Development Board.

Attendees will enjoy a community lunch before settling in for the afternoon speaker sessions, where inspiring women from the region including; Julianne Meier – CEO, Diamantina Shire Council, Trevina "Shorty" Rogers – Pitta Pitta woman in north-west QLD, Maree Tulley – Project Officer, Diamantina Shire Council, and Jennie Feldmeier – Bush Chaplain, Frontier Services will share their journeys, highlighting the challenges they've faced and the successes they've achieved along the way.

The evening promises laughter and connection with a dinner, trivia contest, and golf trophy presentation at 6pm. Spots are limited – RSVP by May 16 to secure your place.

**Learn more at: [www.diamantina.qld.gov.au/news](http://www.diamantina.qld.gov.au/news)**





THE DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL AND THE DESERT RIVERS DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD INCORPORATED PROUD TO BE JOINT HOSTS OF THE

BEDOURIE WOMEN'S EXTRAVAGANZA  
*A Weekend of Inspiration and Celebration around Women in Management*

# Conference



31ST MAY-1ST JUNE 2025



BEDOURIE GOLF CLUB

**REGISTER TO BOOK YOUR SPOT !**

REGISTER HERE [bit.ly/BedourieWomensConference2025](https://bit.ly/BedourieWomensConference2025)



## What to expect?

INSPIRING SPEAKER PANEL  
EVENT & FINANCES WORKSHOP  
AMBROSE GOLF TOURNAMENT  
FUN GAMES & PRIZES  
GREAT EVENING EVENT AND  
FORMAL DINNER



ALL MEALS PROVIDED: MORNING TEA,  
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST THE NEXT DAY



ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR FREE, SUBSIDISED FUEL  
LIMITED SPOTS, REGISTER ASAP RSVP 16TH OF MAY

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN MOST GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
AND THE DIVISION SPORT AND RECREATION WOMENS AND GIRLS ACTIVE PROGRAM



**BEDOURIE WOMEN'S EXTRAVAGANZA**

*A Weekend of Inspiration and Celebration around Women in Management*

# Conference

**SATURDAY**  
**31.05.25**

**REGISTRATION - 9AM**

Registration and welcome pack for conference.

**MARKETS MEN'S AMBOSE GOLF- 10AM**

Local craft markets, Men's Ambrose Golf morning. morning tea will be available at this time.

**WELCOME - 11AM**

**SPEAKER PANEL - 11.15AM- 12.30 PM**

Welcome to the Conference - Elisabeth Plant

Women of the West - Inaugural Women in Event and Finances

Richard Cooley

**LUNCH - 12.30PM**

**SPEAKERS - 1.30**

Julianne Meier CEO Diamantina Shire Council

Trevina Rogers - Pitta Pitta woman in north-west QLD

Maree Tulley - Project Officer, Diamantina Shire Council

Jennie Feldmier - Bush Chaplain, Frontier Services

**AFTERNOON TEA - 3PM**

**SPEAKER - 3.30PM**

Guest Panel Continued

**FREE TIME - 4.30PM**

**DINNER - 6.00 - 6.30 PM**

Dinner and Trivia contest and prizes

Golf Trophy presentation

**SUNDAY**  
**01.06.25**

**BREAKFAST BBQ - 8.30AM**

Breakfast, gifts to guests and thank you close by Paula Brown

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN MOST GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL AND THE DIVISION SPORT AND RECREATION WOMENS AND GIRLS ACTIVE PROGRAM



**REGISTER HERE: [bit.ly/BedourieWomensConference2025](https://bit.ly/BedourieWomensConference2025)**

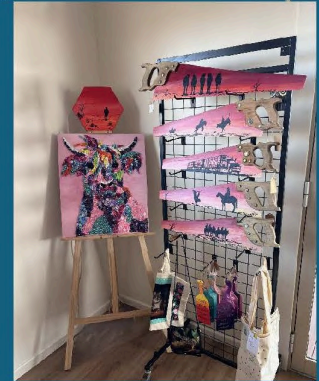


# Bedourie Markets 2025



Located at the  
Bedourie Golf Club unless  
stated otherwise.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June  
(followed by Paint & Sip)  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July  
(at the Camel Races)



See more on the Bedourie  
Community  
Facebook Page

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September

(Evening Markets from 5:30pm)

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

(at the Bedourie Campdraft, Rodeo & Gymkhana)



\$10 per stall

from 9am unless stated otherwise

Contact Jodie Girdler 0428035184







## Bedourie School News

Greetings Desert Yarn Readers!

