

SPRING 2026

Desert YARNS

Diamantina Community Newsletter



Simpson
Desert
RACING CARNIVAL





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A bird's-eye view of Birdsville from the Water Tower, beautifully captured by Joel Blyth.

Stay up to date with weather warnings, road closure, power outages, fuel prices, Council social media and more at disaster.diamantina.qld.gov.au



The Simpson Desert Racing Carnival kicked off with the Betoota Races on the weekend.



Message from The Mayor

Hi there to the Diamantina Shire residents and former residents.

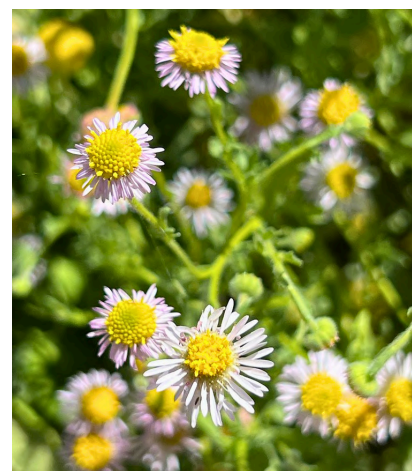
It's great to see a lot more tourists flowing through our patch after what could only be described as a disaster of a tourist season, with floods, rain, the desert closed, road closures, and fuel prices. Diamantina has certainly had some good rain, and I think it's fair to say most of us have never seen this country looking as good as it does now.

On a positive note, our Simpson Desert Racing Carnival kicked off in style last weekend in Betoota. It was a fantastic weekend with perfect weather. It was great to see familiar faces and visitors enjoying the start of our racing season, and it's a credit to the hard work of the club!

Thank you to all the volunteers and Council teams who put in the hard yards to prepare our towns and make our racing carnival events happen each year.



**Mayor
Francis Murray**



Since the last Desert Yarns, I've had a trip away to Brisbane where Michelle and I were invited with other regional Mayors and partners for a state dinner at Government House. This was a real eye-opener for me. It was like nothing I've experienced before. For starters, I now own a tuxedo! There was a lot of ceremony, but it was also very enjoyable, and we got to sample some pretty good Queensland food and wine. I also managed to get a photo standing in front of Lady Diamantina, the wife of Queensland's first Governor and the namesake of our Shire.

During this time away, I was in Adelaide and took the opportunity to meet with MP Geoff Brock, the member for Stuart in South Australia, to discuss the prolonged closure of the Birdsville Track, which is greatly affecting our Shire. While Geoff was very understanding and is doing all he can, unfortunately, the South Australian government doesn't appear to place as much importance on its rural road network as we do in Queensland. It is very disappointing that this road has been closed for nearly 12 months, with no real urgency to address it.

Last month our local member for Gregory, Sean Dillon, came out to Bedourie to open the new residential subdivision of 31 lots which is part of the LNP's Residential Activation Fund. This has created a lot of interest in Bedourie, with around six requests to buy land.

Our CEO, Julianne, Deputy Mayor Watson, and I were in Brisbane last week for a RAPAD meeting and the Western Alliance QLD Council conference. While in Brisbane, we met with State Housing to advocate for more houses.

I'd like to remind everyone of the upcoming Official Opening of the Birdsville Courthouse Museum on 17th and 18th of September, celebrating Birdsville's policing history from 1884-1988. It will be great to see some old faces back in Birdsville for this occasion.

Francis Murray
Diamantina Shire Council Mayor





CEO update



Julianne Meier
Chief Executive Officer

We are in the midst of the Simpson Desert Racing Carnival, with several weekends of racing and entertainment. Following a protracted rainy season, our teams have been busily preparing racetracks and other grounds, and setting up venues to support our clubs.

Council is now in the process of preparing Sale of Land documents for the new Bedourie residential subdivision. The project will open 29 saleable lots in Bedourie, and there has been keen interest from locals in buying land. The Council will soon decide whether to hold an auction or proceed with the tender process. The lots are expected to become available in the next two to three months.



Recently we met with the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) to discuss concerns that some eligible residents may not be represented on the Social Housing Register. The Department has advised us that there is currently no one on the social housing register of need, so they consider there is no identified need for new housing in Diamantina. If there is anyone in the Diamantina Shire that would like to discuss their eligibility for social housing, please reach out as we can put you in touch with the Department to verify your eligibility. Following this verification process, the Department will assess the extent of social housing need within Diamantina Shire, including consideration of future priorities for additional social housing, particularly in Bedourie.

The Federal Government has announced changes to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and there has been significant lobbying by Local Government against these changes. Proposed Federal Government changes to the Disaster Recovery Funding Framework included a shift from a 75/25 cost-sharing arrangement to a flat 50/50 cost-sharing arrangement between the State and Federal Government, and cuts to Betterment funding. Council has made a formal submission to the Federal Government regarding the proposed DRFA changes.

Following the signage audit completed in November 2024, the Shire signage update project has been underway for twelve months. The audit identified a number of signs to be replaced, including:

- Shire boundary Welcome signs
- Town Entry signs
- Desert Channels Flora and Fauna signs
- Burke and Wills signs
- Historical points of interest signs

These signs are an important representation of our Shire, and source of information for travellers.

The addition of the Birdsville Courthouse Timeline to the carpark of the precinct will highlight the central role the Courthouse has played.

Community consultation has been a high priority, with feedback and engagement through a TMR visit to inspect the Cuttaburra crossing, consultation on the proposed Birdsville footpath, event preparation with the community clubs, establishing Birdsville airside camping and the Council road trip engagement.

Council will trial a **Special Event Zone at the Birdsville Airport** for the Birdsville Races 2026 as an alternative to underwing camping. The purpose is to allow Council to repurpose some of its airport land as a temporary campsite to try to reinvigorate the declining self-fly market. Up until 2019, aside from the races, underwing camping was the main attraction luring general aviation to the event. Due to the impact of COVID and rising costs of facilitating underwing camping, Council decided to suspend camping in 2020.

The intent this year is to test the waters to determine if there is still an appetite for airside camping during the Races at Birdsville. This year is proposed as a soft start, with no designated marketing campaign, relying primarily on word of mouth. If it generates enough interest, Council will consider applying for funding to move the permanent fence and re-gazette the airside boundary permanently for future years. This will then allow Council to formalise this Birdsville Base Camp concept and advertise it accordingly.



**Image created for illustration purposes only and does not show the actual positioning of the Betoota Welcome sign.*

Then and



Birdsville Courthouse, circa 1950s, shared with thanks to former Courthouse resident Maria Sammon Wheeler.

Now!



In 2021, the Birdsville Courthouse Complex was transferred from the Queensland Police Service to Diamantina Shire Council. This has allowed Council to preserve the site's important history and develop it as a visitor attraction celebrating policing in Queensland's far south-west.

