JUNE 2025



# A Company of the second second

# SPECIAL FEATURE: LIVE IN JULY

Betoota Outback Desert Muster John Williamson Sunset Concert Birdsville Camel Carnival Bedourie Camel Races

> "What Aussie shouldn't experience great music under the Outback stars in such an unforgettable location. Out there, the atmosphere, landscape and characters of the outback give you a true sense of the Australian identity."

JOHN WILLIAMSON





Deser YARNS



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Hats off to the Outback—where the desert blooms and the sky puts on a show. After a season of flooding, Birdsville is alive again. The Big Red Bash crew were treated to a breathtaking sunset as they prepared for the **John Williamson Big Red Sunset Concert** — Nearly sold out on July 8 and 9.

Nature's setting the stage, and it's something special.

Photo: Thiwi Rowlands: Desert Soul Photography





Diamantina Shire Council acknowledges the Wangkamahdla,

Pitta Pitta, Mithaka, Wangkangurru/Yarluyandi, and Maiawali Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands across our region. We recognise their deep and enduring connection to Country, Culture, and Community. We are committed to learning from and alongside First Nations Peoples and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Deser YARNS

# Thessage from The Phalgor

Well, things seem to be almost back to normal with the floods behind us and the tourists starting to visit our region, although the SA roads remain closed. I'd like to give a shout out to our tourism team who have been spreading the word at four-wheel drive and camping shows in Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville that we are open for business and there's no better time to visit with the countryside looking great.



Mayor Francis Murray

Julianne and I went to Longreach this month for a RAPAD meeting. At the meeting, it was resolved that each Council receive an update for their local newsletters, so that everyone is better informed about the board's functions and what it does for its members. RAPAD is made up of Mayors from seven regional Councils that advocate for our central west Queensland region together.







# Deser YARNS

Councilors and the Executive Leadership Team had training with Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) which was good for all involved to get a better understanding of how important it is for Council to be prudent with their funds. There is a lot to do but not a lot of funds to do it with. I am sure we as an organisation are in a better place going forward since this training. There has also been training for elected members and staff from the Department of Local Government regarding rights and responsibilities within the Local Government act.

Assistant Commissioner Virginia Nelson, and Adam King of Mount Isa District Disaster Management with other members of the Queensland Police Service visited the Shire for a debrief on our latest flood event, visiting Birdsville and Bedourie, spending time with staff and elected members. It is great that they took the time to come to far south-western Queensland to get a better understanding of our policing issues, our response to local disasters and what could improve regarding resources and communication. This will benefit us all for future events.

With a busy month ahead, I would like to wish everyone a successful event season which is jam packed with events around the Shire. If you are interested in volunteering for your local clubs, now is the time to reach out and offer a helping hand. The more help, the lighter the load. A big shout-out to those who have been doing the 'heavy lifting' year after year, we really do appreciate it.

Francis Murray

Volunteers help make events like the 2025 Birdsville Races possible. Find out about volunteering at Birdsville Races online at **birdsvilleraces.com/volunteer** 



Greg Donnavan with his family — the heartbeat behind the Big Red Bash. This family-run festival is brought to life by a dedicated crew of event pros, contractors, and volunteers who make the magic happen.

Leser YARNS



RAPAD Board Heads to Bedourie in August While in Longreach, Mayor Murray joined fellow RAPAD Mayors and tourism operators on the banks of the Thompson River to hear from the Tourism Minister Powell on the newly launched Destination 2045 Tourism Plan.

On 26–27 August, the Diamantina Shire will proudly host the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) in Bedourie. In recent years, the RAPAD Board has adopted a rotating approach to its inperson meetings, sharing the travel load across member councils and giving each region the chance to showcase its local achievements, communities, and priorities.

This rotation not only helps 'share the distance' but also brings direct benefits to each host town, with around 30 participants expected, including project partners and departmental representatives. The meeting is a welcome opportunity to support local businesses and accommodation providers and shine a light on the projects shaping our part of Central West Queensland.

The two-day agenda will include meetings of the CWQ Regional Pest Management Group, RAPAD Water and Sewerage Alliance, and the CWQ Regional Roads and Transport Group—reflecting the cross-sector collaboration that RAPAD is known for.

This marks the second time Diamantina has hosted the Board, following Birdsville's previous welcome to members in August 2022. We look forward to welcoming the RAPAD Board once again—this time to Bedourie.



Mayor Francis Murray took the opportunity to raise concerns about housing in the Diamantina Shire at the June RAPAD Board meeting in Longreach. He emphasised the critical role that the Council plays in meeting local needs and bridging gaps in social housing, needs that are not always reflected in official data, to Sarah Amos, Deputy Director General of the Department of Housing, who presented to the Board about Social and Affordable Housing Supply.





Julianne Meier Chief Executive Officer

CEO upotate

Fresh mornings, cool evenings, and shorter hours of daylight remind us that winter is upon us. After widespread rains, the region has transformed into an abundance of life and colour, with clear skies. I never tire of the magic in the sunrises and sunsets.

With the flooding behind us, we have moved into a more business-as-usual stage with a constant buzz of activity.

Our works team has been busy maintaining the roads in preparation for the upcoming travel season. Francis and I recently drove to Longreach through Windorah and Jundah for a RAPAD meeting, and it is always easy to drive on such wellmaintained roads.

Town services continue to keep the towns looking wellmaintained and are busy with day-to-day operations at our aerodromes. It is a pleasure to see that the towns are both so beautiful, clean and neat.



# Deser YARNS

Our region will soon come alive again with the Desert Champions Way - Outback Camel Trail set to begin in Jundah on July 5. The Communities team has also been preparing for the media launch of the Birdsville - The Black Book exhibition through the eyes of Francis Gage McGinn on 8 July at the Wirrarri Centre. Refer to our tourism website for the exciting list of upcoming events at www.thediamantina.com.au.

