

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2026

Desert YARNS

Diamantina Community Newsletter

SPECIAL FLOOD EDITION



Birdsville Track — Wednesday 4 March 2026



Bedourie — Tuesday 3 March 2026



Birdsville — Wednesday 4 March 2026



*Aerial flood photos taken 3 & 4 March 2026:
Top left - Diamantina River, Birdsville.
Top right - Bedourie and surrounds.
Centre: Big Red, Birdsville.
Below right: Bedourie.*



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Stay up to date with flood warnings, river levels, road reports, power outages and announcements at disaster.diamantina.qld.gov.au



King Creek, 4 March 2026



Message from The Mayor

It is March 2026 and already so much has happened. Every part of our Shire has had significant rain as well as some sizeable flooding. As I write this in Bedourie, preparing for March's Council meeting, I'm keeping an eye on the river rising which should peak in the next few days at around 5.5 metres, which is under the 1974 flood level record of 6.2metres.

With some big rains in the catchment area, it was thought Bedourie could receive the same record flooding as '74 which prompted Bedourie to urgently do some work on our levee bank. With the retirement of Kev Barr Senior only weeks earlier, it took a lot of local knowledge out of the organisation, so it was decided to engage Kev's services as a consultant to help with these works to keep the community safe. I'd like to thank Kev for being available and wish him well in retirement.



**Mayor
Francis Murray**

Birdsville, Bedourie and surrounding stations have been receiving resupply of essential goods through our District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) and Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG). This takes a lot to coordinate and involves a lot of people so I would like to thank all involved with a special shout out to the people of the Boulia Shire for being a good neighbour to the Diamantina Shire.

The Diamantina River at Birdsville has peaked and dropped back to under the bridge. This was expected, with another rise imminent. There was a thought that goods could be brought in by road in this period between rises, but that opportunity was lost with the rise of flood waters in the Cooper Creek near Windorah, and the long closures of the Birdsville track due to rain.

Scott Mead from Mead Perry Group will be conducting community engagement for the Council's new five-year corporate plan. I encourage everyone to have their say, so we continue to build a future that we all get to enjoy.

Times like these where we are isolated by road, certainly highlight the importance of having regular flights that are supported by government in and out of our communities. Recently the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) did a consultation to see how best to service our region's future with these airline contracts. I attended one in Birdsville, and it was great to see a good turn out that proved how important this connection to the rest of the world is to us in such a remote part of Australia.



Photos: Last week the Council team unloaded around 700kg of resupply freight at Bedourie Airport, helping keep essential supplies moving into the community.

Thank you to everyone's work keeping our communities running over this wet period, and here's hoping that our isolation doesn't drag on for too long so that those needing to return can come home, and the transport of good in and out of the Shire can return to normal.

I'd just like to end with, the country is going to look its absolute best very soon, so we should be in for a bumper tourist season.

Mayor

Francis Murray



Birdsville, 4 March 2026



Julianne Meier
Chief Executive Officer

CEO update

The new year began with our staff returning from the Christmas break and coming together for our annual Training Week. It was a wonderful opportunity for the team to reflect on the meaningful work accomplished across the Shire over the past year. Together, we celebrated some key achievements, including launching the Disaster Dashboard, starting our staff newsletter, completing the financial audit within statutory timelines, and delivering a range of important infrastructure and community projects.

This year, we were pleased to deliver key projects for our community, including sealing 6.4 km of the Bedourie to Birdsville Road, constructing five new concrete floodways, and building the Bedourie Race Club shed. We also undertook bird-proofing at the Bedourie Pool, developed masterplans for racing facilities through community consultation, and supported tourism and cultural initiatives such as the Francis Gage McGinn exhibition, the opening of the Birdsville Courthouse, and the Desert Champions Way: Outback Camel Trail. Council staff took great pride in supporting a number of much-loved community events, including the Simpson Desert Racing Carnival.

Looking ahead, many projects and improvements are planned for the year. These include housing upgrades in Bedourie and Birdsville, works associated with the new Bedourie residential subdivision, sealing the Birdsville Airport carpark under Disability Standards Upgrade funding, and replacing the Old Diamantina Crossing when access to the site becomes possible. Other projects include shade for the Birdsville Skate Park, drainage and beautification work at the Birdsville Cemetery, upgrades to the Birdsville Hall, and planning for air conditioning in the Bedourie and Birdsville halls. Council will also continue supporting community events and is reviewing service levels across our operations.

February brought significant rainfall across the region and the state, impacting supply networks and leading to road closures across the Shire at various times. In response to uncertainty about upstream flows and the possibility that Eyre Creek could reach 1974 levels, Council decided to extend the Bedourie levee bank as a precaution, keeping the community's safety at heart. These works are being funded through Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Counter Disaster Operations.

Thankfully, recent updates suggest the risk of flooding has reduced following the peak at Marion Downs. With roads closed and supply routes disrupted, I am thankful of how our community is tackling this challenging period of isolation with resilience and care for one another.



Eyre Creek, Bedourie - 4 March 2026



Photos: The Bedourie levee bank was raised in sections at the beginning of March as a precautionary measure.

The Local Disaster Management Group met to coordinate preparations and ensure our community felt supported during the period of isolation. I would especially like to thank the Birdsville Roadhouse, Birdsville Hotel, and Simpson Desert Oasis Roadhouse, along with our dedicated staff, for their help in resupplying stations and communities. I am truly grateful for our town services teams, who not only assisted with resupply efforts but also continued their regular duties and often worked weekends to help others.

Finally, Council is reviewing its Corporate Plan, setting our shared direction and priorities for the next five years. We look forward to hearing your ideas as community consultation begins in the coming weeks. I encourage all residents to get involved and help shape the future of Diamantina Shire—your voice is so important to us.

Julianne

2026 FLOOD Community Update

Updates will be provided via [Council's Facebook page](#), website and Disaster Dashboard.

Current Situation

- Most roads in the Shire remain closed
- Flooding is expected to continue for the next few weeks
- Bedourie is protected by a structurally sound levee bank

Resupply of Essential Items

During periods of isolation, Queensland Government guidelines allow resupply of essential items only.*

Essential items include:

- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Meat and bread
- Basic grocery staples
- Pet food
- Medical supplies

Non-essential items such as soft drinks, cigarettes, snack foods and bottled water cannot be transported. Aircraft space is limited and freight is costly, so only essential goods are permitted.

*Coles Online or Click and Collect services are not available, as government guidelines allow supply to local businesses rather than individuals.