I trust you all had a lovely Easter and for our school families a well-earned break from the routines of school. Term 2 is shaping up to be another super exciting term for the students and Staff of Bedourie State School. Week 1 ended with our involvement in the Anzac Day march and service followed by our annual P & C fundraiser.

A huge thanks to Mr Richard Cooley for ensuring our students are active participants throughout the parade and service. This year, Mason was our main reader of the prayer, with the support of Mr Letts (in Connor's absence) and Sienna. Super effort, Mason!

Our former Principal, Leanne Hohnke -Jansen, was welcomed back to do the Anzac Day address. Many former and current students and parents enjoyed catching up pre and post service. At the end of the service, Mr Richard Cooley asked both former, Leanne, and current principals, Danielle, to accept a certificate of thanks for their support over the past 17 years he has been organising the event.





Our annual P & C Fundraiser was a success thanks to the efforts of President, Shelley Reynolds and Secretary, Lauren Parkinson. A huge thankyou to Shelley and her minions who made a delicious lunch for everyone in attendance. This was followed by many laughs and celebrations (some louder than others) over our annual 5 card Bingo and Two Up games. Thankyou goes to the Bedourie community for coming out each year to support our P & C and the children of Bedourie State School.

Starting May 6th, our students will be participating in the annual Premier's Reading Challenge with prizes up for grabs throughout the 4- month challenge. Each year, the Premier's Reading Challenge encourages students throughout Queensland to read around 20 books over the time period. As research has shown time and time again, being able to read is crucial to a child's future employment opportunities and quality of life.

On Thursday, May 15th, we will be having our official Peace Pole Ceremony, thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club of Australia Nomads and Bedourie Amateur Turf Club. Invitations will be sent out this week. The ceremony will begin at 10 am at the school followed by morning tea. We would love to see as many members of the community in attendance.



**We're taking on the  
2025 Premier's  
reading challenge**

**Where will reading take you?**

From May 6th to August 22nd, the students of Bedourie State School are aiming to read 80 books for the 2025 Premier's Reading Challenge!

This term, we are learning how to write and present an information text. This term, we are studying the snakes of the Diamantina Shire. Students have decided to create a poster on one of the species of snakes in the shire. They will use their poster to write and present a speech to an audience in the latter half of the term. The children are super excited! So watch this space...

Yours in Education,  
Danielle Carige  
Principal | Bedourie State School



Photos from our gardening last week.





Larry Cann - radio, country  
artist / singer / songwriter



Queensland **Ballet**

# **BEDOURIE**

## *Splash n' Arts*

### **PRIMARY CAMP**



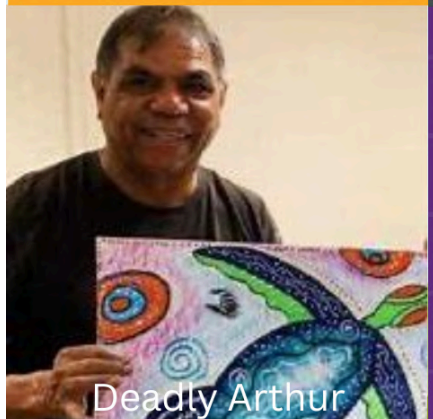
Karen Gilchrist

**October  
20-24,  
2025**



Live Concert

by Larry Cann & the Crack Up Sisters  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

