

DESERT YARNS

diamantinashire@gmail.com
Phone: 07 4564 2000

January 2023



Flood waters near King Creek, 15th January 2023

January 2023 Road Closures

Diamantina Development Road (Bedourie-Boulia)
– closed since 04/01/2023 –

Diamantina Development Road (Bedourie-Windorah)
– closed since 03/01/2023 –

Eyre Development Road (Birdsville to South Australian border)
– closed 03/01/2023; open to 4WD only 10/01/2023; open 13/01/2023; and
closed 30/01/2023 –

Birdsville Development Road (Birdsville to Windorah)
– closed 31/01/2023 –

Flood waters from rainfall during the last several weeks of 2022 in NW Queensland are travelling through the lower reaches of the Georgina River and along Eyre Creek, where the flood peak has affected Bedourie on Eyre Creek. Multiple roads closures throughout the Diamantina and surrounding Shires have impacted Diamantina communities and stations throughout the first month of 2023.



Floodwaters surrounding Bedourie, 23rd January 2023



Weather Observations - January 2023

Bedourie Rainfall: 16.8 mm
Bedourie Max Temp: 41.7 degrees c (25/1/23)

Birdsville Rainfall: 12.8 mm
Birdsville Max Temp: 44.1 degrees c (26/1/23)

MAYORS REPORT

ROBBIE DARE

Dear Diamantina Community,

We are starting off the 2023 year with some very sad news being the loss of Vaughan Gregory Johnson (he called himself VG). A very great friend, champion to the whole of Queensland and in particular, the Diamantina Shire. Vaughan became Minister for transport in 1996 and immediately set about upgrading the state roads. In the Diamantina Shire, we have 540 kilometers of state roads of which 180 kilometers in low level flood prone areas and went under water in a moderate flood.



Robbie Dare

When Vaughan made the announcement at the opening of the new Glengyle Bridge on Eyre Creek on the 3rd December 1997, that he was going to do everything in his power to help Diamantina Shire get our roads sealed, it was the news we had been waiting for. With guaranteed funding and under the leadership of mayor David Brook, the shire completed upgrading plant and equipment to be the most efficient road building shire in Queensland, enabling realignments of roads onto higher country, reducing the flood prone length from 180 to approximately 70 kilometers an outstanding result. To repeat that achievement today would cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

We are eternally indebted to Vaughan Johnson for his gumption and foresight, we have appreciated his help, and the reason Diamantina Shire built and named the Vaughan Johnson lookout approximately 90 Kilometers north of Bedourie on the Boulia road - of which he was very proud.

Vaughan helped hundreds of people from all walks of life. He came and stayed with me on three occasions last year for which I feel privileged. During that time, he was still trying to improve our road network by going and seeing Neil Scales (Director General of Department of Transport) on the Barcoo Shire and on our behalf to have the Farrars Creek Channels raised.

I was proud to represent Diamantina Shire at Vaughan's funeral at Buderim. A massive crowd of approximately 1200 people as well as 750 individuals streamed in. Vaughan's family are proud of the lookout named in his honour and mentioned it in the eulogy.

Ladies and gentlemen please say a prayer for our mates soul.

Farewell mate.



Glengyle bridge opening, 3 December 1997.

Left to right: Scott Mead (DSC CEO), Erin Mead, Vaughn Johnson MP, Charles Lloyd-Jones (Department of Transport), Norman "Peewee" Clarke (Glengyle Manager), David Brook (DSC Mayor), Kevin Kerr (Engineer, George Bourne and Associates)

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VALE VAUGHAN JOHNSON

At the Council meeting on 23.1.23, the Motion of Condolence on the passing of Vaughan Johnson OAM was moved and read by the Mayor and seconded by Cr Don Rowlands, fully supported by all Councillors.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE – on the passing of Vaughan Johnson

It is with much sadness that I move this Motion of Condolence on the passing over the weekend of our dear friend, Order of Australia recipient and former Queensland politician, Vaughan Johnson. Vaughan was 75-years-old and spent 25 years in Queensland Parliament as a member of the National Party, and subsequently the Liberal National Party. Vaughan will be remembered for many things by many people, not the least of which will be as a champion and advocate for regional Queensland.