Food and essential items can be ordered directly through:

- **Birdsville Roadhouse** – P: 07 4656 3226
E: info@birdsvilleroadhouse.com.au
- **Bedourie Roadhouse** – please send your order request by Sunday evening to:
E: admin@simpsondesertoasis.com.au or call Robbie Dare on 0427 461 291.

Looking After Your Wellbeing

Periods of uncertainty and isolation can be stressful. It is important to reach out for support if you are feeling worried or overwhelmed.

Medicare Mental Health

can connect you with free support services

Call 1800 595 212

(weekdays 8:30am–5:00pm)

A list of available mental health services can also be downloaded from Council's website:

www.diamantina.qld.gov.au/Community/Health-Services

You are not alone.

Medication Resupply

For e-scripts, you can get your script filled by:

- **Bedourie:** Contacting a supplier in Mount Isa, and then we can arrange for the medication to be brought down on the REX plane. Please contact Diamantina Shire Council CEO Julianne Meier, on 0428 461 202 or email ceo@diamantina.qld.gov.au to help arrange this.
- **Birdsville:** Contacting the supplier in Charleville, following the normal REX delivery process.

When ordering medications online (e.g. Chemist Warehouse), **ensure the Dangerous Goods section is completed**; otherwise, items will not be permitted on the aircraft.

What You Can Do Now

- Stay informed via Council's Facebook page, website and Disaster Dashboard
- Most roads are closed — Check the Council Facebook page for updates. If it's flooded forget it!
- Avoid flood waters — there are **health risks associated with floodwater and mud**
- Ask us for help if your supply of medication is low and you are unsure of how to order more

Need Assistance?

For non-urgent enquiries during business hours, contact Diamantina Shire Council Office on 07 4746 1600.

For emergency assistance, contact **SES** on 132 500. In a life-threatening emergency, call 000.

Stay informed via:

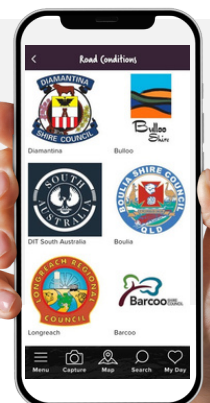
Council Facebook page: fb.me/DiamantinaShireCouncil

Council's website: diamantina.qld.gov.au

Disaster Dashboard: disaster.diamantina.qld.gov.au

Stay safe and look out for one another.

For Outback Road Reports at your fingertips Download the Diamantina Tourism app in the **App Store** or get it on **Google Play**





Resupply to flood isolated properties

What is resupply?

During a natural disaster, the Queensland Government will assist isolated individuals with the resupply of essential goods, including food and medical supplies.

Isolated properties may include primary producers and smaller towns or outstations that cannot access retail facilities to maintain sufficient levels of essential goods.

Plan ahead

It's important for all Queenslanders to prepare their homes and families before disaster season strikes.

Know your risk. Familiarise yourself with your local area including historical flood levels, and the location and duration of flooding. Consider how long you might be isolated.

Prepare your emergency kit with enough supplies to last the duration of any extended flooding. Stock supplies for your family including food, water, fuel, and medications prior to an event. Include items that may be in short supply in an emergency such as frozen foods.

If you are unable to store enough supplies, find out what support your local council may be able to provide in an emergency.

Make sure your local council has accurate Global Positioning System (GPS) location details for your home or community.

What's the resupply process?

- STEP 1** Isolated properties determine resupply needs and contacts local council. 
- STEP 2** Local council processes requests for resupply. 
- STEP 3** Isolated properties place orders for essential items with local suppliers and organise payment. 
- STEP 4** Local council schedules delivery. Goods received by local outlets, packed, labelled and delivered to local council pick-up points. 
- STEP 5** Local council arranges delivery to properties. 
- STEP 6** 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 responsibility to place your order with the local 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).
- ✓ Baby foods, formula, and nappies.
- ✓ Medication and medical supplies.
- ✓ Water and purification treatments.
- ✓ Dried pet food.
- ✓ Fuels (if appropriate transportation is available) to ensure continued running of power, heating, lighting, refrigeration etc.
- ✓ Batteries (subject to clearance by carrying agency).

What can't I order?

- ✗ Chilled and frozen goods, including fresh milk (if refrigerated transportation is unavailable).
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages, canned and bottled soft drink.
- ✗ Tobacco and cigarettes.
- ✗ Machinery parts.
- ✗ Entertainment and electrical equipment.
- ✗ Non-essential or luxury items.

When flooding strikes, remember...

Tune in to warnings. Stay connected to information channels including radio and social media for current weather advice and warnings.

Monitor rising flood waters.

If it's flooded, forget it. Don't attempt to swim or drive across flooded bridges or roads. Water can be deeper and faster flowing than it appears and you never know what's hidden under the surface.

Always follow instructions from local authorities and be ready to evacuate if necessary.

Be aware when travelling in flood conditions. Watch out for hazards such as fallen power lines, fallen trees and debris, broken water and sewage lines, loose materials, and wildlife.

(07) 3740 1700 info@qra.qld.gov.au qra.qld.gov.au



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**Queensland
Government**



*Aerial flood photos taken 3 & 4 March 2026:
Top left - Eyre Creek, Bedourie. Top right - King Creek.
Above: Between Birdsville & Bedourie.
Centre right: Bedourie surrounds.
Right: Diamantina River, Birdsville.
Below left: Bedourie, Runway & Eyre Creek.
Bottom right: Flood plains between Birdsville & Bedourie.*





Tourism Funding Boost for Betoota Hotel

Across Outback Queensland, tourism helps keep our communities thriving — supporting local jobs, strengthening small businesses and encouraging people to live, work and stay in the west.

Council would like to congratulate the Betoota Hotel, which has secured funding to install four air-conditioned luxury glamping tents on site. Designed specifically for the outback climate, the tents will provide comfortable accommodation for travellers and help meet growing demand during major events such as the Betoota Races.

The additional accommodation will allow more visitors to stay overnight and experience the unique hospitality and atmosphere that Betoota is known for.



The Betoota project is one of several initiatives supported through more than \$1.8 million in funding from the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, part of the Destination 2045 plan.

Other funded projects across the region include geothermal bath suites at Evening Star Tourist Park, eco-glamping at Mitchell Grass Retreat, expanded camping facilities at Muddy Duck Tourist Park, and upgrades to attractions such as Kronosaurus Korner, the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, Mount Isa Underground Hospital and Museum, and Rangelands Rifts.

Together, these projects will encourage more travellers to head west, stay longer and experience the landscapes, stories and hospitality that make Outback Queensland so special. Every visitor who stops for fuel, a meal, a tour or a night's stay helps keep our communities strong.