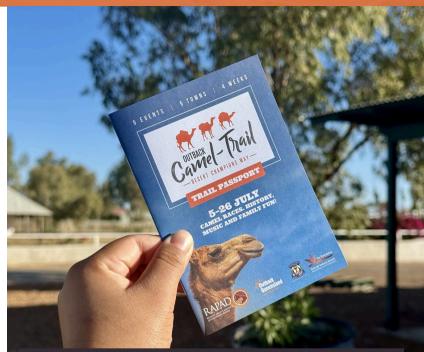
We've had some social activities in Bedourie, including an International Women's Day conference, town markets and a concert "Elvis & the Min Min Lights with a guest performance by Bedourie State School students.

Again, I sincerely thank our staff and contractors for their commitment to the Shire and the support they have provided me over the past months. I continue to receive comments on what a warm and welcoming community we have, and I remain very grateful to be here.

Until next month, be kind to each other and stay safe!

Julianne

Meier Chief Executive Officer



The Desert Champions Way: Outback Camel Trail will bring an influx of travellers through the Diamantina in July.



The International Women's Day Conference in Bedourie brought together the community, fostering connection and celebrating women's strength and spirit.



Deser YARNS

DESTINATIO

Tourism News

# Proud moment for Queensland tourism!

Diamantina Shire Council's Director of Communities, Patrice Brandenburg, attended the official launch of Tourism and Events Queensland's 20-Year Strategy – Destination 2045 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre in June.

This visionary plan sets a bold direction for Queensland's tourism future, with a focus on world-class ecotourism, Indigenous cultural experiences, events, and regional growth. As a remote outback region with rich cultural heritage, iconic landscapes, and unique events like the new Birdsville Camel Carnival in July, Diamantina is excited to be part of Queensland's evolving tourism story.

The Outback is ready to shine even brighter.

Learn more at https://destination2045.detsi.qld.gov.au

While in Brisbane, Patrice met with representatives from the Wynnum Fringe Festival for a tour of The Shed, a unique venue established as part of the Q150 Legacy Project. The visit included a behindthe-scenes look at the site and valuable opportunities to connect with artists and producers. These connections are part of efforts future ongoing *to* explore collaborations and cultural exchange opportunities for the Diamantina region.



# Showcasing the Spirit of the Outback: Diamantina Represented at Major Travel Shows

The rugged beauty and rich heritage of the Diamantina Shire were proudly showcased on the national stage this year through the Council's ongoing partnership with Drive Queensland. With a presence at major caravan, camping, and lifestyle expos in Sydney, Townsville, and Brisbane, the region was represented as a must-visit destination for travellers seeking authentic outback experiences.

Representing the shire was Patrice Brandenburg, Drive Queensland Ambassador and Director of Communities, Diamantina Shire Council. With more than 20 years of experience in major events and tourism across Australia, Patrice first arrived in Birdsville as Interim Tourism Manager in 2023, and quickly fell in love with the people, the place, and the vast beauty of Western Queensland.

"I'm proud to represent the Diamantina Shire," says Patrice. "It's more than just a place on the map—it's a living, breathing experience of frontier spirit, vast desert beauty, and cultural richness. There's nowhere quite like it."

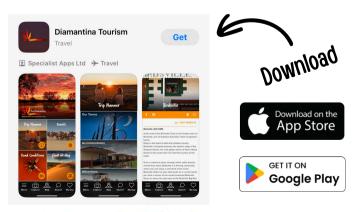
At each event, Patrice and the Diamantina Tourism team shared their in-depth local knowledge and industry insights, connecting with tourism operators, media, and adventurous travellers. The focus was on promoting road trip itineraries, local events, and the unique attractions of Birdsville, Bedourie, and Betoota, as well as the gateway to the Munga-Thirri-Simpson Desert National Park. Our new Diamantina Tourism app was also featured, offering travellers an easy way to plan their journey and discover hidden gems across the 94,000+ square kilometres of the region.



Patrice Brandenburg (third from lett) with tellow <u>Drive Queensland Ambassadors</u> at the Let's Go Caravan & Camping Supershow, Brisbane Showgrounds in June.

Through our Drive Queensland partnership, Council continues to strengthen its presence in the domestic drive tourism market—and with passionate ambassadors like Patrice Brandenburg leading the way, the Diamantina story is reaching more visitors than ever before.







# New Chapter for Our Parks: Council Hands Over Management of Birdsville and Bedourie Tourist Parks

A new era has begun for our local tourism facilities, with the formal handover of the Birdsville Tourist Park and Bedourie Tourist Park to IVG Global Pty Ltd (IVG). IVG's track record in venues includes Australian pavilions at three world expos and over 30 tourism, leisure, and cultural projects across Australia. Their roster of events has included Olympic and Paralympic Games, Universiades, Fl, Formula E and Grand Slam tennis events.

IVG is led by a passionate, energetic, and highly experienced management team with worldwide experience. While they will bring this global experience to the management of the Parks, their leadership team is very focused on the local community and what is important to the region.

The handover milestone was marked with a gathering at the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre in Birdsville, the first of many collaborative meetings between Diamantina Shire Council and the new lessees. This change in management follows Council's call for Tenders last December, inviting proposals to manage the two parks. With this transition now complete, Council has achieved a significant target from the 2024–2025 Operational Plan: 'Sites divested – 100%', as listed under Item 3.2.2.

Photo top: Council and IVG Global Pty Ltd representatives gathered at the Wirrarri Centre in Birdsville to mark the official handover of the Birdsville and Bedourie Tourist Parks.



This achievement means all three major visitor accommodation sites, the Birdsville Lodge, Birdsville Tourist Park and Bedourie Tourist Park, are now under lease arrangements. These divestments are part of Council's long-term strategy to support economic growth, enable private sector innovation, and ensure sustainable service delivery in the Shire.

