DESERT YARNS

DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL

diamantinashire@gmail.com Phone: 07 4564 2000

December 2022



Weather Observations - December 2022

Bedourie Rainfall: 37 mm Bedourie Max Temp: 45.2 c (7.12.22) Birdsville Rainfall: 43.8 mm Birdsville Max Temp: 45.6 c (7.12.22)

2022 Diamantina Shire Council - Staff Award Winners

Above and Beyond Award

Construction Crew (Michael Gilby, Kylie Bailey-Hill, Trevor Stuart, Victor Campbell, Shane Willet, Victor Faamoana)

Encouragement Award

Pauline Daly (Administration Officer - Bedourie)

Spirit of the Diamantina Award

Alarna Achterberg (Acting Birdsville Town Supervisor)



Employee of the Year Award

Thomas Higgs (WHS & Quality Assurance)





2022 Diamantina Shire Council team with the new Western Star Prime Mover and CAT 150 grader





2022 DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Diamantina Shire Council staff, elected representatives and contractors assembled in Bedourie in December 2022 for the annual staff photograph and Christmas party celebrations. The afternoon included speeches from Mayor Robbie Dare, Interim Chief Executive Officers, Michelle McFadyen and Tim Rose, acknowledgement of Council staff who've completed Tertiary qualifications in 2022, recognition of staff Long Service milestones and presentation of the inaugural Diamantina Shire Council Staff Awards. The 4 new awards details and 2022 winners are listed below:

<u>Above and Beyond Award</u> - DSC Construction Crew (Michael Gilby, Kylie Bailey-Hill, Trevor Stuart, Victor Campbell, Shane Willet and Victor Faamoana)

The construction crew has completed the 17km's of bitumen seal, along the Birdsville-Bedourie Road. The crew has faced multiple challenges throughout the year, such as COVID outbreaks, multiple rain events and a reduction in staff numbers. Despite this, the crew demonstrated great teamwork in completing the job in time and budget.

Encouragement Award - Pauline Daly

Pauline commenced with Diamantina Shire Council in January 2012 as a casual cleaner and was made permanent 12 months later. Applying for an administration traineeship in 2021. Working full-time whilst studying is challenging, especially when located in a very remote region with limited resources and support. Despite personal and work challenges, Pauline successfully completed 13 units of study and has been awarded a Certificate 3 in Business. The Encouragement Award is awarded to Pauline to recognise her tenacity, desire to continue to learn and grow, to push herself and provide exceptional customer service both internally and externally.

Spirit of the Diamantina Award - Alarna Achterberg

In 2022, Alarna has taken on extra work when short staffed or large events are taking place in communities. Alarna has learnt to operate the rubbish truck and also stepped seamlessly into the role of Acting Birdsville Town Supervisor role recently. Alarna gets in, works hard, no matter the task or weather, she brings a vibrant and enthusiastic spark to the workplace that truly models the spirit of the Diamantina.

Employee of the Year Award - Thomas Higgs

Thomas joined Diamantina Shire Council in late 2018 and has since assisted Council to significantly improve health and safety, compliance and risk management. Thomas' hard work and dedication to his role as resulted in Council receiving a result of 72.74% in the last Local Government Workcare 3rd Party External Audit. Only 3 out of the 16 audited Councils received a score over 70%, so this is a wonderful achievement. Council was then recognised for its commitment to Risk Management at the Annual LGAQ Conference, where the Mayor accepted the 2022 Risk Excellence Award. DSC would not have achieved this award or outstanding audit score without Thomas's dedication. Thomas should be very proud of his massive contribution to Diamantina Shire Council.

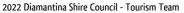
Congratulations to the award recipients and thanks to all for your contribution and commitment to the Diamantina Shire in 2022. Many thanks to the Christmas Party working group for their efforts in coordinating the Diamantina Shire Council Christmas party.