Born in New South Wales, Mr Johnson moved to Queensland as a child. He entered politics as a councillor for Quilpie Shire in the early 1970s before he was elected to the Queensland Parliament as the member for Gregory in 1989. He held the seat for more than 25 years until his retirement in 2015, representing an area larger than Victoria and Tasmania combined. He was the minister for transport under premier Rob Borbidge from 1996-1998 and the government chief whip under Campbell Newman's government. Vaughan also held various shadow cabinet positions.

He was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2020 for his work with various community organisations, as drought commissioner, and for advancing the interests of regional and remote Queenslanders. He worked as a grazier and contractor prior to entering politics and was renowned as an advocate for outback industry. Vaughan was a fierce advocate for primary producers, rural communities and transport infrastructure and was a man of true character.

Our council erected and named a lookout after Vaughan in our Shire, in recognition of his advocacy for the outback and his efforts towards expanding the sealed road network in Western Queensland. This remains just one aspect of his legacy. Through this motion of condolence, we express our sincerest condolences to the Johnson family. We will miss you mate.



Vaughan Johnson OAM



Vaughn Johnson Lookout

Diamantina Developmental Road (GPS Coordinates: Lat: -23.68918 Long: 139.635498)

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EXECUTIVE REPORT

ANDREW BOARDMAN - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This year is beginning to pick up pace with residents returning to the shire, by plane if you're returning to Bedourie! I want to take the opportunity to remind residents to take care on the roads, with the wet weather and floods, road conditions can change quickly. Remember if its flooded, forget it.

With the recent rain it appears that the Georgina river will remain high for an extended period. Council's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is meeting weekly to monitor flooding and supply efforts. The concern is now that any additional rain in the saturated catchment will directly impact the roads opening. We are definitely very fortunate to have our local airline assisting our communities. I want to again thank REX Airlines for their continual support in helping ensure critical supplies are able to reach the community.



Andrew Boardman

The flooding impact means as a Shire we are now officially disaster declared. This means that Council will receive Federal and State Government Support to undertake funded emergent works as well as be eligible to put in submissions to restore damaged local roads. Emergent works are being undertaken at the following locations:

Birdsville-Windorah Road: grader crew have undertaken patch grading in various areas, and are currently repairing a large shoulder scour near Betoota

Bedourie-Boulia Road: grader crews are removing silt build-up at various areas along the road

Coorabulka Road: grader crew have undertaken patch grading in various areas along the road

Kamaran Road: grader crew have undertaken patch grading in various areas along the road

Sandringham-Ethabulka: grader crew have undertaken patch grading in various areas along the road

On the organisational side, Council's ordinary meeting dates for the next 3 months are:

20 February 2023 - Bedourie

20 March 2023 - Birdsville

17 April 2023 - Bedourie

These meetings are open to the public, please contact council if you require further information about attending.

Staff Movements/Recruitment

We welcome two new finance team members this week and recruitment will begin for a Director Community & Economic Development next week. It's exciting to have such a strategic position based in Birdsville.

Council Communications

The community email database is being utilised by Council to send out communications. If you are not on the email list and wish to be included, please contact admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au for the email consent form.

Diamantina Dollars

The Diamantina Dollars is a State Government Drought Funding Community Local Buy program. This has been funded by QLD State Government under the Financial Hardship Program. There will be a 3rd Round released this month, please ensure you see the friendly staff at the Information centres - Bedourie and Birdsville, to collect from Wednesday 8 February onwards.

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EXECUTIVE REPORT

ANDREW BOARDMAN - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Australia Day

It was unfortunate that the official Australia Day proceedings have been postponed, however it was great to see the Bedourie Community get together for some trivia, water fights and cricket. A reminder that the official proceedings will be organised and held as soon as practicable after the road opens and the Shire's community can gather together. A community email will be sent out with the date once confirmed.