Operational Plans, such as the 2024/2025 edition, are important tools that help Council turn strategy into action, and this successful handover is a strong example of how planning drives real outcomes. Community members are encouraged to stay informed and engaged by following Council's ongoing progress through the recently endorsed 2025/2026 Operational Plan. These documents reflect Council's commitment to transparency, accountability, and delivering on the goals that matter to our community.

View Council plans, reports and publications at: diamantina.qld.gov.au/about-council/council-publications



Council congratulates IVG Global on their successful appointment and warmly welcomes them to the Diamantina region. We look forward to seeing the Birdsville and Bedourie Tourist Parks thrive under their stewardship and wish them every success in this exciting new chapter.



Birdsville Tourist Park is at Birdsville Tourist Park.

👋 Meet Leo, our awesome Manager !

Leo has been keeping things running smoothly at Birdsville Tourist Park for 2 months—and they're one of the friendly faces you'll see when you check in.

"My favorite part of the job? Meeting people from all over the world and helping them fall in love with the outback." 💛

Thanks for everything you do, Leo!

Want to see more behind the scenes? Follow us for more team stories every Friday!

#FeatureFriday #birdsvilletouristpark #meettheteam #outbackhospitality #workingintheoutback

Follow Birdsville Tourist on Facebook for more updates: **facebook.com/birdsvilletouristpark** 

# Deser YARNS

# A Window to the Past: "**Birdsville - The Black Book"** Exhibition to Open at Wirrarri

Gallery

A new museum-style exhibition is shining a spotlight on Birdsville's unique character and history through the eyes of a woman who fell in love with the outback town nearly 60 years ago. "Birdsville – The Black Book" will open to the public on Tuesday, 8 July at the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre Gallery. The exhibition is based on Frances Gage McGinn's 1977 book, "Birdsville", affectionately known as the Black Book.



**Frances Gage McGinn** with her 1977 book, "Birdsville" — the original Black Book that inspired the exhibition. Image courtesy of Colin McGinn.

# **Preserving History**

As the dust jacket explains:

Frances Gage McGinn established immediate rapport with Birdsville and the desert environs in 1966. A continued interest fostered [the book], about a place that 'lies wide a thousand miles', set in quiet splendour all its own, beneath the wide arc of the ever changing western sky.



the book "Birdsville" will be shown at the exhibition.

As a Bundaberg woman who settled in Brisbane, McGinn took an interest in the remote beauty of Birdsville, staying several times over the next ten years. At that time, she realised that Birdsville itself did not have a published history, so she dedicated herself to researching the many and varied stories she encountered. Her efforts culminated in a book rich with stories told with an integrity that has stood the test of time, accompanied by photographs that lend credence to her words, and paintings that capture her sense of a place that transforms dramatically with just a change in perspective, the time of day, or the season.





# Celebrating Connection and Community at the Bedourie Women's Extravaganza

Our Bedourie Women's Extravaganza conference was welcomed recently in Bedourie. We started with our local markets and the tee off for the Ambrose Golf Tournament with Bedourie Golf Club. It was fantastic to see members of the whole Shire come together to present their wares at our Markets, and more than a dozen locals and the Shake & Stir team came to play in the Ambrose Tournament. Our Golf winners included Josh Parkinson, Brendan Howe and Malcolm Reynolds and were awarded a trophy for their combined efforts.

Our guest speakers included Diamantina's CEO, Julianne Meier, long-time Diamantina local, Jodie Girdler, Maree Tulley, a western QLD born and bred community member and Bella Burns from PNH Western. They were well received by our local women attending from the Diamantina Shire. Our speakers shared their inspirational life journey of working and living in Western and remote Queensland. The meals were catered by EM's catering team – chefs Shae Kison, Monica Rogers and Paula Brown. The meals were beyond exceptional, catering to everyone's needs, and were a pinnacle highlight of the conference. Trivia, masterminded by Jade Smith, was held over dinner, and the laughter ensued.













The Desert Rivers Development Board would like to thank each of our key stakeholders who were able to support the event, including the Diamantina Shire Council, Jimmy Smith from the Royal Hotel, and Rob Dare from the Simpson Desert Oasis Roadhouse. We also thank Richard Cooley, who assisted our team. Without each of the Desert Rivers Development Board members, this amazing event would not have come to fruition.

Thanks to all who attended, supported, or participated in this extraordinary weekend—it truly was a celebration of the strength and spirit of women in the West.



# Ticket Sales Gallop Ahead For Iconic Birdsville Races

Excitement is building in the far west, with Birdsville Races tickets officially on sale—and the team behind the iconic outback event has plenty to celebrate. Gathered on the front verandah of the legendary Birdsville Hotel, race organisers raised a toast as the 2025 ticket launch made headlines in The Sunday Mail.

Known as the "Melbourne Cup of the Outback," the Birdsville Races attract thousands of visitors yearly for a weekend of bush racing, dust, and unforgettable country hospitality. This year's event is set for September 5 and 6, with early indicators pointing to another sell-out crowd.



"We're proud to carry on this incredible tradition," said the team. "There's nothing like the atmosphere of race weekend—Birdsville comes alive."

With tickets now available and the countdown officially on, the township is preparing to welcome racegoers from all over Australia and beyond. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned punter, this is your sign to plan the ultimate outback adventure. Get tickets at birdsvilleraces.com

The shoot captures the team's local pride and unmistakable energy as they gear up for another unforgettable year at the races. Photography by Thiwi Rowlands: Desert Soul Photography





# OUTBACK MAYHEM INCOMING

# If you like peace and quiet... now's the time to scroll on.

Because you're about to be hit with a full-force bush adventure camels, campfires, and chaos starring **Beaver Brophy** (pictured above), Em, Luke, Rosie, and Tegan.

First stop: Jundah Camel Races, July 5 - before they charge across the Outback Camel Trail on a whirlwind tour of dust, chaos, and good people.