The complex's official opening in September will recognise the transfer and commemorate more than a century of policing in the region, from 1884 to 1988.

Council invites current and former residents—particularly those who remember when the Courthouse operated as the Birdsville Police Station—to join us in sharing stories and reminiscing about earlier times. Special guests will also reflect on policing and community life during the mid-20th century.

A welcome event will be held on Thursday, 17 September 2026, followed by the official opening at 9.30am on Friday, 18 September 2026.

Everyone is welcome, including residents, former residents and visitors. Please see the invitation on the following page for further details.



Eyre Creek, Bedourie

Council has now established Family Day Care services in both Bedourie and Birdsville. This has been a long time in the planning, and Council has provided free housing to attract the applicants. The program is supported by Uniting Care Charleville. Under the Works for Queensland, Council carried out minor upgrade works to ensure the houses were compliant and ready for use.

Our Shire is certainly glowing with life following the longer period of wet weather, and it is an ideal time to travel to the region. If you are travelling to our region, take care on the roads.

Julianne

Diamantina Shire Council CEO

You are Invited to the
— Official Opening —
Birdsville Courthouse

Celebrating Birdsville's
Policing History 1884–1988

Join Diamantina Shire Council for the official opening of the Birdsville Courthouse Police Complex and Aboriginal Tracker's Hut Museum. This special event highlights more than a century of policing heritage and honours the people and stories that shaped the region.

Welcome Event

 5:00pm · Thursday 17 September 2026

 Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre Gallery
29 Burt Street, Birdsville

Feature Exhibition: Birdsville – The Black Book
Based on the 1977 publication Birdsville by
Frances Gage McGinn



Official Opening

 9:30am · Friday 18 September 2026

 Birdsville Courthouse Police Complex
and Aboriginal Tracker's Hut
21 McDonald Street, Birdsville

RSVP & Further Information

Please RSVP by Wednesday, 9 September 2026
Email: info@diamantina.qld.gov.au
Phone: 07 4564 2000

Everyone Welcome



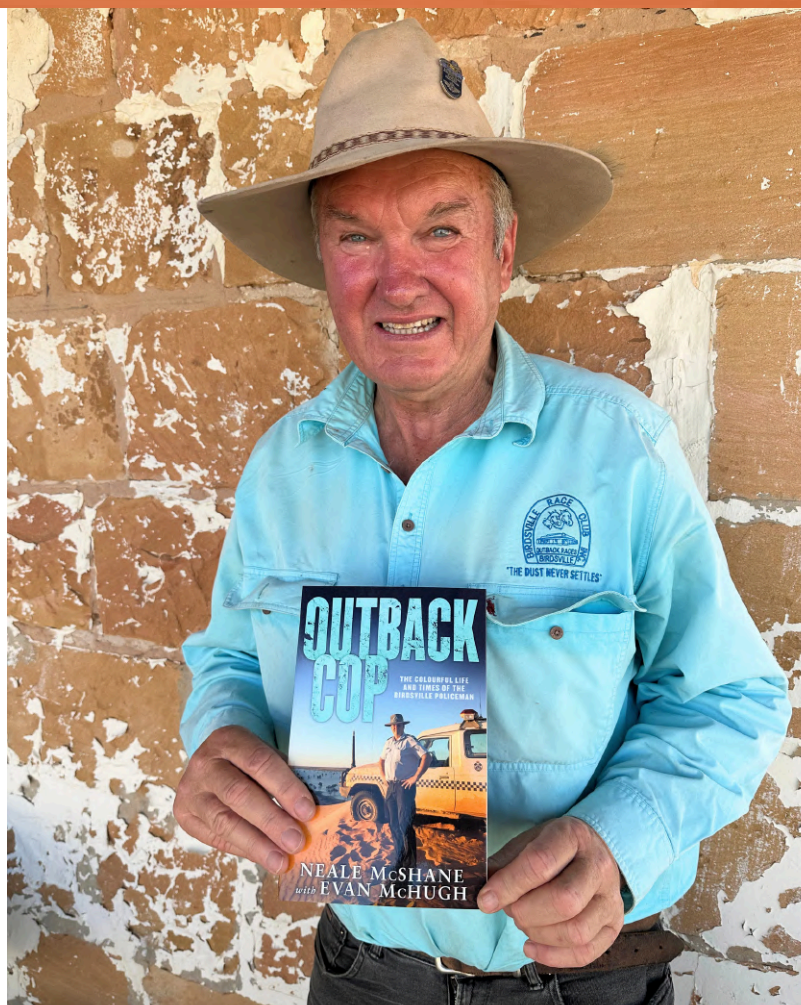
Meeting the 'Outback Cop' - Author talk at Birdsville Courthouse

Around 40 people joined us at the Birdsville Courthouse on Races Wednesday for a special meet-the-author session with 'Outback Cop' author Neale McShane.

Neale is a former Queensland police officer who served in Birdsville, giving him a unique connection to the town and the remote communities of the outback. His book *Outback Cop* shares stories from his policing career, including the challenges, characters and memorable experiences that came with serving in some of Queensland's most isolated locations.

During the afternoon, Neale shared stories from his time in Birdsville, read from his book and answered questions from the audience.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made the event such an enjoyable part of Birdsville Races week.





Bedourie Subdivision Officially Opened

Diamantina Shire Council celebrated the official opening of the new Bedourie Subdivision on Monday, 20 July 2026.

This is the first new residential subdivision in Bedourie in more than 30 years, marking an important milestone for the community.

The subdivision includes more than 30 new residential blocks, supporting future housing opportunities and the long-term growth of Bedourie. The blocks will be released to the market in the near future.

Mayor Francis Murray and Councillors were joined at the opening by Sean Dillon MP, Assistant Minister for Primary Industry Development, Water and Western Queensland, Brendan Smith from North QLD Civil and Estimating Services, Stuart Bourne from GBA Consulting, Council's Executive Leadership Team, and staff.

Council thanks everyone involved in bringing this important project to completion.

Proudly funded by the Queensland Government's Residential Activation Fund.

View more photos and the cutting of the ribbon at:
diamantina.qld.gov.au/News/Latest-News/



Ringers Ride for a Cure

The Ringers Ride for a Cure returned to Birdsville following an incredible journey through Queensland's Channel Country, raising funds and awareness for two very important causes.

Organised by the Birdsville Social Club, the 2026 ride saw the ringers travel on horseback from Cooper Creek at Windorah to the Diamantina River at Birdsville from 13–24 July.

Along the way, the riders were supported by communities, businesses and generous donors, all helping to raise funds for Childhood Cancer Support and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The ride is a wonderful example of the generosity and community spirit that is so strong across the Outback, bringing people together while supporting organisations that make a very real difference to families and remote communities.

Congratulations to the riders, support crew and Birdsville Social Club on another memorable Ringers Ride for a Cure, and thank you to everyone who donated or supported the journey along the way.