2022 DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY









Enjoying the Christmas celebrations



2022 Diamantina Shire Council - Bedourie Administration Team



2022 Diamantina Shire Council - Town Services



Mayor Robbie Dare thanks the extended Diamantina Shire Council team



Diamantina Shire Council Elected Representatives L-R: Cr Kerry Morton, Deputy Mayor Francis Murray, Mayor Robbie Dare, Cr Sharon Pursell and Cr Don Rowlands



2022 Diamantina Shire Council - Infrastructure Team



Speeches and Christmas lunch at Bedourie Community Centre





DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL CEO FAREWELL AND WELCOME



Michelle McFadyen at Carcoory Ruins during her 2022 Interim Chief Executive Officer appointment with Diamantina Shire Council

Thanks for having me Diamantina! It's with a heavy heart and a little sadness that I say goodbye for now after having spent the better part of the past 5 months as your Acting CEO while the council recruited to the position. It's been so good to get back to my roots, the Central West, where I cut my teeth as a CEO (firstly up in Boulia, then Ilfracombe and then Longreach) some 20 odd years ago. I love this country, I love the people that live and work on this country, I love local government, and it has been an honour and privilege to serve the council, the staff and the community.

Thank you to everyone for the welcome and support since I've been here – it's is nothing short of humbling. I wish you all an amazing 2023 and I do hope we will see each other again – you never know where life will take me (or you). If you want to stay in touch, you can find my details on michellemcfadyen.com.

I welcome our new permanent CEO Andrew Boardman who commenced 23 January 2023 to the role, and his family to the Shire and wish Andrew all the best in the coming years as he takes the reins of such an amazing, resilient Shire.

Michelle McFadyen



Incoming Diamantina Shire Council Chief Executive
Officer, Andrew Boardman with his wife Sharona and
children Annelise, Nathan and Sophia

To those we haven't met yet I'd like to introduce you to my family, my beautiful wife Sharona and our children Nathan, Annelise and Sophia. We have moved from St George where we were based for the last 4 years and I served Council as the Director of Infrastructure Services. We arrived in Bedourie late December with the plan to setup home, have a holiday on the coast before commencing on the 23rd of January, however, the water had other plans and we decided to stay in Bedourie rather than be flooded out.

It's great being part of the Diamantina community, we have really received a warm welcome from everyone. We spent the New Year's Eve at Birdsville and it was good to see the community get together for the Car Rally and cool off in the billabong with the raft race. Sorry Cr Morton that I couldn't paddle in your crew, had to get the little one's home, who knows next year I may be able to bring down a raft to give you some competition. It was an impressive event, and everyone involved in organising it should be immensely proud.

It's been good holidaying in Bedourie, and even though we have been flooded in we have wanted for nothing and really enjoyed the town facilities and meeting other members of the community. The kids have really enjoyed the pool and the skate park.

I've been really impressed with the community's resilience and comradery during the flooding and isolation and its great to see REX Airlines assist to keep the town supplied. We have also received some assistance from the parks and gardens crew, great to see everyone willing and happy to help.

We have experienced the community's friendliness, open and welcoming attitude and I can see that this is a community that has pride and 'punches above its weight'. My family and I are truly honoured to be part of the community and I'm humbled to have the opportunity to serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the Diamantina Shire Council. I can't wait to serve the community, enacting Council's vision to take the great Diamantina Shire into the future.

Andrew Boardman





DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL STAFF PROFILE



Nadine Lorenz
Position: Acting Tourism Coordinator

Family:

I am married to Darren Lorenz. We have 3 children - our eldest Matthew and his partner live in the area, our daughter Eboni lives in Townsville and the youngest Jesse, lives in Mackay.

Professional background? Where have you come from to join DSC?

Originally from Mackay, I headed out this way, 25 years ago this year. Darren and I managed cattle stations before moving in to Birdsville where I worked as a Teacher Aide. I commenced working on a casual basis for Diamantina Shire Council before going full-time around 2014.

What do you love most about the Diamantina Shire?

The open spaces, community and the different kinds of people met. No two days are ever the same.

Interest/Hobbies. Favourite day off activity?

Spending time with my family.

Most challenging aspect of residing in the Diamantina Shire?

The most challenging aspect of residing in Diamantina Shire is sending your children away for boarding school at such young ages.

Looking forward to in the next 12 months?

Our first grandchild being born.





DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL

2023 WORKS ROSTER

Council has approved the 2023 Works Roster below:

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DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL

Word Search - Bronco Branding

S A E E M C C A V O F Q R D X T V L W T U A G V T V J C P I B S Q G D V T G O M B O C I L U I V N T I A E H G M E O A S L P R G N O M V E M D G N A O X U G L R O P E R N M L C F K X N E E W O X R A R H P O P L S D V S M P U R O M A I F S E C B O I B Y B N K I O N D V T O O U R F U H H D O U B L E S N R X W W W L F R D A A O V X S E G S R X Z V N O C N I T P E C A R U I P M Q U C V L M K Q V T I C W U M D R S T O L S K P



Bronco branding at the Great Australian
Cattle Drive - Birdsville Racecourse,
Queensland, May 2002.
Copyright: Library Board of Queensland

BRANDER BRONCO CALVES CATCHER DOUBLES GREENHIDE
GROUND MOB RAMP ROPER SINGLES



Visitor Information Centre - Summer Opening Hours

From 1 November 2022, the Birdsville Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre and the Bedourie Outback Visitor Information Centre will commence Summer opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Saturday and Sunday: Closed For road reports and enquiries, please visit our website: https://www.diamantina.qld.qov.au/For any urgent matters, please contact Nadine Lorenz Phone: 0477 680 700.





2023 EVENTS IN DIAMANTINA SHIRE



2023 DIAMANTINA EVENTS

26th January Diamantina Shire Council Australia Day Award Ceremony - Birdsville

9th February Rhyme Time! – Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville 9th March Rhyme Time! – Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville

TBA Clean Up Australia – Bedourie & Birdsville curbside collection

15th – 16th April Betoota Horse & Bike Gymkhana

25th April ANZAC Day ceremony - Bedourie, Birdsville and Betoota

11th May Rhyme Time! - Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville

15th – 21st May Under 8s Week – Birdsville & Bedourie Playgroup

13 – 14th May Birdsville Campdraft, Bronco Branding & Rodeo

24th May National Simultaneous Storytime – Birdsville & Bedourie Playgroup

3rd - 4th June Simpson Desert Ultra

TBA Birdsville Diamantina River Duck Race

6th June Queensland Day – Birdsville & Bedourie Playgroup

8th June Rhyme Time! - Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville

June Betoota Cricket Match

24th – 25th June Birdsville Horse and Bike Gymkhana 30th June – 2nd July Bedourie Campdraft, Rodeo & Gymkhana

4th – 6th July Big Red Bash

8th July Bedourie Camel & Pig Races

13th July Rhyme Time! - Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville

18th July Children's NAIDOC Week craft session - Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville

10th August Rhyme Time! – Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville

13th August Bedourie Bikekhana25th August Birdsville Book Week

26th August Betoota Races & Channel Country Ringers Reunion

1st – 2nd September Birdsville Races 9th September Bedourie Races

14th September Rhyme Time! – Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville
12th October Rhyme Time! – Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville
28th October Halloween – Simpson Desert Oasis, Bedourie

7th November Melbourne Cup - Bedourie & Birdsville 9th November Rhyme Time! – Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville

11th November Remembrance Day ceremony - Birdsville & Bedourie (10.45am)

14th December Rhyme Time! - Wirrarri Centre, Birdsville





BEDOURIE RESUPPLY FOOD DROP







Flood water observed onboard REX Airlines



King Creek

Bedourie Resupply Effort

With all the water around, a couple of weeks ago the Bedourie Roadhouse Truck was stuck in Boulia full of the load for Bedourie. We needed to get that load to Bedourie and the only way was in the air.

We worked together with REX Airlines, Boulia Shire and of course our own team and local SES to load about 900kg of mostly chilled and freezer goods on to the REX plane in Boulia for delivery to Bedourie. This included:

- 475kg Fruit and Veg
- 80kg Potatoes
- 40kg Onions
- 186kg Frozen goods
- 56kg Chilled goods
- 130kg Eggs

This kind of thing only works when we all come together – it's always about collaboration, cooperation, care, and compassion. Thank you to our regional airline REX for taking our call the afternoon before and letting us load ~900kg on to your plane with total support from the Captain, Co-Pilot and cabin crew - who pitched in lugging boxes like the rest of us.

To the truck driver Mick, for hanging around when the waters were rising and threatening his way home. To the crew on the ground in Boulia, thank you for being there for your southern neighbours at this time and loading the plane for us. To the crew in Bedourie for the offload - in the rain. Legends as always.