Community BBQ's

Council is excited to advise that it will be hosting community BBQ's in both Bedourie and Birdsville. These community events will help the community and Council connect over important issues in the region. Dates for these barbecues will be advised once road conditions have improved.

TV Channels Bedourie and Birdsville

Whilst there have been repairs made last year, Council are aware of reoccurring issues. Council have had expert reports received into the matter and are looking to meet with the party to understand the best option moving forward. Once confirmed Council will seek external funding to undertake a permanent solution.

Birdsville Water

Council acknowledges the additional heat in the town water supply whilst repair works are being undertaken on the cooling ponds. Officers are making attempts to repair with temporary solutions until the road opens and the plumber can attend site and repair.

SMA Inverters Birdsville and Bedourie

Council are continuing to work through the matter of systems not working with Ergon, SMA and SwitchDin, with Stuart Bourne GBA giving Council technical advice.

RAPAD Board Meeting

A RAPAD board meeting will be held in Winton at the end of the Month. These meetings ensure collaboration across the region, raise regional issues to the State and Federal Governments, and set strategic direction for regional funding and initiatives.

Birdsville Hall and Bedourie Administration Centre and Depot

Council appointed consultants were due early January, however have been flooded out.

Newest Shire Member

This week we welcomed baby Alisha to Syed and Rahila. Their new baby girl was born on Wednesday 1 February. We look forward to meeting Alisha soon.

DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL STAFF PROFILE



Michael Gilby
Position: Supervisor

Family:

Partner, 3 kids and 2 grandkids.

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

I've been a roo shooter, shearer, truck driver, plant operator, roo skinner, grader driver, contract musterer and worked on road crews. Moved to Birdsville 12 years ago.

What do you love most about Diamantina Shire?

I like living in the bush and not having close neighbours.

Interest/Hobbies. Favourite day off activity?

Yabbing, fishing, pigging and fossicking around old ruins for old stuff.

Most challenging aspect of residing in the Diamantina Shire?

Everything costs more out here.

Looking forward to in the next 12 months?

I don't look that far ahead.

DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL STAFF PROFILE



Kylie Bailey-Hill
Position: Roller Operator

Family:

Partner, 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

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

I was a Family Day Care provider in my own home in Port Augusta before moving to Birdsville 10 years ago.

What do you love most about Diamantina Shire?

I'd rather live in a small town than a big town. I enjoy attending our local events in Birdsville, Bedourie and Betoota throughout the year.

Interest/Hobbies. Favourite day off activity?

Sleeping-in on my days off. I enjoy fishing, yabbying and going away to see my children and grandchildren.

Most challenging aspect of residing in the Diamantina Shire?

We're 700km from supermarkets and stores.

Looking forward to in the next 12 months?

Anytime that I will get to go away and spend time with my children and grandchildren.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

NADINE LORENZ - ACTING TOURISM COORDINATOR



Diamantina Shire Council Tourism and Community team
(Photograph: Katrina Wills)

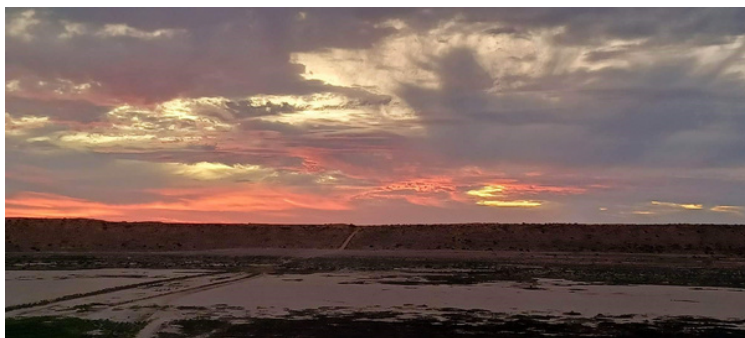
Firstly, I would like to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break! Hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing time. I would also like to welcome Andrew and Sharona Broadman and their children Nathan, Annalise and Sophia to the Diamantina Shire.

