

diamantina.qld.gov.au

Lesen YARNS

Diamantina Community Newsletter

Special 2025 Flood Edition PLUS Big Red Bash Wins Gold Australian Tourism Awards, Council Announces **New Director Appointments** Flood Pics and more!





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When I first wrote up this month's report, it had been dry for a long time and we were all hoping for rain. As you know the rain well and truly arrived. While we have seen good falls and the rivers are full or filling, many of our neighbours have been hit hard and for some the losses will be devastating.

Mayor Francis Murray

While we will most likely see our communities isolated for some time as the flood waters come down the system on their way to Lake Eyre-Kati Thanda, we are fortunate to have the Queensland Government behind the scenes assisting with logistics to make sure our food stocks are resupplied and can see us through. I am conscious that our neighbours' needs are far greater than ours at the moment and am glad to see them getting the complex resources into their regions to support their communities and livestock.

This month the Deputy Mayor and I visited Brisbane for the Civic Leaders Summit, which was well attended by Queensland Councils despite Cyclone Alfred causing some problems in the southeast. While in Brisbane I had the privilege, with other Mayors and State MPs, to witness the signing of the Equal Partners in Government Agreement, between the State Government and Councils.





At Council's March meeting, the tenders for Birdsville and Bedourie Tourist Parks were awarded to one successful tenderer. Stay tuned to **Council's Facebook page** for an official announcement in the coming days. It will be good to see a new addition to our private tourism businesses.

Council has put forward a submission to the State Government for the **sealing of the Cuttaburra missing link**. The LNP's election commitment to Country Roads Connect is to seal roads that connect communities, so let's hope Birdsville will finally have a sealed road access.

In late February RAPAD held its quarterly meeting in Windorah that Julianne Meier (CEO) and myself attended, followed by a RAPAD Country Universities Centre (CUC) Roadshow. Tony Raynor and I led the CUC drive through our Shire, with the University of Queensland's Dr Anita Milroy, Queensland's Small Business Commissioner Domonique Lamb, and Julianne. A community dinner at Birdsville Hotel was followed the next morning with the formal opening of the Birdsville CUC, and later in the day, Bedourie's. I have been told that we already have our first student.



Congratulations Greg Donovan and everyone involved with Birdsville's Big Red Bash for winning Gold at the Australian Tourism Awards on March 21. They put in a huge effort year after year to make one of the world's most unique and logistically challenging events happen.

It's great to see the Big Red Bash's hard work rewarded and to see the National spotlight shining on the Diamantina.

It's also encouraging to hear that this year's Big Red Sunset Concert with John Williamson has already sold out the first show!





Our long-serving Birdsville police officer Stephan Pursell, and his wife Sharon, were recently farewelled at the Birdsville Hotel, with all of the town turning up to show their appreciation for their commitment to our region. I wish them well in their future endeavours.

Both the Bedourie and Birdsville Visitor Information Centres have recently installed touchscreen kiosks that will be a great addition to our visitor experience with a large amount of information available as well as a QR code for downloading the new Diamantina Tourism app. It's also quite handy for locals to download the app for checking road reports.

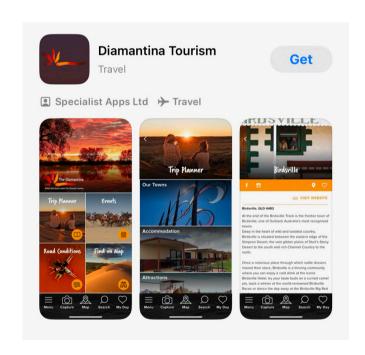


That's all from me until next month. I hope you will all be able to join us at our free Community BBQs in either Bedourie or Birdsville this weekend. While the floodwaters will keep us isolated for a little while yet, it is great to see not only water in our rivers but all over the Shire, and there is optimism for the coming season.

Mayor Francis Murray



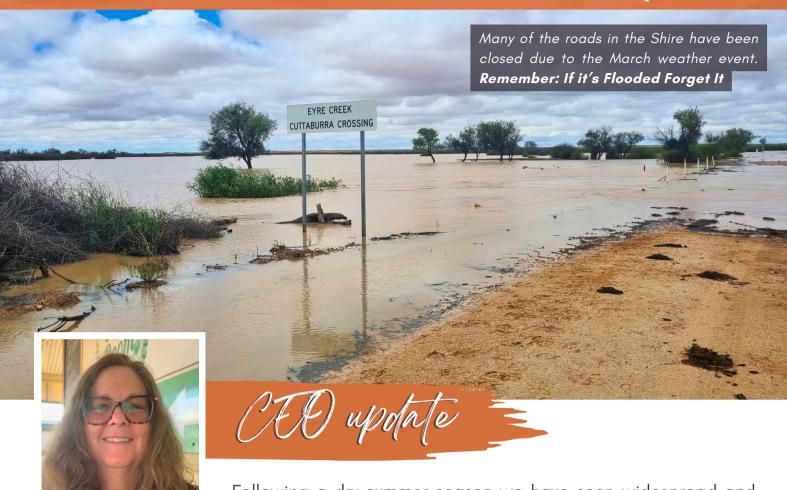
<u>Birdsville Hotel</u> invited Sharon and Stephan Pursell to hang their hats in the front bar alongside the many others who have made notable contributions to the township over the years.











Julianne Meier
Chief Executive Officer

Following a dry summer season we have seen widespread and unprecedented rains with the recent weather system. Our thoughts and prayers are with those that have been impacted by severe flooding and potentially devastating consequences they face ahead.

For Diamantina Shire the impact from the weather event has resulted in road closures from rising creeks and rivers, the majority of which are now steady or falling, but this is expected to change when the upstream catchment waters arrive.

The townships are isolated, so the team have been busy contacting residents and properties to communicate the resupply options and ensure they are safe. Some of our stations are yet to assess the full impact of the flooding, but to date there are no reports of major stock losses or significant inundation of homes or buildings. Bedourie has had food resupplies due to road closures, and Birdsville is scheduled to receive resupplies this week.

There have been some tourists stranded in Betoota, Birdsville and Bedourie. Some have flown home and will return to collect their vehicles later. Others will remain until they get a small window to travel out. The community staff are doing their best to make them feel welcome and integrate them into the community during their stay.



Staffing Updates

I am very excited to announce the appointment of two key leadership positions within the organisation, Director Communities and Director Infrastructure Services.