Michelle McFadyen - Interim Chief Executive Officer



Thanks to the collaborative team in Bedourie



Great team effort loading in Boulia



Boulia







MUNGA-THIRRI-SIMPSON DESERT NATIONAL PARK

Full closure of Munga-Thirri–Simpson Desert National Park 6pm 30/11/2022 - 6pm 15/03/2023

Whole of park and reserve will be closed from 6pm Wednesday 30 November 2022 until 6pm Wednesday 15 March 2023 due to anticipated high daytime temperatures likely to be experienced during the closure period.



Emergency/ Urgent/ life or property in danger... 000 (112 from mobile)
Non urgent reporting....... 131444 or Policelink online reporting

Bedourie Police Station: 07 4144 1600 Bedourie QGAP (licensing/rego): 07 4744 1601 Bedourie QGAP opening hours: Tuesday and Wednesdays 8am – 4pm.

Birdsville Police Station: 07 4744 1666 Birdsville QGAP: 07 4744 1663 Fax 07 4656 3312 Birdsville QGAP opening hours: Monday & Tuesdays 8am -5pm

Phillip Plant Stephan Pursell

Officer in Charge Officer in Charge

Bedourie Police Station Birdsville Police Station

Elisabeth Plant Sharon Pursell

QGAP Supervisor QGAP Supervisor





CHRISTMAS TREE CELEBRATIONS BEDOURIE & BIRDSVILLE













Met with the excited squeals of our deadly Diamantina kids, Santa visited both Bedourie and Birdsville in early December. Thanks to all who assisted.











NEW YEARS EVE



BIRDSVILLE







Proudly coordinated by Birdsville Social Club Inc.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A great day celebrating the end of 2022 was had in Birdsville - car rally, raft race then a trip back to town for dinner and drinks at the Community Hall. Birdsville Social Club loved seeing so many community members in attendance and joining in the celebrations. Thank you to the committee for putting on another great event and all the helpers that assisted.

Congratulations to the below winners: 1st Place Car rally - Henry's team (Watto, Laura & Henry) 1st Place Raft Race - The Morton's with an amazing raft they built Best Dressed - Peter Morton with his Hawaiian shirt and matching socks



Birdsville resident Nadine Lorenz and visiting, Mary-Therese Watson



Spinny and Maud Monaghan assisted with officiating the car rally





Raft Race Ready!





FIRST 5 FOREVER!

Starting School



Many families are preparing for children starting school, and for little ones, their siblings returning to school. For some, the thought of starting school is an exciting adventure while for others, it can be daunting. No matter where your child sits on the spectrum of emotions you can support them to start school eager and ready to learn.



Preparing for this exciting day can help put you and your little one at ease. Here are some simple tips to get you both ready for school:

- Talk regularly with your child about what will happen on the first day of school. This prepares your child for their future school routine.
- Even though a part of you may be sad that your baby is growing up, be excited whenever you talk about them starting school.
- Have picnics in the backyard and unwrap lunches or open containers together. This not only allows your child to practise these
 skills but will give you an indication about how they'll cope eating a packed lunch.
- Involve your child in the labelling of school supplies. Get them to point out their name or chat about the different letters that make up their name. and identify different colours.
- Practice getting ready for school and help your child try on their uniform. Talk about what a uniform is and all the different items they'll need, like socks and shoes.

Remember, even the most prepared children may find the first day of school overwhelming, or even later in the week when the novelty wears off - and that's okay. Sometimes it just takes time. This goes for caregivers as well! Be kind to yourself with all the feelings that come with a first day or week at school, no matter if you have a clinging anxious one, an emotional crier or a child that bolts off without a moment's hesitation or farewell – it's all normal and the teacher will know how to best support you all.

Books suggestions about the first day of school:

I Have to Start at School Today by Simon Philip My First Day at School by Meredith Costain and Michelle Mckintosh First Day by Andrew Daddo Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg





The first five years last a lifetime















SSAA

THE SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATIONOF AUSTRALIA BEDOURIE BRANCH Inc.

The SSAA Bedourie Branch operates a shooting range adjacent to the Bedourie Racecourse, we are a small club and are in the process of building the profile of the club within the community. We recently hosted a firearms safety course at the club in late 2021 which proved very successful, and we have had some initial requests for another course to be held in Bedourie.