# Desert Champion's Way: Outback Camel Trail:

Jundah Camel Races - July 5 Birdsville Camel Carnival - July 8-10 Bedourie Camel Races - July 12 Boulia Camel Races - July 18-20 Winton Camel Races - July 26

There'll be campfire feeds, races, rides, and the most loveable camels this side of the Simpson—plus bush mayhem, big laughs, cracking characters, and unforgettable memories. Keen for an outback adventure like no other?

Follow the **Outback Camel Trail** and raise some dust! Trail passports are available at the Visitor Information Centres in each town on the trail. Top photo by <u>Beaver Brophy</u>.





# Experience the Rhythm of the Outback – July in the Diamantina

This July, Queensland's far west comes alive with the sounds of country, blues and bush poetry under the stars. From camel races to concerts in the desert, Diamantina is the ultimate Outback destination.

> Don't Miss These Key Events: Betoota Outback Desert Muster 5–6 July Birdsville Camel Carnival 7–10 July Big Red Sunset Concert 8 & 9 July Bedourie Camel Races 12 July

# **Music Line-Up Highlights:**

- John Williamson will take the stage at the iconic Big Red Sunset Concert on 8 & 9 July, bringing his unmistakable voice and decades of storytelling to the dunes of Birdsville.
- Adam Harvey, much-loved for his soulful country voice, Aussie humour, and award-winning songwriting, brings his signature style to the stage at the **Betoota Outback Desert Muster**.
- Catch high-energy performer **Mick Lindsay**, rising star **Missy Lancaster**, & the authentic sounds of **Caitlin Drew** at the Birdsville Hotel during the **Birdsville Camel Carnival**.
- Amy Ryan will share her true Outback spirit and stellar country music at Betoota & Big Red.
- Darren Griffis and the Jukejoint bring high-energy Outback blues, & Andrew Ryan will share his bush poetry with heart & humour at the Betoota Outback Desert Muster.

Cool nights, red dunes, and unforgettable live performances – it all comes together in the Diamantina this July. Plan your Outback adventure now. Visit: **TheDiamantina.com.au** 

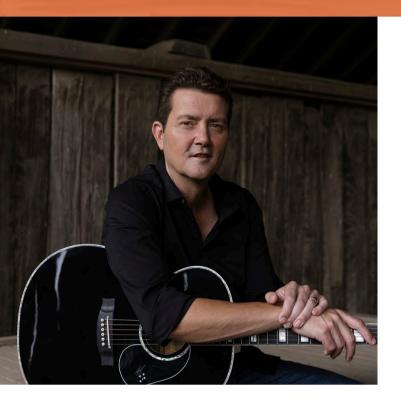






LIVE IN THE BIRDSVILLE HOTEL BEER GARDEN : 7 - 10 JULY Missy Lancaster — Mick Lindsey — Caitlin Drew





The festival features a diverse lineup, including Darren Griffis (below) and Jukejoint, Amy Ryan (right), and Andrew Ryan (bottom right), along with bush poetry, stand-up comedy, and an open-mic session humorously dubbed "Betoota's Got No Talent".

With free camping included in the ticket price, it's a unique opportunity to experience live music under the vast outback sky.

### GET TICKETS



# Adam Harvey to Headline Betoota Outback Desert Muster in Unmissable Outback Festival July 5–6, 2025

Country music star Adam Harvey is set to headline the inaugural Betoota Outback Desert Muster, a two-day music and camping festival at the iconic Betoota Hotel in Far Outback Queensland on July 5-6, 2025. His performance will bring a touch of country soul to the remote ghost town, which is expected to see its population swell dramatically for the event.





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# Birdsville Camel Carnival: Free Family-Friendly Fun at Camel Corner, July 8 - 10.

From Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10 July, Camel Corner (AKA Birdsville Oval) will be buzzing with free, family-friendly fun as part of the **Birdsville Camel Carnival!** 

Wander through the vibrant street food and markets from 10am till late, laugh out loud at S.T.Ruth's Crackup Sisters comedy shows and cameleering games, and enjoy the quirky excitement of the pig races.

Catch daily live music by Niq Reefman, meet the Crackup Sisters in person, and don't miss your chance to enjoy camel rides (fees apply).

A fun-filled celebration for all ages — come along and soak up the outback carnival atmosphere!

thediamantina.com.au/birdsvillecamelcarnival











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





CAMEL CORNER

**STREET FOOD & MARKETS** 

TUES 8 JULY - THURS 10 JULY: 10AM TILL LATE

PIG RACES

TUES 8 JULY: 11AM & 4PM

WED 9 & THURS 10 JULY: 11AM, 12.30PM & 4PM

S.T.RUTH'S CRACKUP SISTERS

COMEDY SHOW: TUES 8-THURS 10 JULY @ 10.30AM

CAMELEERING HISTORY & GAMES WITH S.T.RUTH: TUES 8 & THURS 10 JULY @ 2PM, WED 9 JULY @ 1.30PM

S.T.RUTH MEET & GREET: TUES 8-THURS 10 JULY @ 5PM

LIVE MUSIC - NIQ REEFMAN

TUES 8-THURS 10 JULY @ 12PM, 1PM & 4.30PM

CAMEL RIDES

TUES 8-THURS 10 JULY \*FEES APPLY

# P R O G R A M

# JULY 7-10 2025

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thediamantina.com.au/birdsvillecamelcarnival #DiscoverDiamantina f

# BIRDSVILLE HOTEL

LIVE MUSIC

MON 7 - WED 9 JULY CAITIN DREW @ 2.30PM MISSY LANCASTER @ 5PM MICK LINDSEY @ 7.30PM MISSY LANCASTER @ 9.45PM

> THURS 10 JULY MISSY LANCASTER & BAND @ 7PM No cover charge

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

# WIRRARRI GALLERY

BIRDSVILLE - THE BLACK BOOK: FRANCES GAGE MCGINN EXHIBITION OPEN 8.30AM - 4.30PM TUES 8 - THURS 10 JULY @ WIRRARRI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

# **BIRDSVILLE COURTHOUSE**

# **COURTHOUSE EXPERIENCE**

SELF-GUIDED TOURS OPEN 10AM - 4.30PM DAILY TICKETS AVAILABLE @ WIRRARRI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE





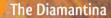


# BRDSVILE THE BLACK BOOK Frances Gage McGinn

# EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF BIRDSVILLE

Wirrarri Gallery Visitor Information Centre, Birdsville

Artwork: Birdsville Hotel by Frances Gage McGinn



Birdsville Bedourie Betoota thediamantina.com.au





# **Big Red Closure Notice**

Big Red will be closed to the public from 5pm on Saturday, July 5, as we begin preparations for the **John Williamson Big Red Sunset Concert**.