Patrice Brandenburg has been appointed as Director Communities and officially commenced in the role on 31st March, having previously acted in the position for a short time. Patrice brings 22 years of experience in major and minor events, operations management, and expertise in risk management, work health and safety, traffic control, and logistical planning.

Patrice also has established networks with key stakeholders including TEQ, OQTA within the Tourism industry, including an application into the Queensland Tourism Awards, to promote where Birdsville is and what we have to offer tourists. Patrice has also worked tirelessly to bring the Desert Champions Way: Outback Camel Trail to the region.



READ PRESS RELEASE

Garth Borgelt has been appointed as Director Infrastructure Services and will commence as Director on the 7th April. Garth previously worked at West Arnhem Regional Council in the Northern Territory for a short period and is an accomplished executive manager with 28 years of hands-on experience leading infrastructure construction and maintenance projects in remote regions.

Garth's expertise spans diverse areas, including water and waste systems, roads (construction, maintenance, and erosion control), buildings, fleet management, camps, and major infrastructure such as compressor stations, power generation, pipelines, telemetry and communications, renewable energy, and building management systems (BMS).

Recently we said goodbye to Fred Brown as he has moved on from Council to work on Country. Fred was with Council for almost eight years and will be truly missed in the works team. Fred was a great mentor to his crew and support to Kev Barr Snr. We wish Fred all the best for future endeavours and are fortunate he will continue to be a part of the Bedourie community.

Our organisational structure was adopted at the March Council Meeting, which will inform our recruitment drive. Whilst it is challenging to recruit in such a remote area, we have managed to attract interest in three critical positions; Technical Officer, Diesel Fitter and Executive Assistant.



We continue to focus on safety and have now implemented a Drug and Alcohol testing regime, to be conducted by external contractors, which will be ongoing throughout the year. Council did provide messaging to staff and contractors in February of this intent, and we will continue to work with our staff to encourage them to support each other. We will conduct training sessions in due course as part of the ongoing program. The Employee Assistance Program is available to staff, and they will also support staff with programs as required.

Despite the wet weather, our teams remain busy organising various clean-ups during downtime and coordinating meetings, welfare checks and resupply of essential items. As they are able our works team will be out on the roads recording the damage, assessing the safety of roads, and clearing the silt from floodways in preparation for reopening of the roads. Some of the damage to roads is quite significant and a timely reminder of "If it's Flooded Forget It."

Since the weather has eased our parks and facilities teams have been busy catching up on mowing and maintenance.

Our executive team have been attending Local Disaster Management Group meetings, and ensuring meetings are coordinated and the right messaging is put out to the staff and community, while administration staff have been assisting with the organising of food resupplies. It is important for us to acknowledge that during these times some of our staff become fatigued by the additional work. Many of our staff remain on standby to carry food from the plane to the retailer, attend to emergencies as they arise, and maintain generators and equipment that may be needed.

In the office, it has been business as usual for some with budget preparations commenced and there will be a series of workshops to be carried out over the coming weeks. The stores team have conducted a stock take over the past week and have been doing work to get the store more operational.

I am incredibly grateful for the support provided by our staff that spring into action just get the job done and for the support provided by contractors, volunteers and community members. A very special thank you to those of you who have sacrificed your time to assist us in this time of need.

Until next time, be safe and kind to each other!

Kind regards,

Julianne

Julianne MeierChief Executive Officer



affected community gets what they need. Staff

from across Council—works crew, town crew, admin and stores are working together to make

this happen.





Big Red Bash takes home the Gold at the Australian Tourism Awards!

Bringing the world's most remote music festival to life takes an incredible amount of hard work – and we love it! It's remote, it's rugged, and it's packed with heart. That's what makes the Big Red Bash so special, year after year.

This win isn't just for us – it's for our amazing team & volunteers, our Bash community, and every single one of you who has made the journey out to the red dirt over the last +10 years.

Here's to many more years ahead!

Big Red Bash

Photos: Tilma Group Pty Ltd









Birdsville Courthouse Experience Now Open

Step back in time with the newly opened Birdsville Courthouse Experience, launched on Monday, 31 March. Open for limited sessions, bookings must be made in person at the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre.

Stranded travellers have already taken advantage of this rare chance to explore the digitally enhanced courtroom, featuring historic archives and recordings of past hearings. Serving for over 100 years as a courthouse, police station, and home for officers, the building's story includes collapsing cell blocks, a 1948 Tracker's Hut, and the eventual shift to a new station in 1988.



What makes this Courthouse special?

It's one of the few built from masonry, not timber, and its **Queensland Heritage Register** listing recognises Birdsville's key role in early pastoral settlement and as a border customs post.

Book your **Birdsville Courthouse Experience**at the Wirrarri Visitor
Information Centre

Entry:

- Adults: \$10
- Concession: \$5
- Children (14 & under) are free

Don't miss this unique outback experience!

Desert YARNS



Top: Wildflowers in the Georgina channels. Below: King Creek

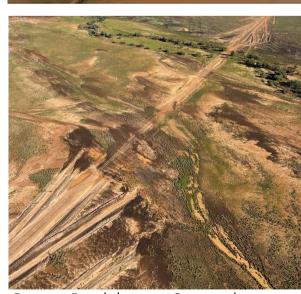












Bottom: Road damage Springvale area 4.4.25



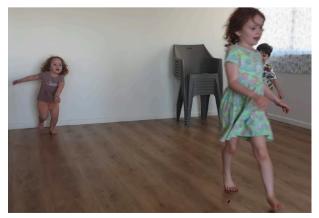


Swing, Shop & Socialise - A Perfect Morning in Bedourie!

What a fantastic fun at the Bedourie Community Markets & Golf Morning! From homemade goodies to unique handmade treasures, the markets were buzzing with great finds and friendly faces. The course saw some top swings and plenty of laughs – a perfect way to start the day. Thanks to everyone who joined in – see you next time!







Desert YARNS













Want to hire the Bedourie Golf Clubhouse for a function or event?

Reach out to Teegan or Lisy from the Desert Rivers Development Board at DRDBcommittee@gmail.com





Bedourie Ladies Laugh, Dine, and Celebrate at International Women's Day Gathering!

Bedourie marked International Women's Day on March 8 with a wonderful community gathering hosted by Jodie Girdler. Locals came together to celebrate the achievements of women, enjoying a relaxed evening filled with good company, shared meals, and fun games.