January where do I begin! The year is shaping up to be a brilliant one with all the much need rain within the Shire. The staff have been busy gearing up for the season. Not many tourists in at the moment due to all roads in the Shire being shut due to flooding but in saying that, we have had 83 visitors through the doors, 133 phone calls.

First 5 Forever Program – Work has started on implementing the First Five Forever program within Birdsville and Bedourie. These sessions will be held in the Community libraries/Information Centres, and consist of activities such as reading, singing, dancing and play. Recommended for children 0-5 years, it's a fun and inclusive opportunity for special time together, meeting other parents and caregivers and learning something new! These positive interactions help to build a strong foundation that sets children up for educative success and a lifelong love of learning. First 5 Forever sessions will be held once/month, with times and dates to be advised.

Our team worked collaboratively across the Shire to submit a destination priority needs survey to the Outback Queensland Tourism Association (OQTA). A great opportunity to present our wish list for the next potential infrastructure funds which are then aligned to OQTA Destination Management Plans, ensuring they are lobbying departments to provide grant assistance to achieve outcomes.

I will be representing the Diamantina Shire at the Adelaide Caravan and Camping show from the 14-20 Feb. The Diamantina Shire have not had a presence at a tradeshow since COVID, it will be great to take the Shire back on the road again, letting visitors know what a spectacular part of the world we have to offer when they come and visit.



Big Red Sunset

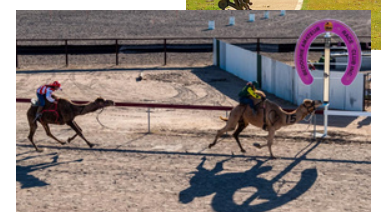
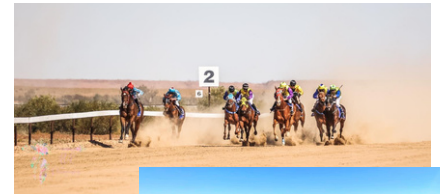


Diamantina sunset at Pelican Point, Birdsville

2023 EVENTS IN DIAMANTINA SHIRE

2023 EVENTS

9th February	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
9th March	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
	Clean Up Australia – Bedourie & Birdsville curbside collection
15th – 16th April	Betoota Horse & Bike Gymkhana
25th April	ANZAC Day ceremony – Bedourie, Birdsville and Betoota
11th May	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
15th – 21st May	Under 8s Week – Birdsville & Bedourie Playgroup
13 – 14th May	Birdsville Campdraft, Bronco Branding & Rodeo
24th May	National Simultaneous Storytime – Birdsville & Bedourie Playgroup
3rd – 4th June	Simpson Desert Ultra
TBA	Birdsville Diamantina River Duck Race
6th June	Queensland Day – Birdsville & Bedourie Playgroup
8th June	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
June	Betoota Cricket Match
24th – 25th June	Birdsville Horse and Bike Gymkhana
30th June – 2nd July	Bedourie Campdraft, Rodeo & Gymkhana
4th – 6th July	Big Red Bash
8th July	Bedourie Camel & Pig Races
13th July	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
18th July	Children's NAIDOC Week craft session - Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
10th August	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
13th August	Bedourie Bikekhana
25th August	Birdsville Book Week
26th August	Betoota Races & Channel Country Ringers Reunion
1st – 2nd September	Birdsville Races
9th September	Bedourie Races
14th September	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
12th October	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
28th October	Halloween – Simpson Desert Oasis, Bedourie
7th November	Melbourne Cup - Bedourie & Birdsville
9th November	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville
11th November	Remembrance Day ceremony - Birdsville & Bedourie (10.45am)
14th December	Rhyme Time! – Wirrari Centre, Birdsville



INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

ADAM WHITFIELD - DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Town Services – Bedourie and Birdsville

Town Services in Bedourie and Birdsville are currently operating with a skeleton crew over the holiday period. This crew is busy with business-as-usual mowing, maintaining the swimming pool and undertaking rubbish collection. Staff also assisted with the temporary repairs to the Birdsville town water supply in late December.



Adam Whitfield

Project Management

Bedourie and Birdsville Sewer CCTV inspections: Bedourie and Birdsville CCTV inspections have been completed with the condition report still to be provided by the contractors.