To make a donation, visit the fundraising pages:

- Childhood Cancer Support -
<https://fundraise.ccs.org.au/fundraisers/amberwortley>
- Royal Flying Doctors -
<https://www.doyourthing.org.au/fundraisers/amberwortley>



Photos by Travelling Jewel Photography – Sam Watkins.



To see more photos from their adventure, visit the **Ringers Ride for a Cure Facebook page**.

The future of rodeo in the Diamantina!

The Mini Bull Riders were showing plenty of courage, skill and determination at the Betoota Rodeo last weekend!

It's great to see the next generation getting amongst the action and keeping the rodeo spirit alive in the Outback.



View more rodeo pics on the [Betoota Race Club Inc. Facebook page](#).

WHAT'S ON IN THE DIAMANTINA

Simpson Desert Racing Carnival

28 August - 12 September

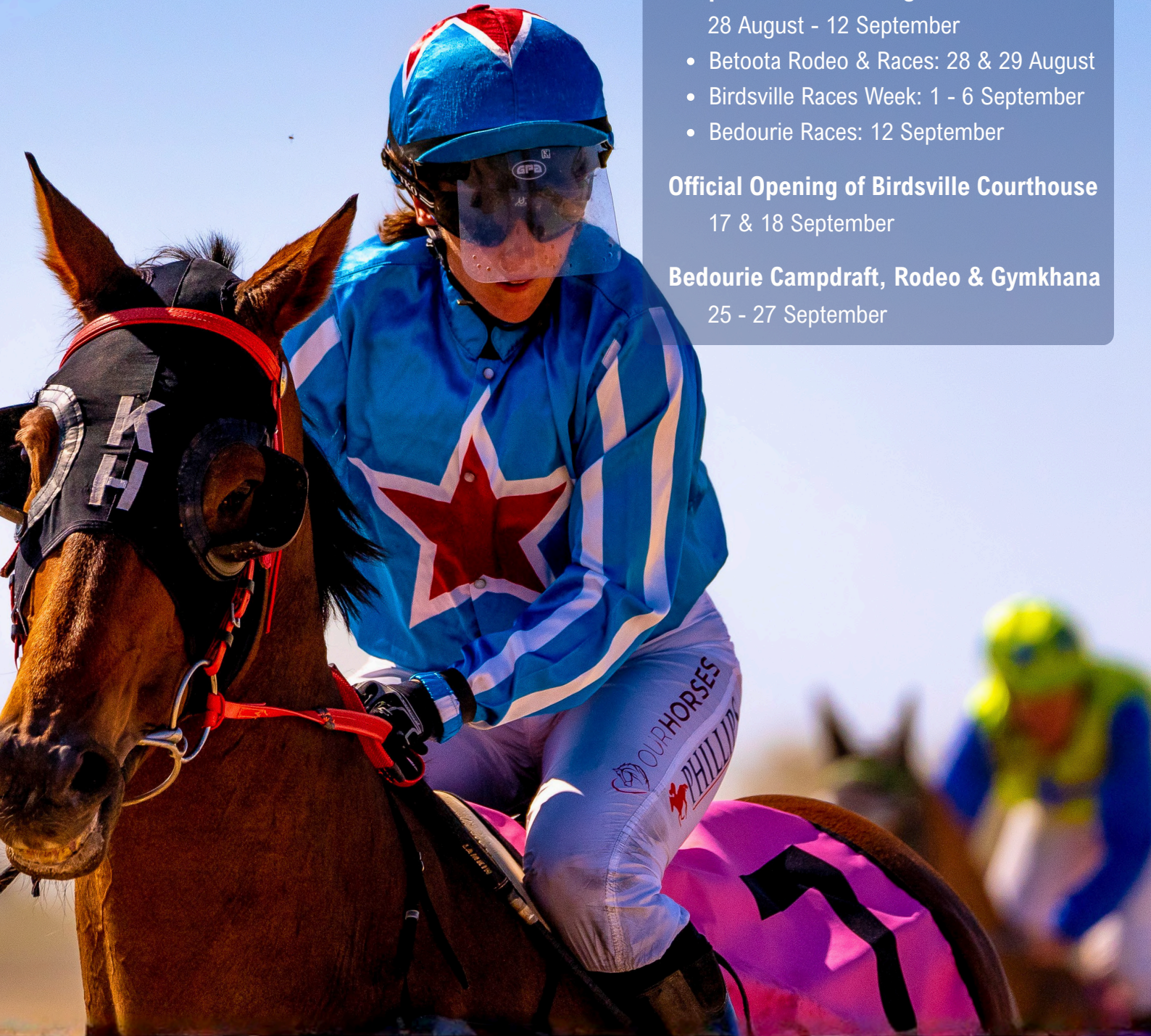
- Betoota Rodeo & Races: 28 & 29 August
- Birdsville Races Week: 1 - 6 September
- Bedourie Races: 12 September

Official Opening of Birdsville Courthouse

17 & 18 September

Bedourie Campdraft, Rodeo & Gymkhana

25 - 27 September



www.thediamantina.com.au/Whats-On



1 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

BIRDSVILLE RACES TOWN CELEBRATIONS – 2026 PROGRAM

MUSIC
FAMILY FUN
MARKETS
CAMPING
& MORE!

DAILY

9:00am – 4:00pm
Daily Tours of the Old Birdsville Hospital
Adelaide Street

Various Hours
Merch, Markets & Street Food
Outside Wirrarri Centre, Burt Street

10:00am – 4:00pm
Birdsville Courthouse Experience
Bookings at Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre

8.30am – 4.30pm (Sunday closes 2.30pm)
Birdsville - The Black Book Exhibition
Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre, Burt Street

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPT

10:00am – 4:00pm
Birdsville Races Merchandise Open
Town Square, Burt Street

2:00pm
Meet the Author with Neale McShane
Birdsville Courthouse, MacDonald Street



THURSDAY 3 SEPT

8:30am
RFDS Fun Run Commences
At the entrance of Birdsville Tourist Park
Register online at birdsvilleraces.com

10:00am – 4:00pm
Birdsville Races Merchandise Open
Town Square, Burt Street

10:00am – 4:00pm
Experience Birdsville Courthouse
Bookings at Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre

12:00pm
Birdsville Whip Cracking Competition
Market Area, Burt Street

2:00pm
Birdsville Horseshoe Toss
Market Area, Burt Street

From 3:30pm
Birdsville Cup Parade
Wirrarri Information Centre to Birdsville Hotel

5:00pm - 10.30pm
Live Music at Birdsville Hotel
Ft. Mick Lindsay | Craig Phillips | Sam Varga (USA)
Beer Garden - Free entry

5:40pm
RFDS Birdsville Races Gala Shuttle Bus Commences
Second departure at 6pm. Gala ticket holders only