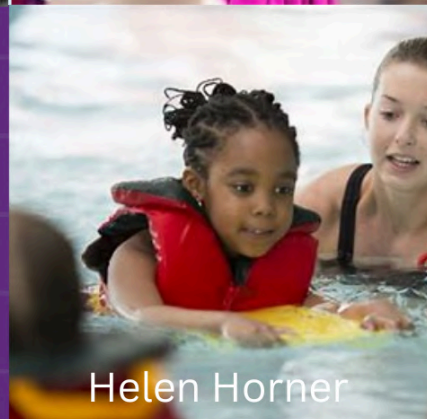


Deadly Arthur

Blue Light  
Disco

Movie night

Camp  
Showcase  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



Helen Horner

Enquiries call: Bedourie State School 4746 1224





## Circle of Security Parenting™

**A free program for parents with children aged 0-5 years old**

### COMING IN JULY 2025

The Circle of Security Parenting™ program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

The program assists parents to better understand and respond to their child's needs and improves confidence in parenting skills.

**Scan the QR code  
to register your  
interest**







## Health and wellness

Our nurse-led clinics in Birdsville and Bedourie manage chronic conditions and emergency care for the local community and surrounding areas.

**In an EMERGENCY dial Triple Zero (000)**

### Bedourie Primary Health Centre

Kepler St, Bedourie.

**Call 07 4746 1500**

Monday to Friday

9am to 12pm, 2pm to 4pm

CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

See services at [centralwest.health.qld.gov.au](http://centralwest.health.qld.gov.au)

### Birdsville Primary Health Centre

31 Adelaide St, Birdsville.

**Call 07 4564 2400**

Monday to Friday

9am to 12pm, 2 pm to 4pm

CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

See services at [centralwest.health.qld.gov.au](http://centralwest.health.qld.gov.au)

### Western Queensland HEAD HEALTH

Not feeling like yourself lately?  
You're not alone.



**Free Call 1800 595 212**

### Mental Health Support You're Not Alone!

Support is available 24/7 for all ages—whether you need crisis care, someone to talk to, or ongoing mental health support.

If you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, seeking help can make a difference.

**Call Head to Health on 1800 595 212**

Mon-Fri, 8:30am–5:00pm.



Free influenza (flu) vaccinations are now available to all Queenslanders 6 months and older.

Make a plan to get vaccinated in April or May to ensure you're protected through the winter months when flu season is at its peak.

The free flu vaccine is available until 30 September 2025 from your GP, PHCs, pharmacies and other vaccination service providers.

The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from the flu is to get vaccinated. This makes it less likely you'll suffer serious illness and need to be hospitalised.

## WHICH MOZZIE ARE YOU?



**Mozzie Mozbourne**



**Jojo Moziwa**



**Buzzoncé**



**Mozzey Cyrus**



**Dengue Lovato**



**Bitey Eilish**

**Book your FREE  
flu vaccination today.**

Available at your local GP or pharmacy  
until 30 September 2025

Search for

 Vaccination Matters



Queensland  
Government

Trick question! You're not a bug that spreads mosquito-borne viruses.

Mozzies aren't just annoying, they're famous for spreading serious diseases.

In Queensland, we can get quite a few of them—Dengue, Ross River and Japanese encephalitis, just to name a few.

The best way to stay out of their spotlight?

Avoid getting bitten by:

- covering up in loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing.
- applying insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- covering doors and windows with insect screens.
- cleaning up around the home, especially in areas with stagnant water.

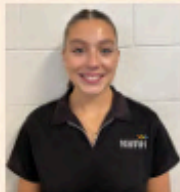
Most mozzie bites will result in no issues or symptoms. If you start experiencing diarrhoea, headaches, fever, or nausea, contact your local health provider.

Source: [Queensland Health](#).



# NWRH | ALLIED HEALTH

## Meet our Outreach Clinicians:



**LUCY COOPER**  
Exercise Physiologist



**NICHOLAS CHAN**  
Dietitian



**HANNAH FOSTER**  
Podiatrist

## Upcoming Outreach Visits:

### BIRDSVILLE

MONDAY 26th of MAY 2025  
TUESDAY 27th of MAY 2025

### BEDOURIE

TUESDAY 27th of MAY 2025  
WEDNESDAY 28th of MAY 2025

## Referrals:

NWRH's Allied Health Services are free to people of all ages to improve health and wellbeing. Referrals are accepted from all parties, including self-referral. Please complete a NWRH referral form (available on our website or upon request) and email completed form to [referrals@nwrh.com.au](mailto:referrals@nwrh.com.au)

**NWRH are also service providers for the NDIS and Commonwealth Home Support Program.**

For more information on referral pathways and our health services refer to our website or ask one of our friendly team:

**Phone 07 4744 7600 Free call 1800 221 131**



Queensland Virtual Hospital  
**Virtual Emergency Care Service**

Queensland Health

# Virtual Emergency Care Service

## Help for non-life-threatening conditions

The Virtual Emergency Care Service can help you with conditions that need immediate specialist Emergency Doctor attention but aren't life-threatening.