The dune will **reopen at 7am on Friday, July 11**, following the pack-down and site clearance on Thursday, July 10.

Sunset tours by local operators will continue to run during the closure period, except on the two concert days.

Thank you for your understanding as we prepare for this special event in the heart of the Simpson Desert!

For event updates, follow **Big Red Bash** on Facebook.







The moon is something truly special out at **Big Red** – our glowing companion in the desert sky.

So with John Williamson's Big Red Sunset Concerts just around the corner, we thought you'd like to know exactly when to look up...

🃅 8 July - 94% full 😔 Moonrise: 3:33pm

9 July - 98% full
Moonset: 6:04am
Moonrise: 4:24pm

TUE 8 Jul



Waxing Gibbous 94% Visible

WED 9 Jul



Waxing Gibbous 98% Visible







# Saddle Up For A Wild Day In The Outback At The Bedourie Camel Races 12 July, 2025

On Saturday, 12th July, from 11 am, the Bedourie Racetrack bursts into action with the thrills of the **Bedourie Camel Races**, part of the Desert Champions Way: Outback Camel Trail.

Cheer on the mighty camels as they thunder down the track, then back a cheeky little porker in the legendary pig races – will your pick be the fastest on trotters?

Wander the bustling market stalls, discover unique outback finds, and treat yourself to some delicious country tucker.

Whether you're a seasoned racegoer or first-time visitor, this is one unforgettable outback experience!

Tickets available now:

tickets.oztix.com.au/outlet/event/ae2083b3-0061-4a93-9a92-a244cfb967f5 GET TICKETS

) More info:

thediamantina.com.au/OutbackCamelTrail



BEDOURIE MARKETS! SATURDAY 12 JULY AT THE CAMEL RACES TO BOOK A SITE, CONTACT JODIE GIRDLER AT 0428 035 184



# Walk to School Day First Five Forever 14.05.2025

The Birdsville State School and Little Reds Playgroup met at the Information Centre, where we also had Constable Brodie from the Birdsville Police Station. Brodie talked to the children about Road Safety and how to cross a road correctly. We then walked over to the Birdsville Playgroup, where Brodie read a book for the kids and asked if they had any more questions regarding Road Safety. Little Reds Playgroup organised a Fruit Platter for Fruit Break with the Birdsville Hotel.

Khalli Rowlands | Children's Services Facilitator



Lids Corner



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Under 8s Day 22.05.2025

For Under 8s Day, we joined the Birdsville State School to create a great morning. We had Bedourie State School drive down and spend the morning with us, which was great to get to know other people from out of town. This year's theme for Under 8s Day was "Unleashing Scientific Thinking Through Play". We had 8 stations with all different activities for the kids to do. The Birdsville Emergency Services also joined us for the morning with all their Emergency Vehicles, which the kids loved. Birdsville State School organised a Sandwiches and wraps platter from Karrawa WiRinya Café, and the Birdsville Little Reds organised Sweets, Fruit and a hot food platter from the Birdsville Hotel.

STATE EMERCENCY SERVICE

285381 00

Khalli Rowlands | Children's Services Facilitator For more info about our Playgroup and First Five Forever programs email Playgroup@Diamantina.qld.gov.au





# Empowering Early Learning In Bedourie: Lauren Returns Inspired by First 5 Forever Workshop

Lauren recently attended a First 5 Forever workshop in Mount Isa and found it to be an incredibly rewarding experience. The three-day session focused on the vital role of early childhood development and offered practical, everyday strategies to support young children's learning and confidence.

With hands-on demonstrations, expert guidance, and a range of helpful resources, the workshop was engaging and easy for Lauren to apply in her work at the Bedourie Library and Playgroup. Lauren particularly appreciated learning how simple activities—such as reading, singing, and chatting with young children—can have a profound impact on their development.

She described the experience as eye-opening, leaving her feeling empowered and inspired to support early learning in more intentional ways. In addition to the knowledge gained, Lauren also valued the opportunity to connect with a wonderful group of like-minded participants. The facilitators were warm, knowledgeable, and genuinely passionate about helping families build strong foundations for their children.

Lauren returned not only with fresh ideas, but also with a renewed sense of purpose—and a few new friendships to boot.



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# Australian of the Year Awards

Do you know someone in our region who goes above and beyond, whether it's through tireless community work, quiet leadership, cultural contributions, or inspiring the next generation?

The Australian of the Year Awards celebrate remarkable Australians who have made a profound impact on lives, communities, and society. Across Queensland, and in our backyard, people do extraordinary things every day

Now's the time to shine a light on their efforts.

Whether they're helping to preserve our unique outback culture, leading in education or health, volunteering behind the scenes, or mentoring young people, a single nomination could help elevate their voice, attract more support for their work, or give them the recognition they truly deserve.

Award categories include:

- 🥉 Australian of the Year
- Senior Australian of the Year (65 years +)
- ✤ Young Australian of the Year (16–30 years)
- 🖤 Australia's Local Hero

See Them. Hear Them. Nominate Them. australianoftheyear.org.au



Let's put Diamantina on the map and show the rest of Australia the strength, resilience, and generosity that define our region.

To learn more or submit a nomination, visit: www.australianoftheyear.org.au

Nominations close midnight, Thursday 31 July 2025.