Guests brought a plate to contribute to the feast, adding to the sense of community spirit. The event provided a great opportunity for connection and conversation, with plenty of laughter and memorable moments.





MAJOR FLOOD WARNING IN PLACE

Major flooding in Diamantina River & Eyre Creek catchments:

- Flood Warning for Eyre Creek
- Flood Warning for the Diamantina River

Widespread road closures across the Diamantina - **View Road Report**

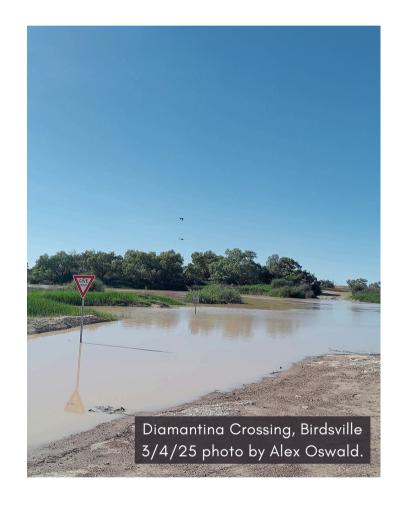
For emergency help in floods and storms, call SES on 132 500.

Call Triple Zero '000' if someone is seriously injured or in need of urgent medical help or your life or property is being threatened.

Get info and resources at bit.ly/DiamantinaFloodRecoveryGuide2025

- Resupply of Essential Items
- Resupply of Medications
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Support
- Disaster Assistance
- Stranded or Lost Livestock, Emergency Fodder and Carcass Disposal

Check back regularly as we update the Council website with information and resources for the 2025 March Weather Event.



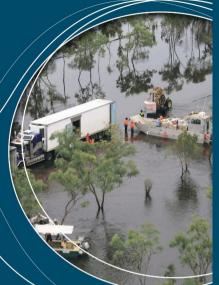
Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding March 2025:

Scan the QR Code to take part in the Natural Disaster Business Survey which will help the Recovery Response.



Peser YARNS

RESUPPLY TO FLOOD ISOLATED















Local council schedules delivery. Goods received by local outlets, packed, labelled and delivered to local council pick-up points.





Local council arranges delivery to properties.





Local council delivers goods to properties via air or boat. Property owners may need to pickup goods from set location.



How much does it cost?

As an isolated property resident, it is your retailer and pay for your goods.

What can I order?

- Basic foodstuffs (preferably dried, tinned or packaged to last on the shelf).
- Basic cleaners and disinfectants (subject to clearance by carrying agency).
- M Baby foods, formula, and nappies.
- Medication and medical supplies.
- Dried pet food.
- Fuels (if appropriate transportation is available) to enure continued running of power, heating, lighting, refrigeration etc.
- Batteries (subject to clearance by carrying agency).

What can't I order?

- Ki Chilled and frozen goods, including fresh milk (if refrigerated transportation is unavailable).
- 🔀 Alcoholic beverages, canned and bottled
- Machinery parts.

X Tobacco and cigarettes.

K Entertainment and electrical equipment.

Non-essential or luxury items.

Remember: If it's flooded, forget it.

For flood emergency assistance contact the SES on 132 500. Call Triple Zero '000' if someone is seriously injured or in need of urgent medical help or your life or property is being threatened.









During a natural disaster, Queensland Government will assist individuals with isolated the resupply of essential goods, including food and medical supplies. Isolated properties may producers include primary smaller towns or outstations that cannot access retail facilities to maintain sufficient levels of essential goods.

Resupply in the Diamantina

When roads are closed, only essential supplies (fruit, vegetables, bread, and pet food) can be flown in. Space is limited, so non-essentials like Coke, cigarettes, and chips excluded.

Supplies & Orders

- Coles Online and Click & Collect are not available (Government supply is for businesses only).
- · Essential items can be ordered and purchased at Bedourie and Birdsville Roadhouses.

Station Resupply

Weekly deliveries are coordinated by the Local Disaster Management Group. Contact Lorelle Hatch at 0407 231 694 or lorelle.hatchediamantina.qld.gov.au.

School Holidays

flights Families must arrange boarding school students.

Need help or got questions?

Give Lorelle a call on 0407 231 694

lorelle.hatchediamantina.qld.qov.au



ARE YOU RUNNING LOW ON MEDICATION?

You can get your e-script filled by contacting a supplier in Mount Isa and then we can arrange for the medication to be flown in on the REX plane.

Give Lorelle Hatch a call on 0407 231 694 or email



lorelle.hatch@diamantina.qld.gov.au
and she will help you arrange the pick up
and delivery of your medications.

If ordering medications online from Chemist Warehouse etc. make sure you complete the Dangerous Goods section, otherwise, your medications will not go on the plane.

Please note: If you normally get your scripts filled and flown in from Charleville please order from your regular supplier as usual.



PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY
WHO MIGHT NEED HELP GETTING THEIR MEDICATIONS RESUPPLIED





Emergency Fodder Assistance for Flooded Western Graziers

Western Queensland primary producers inundated by current flooding now have access to a \$5 million Emergency Fodder Support Package.

The Australian and Queensland Governments are activating this support for eligible farmers in the local government areas of Barcoo, Boulia, Bulloo, Diamantina, Longreach, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, and Winton.

Fodder can be used to sustain livestock and mitigate the impacts of flooding and loss of pasture in areas impacted by the floods.

This emergency package is funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the joint Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

- Please contact Lorelle Hatch on 0407 231 694 and email <u>lorelle.hatch@diamantina.qld.gov.au</u> urgently if you need fodder for your livestock.
- If you are coordinating fodder through other industry contacts or local networks, ensure that fodder meets strict biosecurity restrictions and does not contain invasive weeds, seeds and pests including fire ants, to prevent introducing them to your property
 (https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishingforestry/agriculture/biosecurity/laws/biosecurity/.
- For information on livestock nutrition and animal health
 (https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farmsfishing-forestry/agriculture/disaster/flood)
- For further advice, contact the Department of Primary Industries on 13 25 23.





Support is available to eligible producers in the Diamantina Shire

Disaster assistance is now available to seven western Queensland councils following this week's heavy rains and flooding. Support, provided under the joint Commonwealth-state <u>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</u> (DRFA), will cover counter-disaster operations, emergency road repairs, and the reconstruction of essential public assets.