Bedourie Golf Club Solar System Installation: Installation of the solar system was completed just before the holiday period.

Workshop

Workshop staff have been busy undertaking multiple repairs on plant and machinery while it is not in use over the holiday period.

Road construction and maintenance

The Construction Crew and Patrol Crews are all away on holiday and will return soon to commence work on 30 January 2023.

Civil/Multi Skilled Crew – Some employees have returned to work early to assist with road inspections and closures due to storms and localised flooding. Staff have also been cleaning up silt and debris that has washed onto our State-controlled roads.

On 10 January 2023 staff had to undertake emergency repairs to a blown fire hydrant in Bedourie.



Staff working to repair the blown fire hydrant in Bedourie

INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

ADAM WHITFIELD - DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

With the recent wet weather and road closures, the food and supplies delivery truck could not make it into Bedourie and could only get as far as Boulia. This meant that everything on board had to be flown into Bedourie. On the 10 January 2023 staff assisted with the unloading of the Rex plane and the delivery of this food and supplies to the Roadhouse.



Food and supplies on the way to the Bedourie Roadhouse



Diamantina Shire Council and Roadhouse staff celebrating a job well done

Birdsville Bore Works

On 19/12/2022 it was reported that Birdsville had low water pressure and the water temperature was rising despite any visible leaks at the time with pipework around town. Investigations revealed that the pipework in the cooling ponds had corroded, failed and broken meaning that water was actively leaking into the ponds and making the complete system not work. Emergency measures were put in place to temporarily fix the issue and limp the Birdsville community through the Christmas New Year period. The combined efforts of council staff, contractors and the Birdsville community meant that the community were able to have water for Christmas and the system is currently continuing to be operational, however despite this, the system still needs a permanent fix. A full report will be provided at the February meeting on moving forward.

DIAMANTINA HISTORY

- FROM THE BLUE BOOK



We begin here a series of extracts from the book *Sand Hills and Channel Country*, by Carolyn Nolan, which was commissioned by the Diamantina Shire Council and published in 2003. We hope you enjoy. All are welcome to contribute to this Diamantina History page. We welcome photographs with descriptions and short stories of events and people. All contributions can be emailed to diamantinashire@gmail.com with contact details. If you would like your photograph and story to be featured on our social media page as well, please indicate that in your email. We are very excited to begin this history page and look forward to your contributions.

Sand Hills and Gibber Plains

p.1-8

This country in the far western corner of Queensland is often said to have been 'opened up' by people in the wake of the search parties following the disastrous Burke and Wills expedition. For many who had lived there since time immemorial much of this land on the edge of the desert was being closed off. The traditions of the indigenous people had enabled them to withstand freezing cold and searing heat. They survived extended droughts, when much of the natural food supply vanishes, and they dealt with the floods that turn the channels into sheets of water and the land itself virtually disappears. There was an oral tradition and the nineteenth century European men who set out knew nothing of their ways of survival.

Charles Sturt passed through the Birdsville area in September and October 1845. When he surveyed the area from 'a cliff' it could possibly have been from the high ridge later known as The Bluff and in more recent times, as Roseberth. Certainly he was there at a dry time. That expedition was another attempt to solve the riddle of the inland, and to find the inland sea, if there was one. Sturt and his team travelled from Adelaide. They crossed what Sturt reported to be a sea of sand and a stony desert, country that would be forever 'Sturt's Stony Desert'. His description of the desert must have been surprising to southerners:

The stones indeed lay so thick on the ground, that it was impossible for any herb to have forced its way between them...The whole expanse appeared to be as level as the ocean, nor had it as far as we could see a single shrub or a blade of vegetation upon it.

Sturt followed the Mulligan for four days, passing through country that is now Annandale Station as far north as what is now Kaliduwarry Station.



Charles Sturt (1795-1869), who crossed the Stony Desert, named Cooper Creek and Eyre Creek, and by 1845 reached what would be the western part of Diamantina Shire.