The very first edition of the CUC RAPAD CWQ Newsletter is out now! Download here: CUC RAPAD CWQ Newsletter

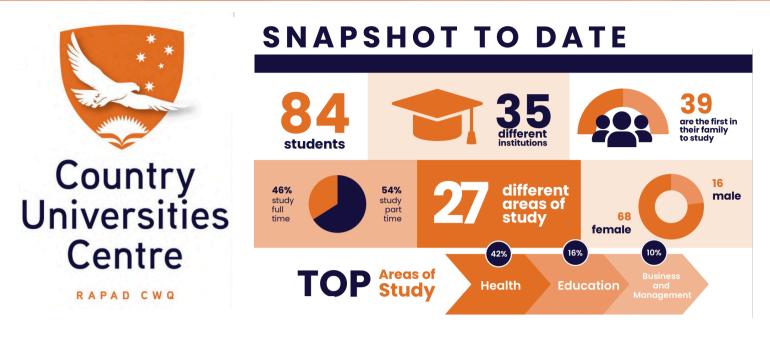
CUC RAPAD CWQ, a proud part of the Country Universities Centre network, supports students throughout Central West Queensland. Our hubs span nearly 25% of Queensland, and you'll find us in Barcaldine, Bedourie, Birdsville, Blackall, Boulia, Longreach, Jundah, and Winton.

We kicked things off on 14 December 2024, when Federal Treasurer The Hon Jim Chalmers and Senator Anthony Chisholm joined us in Longreach to officially launch the CUC RAPAD CWQ network and open our first hub. It was action stations from there, opening and enrolling our first Longreach student on 17 February and our Jundah, Birdsville, and Bedourie hubs soon after. Of course, no great adventure is without its challenges—cue tech hiccups and an unprecedented weather event. Our Winton and Boulia hubs quickly adapted, opening to stranded students, those sitting exams, and anyone needing a connected space to work. Just five weeks after opening, Jundah was repurposed as a base for the Disaster Recovery team. By May, the rollout was complete—Boulia led the charge, followed by Winton, Barcaldine, and Blackall. Each hub opened with students already enrolled, which shows just how needed these spaces are. With all eight hubs now up and running, we're excited to settle into our roles and support students across the Central West on their study journeys. This is only the beginning!

Learn more at www.cucrapadcwq.edu.au







# THANKS TO UQ ALUMNI BOOK FAIR

In a wonderful show of generosity, the UQ Alumni Book Fair donated over 20 cartons of books to flood-affected communities across the CUC RAPAD CWQ region. With support from Followmont Transport, the books were delivered to Longreach, where our seven Mayors collected boxes for distribution to local schools, libraries, and community hubs.



Our Longreach hub received one of the boxes, inspiring a new 'book swap' shelf in our breakout room. Two students quickly snapped up books—proof that a simple shelf can share knowledge, spark curiosity, and offer a welcome five-minute escape into the world of stories. This donation will have a lasting impact on young readers, students, and lifelong learners across the region.

🔄 Diamantina Mayor Francis Murray, handing a box of books over to Joel Blyth.

No matter where you are in your educational journey, we are here for you.

Read more here: CUC RAPAD CWQ Newsletter

Deser YARNS



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

and wellness

In an EMERGENCY dial Triple Zero (000)

**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.gld.gov.au

See services at centralwest.health.qld.gov.du

# The RFDS Dental Bus will visit Bedourie from 12 to 14 August 2025.

The RFDS Dental Service is a fully-equipped mobile dental surgery featuring state-of-theart equipment, including an OPG machine. It is staffed by qualified dentists and dental assistants who provide a wide range of services directly from the mobile unit, including:

- Oral health maintenance
- X-rays and extractions
- Treatment for acute or pre-existing conditions
- Treatment for gum disease
- Referral to specialist dental services

**You can call 1800 002 507** to register your interest in an appointment with the RFDS Dental Service Team.

Get more info at: www.flyingdoctor.org.au/qld/what-wedo/oral-health/

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





# **Reduce your risk** of dementia



Limit alcohol





active mind



# smoking/vaping



# **Book your FREE** flu vaccination today

Available at your local GP, PHCs, pharmacies and other vaccination service providers.until 30 September 2025

Search for Q Vaccination Matters

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

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

lf 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.

Queensland

What's on your mind today? Western Queensland HEAD T\_ HEALTH

Free Call 1800 595 212



# BIRDSVILLE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE

# Extended hours during Birdsville Camel Carnival 2025

# 5-10 July : 8 AM - 6 PM 11-13 July : 8 AM - 4 PM

# **Please note**

- There is no pharmacy in Birdsville. Please bring enough medication to last your planned trip plus a few more weeks.
- Please complete all your pathology tests prior to your arrival.
- Please travel with your
  - Medicare (must be presented during your visit)
  - Healthcare paperwork
  - First aid kit
  - Dressings
  - Spare batteries for your devices

👤 31 Adelaide St, Birdsville 🛛 📞 07 4564 2400

# **CALL 000 IN AN EMERGENCY**







NWRH ALLIED HEALTH

# Meet our Outreach Clinicians:



TAYLA WHITE Dietitian

LUCY COOPER

**Exercise Physiologist** 

HANNAH FOSTER Podiatrist

# Upcoming Outreach Visits:

BIRDSVILLE

MONDAY 28 JULY 2025 TUESDAY 29 JULY 2025 BEDOURIE TUESDAY 29 JULY 2025 WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 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

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





# **Kevin Barr** | Works Manager

Our road crews have been working hard, and everything is progressing well as we repair and prepare roads for our upcoming event season, including the inaugural Birdsville Camel Carnival in July.

Most roads have now reopened following recent rain and flooding. While all Main Roads are in relatively good shape, we see significant drainage damage across many Shire roads and ongoing repairs. We appreciate the community's patience as we continue this critical work to ensure safe travel throughout the region.