Have Your Say



Five-Year Corporate Plan Review

Council is currently reviewing our Five-Year Corporate Plan to ensure our goals and priorities continue to reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

Community input is an important part of this process. We invite residents to come along to our Community Consultations in Birdsville and Bedourie to share your feedback on the draft plan, and help guide the future direction of the Diamantina Shire.

 **Bedourie Community Centre**

 Wednesday 18 March 2026

 5.15pm – 7.15pm

 **Wirrari Visitor Information Centre**

 Thursday 26 March 2026

 5.15pm – 7.15pm

Supper will be provided.

To **join virtually via Teams** please visit:

diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Have-Your-Say

For further details about Council's Community Consultation, please contact our Director Corporate Services, Jade Nacario. E: Jade.Nacario@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Scan the QR code or visit our website to view
Council's current Corporate Plan
diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Plans-Reports-and-Publications



WHAT'S ON IN THE DIAMANTINA

2026 Date Claimers

- **Council Community Consultation** | Bedourie 18 March 2026
- **Council Community Consultation** | Birdsville 26 March 2026
- **Easter Long Weekend** | 3 - 6 April
- **Anzac Day** | Birdsville & Bedourie 25 April
- **Simpson Desert Ultra** | 5 - 7 June
- **Betoota Gymkhana** | 19 - 21 June
- **Birdsville Bronco Branding** | 27- 29 June
- **Betoota Outback Desert Muster** | Betoota Hotel 27-29 June
- **Birdsville Carnival** | 6 - 9 July
- **Big Red Bash** | 7 - 9 July
- **Bedourie Camel and Pig Races** | 11 July
- **Simpson Desert Racing Carnival** | 28 August - 12 September
- **Official Opening Birdsville Courthouse** | 17 + 18 September (New Date)
- **Bedourie Campdraft, Rodeo & Gymkhana** | 25 - 27 September
- **Melbourne Cup Day** | 3 November 2026 (Shire Holiday)
- **Remembrance Day** | 11 November



LEE KERNAGHAN

SPIRIT OF THE BUSH

COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

FRI 27 MAR

6-10PM

**JUNDAH
RACECOURSE**

SPECIAL GUESTS:

★ LUKE GEIGER

– *Australia's Wildest Cowboy Party*

★ ROBBY X

★ JARRAD WRIGLEY

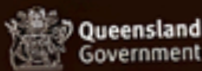
GATES AND BARS OPEN AT 4PM

*Registration is required.
No entry without registration.*

scan to register



For all event details and registration:
barcoospiritofthebush.live





Save the date
BETOOTA GYMKHANA 2026
19TH-21ST JUNE

Get Stuffed Outback Events Presents

BETOOTA

OUTBACK • DESERT • MUSTER

27-29 JUNE, 2026

Starring
Australian Idol legend
Jake Whittaker

Darren Griffis and Jukejoint

Plus **BETOOTA'S** Got No Talent Showdown

We're a pub with no town, no people and no talent but this is the party to change all that and YOU get to be the judge!



LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC DAY | 25 APRIL 2026
DAWN & MORNING SERVICES
IN BIRDSVILLE AND BEDOURIE

— Official Opening —
Birdsville Courthouse



Celebrating Birdsville's
Policing History 1884-1988

New Dates
17 & 18 September 2026

Details at:
diamantina.qld.gov.au/Birdsville-Courthouse-Official-Opening



OUTBACK Camel-Trail

— DESERT CHAMPIONS WAY —

4 - 25 JULY 2026



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

Save the date



Birdsville Campdraft, Rodeo, Bronco Branding, horse and motorbike Gymkhana.



For further information contact
President Peter 0427 606 577
Or
Secretary Amber 0429 434 971

Kids Corner

TALK

READ

SING

PLAY

First Five Forever

While brain development continues through life, from birth to 5 years is the most rapid period of growth for a child's brain with over a million new connections forming every second. The everyday moments you spend with your child, talking, reading, singing and playing can help build a healthy brain and a healthy body, now and for their future.

First 5 Forever is an initiative of the Queensland Government, coordinated by State Library of Queensland and delivered in partnership with local government.


Come along to our free First 5 Forever sessions:

first5 forever




Birdsville First Five Forever

with *Khalli*

 Third Thursday of each month


 9:00am - 9:30am

 Birdsville Community Hall, 61 Adelaide St


 For more info contact Khalli via email;
Khalli.Rowlands@Diamantina.qld.gov.au


Bedourie First Five Forever

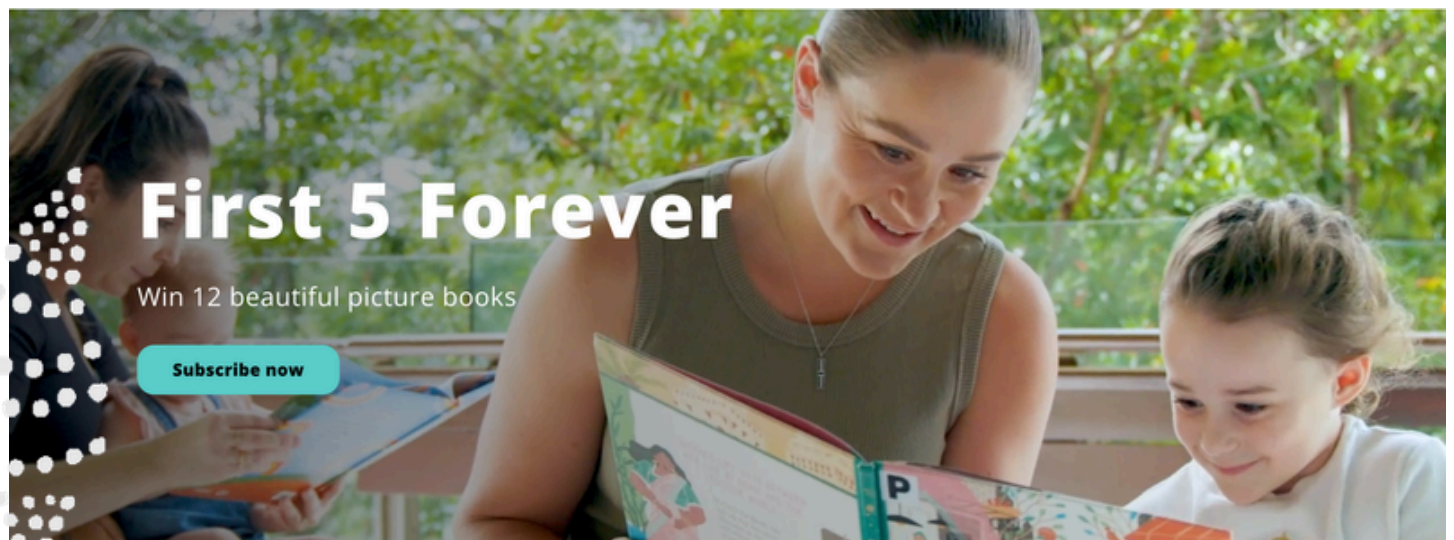
with *Danisha*

 Every Monday

 9:00am - 9:30am

 Bedourie Community Centre, 18 Herbert St

 For more info contact Danisha via email;
Danisha.Brown@Diamantina.qld.gov.au



First 5 Forever

Win 12 beautiful picture books

Subscribe now

STATE LIBRARY
QUEENSLAND

 Queensland
Government

PLAYGROUP

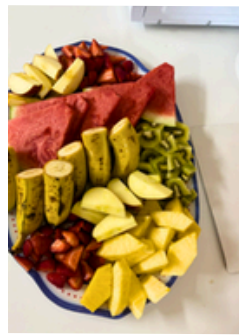
Happy 3rd Birthday, Cooper!

A big thank you to everyone who joined us at Bedourie Playgroup in January to celebrate a very special milestone. We loved celebrating Cooper's 3rd birthday with lots of smiles, play, and shared moments.

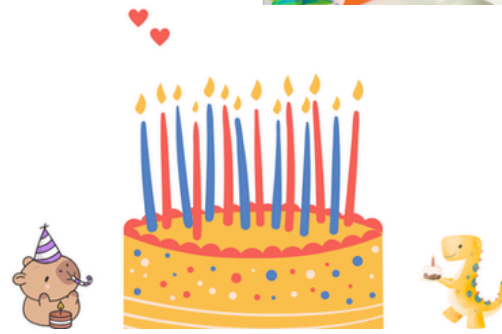
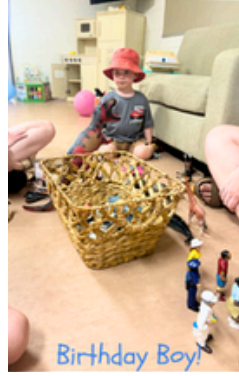
It was wonderful to welcome Cooper and his family, who are new to town, and to see our playgroup community come together to make them feel at home.

Here's to many more happy playgroup days ahead in Bedourie — and happy birthday, Cooper!

Danisha Brown
Early Childhood and Library Officer



Happy Birthday!



Easter Bilby



EASTER

Our playgroups will be closed on Good Friday - April 3 and Easter Monday - April 6.
Join us at Playgroup this month as we work on our Easter crafts.

BIRDSVILLE PLAYGROUP

with *Khalli*

8.30am to 12pm Monday to Thursday
at the Birdsville Hall

BEDOURIE PLAYGROUP

with *Danisha*

8.30am to 12pm Tuesday to Friday
at the Bedourie Community Centre



Stay tuned to **Council's Facebook page** for our weekly programs and other updates from Diamantina Playgroups.



Birdsville State School

birdsvilles.eq.edu.au



A Wonderful Start to the 2026 School Year

We have started 2026 with learning, laughter and plenty of fun across the school. Our Kindy and Prep children have been settling beautifully into their new routines and have embraced the challenges of the school day with enthusiasm. We also celebrated with the Rowlands family this term when they began their 66th year of connection to our school.

Kindy days are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and they are certainly busy ones. Our Kindy boys have been throwing themselves into their learning and play with great energy. By the end of the day there are often a few very tired little people heading home after a full day of discovery and activity.



Over the past few weeks we have also been fortunate to have Miss Ham working with us. She has created some wonderful obstacle courses which have been a big hit with the children while helping them build their gross motor skills in a fun and engaging way.

This year has also seen the introduction of new child safety laws across Queensland State Schools. As in every other school in Queensland our staff have been working closely with regional teams to ensure that our school is fully compliant with these important requirements. These laws are designed to strengthen protections and ensure that every child attending a state school is safe, supported and well cared for.



Birdsville State School

birdsvilles.eq.edu.au

In the classroom, we have introduced a new maths program this term that focuses on active, hands-on learning. The program uses physical resources and practical activities to help students understand new mathematical concepts in a way that is engaging and meaningful.

Our English lessons have been just as lively. Students have been exploring storytelling through traditional tales and well-loved favourites such as *The Twits*. These stories help students understand how narratives are built and encourage them to think creatively about how a story could be changed, expanded or made even more interesting. The Prep students are jumping into reading by learning the basic sounds that will help them make sense of words. Watch this space – the learning seems very slow but it comes together at lightning speed and they will be reading up a storm by the end of term!

We are also excited to welcome a new staff member to our school community. Mrs April Lewis will begin at the school in mid-April. April and her husband Isaac are joining us from Far North Queensland. April is an experienced Early Years teacher who has spent the last few years working with children with disabilities. They are very much looking forward to becoming part of our community. If you happen to see April and Isaac (and their dog Murphy) around town, please make them feel welcome.

A Note on Communication and Community

Our school is proud to be a small community where families, staff and students support one another. From time to time concerns or misunderstandings can arise, and the best way to address these is always through respectful and open communication with the school.

Recently there have been some unkind rumours circulating that have caused distress to members of our school community. We would like to gently remind everyone that our staff work hard to provide a safe, caring and high-quality learning environment for every child. Speaking kindly about one another and raising concerns directly with the school helps maintain the supportive community we value so highly.

If you ever have questions or worries, please reach out to the school so that we can talk things through together. Working respectfully with one another ensures that our children continue to learn and grow in a positive and encouraging environment.

Nita Tilney | Principal
Birdsville State School | Adelaide Street

Follow **Birdsville State School**
on Facebook



BEDOURIE STATE SCHOOL NEWS



Welcome to the 2026 school year. It is hard to believe that we have already reached Week 8. The beginning of the year has brought a number of changes to our school community, with both families and staff members moving on to new opportunities.

We extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to the Punch, Bayliss and Parkinson families as they continue their learning journeys in new school settings. We also farewell three valued staff members – Mr Mathew Letts (Teacher), Miss Lauren (Teacher Aide) and Miss Sophia (Cleaner). We thank them for their dedication and contribution to making our school a positive and supportive place for students to learn and grow.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank our 2025 P&C President, Shelley, and Secretary, Lauren, for their outstanding support throughout the year. Their contributions – from catering for our annual ANZAC Day fundraiser, organising personalised blankets for students, supporting the 2025 Splash 'n' Arts event, assisting with Christmas celebrations, and much more – have been greatly appreciated.

At the same time, we warmly welcome back the Clarke and Barton families and look forward to additional families joining our school community in the coming months. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Dakota as our new Cleaner.