This includes but is not limited to:

- acute respiratory illnesses
- allergic reactions
- rashes and bites
- pain
- infections
- burns
- children with fevers
- gastroenteritis
- vertigo
- and many more.



Scan the QR code to  
access the service.



In an emergency, always call **Triple Zero (000)**



**Queensland  
Government**





## Roads and Works

9 Mile flood plain near King Creek. Photos by Kev Barr

### Kevin Barr | Works Manager

All crews have had a well-deserved break over the Easter period and ANZAC weekend. We thank the community for their continued patience during this time as we deal with the impacts of widespread rainfall and flooding across the Shire.

A number of roads remain closed due to water damage, but we are beginning to see gradual improvements. As roads reopen, we ask motorists to drive carefully—many sections have sustained significant damage, and road edges may still be soft and unstable.

We also remind drivers to exercise extra caution around Cattle Road Trains. These heavy vehicles will be moving through the region in increasing numbers, particularly as properties begin moving stock. Please give them plenty of space, and where possible, allow them full use of the roadway.

Please note, major flooding is still present in the Diamantina River at Birdsville, although water levels are slowly receding.

Thank you to all our staff and contractors for their efforts under challenging conditions, and to our residents and road users for their continued cooperation and understanding as we work to restore safe access across the Shire.



Left to right: Cattle Road Trains will be moving stock in the coming months. Boggy road conditions, drive carefully. Helicopter transfers work crew across Eyre Creek to work.





### Zack Kinivan's Maintenance Crew

Zack's crew was working on the Mooraberree-Betoota Road when the latest rain event began. The area has experienced considerable rainfall and flooding over the past month. Currently, one grader has been operating from Betoota towards Birdsville to repair washouts and scours and make the road trafficable. A full crew will return to the Birdsville-Betoota section once roads become accessible.

### Jade Smith's Maintenance Crew

Prior to the wet weather, Jade's crew was working on the Springvale to Boulia Shire Boundary road. This area has recorded over 300 mm of rain, with severe flooding causing extensive damage—including to previously repaired sections of road. The crew returned last week to carry out Emergent Work to reopen access. They will continue with Flood Damage Restoration works across the Springvale area in the coming weeks.

### Francis Warren's Civil Crew

The Civil Crew has been based at the Bedourie Depot, undertaking cleanup activities across sheds and yard areas. They have erected hazard signage on all accessible damaged road sections around Bedourie. They've also supported the Parks and Gardens Crew during this time. Once more roads reopen, the Civil Crew will continue with signage replacement and bitumen repairs as required.





## Patrol Grader Crew

This team has recently completed repair work on washouts along Kamarin Downs Access Road and the Bedourie to Sandringham Road. They have been unable to access the Sandringham to Ethabuka section due to flooding in the Mulligan River. Currently, they are working on the King Creek to Monkira Road, which has sustained major damage in sections.

Upcoming works include a Light Formation Grade on the Lake Machattie Detour Road followed by repairs to the Adria Downs Access Road. The Patrol Grader Crew consists of two graders, one multi roller, and two water trucks.

## Other Works and Contractors

To assist with the scale of the damage, we have engaged contractors to support key works:

- A contractor crew is undertaking Emergent Work on the Adria Downs Access Road, where significant damage has occurred and urgent access is required for stock movement.
- A contractor dozer is conducting gravel works in pits along the Bedourie-Birdsville Road, and will soon be relocated to the Vaughn Johnson Lookout Access Road for drainage repairs.
- Additional contractor trucks and water carts are also working in tandem with Council crews, including towing Council tippers to maximise efficiency.