- Disaster Assistance Loans up to \$250,000 and Essential Working Capital Loans up to \$100,000 are available to assist farmers with the repair or replacement of damaged assets and for loss of income.
- Freight subsidies up to \$5,000 can also be accessed.

To access disaster loans and hardship grants Primary Producers can contact:

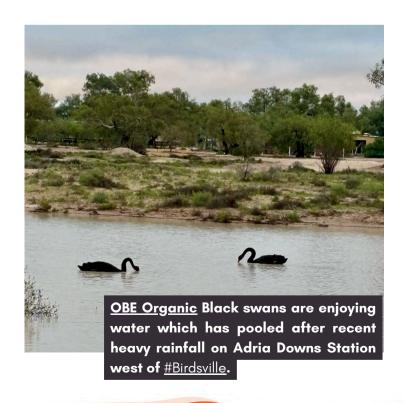
QRIDA (www.qrida.qld.gov.au/primary-producers; 1800-623-946) for disaster loans

Queensland's Department of Primary Industries(www.daf.qld.gov.au; 13-25-23) for freight subsidies

Carcass Disposal

DPI - Short guide for livestock carcass disposal during an emergency or significant weather event

- Council can provide assistance with animal carcass disposal.
- Any deceased animals must be disposed of safely.
- Please contact Lorelle Hatch
- on <u>0407 231 694</u> and email <u>lorelle.hatchediamantina.qld.gov.au</u> to arrange carcass disposal.







SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2025
Birdsville Community BBQ
6pm @ Birdsville Hotel

FREE - everyone welcome!

TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2025

Federal Election - Remote Voting

Birdsville Community Hall 10:30am - 1:30pm

FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025

ANZAC Day Services

Birdsville & Bedourie

NEW DATE!

31 MAY & 1 JUNE 2025

Bedourie International Women's Day Conference

Bedourie Golf Club

SUNDAY 6 APRIL 2025

Bedourie Community BBQ

6pm @ Bedourie Roadhouse FREE - everyone welcome!

THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 2025

Federal Election - Remote Voting

Bedourie Community Hall 10:30am - 1:30pm

> Dates may be subject to change. Please check with the event organisers before attending. For event updates



fb.me/DiamantinaShireCouncil



You're Invited!

Join us at our FREE Community BBQs in Birdsville and Bedourie

- P BIRDSVILLE HOTEL 6pm Saturday 5 April 2025
 - P BEDOURIE ROADHOUSE 6pm Sunday 6 April 2025

Everyone is welcome—staff, contractors, travellers and community residents. If you're from a rural property, come along if the roads are open!

It's a great chance to catch up, share a meal, and enjoy a relaxed evening together

We look forward to seeing you there!



2025 federal election



Australian Electoral Commission

Voting in the federal election

You can vote here:

Birdsville QLD 4482

Birdsville Community Hall Tuesday, 22nd April 2025 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Bedourie QLD 4829

Bedourie Community Hall Thursday, 24th April 2025 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Paid work available The AEC is looking for local assistants to help on voting day. If you are interested, talk to our teams when they arrive.

Note: These details are correct as at: 01/04/2025 and may be subject to change. Check our website for updates. Voters from interstate can vote at mobile voting locations but may need a permit to visit some communities.

Authorised by the Australian Electoral Officer for Queensland, 179 Turbot Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4000

aec.gov.au 13 23 26





If you are unable to get to a polling place to vote in the federal election, you may be eligible to apply for a postal vote. This means your ballot papers will be sent to you in the mail for the election. Carefully consider your options as voting early in person may be an easier option than voting by post. Find more information about postal voting at aec.gov.au.



THE DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL AND THE DESERT RIVERS

DEVELOPMENT BOARD INCORPORATED

PROUD TO BE JOINT HOSTS OF THE

BEDOURIE INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA



an unforgettable day full of fun, empowerment, and inspiration!



31ST MAY-1ST JUNE 2025





REGISTER HERE

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 QUEENSLAND STATE GOVERNMENT'S REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE DIVISION SPORT AND RECREATION WOMENS AND GIRLS ACTIVE PROGRAM







Anzac Day

We remember heroes and what they gave for our tomorrow.

BEDOURIE

6.30AM DAWN SERVICE BEDOURIE ANZAC PARK

10AM STREET MARCH - BEDOURIE STATE SCHOOL TO ANZAC PARK FOR MORNING SERVICE

BIRDSVILLE

6AM DAWN SERVICE BIRDSVILLE ANZAC PARK

10AM STREET MARCH - BIRDSVILLE HOTEL TO ANZAC PARK FOR MORNING SERVICE



PRACTICE SAUSAGE SIZ

SATURDAY 05TH APRIL - 5 PM **BEDOURIE COMMUNITY HALL**

'EQUIPMENT PROVIDED, EVERYONE WELCOME'



Are you studying Education?

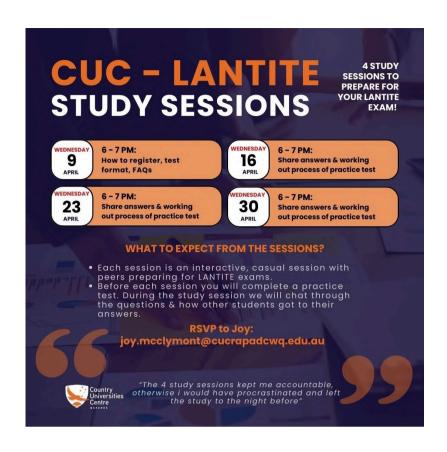
Are you yet to complete your compulsory LANTITE* test?

It's easier to achieve success when you are guided and supported in a group!

The Country Universities Centre has you covered and are offering FREE LANTITE Study Sessions throughout April to help you prepare for the second testing window.

You can register via email: joy.mcclymont@cucrapadcwq.edu.au or complete the RSVP form via this link: https://form.jotform.com/25068177118205

*Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education students.





Country Universities Centre RAPAD CWG

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

The Country Universities Centre (CUC) is a place-based initiative changing education to better fit the future of regional Australia. The CUC welcomes the communities of Warwick, Chinchilla, Longreach, Barcaldine, Blackhall, Winton, Boulia, Bedourie, Birdsville, and Jundah to the CUC Network.