Our returning staff for 2026 are:

- Mr Carige (School Officer – Grounds)
- Miss Emma (Business Manager)
- Miss Katrina (Casual Teacher Aide)
- Mrs Danielle Carige (Teaching Principal)
- Michelle Sieber (Head of Curriculum)
- Lisa Fowkes (Head of Special Education)
- Matt Christie (Guidance Officer)

We have an exciting range of extracurricular activities planned for the year ahead. Our Diamantina Playgroups and Distance Education families are warmly invited to join us for these events. Please mark the following dates in your calendar:

Term 1

2 April at 2:30pm – Easter Egg Hunt

Term 2

22 May – Under 8s Day at Bedourie State School (Diamantina Shire)

Term 3

31 July – 3rd Annual Boulia, Bedourie and Birdsville Combined Cross Country/Athletics Carnival and Family Fun Day at Bedourie State School

We look forward to a productive and rewarding year ahead.

Kind regards,

Mrs Danielle Carige
Teaching Principal
Bedourie State School

Follow **Bedourie State School**
on Facebook for updates
[BedourieSS.eq.edu.au](https://www.bedourie.ss.eq.edu.au)



Any Study. Any Provider. Any Time.

Birdsville & Bedourie

REGISTER HERE to use >>>
your study hub in 2026 >>>



Country Universities Centre

RAPAD CWQ

Your Pathway to Study Starts Here. University, TAFE, VET, short courses, apprenticeships... your study, your way!

Diamantina Shire residents — did you know you can study locally at CUC hubs in Birdsville and Bedourie?

The Birdsville hub is located at the Warrarri Visitor Information Centre, and the Bedourie hub at the Diamantina Shire Council Office. Both provide modern study spaces, technology, external access, and FREE registration.

Whether you're studying at university, TAFE, doing a VET course, an apprenticeship, or short courses, CUC offers 24/7 access to a safe, inclusive study space right in your community.

Register via the QR code or give us a call to get started.

to find out more: liza.cameron@cucrapadcwq.edu.au 0487 068 994
 www.cucrapadcwq.edu.au CUC RAPAD Central West Queensland

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

Bedourie CUC - Learn more at cucrapadcwq.edu.au/bedourie

Birdsville CUC - Learn more at cucrapadcwq.edu.au/birdsville

Free Upcoming Study Skills Sessions - designed to support planning, confidence, and strong study habits across the semester.

Study Skills Sessions expression of interest: cucrapadcwq.edu.au

Register to use our CUC hubs at: cucrapadcwq.edu.au

Health Matters

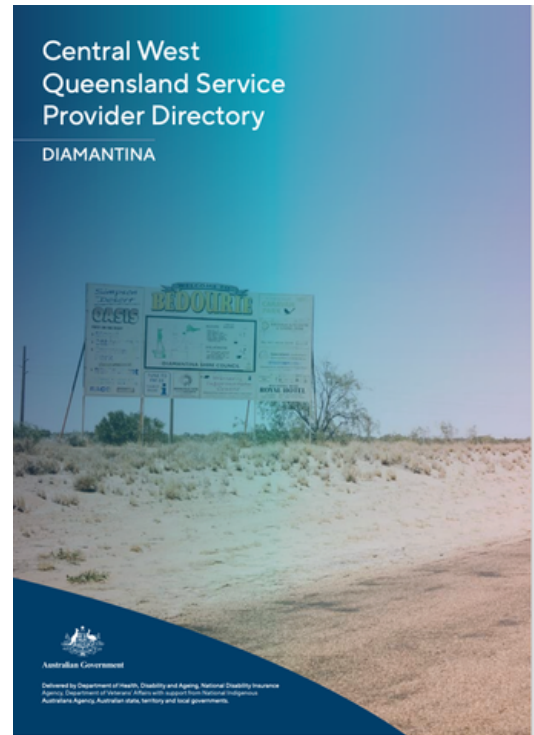
The Central West Queensland Service Provider Directory is now live and available online.

The Central West Queensland (CWQ) Service Provider Directory is a funded project of the Integrated Care and Commissioning (ICC) initiative, an Australian Government program jointly delivered by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the National Disability Insurance Agency, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, with support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency, as well as state, territory, and local governments.

This directory was developed in direct response to feedback from community members across CWQ, who expressed difficulty in identifying which services visit their area. The CWQ Service Provider Directory aims to provide a clear, locally relevant resource that highlights in-person and outreach services that are operating in Central West Queensland, making it easier for residents, carers, and service providers to find and connect with the support they need.

Download the guide at:

wqphn.com.au/for-the-community/central-west-qld---service-provider-directory



medicare

Mental Health
1800 595 212

Free advice, support
and guidance

Birdsville Primary Health Centre

31 Adelaide St, Birdsville

Call 07 4564 2400

centralwest.health.qld.gov.au

Bedourie Primary Health Centre

Kepler St, Bedourie

Call 07 4746 1500

centralwest.health.qld.gov.au



Health and Safety After Flooding

Queensland Health has issued important advice regarding potential health risks associated with floodwater and mud. Staff working in or around flood-affected areas are encouraged to take appropriate precautions to minimise the risk of illness or infection.

Protect yourself when cleaning up

To reduce health risks when dealing with flood-affected areas:

- Wear appropriate PPE, including enclosed footwear, gloves, and where required a mask and protective eyewear.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, or use hand sanitiser, after contact with floodwater or mud.
- Cover any cuts, abrasions or sores to help prevent infection.
- Wash exposed skin with clean water after contact with flood-affected water, soil or mud.
- Check with your healthcare provider if you sustain a wound and need advice about tetanus vaccination.
- Take care when cleaning mould – avoid using a dry brush, as this can release spores into the air.

Tetanus and wound care

Floodwater and mud may contain bacteria that can cause infection.

- Ensure your tetanus vaccination is up to date. A booster is recommended at least every 10 years.
- If you sustain a cut or wound while cleaning up and it has been more than five years since your last booster, consult your healthcare provider.
- Clean minor cuts with clean fresh water and gauze, apply antiseptic if available, and cover with a waterproof dressing.
- Avoid scrubbing embedded dirt from wounds and seek medical attention if debris cannot be removed.
- Contact a medical professional if a wound becomes red, painful, swollen, or if you develop fever or signs of infection.



For further information, please refer to the below links from Queensland Health.