*Wildflowers near King Creek.*



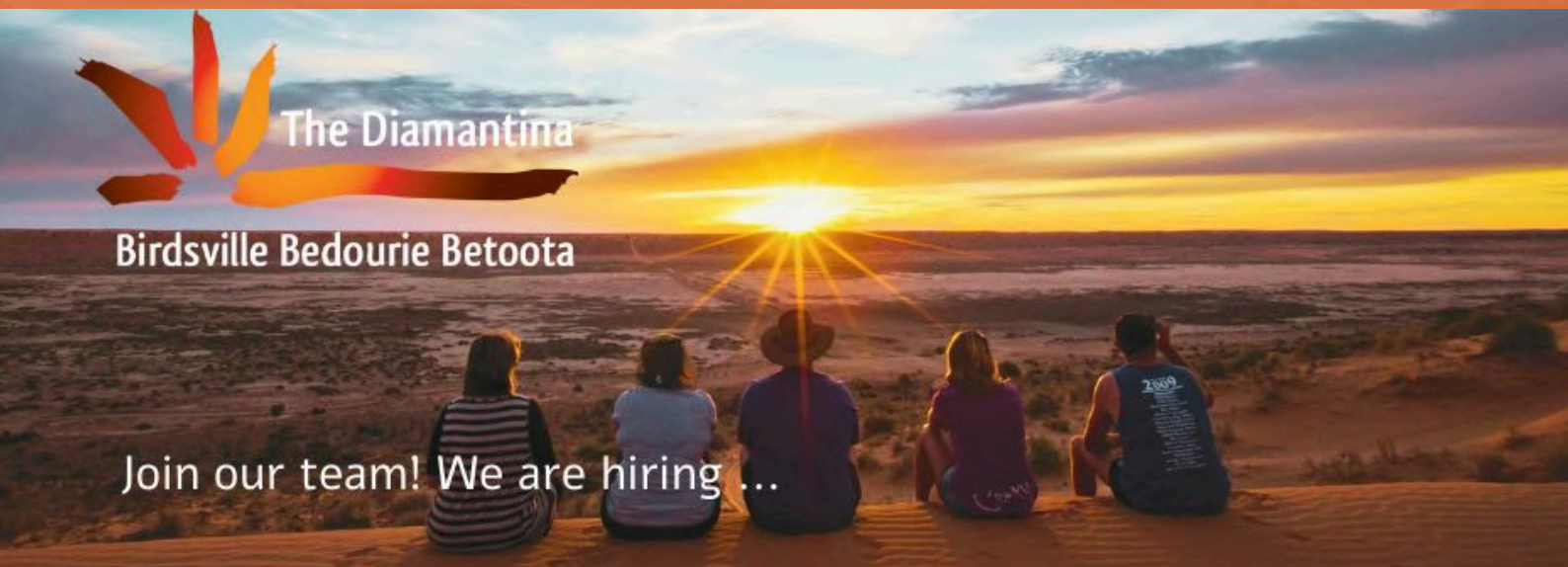
*Roseberth Station*



Check **Council's** Road Report for up-to-date information about road conditions in the Diamantina Shire at:  
[bit.ly/DiamantinaRoadReport](https://bit.ly/DiamantinaRoadReport)







## Current Job Vacancies

### Carpenter/Tradesperson (Bedourie)

This is an exciting opportunity to ply your trade in the Outback. Explore the region while you work without the cost-of-living crisis and busyness of city life! A great package is available, including housing. Enjoy the quiet and authentic Outback lifestyle in a tight community.

[Be an early applicant - apply now via SEEK.](#)

### Tourism Manager – Level 7 (Birdsville)

Lead iconic outback events, shape regional tourism, and create unforgettable visitor experiences in one of Australia's most legendary destinations. This is your opportunity to live and work where history, culture, and adventure meet. [Tell me more!](#)

### Administration Officers (Bedourie)

We are currently seeking two Administration Officers to join our team.