6:00pm
RFDS Birdsville Races Gala
Ticketed event at the Track Marquee

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 4 & 5 SEPT

From 9:30am
Race Day Calcutta
Ticket sales open in front of the Birdsville Hotel
Draw and auction at 10:45am

10:45am
Shuttle Bus Day Service Starts
'Express and 'All Stops' Shuttles run continuously throughout the day until 10pm

11:00am
Gates Open
Birdsville Race Course

5:00pm - 10.30pm
Live Music at Birdsville Hotel
Ft. Mick Lindsay | Craig Phillips | Riley Young | Sam Varga (USA)
Beer Garden - Free entry

10:00pm - Midnight
Late Bus Service: Hotel to Town Common
Every half hour
Courtesy of the Birdsville Hotel

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

10:00am
Church Service at the Old Birdsville Hospital
Adelaide Street — BYO chair

From 1:00pm
Live Music at the Birdsville Hotel
Beer Garden - Free entry

thediamantina.com.au

Scan me



Welcome to
BIRDSVILLE



WIRRARRI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
Open Monday to Saturday 8.30am - 4.30pm Sunday 8.30am - 2.30pm
Call 07 4564 2000 thediamantina.com.au #DiscoverDiamantina





THE BIRDSVILLE HOTEL
EST. 1884

ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

Mick Lindsay | Craig Phillips |
Riley Young | Sam Varga (USA)

LIVE MUSIC FROM 3-5 SEPTEMBER

BIRDSVILLE RACES

BIRDSVILLE WHIP CRACKING COMPETITION

12PM THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026

LOCATION: VENDOR AREA, BURT STREET

WHIPS AND EYE SAFETY GLASSES PROVIDED.

TARGET WHIP CRACKING + TRICK/FREESTYLE

Prizes:
Local Birdsville Business Vouchers + 3099 Jerky

Judge: Peter Nunn
Clifton Hills Station Manager

3099 JERKY

The Diamantina
Where the Desert meets the Channel Country

Come along and show us your best crack!

BIRDSVILLE HORSESHOE Toss

2PM THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

LOCATION: VENDOR AREA, BURT STREET

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Throw 5 horse shoes. Land the shoe as close to the stake as possible or wrap it around the stake to score points. Throws must be underhand. Highest points win.

Ringer (3 points) A horseshoe that lands encircling the stake
Closest Shoe (1 point) Shoe that lands closer than 15cm to stake
Leaner (1 point) A shoe leaning against the stake



FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER AKUBRA BIG RED RACE DAY

9:00AM - 4:00PM

Daily Tours of the Old Birdsville Hospital
Adelaide Street

9:30AM - 11:00AM

Race Day Calcutta
Birdsville Hotel

10:00AM - 4:00PM

Experience Birdsville Courthouse

10:45

Race Day Calcutta
Ticket sales commence at 9:30am, Birdsville Hotel

From 10:45

Shuttle Bus Day Service Starts

11:00AM

Gates Open to the Birdsville Racecourse

11:00AM - 5:00PM

Merchandise Open
Birdsville Racecourse

11:00AM - 1:00PM

Fashions on the Field Nominations Open

12:00PM - 4:30pm

OBE Pavilion Opening Hours

1:15PM

Welcome to Country
Finish Line

1:34PM

Racing commences
Birdsville Racecourse

From 1:40PM

Novelty Fashions on the Field Heats and Finals

4:42PM

Akubra Big Red Race (Feature Race)

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER TAB BIRDSVILLE CUP DAY

9:00AM - 4:00PM

Daily Tours of the Old Birdsville Hospital
Adelaide Street

10:00AM - 4:00PM

Experience Birdsville Courthouse

10:30AM

Shuttle Bus Service Starts

10:45AM

Calcutta (Birdsville Cup)
Birdsville Hotel - Ticket sales commence at 9:30am

11:00AM

Gates Open to the Birdsville Racecourse

11:00AM - 5:00PM

Merchandise Open
Birdsville Racecourse

12:00PM - 4:30PM

OBE Pavilion
Opening Hours

1:02PM

Racing Commences
Birdsville Racecourse

From 1:15PM

Fashions on the Field
Heats and Finals

3:59PM

TAB Birdsville Cup (Feature Race)

From 5:00PM

Live Music
Birdsville Hotel

7:00PM - 1:00AM

Shuttle Bus Service Continues

**BIRDSVILLE
RACES**



birdsvilleraces.com

BEDDOURIE Races 2026

SATURDAY 12TH OF SEPTEMBER

GATES OPEN
@ 10 am



5 RACES
from 1:00 pm



Ticket fee per person

\$50

Kids 12 & under FREE!



Shuttle
Bus



Music
till late



Market
Stalls



Food &
Bar



Free
Camping



Fashions on
the Field



Best dressed
in pink

Get your
tickets here



Back to School Celebration

Join Us for a Day of Culture, Community, and Connection!

Join Us at Birdsville State Primary School

 **Date:** 17th September

 **Time:** 9:30 AM

Program Highlights:

- Join Us for a Day of Culture, Community and Connection
- Enjoy a presentation by the kids—encore creativity and musicality.
- Experience Elders sharing their memories of the Birdsville State School.
- Munch on some tasty tucker!





"BACK TO SCHOOL" DISCO

Dance the Night Away with
all your friends!

September 17 2026

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Birdsville Town Hall

Sausage Sizzle provided
by Birdsville Playgroup

Bring a plate to share to help make
this event special



— Official Opening — Birdsville Courthouse



*Celebrating Birdsville's
Policing History 1884–1988*

17 & 18 September 2026

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

Kids Corner

A Taste of Fun at Little Reds Playgroup!

We've had lots of fun in the kitchen at Little Reds Playgroup lately! The children have been busy baking delicious cakes and cupcakes, as well as making their very own mini pizzas using our **new air fryer oven**.

The kids absolutely loved getting involved in the whole process, mixing, decorating, choosing their toppings and, of course, enjoying the yummy results!

Cooking and baking are such great ways for our little ones to learn through play while developing their confidence, independence, fine motor skills, and ability to follow simple instructions. There were plenty of smiles, excitement and proud little faces as everyone enjoyed seeing their creations come to life.

We can't wait to see what delicious creations we come up with next!

Khalli @ Birdsville Playgroup
Wednesday 19 August 26



Back to School Disco

Birdsville families are invited to a special night of Back-to-School Fun! Come along to the Disco at the Birdsville Town Hall on Thursday 17 September and dance the night away with friends.

- 6:30pm–8:30pm
- Thursday 17 September
- Birdsville Town Hall

Enjoy a sausage sizzle provided by Birdsville Playgroup and bring a plate to share.

Let's get together, have some fun and celebrate being back at school!