DIAMANTINA HISTORY

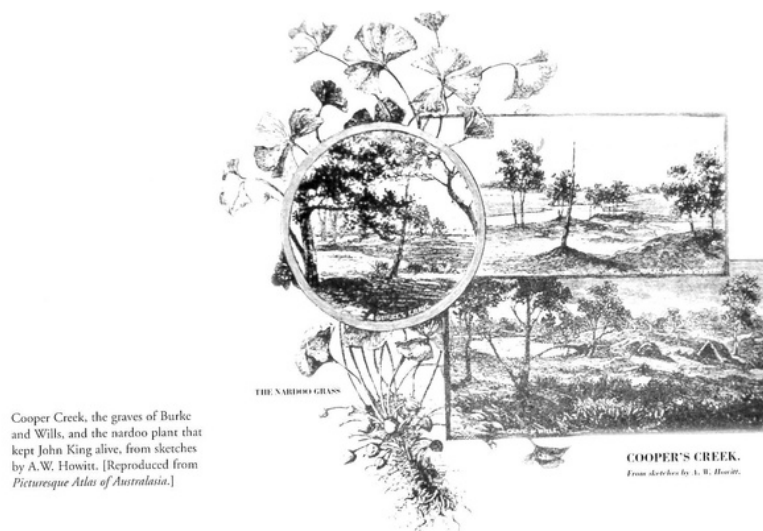
- FROM THE BLUE BOOK



In 1860 Robert O'Hara Burke was commissioned by the Royal Society of Victoria to lead a Victorian Exploring Expedition. Burke's large party left Melbourne on 20 August 1860. Some resigned almost immediately, and Wills, the astronomer and surveyor, was made second-in-command. Burke's despatch from camp 65 on Cooper's Creek dated 13 December 1860 stated that he would go the following day with the party, to Eyre's Creek (named by Sturt to honour his friend, the explorer Edward John Eyre but now more often referred to as the Mulligan), to explore the country north to the Gulf.

Wright's Diary records that the party had a Christmas celebration on Gray's Creek on 24 December and left 'to cross the earthy rotten plains in the direction of Eyre's Creek' the next day. ...Burke and Wills both perished. Four search parties were sent out from various directions to the interior of the continent in search of the 'lost exploring party' that included Burke and Wills, John King and Gray. Alfred Howitt, a station-owner in New South Wales, left with his party from Melbourne on 20 June 1861 for the Paroo. Howitt found King alive on 15 September, 'wasted to a shadow, sitting disconsolately in a black's gunyah'. King led Howitt to Wills' remains which he buried. A few days later they found the body of Burke and buried him.

When John McKinlay, leader of the South Australian Burke Relief Expedition, heard of the rescue of John King and the recovery of the bodies of Burke and Wills, he decided to explore further north of the Cooper. In the channels of the Diamantina, McKinlay's party went through what would later be Coongie Station, Pandie Pandi and Cadelga Downs. McKinlay probably crossed the Queensland border a few miles east of the later site of Birdsville, in a very good season. They followed up the eastern side of the river that would later be named the Diamantina by Landsborough and George Phillips, through country where Monkira, Davenport Downs and Diamantina Lakes stations were formed. The whole party, despite hardships and some desperate meals of horseflesh and camel, had survived what William Landsborough was to refer to as 'a glorious trip'. McKinlay had been the first to take camels, bullocks and sheep to the Gulf, and he had paved the way for many pastoralists.



The Qld Pastoral Leases Act of 1869 gave twenty-one years' tenure to squatters at a low nominal rental, in a bid to encourage settlement in the land beyond the Settled Districts. Pastoralists steadily moved to the far West, and a few intrepid ones reached the land that was watered, at least in good seasons, by the Diamantina and Mulligan Rivers and by Eyre Creek, the latter formed by the Hamilton, the Burke and the Georgina or Herbert. Pastoralists had found the Channel Country.

2023 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!