As an Administrator within either the Infrastructure or Fleet teams at Diamantina Shire Council, you can expect to be responsible for providing administrative support to your, contributing to the day-to-day operations ensuring timely, effective and responsive service delivery of duties associated with either maintenance and construction infrastructure, or assisting with the procurement and maintenance of fleet, plant and equipment.

View the Position Descriptions at [diamantina.qld.gov.au/job-vacancies](https://diamantina.qld.gov.au/job-vacancies)

## How to Apply

We're excited that you're interested in joining the Diamantina Shire Council. To express your interest in a position, please email your resume and introductory letter to [HR@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:HR@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

In your letter, tell us why you'd love to be part of our team in the heart of the Outback!

Follow **Diamantina Shire Council** on LinkedIn





## Meet Jo-Ann – Loving Every Minute in the Channel Country

By Jo-Ann Atkinson

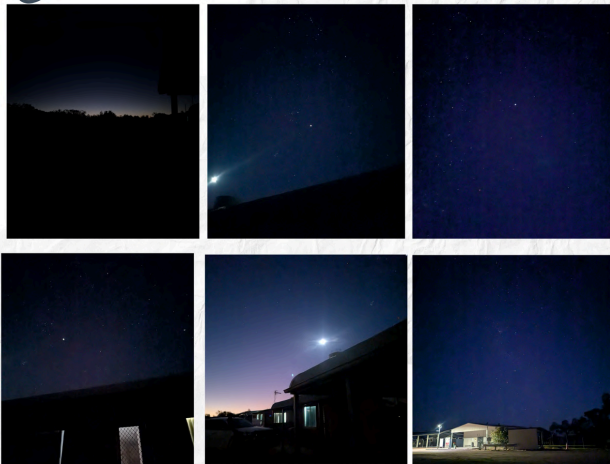
I started with Diamantina Shire Council on the 24th of February and I'm loving every minute of it. I'm a bit of a fly-in fly-out contractor, but every time I touch down out here, it just feels right.

My parents have always been fond of western Queensland. They often spoke of their travels, camping at Cuttaburra Crossing and even searching for the elusive night parrot. So in some ways, it feels like I'm picking up their torch and continuing the adventure.

Bedourie Queensland

## Bedourie at Nighttime

4 March 2025



I turned 59 in early February and when this opportunity came along, it just felt like perfect timing. With over 25 years of experience working in local councils along the Queensland coastline, I was ready for a change – something exciting, something remote, something real. And here I am.

From day one, I've been struck by the incredible sense of community and spirit in this part of the world. The team at Council have been amazing – welcoming, supportive, and full of knowledge. Staying in Bedourie has been a pleasure, and I've already had the chance to drive out to Birdsville for a workday. I'm looking forward to ticking Beetoota and beyond off my travel list soon!

A highlight so far? That would have to be my first Saturday morning in Bedourie. I looked out the window to see two camels casually strolling past my unit. That's the most traffic I've seen here at one time – and I couldn't stop smiling.

There's something very special about this place. I feel lucky to be here, contributing in a small way and soaking up everything the outback has to offer.



## Queensland Small Business Month

Queensland Small Business Month is the perfect time for small business owners to get a handle on their business data.

To help achieve this, the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business is holding free financial literacy workshops in Winton on 20<sup>th</sup> May and Longreach on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May delivering general information and guidance, as well as the opportunity for small businesses to reserve 20-minute one-on-one sessions with business experts for personalised support.

Topics covered in the session, delivered by experienced business owners, will include:

- what your profit and loss statement says about your business
- how to create an effective bottom line workflow
- knowing when the numbers are working for you.

The workshops will be supported by a number of business experts including:

- Financial Councillors
- Business Wellness Coaches
- Mentors
- Small Business Cyber Advisors (IDCare)
- Business Concierge

Places are limited so register now at:

**Business Qld - Financial literacy workshops: What is my bottom line telling me?**

### Online workshops

Can't make it in person? A workshop will also be available online via Microsoft Teams, featuring the financial literacy presentation as well as information on how to book a one-on-one appointment with business experts at a later date.

- [Register here for online workshop 2: Thursday 22 May 2025](#)

### More information

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [business@cdsb.qld.gov.au](mailto:business@cdsb.qld.gov.au)

Secure  
your spot  
at your local  
financial  
literacy  
workshop



RECHARGE. RENEW. REBUILD.