Chris Ronan, CEO of CUC, commended the government's dedication to regional higher education. "The success of the CUC and Regional University Study Hubs is that it is community-led. We know that when communities work together across regional Australia, we can get incredible outcomes and throw open the door to higher education opportunities."

Each CUC provides face-to-face academic and wellbeing student services from local staff, and facilities that have quiet study spaces, breakout rooms, high-speed internet, and a local learning community. This allows students to have the physical infrastructure and personalised face-to-face local support needed to ensure their higher education success. Every Centre is owned and run by a local skills-based volunteer board. Learn more at www.cucrapadcwq.edu.au





Open to university and VET students, senior high schoolers, lifelong learners and career explorers! Register via QR Code!

or https://form.jotform.com/250317601787862







The spirit of St. Patrick's Day was alive and well in Birdsville as the Little Reds Playgroup and Birdsville State School came together for a morning of fun, creativity, and community connection.

Birdsville State School brought along some exciting activities and a delicious morning tea, prepared by the Birdsville Pub. Meanwhile, the Little Reds Playgroup set up their own engaging stations, adding to the festive atmosphere. A big thank you to Lesley Murray for baking delightful green cupcakes, which were a hit with everyone! The children also enjoyed making their own jelly cups as part of the celebration.

Throughout the morning, six activity tables kept little hands busy with a range of St. Patrick's Day-themed fun. Ice painting and clover painting let the children explore their creativity, while playdough fun and foam sensory play encouraged hands-on engagement. Craft activities included cutting out and

assembling leprechauns, as well as colouring in festive designs. It was a wonderful morning of laughter, learning, and community spirit, with some local community members joining in the fun. Events like these highlight the strength and connection within our small but vibrant town, bringing joy to children and families alike.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event special. We look forward to more gatherings that celebrate community and creativity! **Khalli Rowlands** | Children's Services Facilitator









Greetings Desert Yarn Readers! The term has flown by with only a few school days left to go before we enjoy the Easter holidays.

Our Swimming Block in Week 5 was enjoyed by all. Our students loved having time with the Birdsville children and our new ekindy friend, Waylon. As well as swimming, we had night time fun with a disco and movie night at the school. Thankyou to the Diamantina Shire Council for organising the bus for the schools to use over the 3 days around town. Riding the bus is always a highlight \mathfrak{S}

In Week 6, Mrs Carige was called away to attend a Principal Workshop in Emerald with our schools' Supervisor, Dale Magner and the Central Queensland Regional Director, Kay Kirkman. We able to have time with our Outback Advantage Cluster Principals to analyse the data of our schools and consider targets for this year. As well, each principal was given a school to visit in the Emerald area. Mrs Carige was able to visit the Gildie State School, a small school south of Emerald, and learn from their principal of 4 years, Joel Davis. A huge thankyou to Mr Letts, Miss Emma, Miss Bea, Mr Carige and Miss Dakota for ensuring the school ran smoothly in my absence.



In Week 7, we farewelled the Beaton family. The students loved going out to the airport to say goodbye and watch the REX plane go. Monday, was Billie's last day, and she had a surprise visit at school, as Gwenaelle came to say goodbye in the afternoon. Gwenaelle attends on Thursdays as she has a dual enrolment with Longreach School of Distance Education and Bedourie State School.



Week 8, Mrs Carige was again called away to attend Phase 4 of the Beginning Principals Program residential in Brisbane. Phase 4 focused on how principals level up their schools. Basically, learning how to make our schools great places to learn and work. Again, Mr Letts, Miss Emma, Miss Dakota and Mr Carige, ensured our 'happiness in learning' continued.

In week 9 the beautiful and much-needed rain came! The students were super excited to find so much water in our rain gauge. Students have been working to complete their term-based assessments and consolidate new concepts taught this term. Unfortunately, due to the rain, our Combined Swimming Carnival with Birdsville and Boulia, had to be cancelled for this year. However, everyone is looking forward to finishing our class novella, 'Runt' so we can watch the movie in week 10.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our families and Staff a safe and relaxing Easter holiday break, and we will see you all back on Tuesday, April 22nd to begin Term 2.

Yours in Education,
Danielle Carige
Principal | Bedourie State School



Enquiries call: Bedourie State School 4746 1224



GIVE YOUR KIDDOS SOMETHING CREATIVE TO DO!

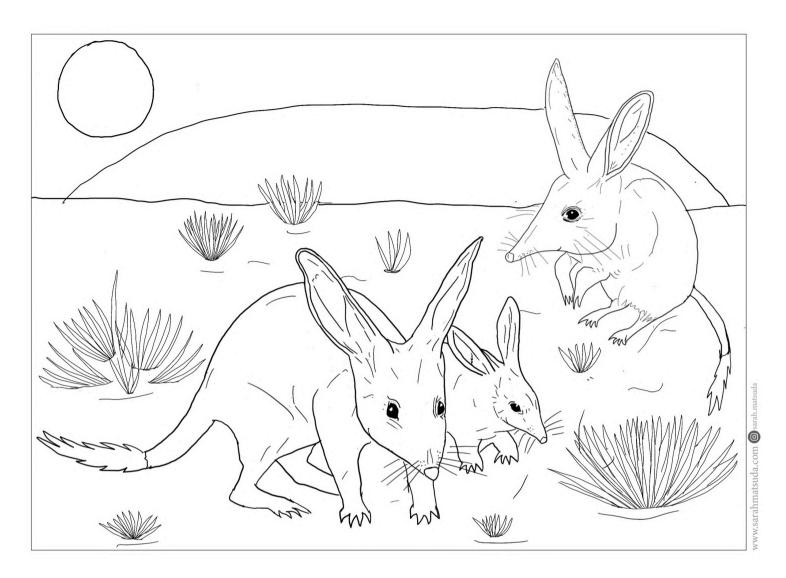
Download a Free colouring picture for you to print at home or upload to a colouring app on your phone or iPad.

This is an Easter colouring in picture, created to celebrate the Australian natural environment. It is a hand drawn by Wet Season Books based on the cover of children's book "Snuggled Away" illustrated by Sarah Matsuda. It features nocturnal creatures that are part of Australia's unique ecology. Inspire your kids and help them learn about Australia's unique biodiversity as they colour in this picture!