Diamantina Shire Playgroup

Birdsville Play Program

SEPT 2026

Monday 8.30am - 12pm	Tuesday 8.30am - 12pm	Wednesday 8.30am - 12pm	Thursday 8.30am - 12pm
31	1	2	3
← PLAYGROUP CLOSED →			
7	8	9	10
← PLAYGROUP CLOSED →			
14 Finger Painting	15 Bubble Rainbow	16 Bi-Carb and Vinegar Activity	17 Father's Day Activity Night: DISCO*
21 Foam Dough	22 Ice Cream Sensory Bag	23 Rain Cloud Jar Play	24 Free Play



**Thursday 17 Sept – Back to School Disco
6:30pm–8:30pm, Birdsville Town Hall.
Dance, sausage sizzle and family fun. Bring a plate to share.*



Birdsville Playgroup

Birdsville Community Hall
61 Adelaide St, Birdsville
P: 0438 470 615
E: Khalli.Rowlands@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

*Please note: Program subject to change.
Follow Diamantina Shire Council on Facebook for updates: fb.me/DiamantinaShireCouncil

Funded by





Diamantina Shire Playgroup

Bedourie Play Program

SEPT 2026

#1

DAD

Tuesday
8.30am -12pm

Wednesday
8.30am -12pm

Thursday
8.30am -12pm

Friday
8.30am -12pm

1 Father's
Day Craft

2 Father's
Day Craft

3 Father's
Day Craft

4 Father's
Day Craft

8
Birdie Tree
Program at BSS

9
Bedourie
Races Craft

10.
R U
OK Day

11
Obstacle
Course

15
Dance
Party

16 Outback
Patrol Puppet
Show at BSS

17
Playdough
Magic

18
Spring Themed
Sensory Boards

22
Musical
Chairs

23
Teddy Bear's
Picnic

24
Fairy Bread
Creations

25
Egg Carton
Jellyfish

29
Paper Plate
Chickens

30
Reading
Corner



Bedourie Playgroup

Bedourie Community Centre
18 Herbert St, Bedourie
P: 07 4746 1600
E: Danisha.Brown@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

*Please note: Program subject to change.
Follow Diamantina Shire Council on Facebook for updates:
fb.me/DiamantinaShireCouncil

Funded by



TALK READ SING PLAY

First 5 Forever – Free Family Sessions

Families with young children are invited to join our free First 5 Forever sessions in Birdsville and Bedourie. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and activities in a relaxed setting, while connecting with other local families. Parents, grandparents and carers are all welcome – come along and join the fun!

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



Birdsville First Five Forever

with *Khalli*

 Third Thursday of each month

 9:00am - 9:30am

 Birdsville Community Hall, 61 Adelaide St

 Khalli.Rowlands@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Bedourie First Five Forever

with *Danisha*

 Every Monday

 10.30am - 11:30am

 Bedourie Community Centre, 18 Herbert St

 Danisha.Brown@Diamantina.qld.gov.au



Open In
BIRDSVILLE

PROVIDING A
**SAFE & NURTURING
ENVIRONMENT**

Where little ones feel secure, supported
and free to *grow*.



SAFE
A secure, child-friendly
space for peace of mind.



NURTURING
Caring routines and
gentle guidance every day.



GROWTH
Encouraging curiosity,
confidence and independence.



FAMILY FOCUSED
Strong partnerships with
families and open communication.



A PLACE TO
belong.
A PLACE TO
thrive.



**Uniting
Early Learning**

chvfdc.office@unitingeducation.com.au

 **0438782712**

Get in touch to learn more
or arrange a visit!

CERTIFIED & SUPPORTED  QUALITY CARE YOU CAN TRUST  STRONG COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 

EXCITING NEWS
FOR
BEDOURIE

**FAMILY DAY CARE
NOW OPEN
IN BEDOURIE!**

A warm, nurturing,
home-based care
environment for your child

-  Small group setting
-  Play-based learning
experiences
-  Flexible and personalised care
-  Supporting children's
learning, development
and wellbeing
-  Caring, inclusive, and
family-focused environment

JOIN US FOR A
STAY AND PLAY
SESSION TO MEET THE EDUCATOR,
EXPLORE THE ENVIRONMENT,
AND LEARN MORE ABOUT
FAMILY DAY CARE.

CONTACT **Susan**

 **0417 605 489**

 CHVFD.C.Office@unitingeducation.com.au

Please send your **Expression of Interest** today!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING LOCAL FAMILIES
AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO LEARN, PLAY,
AND GROW IN A SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT.



**Uniting
Early Learning**

QUALITY CARE YOU CAN TRUST
Strong community connections



Birdsville State School

From the Principal

It has certainly been a busy few months at Birdsville State School! Although we may be a small and very remote school, there is always plenty happening. From sporting trips and special visitors to professional learning, cultural celebrations and some exciting new partnerships, our students continue to benefit from the many opportunities that come from being part of both our local community and the wider education community.

Visitors to our school

We recently welcomed Flying Chaplain Steven, who spent an afternoon getting to know the children and joining in with school activities. School chaplains are an important part of the wider wellbeing team available to support our students, staff and families. In remote communities particularly, these connections and additional friendly faces are very valuable, and we appreciated Steven taking the time to visit us.

We have also had several Department of Education teams visiting the school behind the scenes. Our cleaning audit team visited to review the cleaning and grounds requirements of our school. These visits help ensure that the staffing hours allocated for cleaning and grounds maintenance accurately reflect the needs of our site. They also provide opportunities for training, advice and support for the staff who help keep our school looking its best.

Megan and Peter from Safety and Facilities also spent time inspecting our buildings and grounds. Maintaining



school facilities in a remote environment presents some unique challenges. These specialist visits help us understand how our buildings and infrastructure are ageing, identify maintenance priorities and plan ahead for future repairs and upgrades. This work may not always be very visible, but it is an important part of keeping our school safe, functional and welcoming for our students and community.

We have also been very fortunate to have Miss Ham and Mr Campbell spend time at Birdsville State School as District Relief Teachers. District Relief Teachers provide invaluable support to small and remote schools by covering staff leave, professional development and meetings. Having skilled and enthusiastic teachers available means our students can continue their learning with minimal disruption. We are very grateful to have such wonderful teachers willing to travel to and work in our remote schools.

Getting together with our Outback Advantage friends

One of the highlights of being part of a remote school is the opportunity to come together with students from other small schools through our Outback Advantage (OAA) Cluster.

During Term 2, students attended the Windorah Sports Camp, which provided opportunities to learn new skills, participate in sporting activities, and, importantly, spend time with other children from across our remote schools. These cluster activities are an important part of supporting education in geographically isolated communities. They allow students to build friendships, develop confidence, and enjoy experiences that can be difficult for very small schools to provide on their own.

We also travelled to the Bedourie Sports Day, which was once again wonderful. Our thanks go to the Bedourie State School staff and P&C for their hospitality and all the work involved in organising the event. It is always a fun day and a wonderful opportunity for our students, staff and families to catch up with friends from across the region.