Health risks when cleaning up after floods:

health.qld.gov.au/public-health/disaster/public-health-advice/health-and-safety

Tetanus:

[qld.gov.au/health/condition/infections-and-parasites/bacterial-infections/tetanus](https://health.qld.gov.au/health/condition/infections-and-parasites/bacterial-infections/tetanus)

Proper wound care:

health.qld.gov.au/public-health/disaster/public-health-advice/health-and-safety

Health risks lurking in floodwaters and mud:

health.qld.gov.au/newsroom/news/beware-of-health-risks-lurking-in-seq-floodwaters-and-mud

Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) at any time.

Contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68) for your nearest Public Health Unit.

If you or anyone in your household is experiencing any health effects from unsafe food after a disaster, seek medical advice from your doctor.

Download the [be food safe in a disaster factsheet](#)



NWRH ALLIED HEALTH TEAM BEDOURIE & BIRDSVILLE

Meet Our Clinicians



ESTHER YANG
Podiatrist



LUCY COOPER
Exercise
Physiologist



TAYLA WHITE
Dietitian



HEIDI KRUGER
Occupational
Therapist

Upcoming Outreach Visits

MONTH	VISIT DATE	CLINICIAN/S
Birdsville		
March	30th > 31st	- Esther, Lucy, Tayla & Heidi
May	25th > 26th	- Lucy, Tayla & Heidi
Bedourie		
March/April	31st > 1st	- Esther, Lucy, Tayla & Heidi
May	26th > 27th	- Lucy, Tayla & Heidi

NWRH

CONTACT US: 07 4744 7600 | 1800 221 131
53 Enid Street, Mount Isa

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

WWW.NWRH.COM.AU



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 Support at Home Program.



NDIS Provider: 4050002324

Visiting Optometrist



Birdsville Primary Health Centre Wednesday 25 March 2026

No referral required

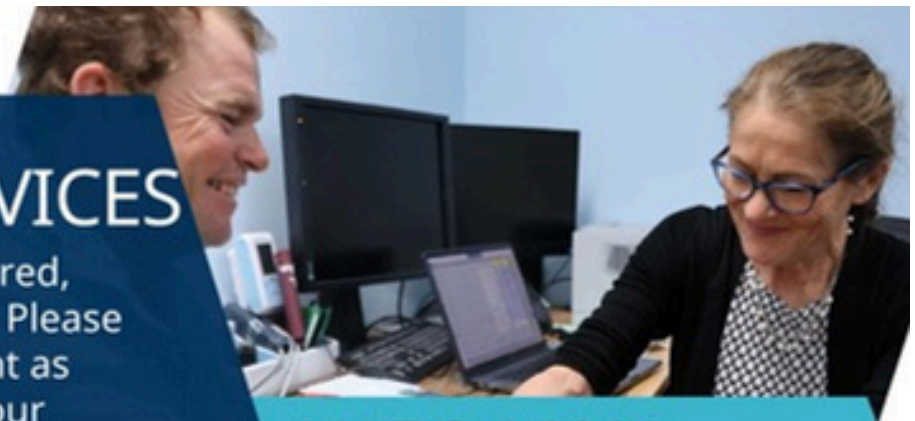
Bulk-billed service for all patients

- People with diabetes are encouraged to have a visual assessment.
- Health care card (HCC) and pension card holders are entitled to receive glasses at no cost.

For appointments or more information please contact

Birdsville Primary Health Centre - 4564 2400





VISITING SERVICES

A current referral is required, please speak to your GP. Please confirm your appointment as per the instructions on your appointment letter.

MARCH 2026

Flying Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

Dr Adam Bush
Dr Sarah Janssens
Dr Alison McDougall
Dr David Hodgson
3 March – Barcaldine
10 March – Longreach
17 March – Longreach
31 March - Barcaldine

Flying Surgeon

Including endoscopy services
Dr Christian Ibraheem
Dr Ferdinand Ong
Dr Goutham Sivasuthan
3 March – Longreach
10 March – Longreach
17 March – Longreach
31 March - Longreach

Cardiology

Dr Scott McKenzie
Dr Karthikeyan Gopal
Telehealth every Tuesday & Friday PM

Indigenous Respiratory Outreach Clinic (IROC) Paeds

Dr Vikas Goyal
9 March - Longreach PM
10 March – Barcaldine
11 March - Longreach AM

Paediatrics

Dr Anita Cohn
16 March – Longreach PM
17 March - Winton & Blackall
18 March - Longreach & Barcaldine
19 March - Longreach & Barcaldine AM

Indigenous Cardiac Outreach Program (ICOP)

Dr Isuru Ranasinghe
24 March – Bedourie AM & Birdsville PM
25 March - Windorah
26 March - Boulia
27 March - Boulia AM

Endocrinology

Dr Anish Menon
31 March - Barcaldine PM



PHONE SUPPORT AVAILABLE

SERVICE	NUMBER	AVAILABILITY	NOTES
Medicare Mental Health	1800 595 212	Mon-Fri, 8:00am-6:00pm (excl. public holidays)	Connects people with mental health support services
Lifeline	13 11 14	24/7	Crisis support and suicide prevention service
Beyond Blue	1300 22 46 36	24/7	Counselling service
13 Yarn	13 92 76	24/7	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800	24/7	For children and young people
MensLine Australia	1300 789 978	24/7	For men seeking support
Suicide Call Back Service	1300 659 467	24/7	Individuals over 15 years of age
headspace	1800 650 890	8:00am - Midnight	For young people aged 12-25
QLife Australia	1800 184 527	3:00pm - Midnight	LGBTQIA+ peer support
Crisis Mental Health Support QLD	000 or 1300 MH CALL (1300 642 255)	24/7	For mental health crises
Open Arms (Veterans & Families)	1800 011 046	24/7	Support for veterans and their families
Nurse and Midwife Support	1800 667 877	24/7	Support service for nurses & midwives
RACGP The GP Support Program	1300 361 008	24/7	Service is available to all RACGP members who are registered medical practitioners across Australia
Bush Support Line	1800 805 391	24/7	Support for current and emerging remote and rural health workforce and their families.
DVConnect Womensline	1800 811 811	24/7	Domestic violence helpline
DVConnect Mensline	1800 010 120	7:30am-11:30pm 7 days	Domestic violence helpline
Multicultural Connect Line	1300 079 020	9:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday	Support for people from multicultural backgrounds

Birdsville Water Cooling Project Update

Diamantina Shire Council would like to provide the community with an update on the Birdsville Water Cooling Project.

Ergon has now successfully completed the required electrical connections — an important milestone in bringing the new system online.

During system testing, several issues were identified that require further investigation and resolution to ensure the system can consistently deliver the appropriate volumes of cooled water to the community.

To ensure continued supply, the existing ('old') cooling system will remain operational while these matters are addressed and further testing is completed.