Stay updated with road conditions via the **Diamantina Shire Council website** or the **Outback Roads SA portal** for cross-border routes.









Maintenance Crews

Operating with one grader, our maintenance crew has been doing emergent works on the Betoota to Mooraberree Road. Prior work included drainage repairs and a light formation grade on the Birdsville to Betoota Road. This crew will be joined by two water trucks, rollers, another grader, and a supervisor to commence Heavy Formation Grading from Betoota toward Birdsville. The road is holding up well for now, but with increased cattle transport and tourist traffic, regular maintenance will be essential. This team will also maintain the surrounding Shire roads and may be redirected to assist with the Cuttaburra Bitumen Project if required.

A second crew has been working on the Springvale to Diamantina Lakes Road, undertaking Flood Damage Restoration Works. They will continue restoration works along the Diamantina Lakes to Winton Boundary Road. In the coming weeks, a dozer will begin stockpiling gravel in the area to support these repairs. Once this section is complete, the crew will move on towards Davenport.

# Patrol Grader Crew

This team has completed grading the Lake Machattie Road and is currently working on Adria Downs Access Road. Their next focus will be the Carcoory Stoney Crossing Road, followed by a Heavy Formation Grade on the Griffith Tank to Coorabulka Road. The crew includes a grader, a multi-roller, and two water trucks. We are monitoring the Bedourie to Monkira Road—if conditions deteriorate, this team will be reassigned to maintain it. One grader has been temporarily reassigned from this crew to carry out emergent work on the Bedourie to Boulia Road, repairing bitumen edge scouring and washouts. Two tippers are carting gravel from Kamaran Pit to support these works, and a dozer addresses washouts at key floodways.



# Civil Crew

Currently focused on signage repairs and emergent bitumen patching on the Birdsville to Betoota Road, our Civil Crew will assist the town crew with event preparations over the coming weeks. Between events, they will continue to conduct signage and bitumen repairs on all Main Roads throughout the Shire.

Leser YARNS

### Contractors

- A contractor grader has been working on the Bedourie to Sandringham Road, reopening the route through emergent works. He has completed the Sandringham to Ethabuka Road and will move on to Kamaran Downs Access Road, then complete the degrass work on Bedourie to Boulia Road.
- Another contractor grader and tipper started on Monday, June 9, working on the Birdsville to Betoota Road. They are carting gravel into floodways and low-lying areas from the Birdsville Racecourse sandhill to 9 Mile Cutting and addressing scouring on sandhill ramps along the Big Red Road.
- They are also repairing scouring near the Birdsville walkway crossing to the Diamantina River, compacting material to stabilise the track.
- A contractor dozer has been stockpiling gravel in the Kamaran Pit (which was also rehabilitated), and is now working along the Boulia Road on RMPC repairs.
- He will then:
  - Head to Vaughn Johnson Lookout for drainage restoration (Flood Damage Restoration Work)
  - Begin clearing works on the detour route for the upcoming Bitumen Project (starting next financial year)
  - Finally, move onto the Diamantina Lakes Road to stockpile gravel for further Flood Damage Restoration efforts.







# WARNING NEXT FUEL

BIRDSVILLE 383 km BEDOURIE 387 km Check **Council's** Road Report for up-to-date information about road conditions in the Diamantina Shire at: **bit.ly/DiamantinaRoadReport** 

Deser YARNS

# Jade Smith Makes History as First Indigenous Female Supervisor in Diamantina Shire Council

In a groundbreaking appointment, Jade Smith has become the first Indigenous female Supervisor in the history of Diamantina Shire Council — a proud milestone not just for the Council, but for the entire community of Bedourie and the broader outback region.



Congratulations to Jade Smith, who has been the successful applicant for the Supervisor – Maintenance Crew position in Infrastructure Services. Jade will lead and manage the day-to-day operations and responsibilities of the Maintenance team to ensure that infrastructure assets are maintained in accordance with the asset management plan and works program. She will coordinate the team and other resources to ensure the optimal delivery of services while fostering a positive culture of teamwork, safety, and continuous improvement.

We wish Jade every success as a leader in Council and the community.

### From Red Dirt to Red Tractor

Raised in Bedourie, Jade's story is one of dedication, resilience, and a deep connection to country. She is the embodiment of what it means to grow up in a small town, go out and explore the world, and bring back new skills and experiences to give back to the community that raised her. Jade's journey with Council began at 18 as a Labourer, soon stepping into the seat of a red tractor — a role she took on for six months that sparked her passion for outdoor work and travelling across the vast Diamantina landscape.

Between 2017 and 2020, she worked in the mines, gaining broader experience. But the connection to home never faded. With deep family roots in the region and a strong affection for Bedourie, Jade was drawn back to the place that shaped her. Over the past decade, Jade has taken on diverse roles across Council — from Administration and Stores to Plant Operator and Leading Hand. Her work ethic, adaptability and leadership skills stood out. When former Supervisor Fred Brown moved on, Jade stepped up as Acting Supervisor and proved she was ready to lead. Her promotion is a reflection of her consistent performance, attention to detail, and natural leadership abilities.



As her manager, Kev Barr, puts it: "Jade has always presented herself well at work and worked well with fellow employees. She's a self-starter, a competent plant operator, and leads by example. Promoting her to a Supervisory role was an easy decision."



### A New Era of Leadership

Now overseeing a team of 11 Council employees and contractors as part of the Maintenance Crew 2, Jade brings a fresh perspective and a collaborative, community-minded leadership style. She values the strong team culture within Council and sees her new position as an opportunity to keep building that, especially for the next generation of local workers.

For Jade, it's not just about the job. It's about being part of a close-knit community. She speaks fondly of the friendships formed on the road, the beautiful Country, and the sense of family that comes from working and living in a place like the Diamantina.

As a mum to Hunter, Jade appreciates the flexibility her role offers. Bedourie is a safe and supportive place to raise a child, and the work-life balance she's found means she can be present as a parent while also growing professionally.