Events like these remind us that although our schools may be separated by many kilometres, we are very much part of a connected outback school community.



Celebrating NAIDOC

Week 1 saw Birdsville State School host our own NAIDOC celebration for students, families and members of our school community. It was wonderful to have people come together to celebrate and learn through stories, art, activities and shared experiences.

In Week 5, we were delighted to welcome the Queensland Health Central West Team, who chose Birdsville State School as the location for one of their NAIDOC activities. The visit was very successful and provided another opportunity for our students and community to engage with visitors, participate in activities and access useful health information and resources.

We greatly appreciate the organisations and individuals who make the effort to include Birdsville in outreach programs. Distance should never be a barrier to our students and community accessing opportunities, information and services.



Rocking with Elvis and the Min Mins

Our mates Elvis and the Min Mins popped in to help us write our own school song and record it as we performed for families! We are lucky to have opportunities to do such amazing things.

Looking towards a Brighter Future

In Week 5, Mrs Tilney attended the Director-General's Business Day and a Central Queensland Regional Day, joining principals and education leaders from across Central Queensland.

These days provided valuable opportunities to hear about the future direction of Queensland state education, share ideas with other school leaders and consider what the Department's priorities mean for our own school and community.

A significant focus was the Department of Education's new Brighter futures: Delivering excellence in every state school, for every student education strategy. The strategy places a strong emphasis on two areas – educational achievement and belonging and engagement – and recognises that schools need to know and respond to the individual needs of their students. It also highlights the importance of strong local decision-making, confident and professional staff, innovation and partnerships between schools and their communities.

For a small school such as Birdsville, these priorities are particularly meaningful. Our size allows us to know our students and families extremely well, respond to individual learning needs and look for creative ways to connect our children with opportunities well beyond our geographical location.

Community members interested in learning more can read the Department's Brighter Futures strategy here: [Brighter futures – Queensland Department of Education](#)



Back to School Community Event

– 17 September

We have another very special event to look forward to next month. To coincide with the Courthouse opening, Birdsville State School will welcome past and present community members to a Back to School Celebration on Thursday 17 September.

We would love to hear the stories and memories of people who have connections with our school. We can't wait to hear from our First Nations community members, some of whom have not been here for a very long time. Schools are much more than buildings – they hold generations of stories about the children, families, teachers and community members who have passed through their doors. This will be an opportunity to share some of those memories while enjoying art, food and activities together during the day led by our Elders and community.

We thank everyone who is already contributing ideas, time and support to the planning of this celebration and look forward to sharing more details soon.

Birdsville goes global!

Perhaps one of our most exciting upcoming opportunities is a new connection that will take Birdsville State School from our little corner of the Channel Country to an international community of storytellers.

Birdsville State School is beginning work with Cùra Guardian and the Heartstone Global Story Circle, an international initiative that connects people and communities through stories about culture, heritage, history and the natural environment. Cùra Guardian works with cultural partners and communities in different parts of the world, including Indigenous communities, using storytelling as a way of sharing knowledge and exploring our connections with place and the environment.

Through this partnership, our school will have an opportunity to contribute important First Nations stories with a focus on culture, language, Country and the environment, while also hearing stories and perspectives from communities in other parts of the world.

We are incredibly excited that Birdsville State School will be the first Australian school to become involved in this international group.

For our students, this represents a remarkable opportunity: children attending one of Australia's most geographically isolated schools will be able to share stories from our part of the world with children and communities thousands of kilometres away.

The project is a wonderful example of how technology can overcome distance while allowing us to celebrate what makes our own place, culture and community unique.

We are particularly grateful to Don Rowlands for making the connection and opening the door to this wonderful opportunity for our school. We look forward to welcoming Cùra Guardian and the Heartstone Odyssey Story Circle as part of our September celebrations and to seeing where this international partnership takes our students in the future.

Small school. Big opportunities. Exciting times ahead at Birdsville State School!

Kind regards

Nita Tilney | Principal
Birdsville State School



Follow Birdsville State School **on Facebook**
[birdsvilles.eq.edu.au](https://www.facebook.com/birdsvilles.eq.edu.au)



Bush Chaplain VISIT!



**Frontier
Services**
Standing with
people in the bush

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH

AT BEDOURIE STATE SCHOOL

Bush Chaplain Jennie Feldmeier

from Frontier Services

will be visiting Bedourie State School to
deliver the



Birdie's Tree helps
children and families
emotionally prepare
for and recover from
natural disasters.

It also helps children
increase their
emotional resilience
so they can cope
better with stressful
or disruptive events.



**LEARNING &
EMOTIONAL WELLBEING**



**PLUS FUN GAMES,
ARTS & CRAFTS!**



Evening Church Service

Everyone of faith in the Bedourie
and surrounding community
is warmly invited to attend.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH



5:30PM – 6:30PM



AT BEDOURIE STATE SCHOOL

**SMOKO
AVAILABLE**

From 4:30PM



Come along,
enjoy a cuppa
and unwind
before the
service.

♥ *Caring for our community – in good times and challenging times.*

ALL WELCOME! *We look forward to seeing you there!* ♥



JOIN OUR TEAM AT BEDOURIE STATE SCHOOL



Kindy Teacher / Teacher Aide – Combined Position



Bedourie State School is seeking a caring, enthusiastic and reliable person to join our team in a combined Kindy Teacher / Teacher Aide position.

The successful applicant will help create a safe, positive and engaging learning environment while supporting the educational and developmental needs of our young students.



We are looking for someone who:

- Enjoys working with young children
- Is patient, organised and dependable
- Can work well as part of a supportive school team
- Communicates positively with students, families and staff
- Holds the required qualifications

Requirements:

- Current Queensland Blue Card
- Consent to a criminal history check



Position details:

 Employment type: Part-time for the remainder of 2026, with the possibility of increased hours in 2027

 Hours: Currently 3 days per week / 21 Hours a week including ADO

 Commencement date: 6th October 2026

How to apply:



Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your experience and interest in the position.

Applications can be emailed to:
dcari3@eq.edu.au
or
eclar353@eq.edu.au

For further information, please contact Danielle Carige on 0436 652 772.



Applications close: 11th September 2026

Come and be part of our welcoming school community and help our youngest learners grow, learn and thrive!



**GROWING
SAFE
GROWING
STRONG**

STRONG FAMILIES, SAFE CHILDREN, STRONG COMMUNITIES

QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION WEEK –
PROTECTING CHILDREN IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

BOULIA

JOIN US FOR A
WEEK OF FUN,
CONNECTION,
LEARNING AND
WELLBEING!