We understand how important this project is for Birdsville, particularly in managing water temperatures sourced from the Great Artesian Basin. Council is committed to working as quickly as possible with all relevant contractors to resolve these issues and bring the new system fully online.

Thank you to the Birdsville community for your continued patience and understanding.

We will provide another update as soon as further progress is made.



Strengthening Rural Communities – Prepare & Recover



The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Prepare & Recover program supports communities in remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to implement initiatives that **prevent and prepare** for future climate related impacts, or **recover** from existing disasters in the medium to long-term timeframe, generally one to ten years after the disaster. Grants **up to \$25,000** are available for a broad range of initiatives. Priority will be given to projects that:

 Round 28 is now open

Applications close 24 March, 2026 at 5pm VIC time (AEDT)

Info and applications at: frrr.org.au/funding/src-prepare-recover/



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

Natural disaster support for small businesses

If your small or family business has been affected by a disaster, there's information and support services to help you get your business back on track.

Natural disaster resilience and recovery

Find advice and resources to help you:

- respond to, and recover from, a natural disaster
- access financial assistance and other support
- prepare your business for natural disasters.

business.qld.gov.au/disaster

Disaster assistance loans and grants

Queensland businesses impacted during disasters may be eligible for low interest loans or grants to help with recovery. Check QRIDA regularly for updates.

qrida.qld.gov.au/business

Free mentoring for recovery and business support

We can provide your business with support through our Mentoring for Growth program available across Queensland to help your business recover and grow.

business.qld.gov.au/mentoring

Small business wellness coaches

Access support for your mental health and wellbeing when recovering from a natural disaster. Free one-on-one wellness coaching is available to help small and family business owners.

business.qld.gov.au/wellness

Small business financial counselling

Businesses experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship can access free, impartial and confidential support, including cash flow planning, budgeting and insolvency advice.


business.qld.gov.au/financial-counsellors

Contact us:



13 QGOV (13 74 68)
business.qld.gov.au

Follow us:

 @businessqldgov

Department of
Customer Services, Open Data
and Small and Family Business

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government

Disaster Assistance Loans – North Queensland Monsoon Trough, Associated Tropical Cyclone Koji and Severe Weather (Primary Producers)

Disaster Assistance Loans of up to \$2 million are available to assist primary producers affected by the North Queensland Monsoon Trough, Associated Tropical Cyclone Koji and Severe Weather, commencing 24 December 2025

Loan features

Loan amount	Maximum of \$2,000,000
Loan term	Up to 10 years
Interest rate	View the relevant interest rates for disaster events under the 'defined disaster' description below. These are also available on the Interest rate page .
Repayments	If needed, up to two years interest only may be available.
Security	A loan under the scheme must be secured by a mortgage of land and other assets satisfactory to QRIDA.
Fees	No establishment fees, no account maintenance fees and no fees for early payout.



Interest rate: 2.14%

Applications close 31 December 2027

QRIDA administers financial assistance to disaster affected primary producers, businesses and non-profit organisations under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

For more information and to apply visit:

www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/disaster-assistance-loans-north-queensland-monsoon-trough-associated-tropical-cyclone-koji

Central West Queensland

Need some help to get your rural or small business back on track?



It's been a challenging time for rural and small business across the central west – from impacts like flooding, to industry downturn or cost of living pressures adding up.

Tailored, professional, no-cost support is available with qualified Rural and Small Business Financial Counsellors.

Emma Cook and Michelle Tucker are ready to work directly with local business to get back on track and prepare for a strong 2026.

No referral or preparation is needed to make an appointment.

Emma and Michelle can work with you to:

- » understand your financial position
- » understand the benefits and drawbacks of different options to manage financial issues
- » develop budgets and cash flows
- » negotiate with creditors
- » access dispute resolution services
- » understand your rights and access broader professional advice and support
- » access government and community grants, programs or schemes - disaster and non-disaster related.

The Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) has delivered programs to support rural and small business across our region for more than 20 years through the Rural Financial Counselling Service North Queensland (RFCSNQ).

RFCSNQ is funded by the Australian Government, Queensland Government and the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



- Free ✓
- Impartial ✓
- Confidential ✓



Meet your Small Business Financial Counsellor, Michelle Tucker.

Email: michelle@rfcsnq.com.au
Phone: 0492 085 367



Meet your Rural Financial Counsellor, Emma Cook.

Email: emmacook@rfcsnq.com.au
Phone: 0499 755 233

RFCSNQ.COM.AU/WESTERNQLD

Wellness coaches for QLD small businesses

Small Business Wellness Coaches QLD

Wellness coaches are available to help small business owners with unique and personal business challenges, needs and opportunities in a free one-on-one, supportive environment.



Open

Application detail: Apply at any time.

Info and applications at: business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-wellness-coaches-qld



Loans for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander start-ups

Start-Up Finance Package

The Start-up Finance Package provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander start-ups with access to loans to help new businesses get off the ground.



Open

Application detail: Apply at any time.

What do you get?

Finance package of up to \$150,000.

Info and applications at: business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-development-and-assistance-program





Dear Passenger,

New requirements apply to carrying power banks and spare lithium batteries on board Rex aircraft. As your flight is approaching, we're getting in touch to outline what's changing and what it means for how you pack your carry-on items.

THE CHANGES

All Rex passengers must follow the requirements below when travelling with power banks and spare lithium batteries.

Before your flight:

- Pack all power banks and spare lithium batteries in your carry-on luggage only.
- Ensure power banks and spare batteries are switched off, disconnected and protected against accidental activation.
- Adhere to the limits on the number and capacity of batteries and power banks permitted.

In-flight:

- Do not use power banks on board a Rex aircraft at any time.
- Store your carry-on bag containing any power banks or spare batteries under the seat in front of you, or remove the items and keep them in your seat pocket for the duration of the flight.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Power banks and spare lithium batteries must never be placed in checked baggage.



Passengers travelling on board a Rex service are permitted to carry up to the following number of power banks and batteries;

- A maximum of 2 power banks per person is permitted.
- You may carry up to 15 portable electronic devices (e.g. phones, laptops, tablets, cameras).
- You may carry spare batteries in line with the below requirements:

Battery Wh Rating	Quantity Allowed	Notes
Less than 100Wh	Up to 20	Common spare batteries typically used in laptops, tablets, mobile phones and portable gaming consoles.
100Wh – 160Wh	Up to 2	Must be declared at check-in; Rex approval required.
Above 160Wh	Not permitted	Exceptions apply for mobility aids; contact Rex before travel.

WHAT IS PERMITTED ONBOARD


For details on the types of devices and the batteries they contain, please click [here](#).