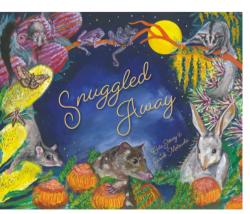
- Simply download and print at home!
- Don't have a printer? Easy search your App Store for a colouring app that allows you to "upload photos." Then add the picture to the colouring app on your phone or iPad.

This colouring picture was adapted from the new children's book "Snuggled Away" for Wet Season Books, written by Cate Storey and illustrated by Sarah Matsuda. www.sarahmatsuda.com





Kids can have fun colouring **Easter Bilbies** for a true Australian Easter! This colouring in picture was created to celebrate the Australian natural environment. It was hand drawn by Wet Season Books based on an illustration in the children's book "Snuggled Away" illustrated by Sarah Matsuda.











Henth

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

and wellness

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

Upcoming RFDS Clinics for Bedourie:

- Tuesday 15 April
- Wednesday 30 April

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.qld.gov.au

Upcoming RFDS Clinics for Birdsville:

- Wednesday 9 April
- Wednesday 15 April
- Wednesday 23 April

Western Queensland HEAD TO HEALTH Not feeling like yourself lately? You're not alone. Free Call 1800 595 212

Mental Health Support - You're Not Alone

During stressful times, reaching out for help is okay. Support is available 24/7 for all ages—whether you need crisis care, someone to talk to, or ongoing mental health support.

Flood events have affected many in the Diamantina. If you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, seeking help early can make a difference.

Check in with loved ones and neighbors. If support is needed, contact your local health provider or **Head to Health at 1800 595 212** (Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm) to connect with the right care.

More support services at: diamantina.qld.gov.au/news



Queensland Health

Queensland Virtual Hospital

Virtual Emergency Care Service

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)





Your Nurse Navigator Suzie Dwyer

Western Hub Nurse Navigator Suzie Dwyer covers a vast area, providing care to patients in Winton, Bedourie, Boulia, Birdsville, Jundah, Stonehenge, Windorah and surrounds!

Suzie has spent the last 18 months as Nurse Navigator in the Central West, but the region is home to her, having been born and raised in Winton.

"My role allows me to work with patients and families that not only have medical complexities, but are also faced with social and geographical challenges reflective of life in remote western Queensland," Suzie said.



"The resilience of my patients who live in the Central West inspire me to continue to work towards improving their health outcomes, and to improve the system so that they can reach and achieve their own health, social, and mental wellbeing goals. I love being able to assist and be part of making a difference in someone's life."

With expert clinical knowledge and a good understanding of the health system, Central West Hospital and Health Service Nurse Navigators focus on your entire care journey and all your health needs, not just on a specific disease or condition. They can help you understand your medical conditions, talk to you about how you're feeling, and discuss treatment options and plans of care.

If you're in Winton, Bedourie, Boulia, Birdsville, Jundah, Stonehenge, Windorah and surrounds, you can reach your Western Hub Nurse Navigator by:

- Calling 07 4652 5500 or 0418 978 280
- Emailing <u>cw-nursenavigator-westehealth.gld.gov.au</u>
- Visiting centralwest.health.qld.gov.au/patients-and-visitors/nurse-navigators







Meet our Outreach Clinicians:



LUCY COOPER
Exercise Physiologist



NICHOLAS CHAN
Dietitian



HANNAH FOSTER
Podiatrist

*Please note: due to current travel restrictions the scheduled Podiatrist visit has been cancelled. An Occupational Therapist will visit instead. More detail to be advised via Council's Facebook page.

Upcoming Outreach Visits:

Birdsville

MONDAY 7th of APRIL 2025 TUESDAY 8th of APRIL 2025

Bedourie

TUESDAY 8th of APRIL 2025 WEDNESDAY 9th of APRIL 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



Thousands of pelicans have gathered at Cuttaburra Crossing — between Birdsville and Bedourie on Eyre Creek.



Kevin Barr | Works Manager

The wet season has well and truly arrived, bringing significant rainfall across the Shire and resulting in road closures. While the full extent of road damage is still being assessed, extensive repairs will begin once access is possible. Our team has been busy carting material to build a levy bank in Bedourie, ensuring we're ready if we need to block off the entrance from the Birdsville side. If the flood reaches major levels, we may have to place material across the road to connect the levy banks and protect the town. Hopefully, it won't come to that—but it's always best to be prepared. A big thanks to everyone working hard to keep our community safe!

Meanwhile, the Diamantina is transforming, with Country greening up and wildflowers starting to appear. Nature has also given us a spectacular sight—squadrons of pelicans have arrived at Cuttaburra, heading to their breeding grounds near Lake Machattie. These remarkable birds have an uncanny ability to sense incoming floods, appearing even before the water arrives. Their early return is a reminder of nature's incredible instincts and resilience.





In mid-March, we welcomed the Maiawali Traditional Owners, who conducted clearances on several key roads, including Springvale to Diamantina Lakes, Diamantina Lakes to the Winton Boundary, and Diamantina Lakes to Davenport.

In the coming months, we will engage a crusher to process gravel at four designated pits to support ongoing roadworks. The Monkira Pit will supply gravel for the Monkira to Davenport Flood Restoration project and Road Maintenance Performance Contracts (RMPC) in the area. The Lake Pit, located on the Bedourie to Birdsville Road, will provide material for the upcoming Cuttaburra Bitumen project. Meanwhile, the Durrie Pit on the Birdsville to Windorah Road will supply gravel for re-sheeting work near Durrie, and the Betoota Pit, situated behind the hotel, will support both flood damage restoration and RMPC works in the region.

These projects are vital in ensuring safe and reliable road access across the region. We appreciate the community's patience as we carry out these essential works.

Civil Crew

Before the rain set in the Civil Crew completed bitumen patchwork between Birdsville and the Barcoo Shire Boundary in preparation for the reseal work scheduled for June. During March, they also worked alongside Maintenance Crew 1 to lay the hot mix corrector course on Browns Creek. While in the area, they also carried out repairs to guide posts and signage along the Birdsville to Barcoo Shire Boundary.



Maintenance Crews

Our maintenance crews completed a Light Formation Grade from Birdsville towards Betoota and worked between Durrie and Betoota. Both Betoota access roads and the Betoota to Mooraberree Road were also graded during March.