Book now at  
[business.qld.gov.au/qsbm](https://business.qld.gov.au/qsbm)



## CONTACTS

### Diamantina Shire Council

Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 5 pm

(excluding Public Holidays)

17 Herbert Street

BEDOURIE QLD 4829

P: 07 4746 1600

E: Admin@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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E: Julianne.Meier@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Patrice Brandenburg

DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

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E: Patrice.Brandenburg@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Lorelle Hatch

DIRECTOR PEOPLE AND GOVERNANCE

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E: Lorelle.Hatch@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Brent Reeman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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E: Brent.Reeman@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Garth Borgelt

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

P: 0409 332 105

E: Garth.Borgelt@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

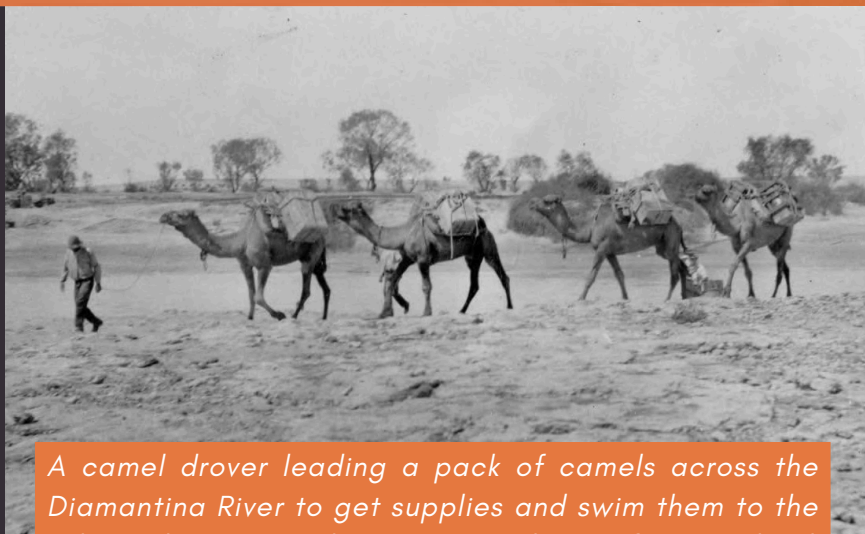
### Connect With Us



Like Diamantina Shire Council  
on **Facebook**



Follow @diamantinaqld  
on **Instagram**



*A camel drover leading a pack of camels across the Diamantina River to get supplies and swim them to the other side in 1926. Photo - State Library of Queensland*

### Elected Representatives

Cr Francis Murray, Mayor

P: 0438 999 267

E: Francis.Murray@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Cr Damien Watson, Deputy Mayor

P: 0429 627 215

E: Damien.Watson@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Cr Damian Clarke

P: 0472 866 267

E: Damian.Clarke@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Cr Robbie Dare

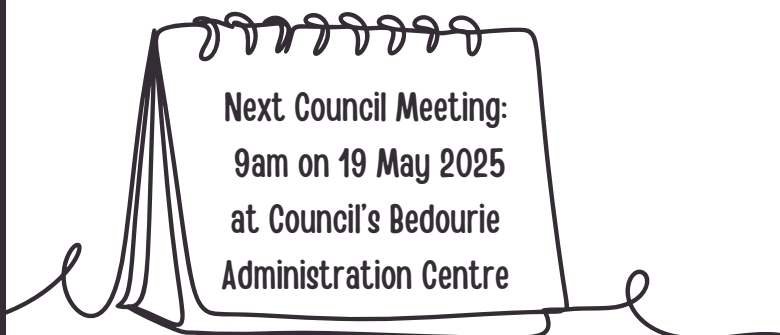
P: 0427 467 291

E: Rob.Dare@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Cr Kerry Morton

P: 0488 544 506

E: Kerry.Mortone@Diamantina.qld.gov.au



**Next Council Meeting:**  
**9am on 19 May 2025**  
**at Council's Bedourie**  
**Administration Centre**