To enable the club to oganise another firearms course, we need to have sufficient numbers for the trainer to hold the course in Bedourie.

If you would like to attend a firearms safety course for the following categories:

*Category A>B - Rifle/Shotgun *Category H - Pistol

Please contact Matt Young - 0417 005 607 or Thomas Higgs 0428 895 334
or email: admin@ssaabedourie.org.au



Monday 12 noon -5.00pm

Tuesday 8.30am - 1.00pm

Wednesday 8.30am - 1.00pm

Thursday 12 noon - 5.00pm

Friday 8.30am - 1.00pm

Saturday CLOSED

Sunday CLOSED

Public Holidays CLOSED

Ir you require unleaded / premium fuel or to collect mail out of hours please contact the Birdsville Roadhouse, they will be happy to assist









Everyone has a responsibility to act to end domestic and family violence. www.qld.gov.au/knowdfv

If you or a someone you know is in immediate danger of domestic or family violence - call 000 Call DVConnect for free, confidential crisis support on 1800 811 811 (24/7)





School starts back Monday 23rd January 2023!

Don't forget - students and school staff will be returning to Queensland schools on Monday 23rd January. For the safety of all kids travelling to and from school, we remind everyone to slow down in school zones during signed times.











Diamantina Shire Australia Day Awards presentation

Whom Jath January 2022

POSTPONED

New date to be confirmed

BY DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL





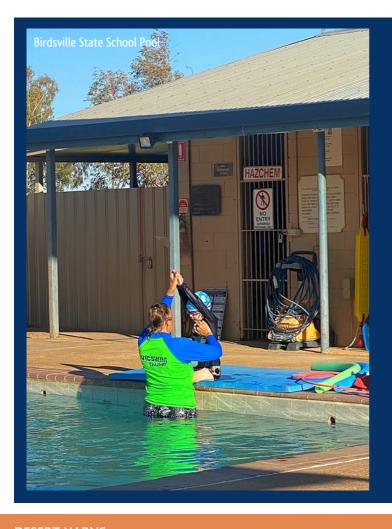


Bedourie Aquatic Centre

Public Notice (19/1/23)

Unfortunately, the cleaning robot has malfunctioned and has been sent away for repairs. Bedourie Pool is <u>CLOSED</u> until further notice. Council apologises for any inconvenience.







PUBLIC NOTICE

BIRDSVILLE STATE SCHOOL POOL - OPENING HOURS

The Diamantina Shire Council wishes to advise that the Birdsville State School Pool is now open to the public in the following hours:

During School Holidays and Weekends: 6:00am to 6:00pm, with the exception of the June/July holiday period.

During School Term Weekdays:

5:00am to 7:30am, then 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

Keys can be obtained from the Wirrarri Information Centre during opening hours.

Note that NO ALCOHOL is allowed on or in the pool area.

For any urgent matters, please contact Nadine Lorenz on 0477 680 700.

Tim Rose
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
12 October 2022

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COMMUNITY CONTACTS

DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL CONTACTS

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> Birdsville Town Services Foreman (07) 4564 2093 AH - 0407 146 902

Bedourie Town Services Foreman (07) 4746 1600 AH - (07) 4746 1600

DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Robbie Dare - Mayor 0427 461 291 Rob.Dare@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Francis Murray - Deputy Mayor 0438 999 267 Francis.Murray@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

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Cr Kerry Morton 0488 544 506 Kerry.Morton@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BEDOURIE

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen JP (Qual) Bedourie State School (07) 4746 1224

> Elisabeth Plant JP (Qual) (07) 4744 1601

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BIRDSVILLE

Nell Brook JP (Qual) Brook Proprietors (07) 4656 3252

Don Rowlands JP (Qual) National Park Office (07) 4656 3272

David Brook JP (C.Dec) Brook Proprietors (07) 4656 3252



Our monthly Community Newsletter, Desert Yarns, is a free service provided by Diamantina Shire Council, to inform residents and visitors of our local news, community events, activities and more.

If you have any community information, news, articles or photos that you wish to see in Desert Yarns please email: diamantinashire@gmail.com