7TH – 11TH SEPT 2026

MONDAY

9:30am – 11:45am
Playgroup session!
@ The Shed




TUESDAY

9:30am – 11:30am
Services & Community
Meet & Greet BBQ Brunch
@ The Shed

2:30pm – 4pm
Family Mindfulness session
with BushKids
with smoko and
park play afterwards!
@ The Hall



WEDNESDAY

2pm – 3:45pm
Emergency Service
Vehicle display,
meet & greet and
crown making activity!
@ The Shed



THURSDAY

11:30am
Community BBQ
lunch outside
the library

2pm – 3:45pm
Obstacle Course Fun
@ the Sports Centre



FRIDAY

2:30pm – 4pm
Superhero dressup
disco with
afternoon tea!
@ The Hall



**FREE
EVENTS!**

**FREE CHILDREN'S BOOKS, FAMILY RESOURCES
AND CHILD SAFETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT THE WEEK!**

**COME ALONG, CONNECT AND HELP
KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE, STRONG AND SUPPORTED!**



**EVERY CHILD.
EVERY FAMILY.
EVERYONE'S
BUSINESS!**

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A SAFE, STRONG AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY.














“

Education shouldn't depend on your postcode



CUC RAPAD Central West Queensland is part of the national Country Universities Centre network, supporting students across the Central West to access and succeed in higher education, close to home.

Through our regional study hubs, dedicated staff, and strong community partnerships, we work to remove barriers to tertiary education and create supported pathways for students of all ages and backgrounds.

To learn more about who we are and how we support our communities, visit the links below.

Bedourie CUC - cucrapadcwq.edu.au/bedourie

Birdsville CUC - cucrapadcwq.edu.au/birdsville

Register at: cucrapadcwq.edu.au

Have you captured aviation at its best?

Enter **Flight Safety Australia's** competition and your image could feature on a future issue of Flight Safety Australia magazine.

We are looking for photographs that capture one or several aviation themes to add to our image library:

- aircraft in flight
- people of aviation
- vintage and historic aviation
- sport and recreational aviation
- hangar and maintenance operations
- aviation in the Australian landscape
- drone perspectives.

Show us what aviation looks like through your lens.

Over \$3,500 in prizes to be won!

It is free to enter this competition. There is a limit of 3 entries per person.

Competition closes at 11:59 pm (AEST) Friday, 11 September 2026.



Image credit: Michael Zupanc, 2024 runner-up (edited).

Submit your photos at: consultation.casa.gov.au/stakeholder-engagement-group/aviation-through-the-lens/

Health Matters

Birdsville Water Supply

Birdsville's drinking water contains naturally occurring fluoride at a level slightly above the recommended guideline.

The water remains safe for normal use. However, parents and carers of young children may wish to use bottled water for drinking and preparing infant formula.

For further information, please read the Queensland Government information on the following page or download the fact sheet on Council's website at:

diamantina.qld.gov.au/Services/Water



SNAKE SAFETY

KING BROWN SNAKES HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN THE AREA

Please keep a look out and do not attempt to handle snakes.

 IF YOU SEE A SNAKE	 IF SOMEONE IS BITTEN
- Stay calm and keep well away - Do not touch, catch or try to move it - Keep children and pets away - Report to Council	- Call 000 immediately - Keep the person still and calm - Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage - Do not wash the bite area

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 000.



Register your interest for visiting Dental Services in Bedourie

Public patients and fee-paying patients can access dental services

To be eligible for publicly funded oral health care, you must:

- hold a current concession card or be a dependent of a concession card holder
- be a child aged 0-5 years, or attend school

To access the service as a private patient (fee paying patient)

- Payment must be made in full on the day of the treatment
- Not all services will be available (e.g. crown, bridge and dentures)

Call Central West Oral Health Services - 4650 4077



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



Naturally occurring fluoride in Birdsville's drinking water

Fluoride is a natural mineral found in water, soil, plants, rocks, air and some foods. It helps protect our teeth from decay, and drinking water with small amounts of fluoride can reduce tooth decay for people of all ages.

What is the drinking water standard for fluoride?

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines recommend a maximum of 1.5 milligrams per litre (mg/L) of fluoride in drinking water.

To picture this, it's about the same as one twentieth of a teaspoon of fluoride in a whole bathtub of water.

Many towns in Western Queensland use groundwater from bores, and these sources can naturally contain higher levels of fluoride.

Testing shows that Birdsville's drinking water contains about 1.7 mg/L of naturally occurring fluoride – slightly above the recommended limit.

Most standard water treatment processes and household water filters do not remove fluoride.

What are the risks of elevated levels of fluoride in drinking water?

Side effects associated with elevated levels of fluoride in drinking water include:

- dental fluorosis (the most common)
- skeletal fluorosis (very rare and only seen with extremely high fluoride levels).

What is dental fluorosis?

Dental fluorosis affects the appearance of developing teeth. It's mostly a cosmetic issue, not a disease. It usually appears as faint lines or streaks on the enamel. In rare, more severe cases, there may be pitting or brown staining of the enamel. Dental fluorosis can occur when children consume too much fluoride while their teeth are still forming – generally up to about 6 to 8 years of age. Teeth that have already erupted are not at risk. The chance of fluorosis increases as fluoride levels rise, although it can occasionally occur even at lower levels. Bathing or showering in water with higher fluoride levels does not cause fluorosis.

How to reduce the risk of dental fluorosis?

If your drinking water contains more than 1.5mg/L of naturally occurring fluoride, you can help protect your child's developing teeth by:

- offering bottled drinking water to children up to around 6 years old (but avoid replacing water with sugary drinks).
- avoiding fluoride supplements such as tablets or drops.
- brushing children's teeth without toothpaste until they are 18 months old, unless advised otherwise by a dentist.
- offering a low fluoride toothpaste (500-550 ppm or 0.05-0.055% w/w) for children aged 18 months to 6 years old, using only a pea-sized amount and encouraging spitting, not swallowing.
- using standard fluoride toothpaste (1000-1500 ppm or 0.1-0.15% w/w) for children aged 6 years and older, using only a pea-sized amount and encouraging spitting, not swallowing.
- keeping an eye on other fluoride sources in their diet (e.g., tea, seafood).
- breastfeeding where possible and using bottled water when preparing infant formula.

Need help or more information?

- Central Qld Public Health Unit: (07) 4920 6989
- your dental professional
- Queensland Health Oral Health:
www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth
- 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) for confidential health advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Email: oral_health@health.qld.gov.au

This information only applies to areas where naturally occurring fluoride levels are above 1.5mg/L. Download this fact sheet at: diamantina.qld.gov.au/Services/Water





Healthy Outback Communities Wellbeing Connector

Hello!

I'm Kylie and am proud to be the **Healthy Outback Communities (HOC) Wellbeing Connector** for the Birdsville Community.

My role is to help strengthen the health and wellbeing of our community by connecting people with local services, activities, and support.