Nathan Boardman on his first day of Year 1 at Bedourie State School



Elyssa & Izaak Morton (Pandie Pandie Station) celebrate back-to-school with govie Amber Monaghan



Jack, Henry and Charlie O'Connor - Durrie Station
First day of Prep, Year 3 and Year 5 MISOTA



Roper and Elsey Millership - Mt Leonard Station
First day of Year 1 & 3 MISOTA



Bedourie State School students - excited for a busy year of learning ahead

From Birdsville to Bedourie and throughout the stations, Monday 23rd of January 2023 was an exciting day in the Diamantina Shire as our youngest residents commenced the 2023 school year. Lovely to see so many smiles on the first day of school and happy students, staff and families celebrating this special milestone.

We wish everyone a wonderful year of learning ahead!



Birdsville State School students welcomed on Day 1 by Mrs Birchley & Miss Glassey



Birdsville State School

FIRST 5 FOREVER!



RHyme TIME

SING, DANCE AND PLAY

Rhyme Time sessions are fun, inclusive opportunities to brush up on your nursery rhymes, sing and dance with your child. Learn new songs to try at home and match actions with words to help your child learn. Recommended for children 0-5 years.

Enjoy special time together, meet other parents and caregivers and learn something new!



11 AM

THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2023

Birdsville Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre



first5
forever



*The
first five years
last a lifetime*

DESERT YARNS
diamantinashire@gmail.com
07 4564 2000



Diamantina Droving

That a drover's life has pleasures the townsfolk never know
Is just poetic fancy from the days of long ago,
And the chap who wrote that bull-dust was dreaming whilst asleep,
And was never down this river with a mob of travelling sheep.

Far down the Diamantina where the sandhills crouch and guard
In a never ending series like the panels of a yard,
The river-flats are destitute except for bones that bleach,
And sun-charred stumps of lignum as far as the eye can reach.

The barren flats are desolate, the sandhills stark and bare,
And the only vegetation is the buck-bush growing there,
With scanty growths of never-fail scattered near and far,
And stunted clumps of gidyea where the river channels are.

Day after day the blinding sun strikes with its heat and glare,
Till a twisted gnarled old gidyea seems to the eye most fair,
And its scanty shade is welcome to the weary man and horse.
As they rest beneath its branches by a drycaked watercourse.

Where every day is torture with flies that sting and buzz,
And a man is tired and lifeless in everything he does,
Where night is just a living hell with things that creep and sting,
This is the life of which we read, of which the poets sing.

That the drover's life has pleasures the townsfolk never know
Is wild poetic nonsense from the days of long ago,
And the champing, stamping drover's horse which seemed to be the rule,
Is changed from poet's fancy to a sulky lop-eared mule.

Where stock grow daily thinner and stumble in their tread
As they vainly search for nourishment with staring eyes and red,
Till at last in hopeless misery and weakness down they lie,
Give one despairing hollow groan and all unheeded die.

The wondrous open rolling plains o'er which the horsemen ride,
are just a flight of fancy of the days which now have died,
And the rushing streams of water when the river is in flood
Is just a row of channels filled with flowing mud.

Yes, a drover's life had pleasures the townsfolk never knew,
But that was in the good old days when men were straight and true,
But in these days of crawlers, low wages, lower scabs,
Rolling plains of pebbles and mud-holes full of crabs.

You'll find that it has terrors that townsfolk ne'er will know,
And should you go a-droving you may chance to find it so,
For the Diamantina River is a hell on earth that's lost,
And you'll think the same as I do that the game's not worth the cost.

Though now those days are over I still at times recall
The endless days of sandhills and the dust storms sudden squall,
And I'll never more go droving where you never get a mail,
And I count myself dead lucky that I'm here to tell the tale.

Windorah. "Bogan Boy."

Source:

The Townsville Daily Bulletin (Townsville, Qld.), Friday 24 June 1932, page 4
[This poem is from Bill Bowyang's column, "On The Track", in the The Townsville Daily Bulletin, 1932.]