### Inspired by Strong Women

Jade credits much of her success to her mum, Mona Smith, a long-time roller operator with Council. Mona raised Jade on her own while working hard in a male-dominated industry, always showing that gender was no barrier to getting the job done. That example set the tone for Jade's approach — confident, independent, and committed to doing the work well.

### Giving Back to the Community

When she's not at work, Jade is active in the social and community life of Bedourie – from volunteering at the Camel Races, to hosting trivia nights and supporting Social Club events. For her, leadership is as much about showing up for her team as it is about showing up for her community.

### Looking Ahead

Jade Smith's appointment is more than a promotion — it's a signal of change. It marks a new chapter where diversity and local knowledge are recognised as strengths, where community connections matter, and where young people especially young women — can see a path forward in the Outback.

As Jade says with quiet confidence: "It's about taking care, getting involved, and leading by example."

And that's exactly what she's doing.

Congratulations again to Jade Smith — a trailblazer, a leader, and a proud daughter of the Diamantina.



Peser YARNS

# Join the Team Keeping the Outback Moving - Apply Now!

Diamantina Shire Council seeks motivated and capable individuals to join our Infrastructure Services team.

We currently have opportunities in the following key operational roles:

# Technical Project Officer

Join Diamantina Shire Council as a Technical Project Officer and help deliver vital infrastructure in Queensland's outback. Use your project coordination skills in a dynamic, community-focused role based in Bedourie and Birdsville.

# Multi Skilled Plant Operator (Level 5)

If you're hands-on and love variety, this role offers the chance to operate various plant and equipment across roadworks, concreting, drainage, and civil maintenance projects. You'll bring your skills and adaptability to keep projects running smoothly in a dynamic environment.

# Grader Operator (Level 6)

Are you an experienced final trim grader operator ready to take on the open roads of the Queensland outback? This role focuses on high-standard grading and road formation using locally sourced gravels, crossfalls, and table drains, working closely with construction crews.

## Truck Driver (MC) - Road Train Type 2 (Level 6)

Drive multi-combination vehicles, including side tippers and water tankers, as you contribute to major infrastructure works. You'll ensure safe and compliant operation under NHVR and DTMR standards, while assisting with site setup and general labour as required.

Learn more at: diamantina.qld.gov.au/job-vacancies



# Plumber

Council seeks a qualified Plumber to maintain essential water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in Bedourie. This full-time role involves hands-on technical work, infrastructure maintenance, and community service in a unique outback setting. Trade qualifications and a QLD driver's licence are required. Learn more: diamantina.qld.gov.au/jobvacancies

# How to Apply

To express your interest in a position, please email your resume and introductory letter to 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





OFFICIAL



The Birdsville QGAP office will be unattended from

Monday 7 July 2025 to Friday 25 July 2025.

If you require assistance, please contact the Bedourie, Boulia or Windorah QGAP Office:

Bedourie QGAP (nb: closed from 21 July for 11 weeks) Phone: 4744 1601 Email: <u>QGAPBedourie@police.qld.gov.au</u> (Wednesdays & Thursdays 8am – 4pm)

Boulia QGAP Phone: 4744 1642 Email: <u>QGAPBoulia@police.qld.gov.au</u> (Tuesdays & Wednesdays 8am – 3:30pm)

Unfortunately, Windorah QGAP is off line until the end of July.

Normal QGAP duties will resume in Birdsville on Monday 28 July 2025.

Apologies for any inconvenience. Kind regards

Ari Gardner QGAP, Birdsville

OFFICIAL





Sean Dillon, the member for Gregory, is compiling a comprehensive register of community groups and businesses within the Gregory Electorate.

To be included on the register, please complete your details in the appropriate survey below:

- Businesses www.surveymonkey.com/r/GregoryBus
- Community Groups https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GregoryCG





Department of Transport and Main Roads

# Check your rego status at any time



# Want to check when your vehicle's registration expires?

Use our online check registration status tool at **qld.gov.au/checkrego** or download the QLD Rego Check app for free from the App Store or Google Play Store.



# Other services available at tmr.qld.gov.au:

- sign-up for email notices and reminders for licensing and registration
- · set up direct debit and pay your rego in smaller instalments
- transfer registration online by visiting an approved inspection station and obtaining an electronic safety certificate.

# Need help?

- Message us: To chat with us online visit tmr.qld.gov.au/MessageUs
- C Phone: 13 23 80

We're available Mon-Fri, 8.00am - 4.30pm (excluding public holidays).



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# Remember

Only call Triple Zero (000) in life-threatening emergencies.

For non-urgent police matters, think Policelink. police.gld.gov.au/policelink-reporting



If it's happening right now or its a lifethreatening emergency, always call Triple Zero (000).

When should you call triple zero?

Someone is seriously injured or in need of urgent medical help

A Your life or property is being threatened

You have just witnessed a serious accident or crime

# Deser YARNS

# 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: AdmineDiamantina.qld.gov.au

Julianne Meier CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER P: 0428 461 202 E: Julianne.MeiereDiamantina.qld.gov.au

Patrice Brandenburg DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES P: 0457 486 231 E: Patrice.Brandenburg@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Jade Nacario DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES P: 0467 843 928 E: Jade.Nacario@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Garth Borgelt DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES P: 0409 332 105 E: Garth.Borgelt@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

# **Connect With Us**

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Like Diamantina Shire Council on **Facebook** 

Follow ediamantinaqld on **Instagram** 



Constable Vincent Rafter on his police camel at Bedourie, 1930. Queensland Police Museum PM1570

# **Elected Representatives**

Cr Francis Murray, Mayor P: 0438 999 267 E: Francis Murraya Diamanting ald gov a

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.Morton@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

# 22222222

Next Council Meeting: 9am on 21 July 2025 at Council's Bedourie Administration Centre





Send your stories and photos for Desert Yarns to marketing@diamantina.qld.gov.au