Crews completed a Light Formation Grade from Bedourie to the Barcoo Shire Boundary. However, a short section through the Diamantina Channels at Monkira was left ungraded due to floodwaters covering the road; this will be addressed at a later date along with other flood repairs. This crew then moved to Springvale, where they had been working on the Springvale to Boulia Shire Boundary, carrying out emergent work to reopen roads following recent storms and flooding.

Emergent work was also completed on the Springvale to Diamantina Lakes Road, Diamantina Lakes to Winton Shire Boundary, Diamantina Lakes to Davenport, and Davenport to Monkira Road. In the coming months, maintenance crews will continue working on flood damage restoration, ensuring roads are repaired and accessible for the community leading into our peak visitor period from June to September. The wildflowers will be in full bloom by then – it's going to be an amazing display of Country at it's finest, so we are expecting to see lots for travellers this year in the Diamantina!



Patrol Grader Crew

The Patrol Grader Crew completed a Light Formation Grade from Sandringham to Ethabuka, Sandringham to Bedourie, and the Kamaran Downs Access Road. Due to road funding constraints, low traffic volumes, and limited water access, a water truck and roller were not used on these roads. The crew then carried out shoulder grading on the Bedourie to Birdsville Road before commencing a Heavy Formation Grade on the gravel section from Bullagurdie Creek through the Cuttaburra. A road train water truck and multi-roller were used for this work.

Eyre Creek - Moderate Flooding

As of 9am on Thursday 3.4.25, Eyre Creek at Bedourie was at 4.54 metres and steady, sitting above both the moderate flood level (4m) and the bridge level (4.4m). Floodwaters are expected to continue easing throughout the week, with levels potentially dropping below the bridge (4.4m) by Friday. However, renewed rises are likely from late next week as upstream floodwaters make their way downstream. Residents are advised to stay informed and exercise caution in flood-affected areas.

Diamantina River - Major Flood Warning

Minor flooding is expected at Birdsville on Friday evening, with major flooding possible by Monday. Major flooding is ongoing along the Diamantina River at Diamantina Lakes, where the river level is currently at 6.31 metres and falling-still 4.21 metres above the causeway on the Springvale to Diamantina Lakes Road. Moderate flooding continues at Elderslie, while major flooding persists downstream around Monkira. At Birdsville, the river level is currently estimated at 2.75 metres and falling, below the minor flood level (4m). However, levels are expected to rise above the minor flood level on Friday evening, exceed the moderate flood level (6m) on Sunday, and may reach the major flood level (8m) by Monday.

Residents should remain alert and monitor updates as conditions change. Current emergency information is available at www.qld.gov.au/alerts



Photos of the bridge underwater by Valeri Fernandez 31/03/2025, Eyre Creek, Bedourie.







Road closures are in place for safety and to protect road surfaces from damage, particularly after rain. Ignoring "Road Closed" signs can result in significant costs, as vehicles cutting up wet roads create deep ruts and erosion, requiring expensive repairs. A Heavy Formation Grade costs \$5,000 per km to restore damaged roads, placing a financial burden on Council and community. Additionally, heavy penalties apply (up to \$32k) to those caught travelling on closed roads, reinforcing the importance of obeying closures to ensure road safety and longevity. Always check road conditions before travelling and respect closures to avoid unnecessary damage and fines.





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







Dreaming of an Outback adventure?

Join our team as a **Visitor Experience Officer** and help create unforgettable moments for travellers in Birdsville!

- Work in one of Australia's most iconic destinations
- Be part of major tourism events like the Birdsville Races & the NEW Birdsville Camel Carnival
- Enjoy a unique lifestyle while growing your career
- Competitive Salary + allowances

Don't miss this incredible opportunity!

View the Position Description at diamantina.qld.gov.au/job-vacancies

Council Invites Tenders for Pre-Qualified Suppliers

Council is seeking tenders for Registration as Pre-Qualified Suppliers for the 2025 - 2026 financial year in the following categories:

- Plant Hire (Dry & Wet)
- Trade Services

Tenders must be submitted via VendorPanel by 2pm, 15 April 2025.

For registration details and further information, visit:

• Plant Hire:

diamantina.qld.gov.au/news/article/185/public -notice-register-as-a-pre-qualified-supplier-ofplant-hire

Trade Services:

diamantina.qld.gov.au/news/article/184/public -notice-register-of-pre-qualified-suppliers-oftrade-services

Request for Tender

Register as a Pre-Qualified Supplier of **Plant Hire** for 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 VIA VENDORPANEL BY 2PM, 15 APRIL 2025.





Request for Tender

Register as a Pre-Qualified
Supplier of **Trade Services** for
1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
VIA VENDORPANEL
BY 2PM, 15 APRIL 2025.







From Our Store Team

Over recent weeks the stores' team has increased in numbers to facilitate the preparation and conducting of a reconciliation stock take at the Bedourie facility on Saturday 29th March. The current team consists of your core members Miranda and Georgie with casuals Ryan and Saro. Richard is advisor and mentor to the core team.

Gratitude goes to the team for the amount of effort and work that has been put in to make the stocktake as easy as is possible. My sincere thanks - Richard.

A reconciliation stock take covers a wide range of activities some of which are as follows:

- Revising stock bin locations for easier use of the Synergy Soft stores module.
- Identifying items held in the store including the separation of non-stock and stock.
- Keeping stock tidy and clean as best possible under the dusty conditions.
- Identifying and removing inactive, redundant or obsolete stock.
- Ensuring items are described correctly.
- Correcting discrepancies created by purchasing units of measure (uom) versus issuing units of measure (e.g. pack, carton, box quantities etc).
- In collaboration with the Finance and Synergy Soft teams correct average cost errors created by uom errors or accepting incorrect items at time of delivery. This then places a reliable value on the DSC stock holdings.
- We can then start to create a history of usage by item to help calculate the reorder point.
- Working with end-users, the store will work towards holding stock items that are needed for smooth day to day operations.
- Setting max and min holdings with set reorder points based usage rate and lead times so stock is on hand when required.





We are requesting Synergy Soft Store's module improvements to facilitate stock counts by bin locations. From this point on we can rely on Synergy Soft reports such as items due reorder etc.

Once the Bedourie Store count has been completed the team will move on to the fuel reconciliation.

We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we move forward with the improvement of the store's system.

Richard Azar Stores and Procurement Advisor



EXCITING NEWS BEDOURIE LIBRARY IS REOPENING!