I'll be working with local organisations, community groups, visiting services, and residents to keep information about health and wellbeing services and community activities up to date, while helping improve access to the many resources available across our region. I'll also support community-led wellbeing initiatives and encourage opportunities that bring people together and strengthen community connections.

The HOC Wellbeing Connector is a non-clinical role, and I'm looking forward to working alongside our community, local organisations, and service providers to support the wellbeing of Birdsville. If you'd like to know more about local services, activities, or have an idea that could benefit our community, I'd love to hear from you.

E: kylie.morton@wqphn.com.au

P: 0429 668 763



DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL

2026/2027 RATE NOTICES HAVE NOW BEEN ISSUED



Issued: 20 August 2026



Payment due:

20 October 2026

Pay on time to qualify for your discount of 15%



Having trouble paying?

Please contact Council as soon as possible to discuss your circumstances and available payment arrangements.



07 4746 1600



revenue@diamantina.qld.gov.au



PUBLIC NOTICE

Diamantina Stock Route Closure

 Council advises that the Diamantina Stock Route will be closed between the 27th of September and the 3rd of October, 2026.

 If you have any questions, please contact Brent Reeman, Director Infrastructure, on 0428 197 177.

 We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

CEMETERY CONCRETE SLABS & PLINTHS

Council is offering assistance to families wishing to have concrete slabs and plinths installed for interments more than 12 months old at the Bedourie and Birdsville cemeteries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Jodie Girdler

jodie.girdler@diamantina.qld.gov.au



ALL-WILD SEAFOOD

— THE BIG TRUCK IS COMING —

SEPTEMBER TRADING DATES

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER	WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER
BEDOURIE	BIRDVILLE
1PM-6PM	10AM-2PM

★ PREMIUM WILD SEAFOOD ★

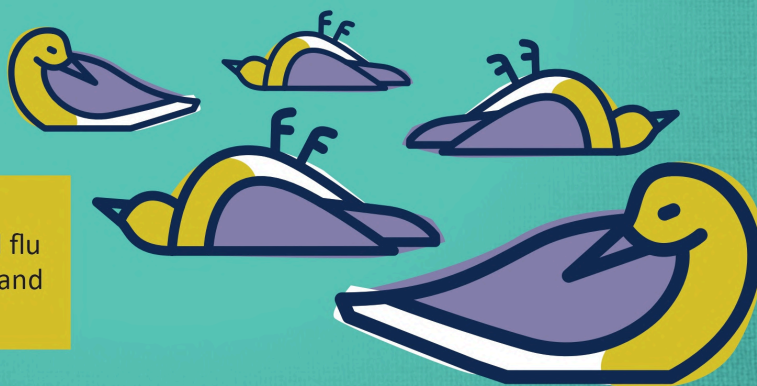


Australian Government

Help spot H5 bird flu

H5 bird flu

is the most serious type of bird flu and has killed millions of birds and mammals worldwide.



Avoid



Don't touch sick or dead animals



Keep pets away

Record



Photos or video



Date, time and location



What you've seen



Report



Call the 24-hour
Emergency Animal
Disease Hotline

1800 675 888



Find out more at
birdflu.gov.au or scan the QR code.



Australian Government

What you can do to minimise the impacts of H5 bird flu



If you see sick or dead birds or other animals, do not touch them.

Avoid contact.

Record what you see.

Report multiple sick or dead birds or other animals to the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline** on **1800 675 888** from anywhere in Australia.



Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands and utensils after handling animals, eggs or raw meat.



Keep pets away from wildlife, including preventing cats from roaming and keeping dogs on leads in wildlife areas.



When going to and from national parks, reserves or farms, clean your footwear, clothing and vehicle to help prevent spreading diseases between places.



Poultry producers are reminded that on-farm biosecurity practices are crucial to protect the health of their flocks.

If you own, care for, or work with birds or chickens, you should:

- prevent wild birds from mingling with your birds, and accessing their feed and water
- keep pens, aviaries, feeders and equipment clean
- wash hands thoroughly with soap before and after handling birds
- monitor birds for signs of disease or sudden deaths.



Getting an annual flu vaccination is recommended by the CDC for all people older than 6 months. The seasonal flu vaccine won't protect against bird flu but minimises the risk that people become unwell with both seasonal and bird flu viruses at the same time.

Find out more

Information and resources about H5 bird flu are available at **birdflu.gov.au**.

Emergency Animal
Disease hotline:

1800 675 888

0230 971018

Grant Opportunities

Diamantina Shire Council offers a range of grants and funding opportunities to support local projects, events, and initiatives that strengthen our communities.

Explore current programs, eligibility criteria, and how to apply. 

Our Community Grants Register is updated monthly and lists a range of Queensland and national grant opportunities — all organised by closing date for quick and easy access.

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

Opening Soon

Round 2

Regional Arts Development Fund Grants

Opens : 30 September 2026

Closes : 23 October 2026

Find out how to apply here

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

Are you under 25 and living in the Diamantina Shire?

You could get funding through the Bedourie Aboriginal Corporation Bursary program.

Find out if you can apply at:

diamantina.qld.gov.au/BAC-Bursary-Program

Council staff recently got into the spirit of National Pyjama Day. Pictured here are members of the Birdsville Town Services team joining in the fun.

Funds raised for **The Pyjama Foundation** go toward the **Love of Learning Program**. This program trains volunteers, called **Pyjama Angels**, who visit children in foster care once a week to help with reading, schoolwork, and life skills.



Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants - Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated Rainfall and Flooding



Grant

⚠ CLOSING SOON



Closes 2 Oct 2026

Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants are available to assist directly impacted primary producers, small businesses and non profit organisations with the costs of clean-up and reinstatement.



What assistance is available?

Grants of up to \$75,000 are available for affected producers following the Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 21 March -19 May 2025, to hire or purchase equipment and materials, clean up, remove debris, replace fencing and other costs associated with the recovery process. Producers should take photographs of the direct damage to accompany their application/s.

Applicants need to show they are an eligible primary producer within the declared disaster area and that they have suffered a direct impact from the disaster. Read below and the guidelines for more information.

The maximum grant amount is \$75,000 and can be accessed through the following:

- Initial application/s up to the total amount of \$5,000 is available to support an initial claim. Evidence of the direct damage is required such as photographs and quotations, tax invoices or official receipts.
- Subsequent application/s up to the total amount of \$70,000 is available to support subsequent claims for which full evidence of payment is required.

Complete applications are assessed in order of receipt and QRIDA may request further information to help assess an application.

Find out more and check you eligibility at:

qrda.qld.gov.au/program/exceptional-disaster-assistance-recovery-grants-wq-surface-trough

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**



A jockey onboard! Silverton: winner of the 1939 Birdsville Cup. See past Winners, view more historic Birdsville Races photos and find out about the History of the Races at: birdsvillerraces.com/about-the-races/birdsville-races-history

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