Only pack items that are produced by reputable manufacturers, clearly labelled and undamaged. Damaged, hot, leaking or swollen batteries are not permitted on board Rex aircraft.

If you would like more information prior to the commencement of your journey, please visit rex.com.au or contact our [Customer Contact Centre](#).

Kind regards,
Rex Airlines

Community Grants Register – March 2026



Program Name	Close Date	Available funding	Objective	Eligible Project Costs
Active Kids Grant	27 March 2026	\$2,200-\$4,500	Eligible community clubs and organisations can apply for equipment and kit that will assist in supporting and encouraging young Australians, aged 20 or under, to improve their physical and mental health by increasing their participation in sport.	Playing or training equipment supplied by HART Sport On-field kit supplied by ISC Sport
Celebrating Reconciliation	10 March 2026	Up to \$2500	Provides small grants to assist in funding community events and activities held during National Reconciliation Week that promote understanding, healing, trust and respectful relationships between Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Queenslanders.	Equipment and venue hire Material relative to theme Talent and entertainment Catering and consumables
Homegrown 2026 Round 1 Destination Signature Events	8 April 2026	\$15,000 - \$40,000	Supports well-established regional events that showcase their destination and attract visitors from outside the local government area. For events held October 2026 to January 2028.	Marketing Program Enhancements Strategic Planning Specialised Support & Infrastructure
Homegrown 2026 Round 1 Destination Significant Events	8 April 2026	\$40,000 - \$100,000	Funds high-performing regional events that drive tourism, economic impact and have a strong track record, attracting overnight visitors from intrastate and interstate. For events held October 2026 to January 2028.	Marketing Program Enhancements Strategic Planning Specialised Support & Infrastructure
Homegrown 2026 Round 1 Destination Kicksarter Event Investment	8 April 2026	Up to \$25,000	Supports development of new events with strong tourism potential. Designed to establish and grow new visitor-attracting events that align with Homegrown objectives. For events held October 2026 to January 2028.	Marketing Program Enhancements Strategic Planning Specialised Support & Infrastructure
Homegrown 2026 Round 1 Destination Indigenous Event	8 April 2026	\$15,000 - \$40,000	Provides one-off strategic investment to elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events or Indigenous content within existing events, enhancing tourism and cultural outcomes. For events held October 2026 to January 2028.	Marketing Program Enhancements Strategic Planning Specialised Support & Infrastructure
FRRR Community Led Climate Solutions (Round 4)	12 March 2026	Up to \$75,000	Supporting Not for Profit organisations across remote, regional and rural Australia to drive local climate solutions that reduce emissions.	Activities, events and programs Community resource development Local climate solutions Capability and capacity building for climate-focused organisations

Closing Soon

Round 2 of Diamantina Shire Council's **Community Grants**

Find out how to apply here

diamantina.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants-and-Funding

Applications close:
Friday 27 March 2026 at 5:00pm

Community Grants Register

Our Community Grants Register is a regularly updated list of external funding opportunities available to local community groups and individuals. It includes a variety of Queensland and national grant programs, organised by application closing date. Ongoing or open-ended grants are listed at the bottom for easy reference.

Council encourages community members to explore these opportunities and offers support with the application process, including assistance with grant writing.

If your group is planning a project and needs help applying for a grant, please contact Paula Brown for guidance at:
Paula.Brown@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

View the Community Grants Register at:
diamantina.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants-and-Funding



Are you under 25 and living in the Diamantina Shire?

You could be eligible for funding through the Bedourie Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) Bursary program.

Who can apply for a grant?
You must be a permanent resident, a community organisation or club within the Diamantina Shire Council (DSC) area, or an individual/group representing the area by performing, competing or presenting at district, state, national or international competitions, conferences or events AND be or be representing individuals or groups under 25 years old.

For more information visit:
diamantina.qld.gov.au/BAC-Bursary-Program



WE ARE HIRING

Join our Infrastructure Services team

- **Building Maintenance Supervisor**
Full-Time
- **Works Manager**
Full-Time



View the Position Descriptions at:
diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Careers/Join-Our-Team

Send Your:

- ✓ Resume
- ✓ Cover Letter
- ✓ Qualifications
- ✓ Tickets & Licences

To Apply:

Send your application to Ally at:

✉ hr@diamantina.qld.gov.au

Closing: 20 March 2026

Diamantina Shire Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Ready to volunteer?

SES are recruiting now!

- ✔ Learn new skills
- ✔ Help your community
- ✔ Be active as part of a team



www.ses.qld.gov.au/join-us



Wanted: SES Volunteers

Our local SES groups in Birdsville and Bedourie are looking for volunteers to help support the community during floods, storms and other emergencies. SES volunteers play an important role in keeping our communities safe and assisting with response and recovery efforts.

If you're community-minded and keen to learn new skills, this is a great way to make a difference locally. Training and support are provided.

To find out more, have a chat with Joel Blyth from the Birdsville SES group on 0418 966 645 for some first-hand information about volunteering with SES.

Learn more: bit.ly/Download-SES-info-pack

Register at: ses.qld.gov.au/form/become-an-ses-member

If you have questions contact Sandie Wallison:
sandie.wallison@ses.qld.gov.au

Join our Talent Community

Census jobs are coming — register now!

The next Census is in August, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics is recruiting thousands of temporary workers to help deliver Australia's largest data collection.

Census data helps governments, businesses and community organisations plan for the future — and you can be part of it while earning some extra income.

For job details and applications visit:
info.census.abs.gov.au/careers

Register your interest now to be notified of upcoming roles.



Census

- ✔ 30,000 Census jobs available
- ✔ Temporary, flexible work close to home
- ✔ Get notified when jobs open

Let the jobs come to you at
census.abs.gov.au/jobs



Council Contacts

Diamantina Shire Council

Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 5 pm

(excluding Public Holidays)

17 Herbert Street

BEDOURIE QLD 4829

P: 07 4746 1600

E: Admin@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Julianne Meier

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

P: 0428 461 202

E: Julianne.Meier@Diamantina.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

Brent Reeman

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

P: 0428 197 177

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

Connect With Us



Like Diamantina Shire Council
on **Facebook**



Follow @diamantinaqld
on **Instagram**



Follow Diamantina Shire Council
on **LinkedIn**



The Birdsville Courthouse Museum celebrates more than a century of policing heritage. Photo of Birdsville Courthouse Circa 1950s shared by Maria Sammon Wheeler.

View the Birdsville Courthouse timeline at:

diamantina.qld.gov.au/Birdsville-Courthouse-Official-Opening

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

Diamantina Shire Council

2026 Meeting Dates

diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings





Sandhills, Birdsville.



Three Lakes, Diamantina.