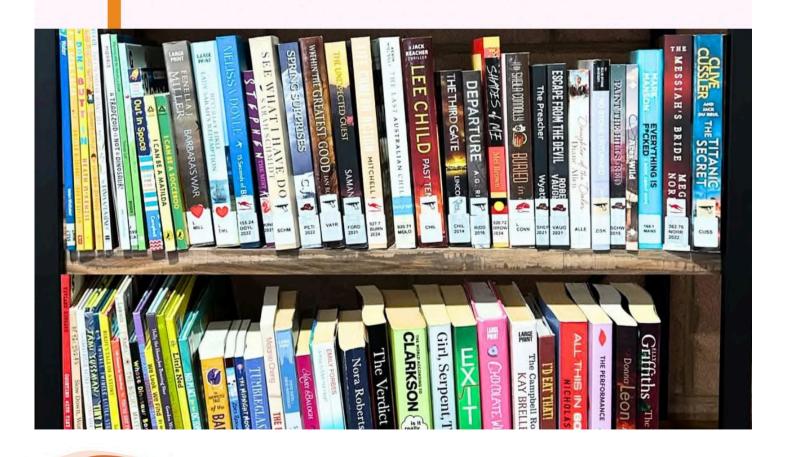
DEAR BEDOURIE COMMUNITY,
WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE LIBRARY IS
OFFICIALLY REOPENING ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC!

AFTER A PERIOD OF CLOSURE, WE'RE EXCITED TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO EXPLORE OUR COLLECTIONS, ATTEND EVENTS, AND ENJOY ALL THE LIBRARY SERVICES YOU LOVE.



DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND SUPPORT THROUGHOUT OUR CLOSURE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK TO THE LIBRARY!





VOL. 10, NO. 4

On the Top Rail

13 FEBRAURY 1947

WHO IS MRS BEDORIE?



MARY ERMENIA BALLARD

TOP STORY: A JOURNEY

BY BILL BOWYANG



Born on April 27, 1857, in Kyneton Victoria to parents Margaret Butler

and David Ballard.

Who is Messer Bedourie? That is a question I asked in these columns a few weeks back, and I did not have long to wait for the information I was seeking. I came from the well known bush writer who signs himself "Calkah" says the lady was Mrs Andy Dolan when he knew her first. She brought her infant baby-the first white child in those parts-to Breadalbane, up the Georgina River, In the Boulia direction from

Bedourie.

Andy Dolan was manager, and he died at what was Carcory Station, Birdsville way from Bedourie.

Mrs Dolan later married John Gray Brodie, then manager of Cluny Station. When he died she became Mrs Jimmie Craigie, who was manager of Roxborough Station Carrandotta. Mrs Craigie died in Brisbane some years ago at a ripe age. She was a fine type of pioneer who put Bedourie on the map.

A LIFE FULL OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER

MARRIED

Andrew Carey Dolan in Kyneton, Victoria August 16th, 1883



John Gray Brodie

In Birdsville, Queensland October 25th, 1890



James Craigie

In Birdsville, Queensland August 24th, 1898

MARY'S CHILDREN

Margaret Georgina Dolan Born 1885



Mary Gertrude Brodie Born 1891

Lieutenant John Gray Brodie Born 26 September, 1893

Grace Gray Brodie Born 25 September, 1895

FUN FACTS

On 11 November 1879, the Diamantina Division was established as one of 74 divisions around
Queensland under the Divisional Boards Act 1879
with a population of 1153.
In October 1880, part of Diamantina Division was

separated to create <u>Gregory Division</u>. On 21 June 1883, the boundaries between

Diamantina Division and <u>Bulloo Division</u> were adjusted.

With the passage of the Local Authorities Act 1902, Diamantina Division became the Shire of Diamantina on 31 March 1903.

The seat of the Council moved from Birdsville to Bedourie in 1953.

Lethe 2021 some Diamantina Ship hed 266 woods.

In the 2021 census, Diamantina Shire had 266 people, down from 292 in 2018.





April Trading Hours

Monday - Saturday

Reception; From 7am

Bar; 12pm – closing time at management discretion

Lunch; 12pm-2.30pm

Dinner; 6pm - 8pm

Sunday

Reception; 12pm-5pm

Bar & Kitchen; Closed (Meals can be arranged for inhouse guests)

Accommodation and aviation fuels available 7 days per week.

Breakfast available Tuesdays - Saturdays at the Bakery



April Trading Hours

Tuesday - Friday 7:30am - 1:30pm

Saturday 8:00am-12:00pm

Mondays & Sundays Closed

Amazing hot cooked breakfasts until 10:00am



WISP HAIR DESIGNS

0427550050

WISPHAIRDESIGNS@gmail.com

Bridesville

Products

Wella Professional, L'oreal.

De Lorenzo

Whilst Waiting for your Hair to

Process

there will be cake/Coffee/Cold Drink on purchase....

Unisex

Style Cuts From

\$40 - \$80

Regrowth 1 colour includes Wash/Blow out from \$250 - \$350

Regrowth: Foils, Tonner, Blow Out 1/4 Head from**\$180**

Regrowth: Foils, Tonner, Blow Out 1/2 Head from \$180-\$300

Regrowth: Foils, Tonner, Blow Out full Head from \$350-\$600

OUR WORKING DAYS WILL BE!

MONDAY IST SEPTEMBER - 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Monday 1st September

Times available 9am - 5pm

Tuesday 2nd September

Times available 9am - 5pm

Wednesday 3rd September

Times available 9am-5pm

Thursday 4th September

Times available 9am - 5pm

Friday 5th September

Times available 8am - 2pm

Saturday 6th September

Times available 8am - 2pm

Desert YARNS

CONTACTS

Diamantina Shire Council

Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 5 pm

(excluding Public Holidays)

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WORKS MANAGER

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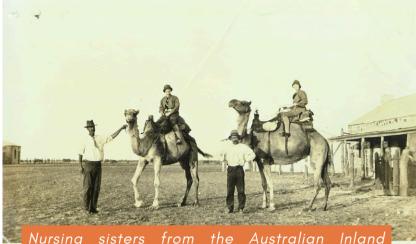
Connect With Us

f

Like Diamantina Shire Council on **Facebook**



Follow ediamantinaqld on **Instagram**



Nursing sisters from the Australian Inland Mission Hospital on camels outside the Old Royal Hotel in Birdsville in 1923.

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.Morton@Diamantina.qld.gov.au