'Cattle crossing the Diamantina River' - 1950

HEALTH & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Bedourie Primary Health Centre

Kepler St, Bedourie QLD 4829
(07) 4746 1226

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday
8am - 12pm
2pm - 4pm

Emergency & Ambulance Service
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

RFDS Dr clinic held every second Friday

Upcoming Visiting Health Services

NWRH - Exercise Physiologist, Dietician, Podiatrist
Wednesday 15 February 2023

ICOP (Indigenous Cardiac Outreach Program)
21st March 2023



Birdsville Primary Health Centre

31 Adelaide Street, Birdsville QLD 4482
(07) 4656 3245

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday
9am - 12pm
2pm - 4pm

Emergency & Ambulance Service
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

RFDS Dr clinic held every second Wednesday

Upcoming Visiting Health Services

NWRH - Exercise Physiologist, Dietician, Podiatrist
Tuesday 14 February 2023

ICOP (Indigenous Cardiac Outreach Program)
23rd March 2023



Emergency/ Urgent/ life or property in danger... 000 (112 from mobile)
Non urgent reporting..... 131444 or Policelink online reporting
Crime stoppers..... 1800 330 000

Bedourie Police Station: 07 4144 1600

Officer in Charge: Phillip Plant

Bedourie QGAP (licensing/regio): 07 4744 1601

Bedourie QGAP opening hours: Tuesday and Wednesdays 8am – 4pm.

QGAP Supervisor: Elisabeth Plant

Birdsville Police Station: 07 4744 1666

Officer in Charge: Stephan Pursell

Birdsville QGAP: 07 4744 1663 Fax 07 4656 3312

Birdsville QGAP opening hours: Monday & Tuesdays 8am -5pm

QGAP Supervisor: Sharon Pursell

PUBLIC NOTICE

SINGAPORE ANT PROBLEM



SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPING THE OUTBACK

PUBLIC NOTICE

Singapore Ant Problem

Singapore Ants have been found at a number of Council owned properties in Bedourie. As a result, Council is currently in the process of engaging a pest controller to contain and eradicate existing Singapore Ant populations. At this stage we have had no reported sightings of the ants in Birdsville.

To assist Council in planning control measures, we encourage all residents of the Shire, including private home owners, to report them to Council by email, which is admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au, or by calling Council on 4746 1600.

Home owners are strongly encouraged to treat their properties and take advantage of reduced costs once the pest controller is in the shire.

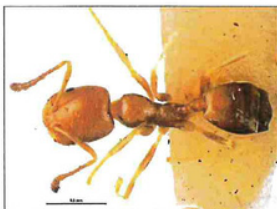
Further information about the pest controller will be distributed to residents once confirmed.

An information sheet is attached to assist in identifying Singapore Ants.

Andrew Boardman
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

24 January 2023

Diagnostic Images



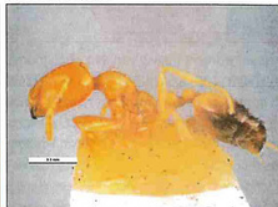
Australia: Northern Territory, Darwin by G.F. Hill.
Dorsal view: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria



Australia: Northern Territory, Darwin by G.F. Hill.
Head front: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria



Australia: Northern Territory, Darwin by G.F. Hill.
Head side: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria



Australia: Northern Territory, Darwin by G.F. Hill.
Lateral view: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria



Australia: Northern Territory, Darwin by G.F. Hill.
Mesosoma lateral view: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria



Australia: Northern Territory, Darwin by G.F. Hill.
Posterior view: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

Species Information

Common Name
Singapore ant

Scientific Name:
Monomorium destructor (Jerdon)
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae)

Image Library
Australian Biosecurity
Live link: <http://www.padil.gov.au:80/pests-and-diseases/>

URL
Live link: <http://www.padil.gov.au:80/pests-and-diseases/Pest/Main/136460>

Diagnostic Notes

Body length of workers (highly variable - Polymorphic) 1.8 - 3.5 mm. This ant is dark brown to blackish brown, and usually with a conspicuous yellow area mediobasally. A relatively large *Monomorium* species; Body yellowish brown to reddish brown from head to postpetiole; gaster blackish brown. Mandibles each with 4 teeth, the basalmost sometimes obscure. Eyes large, each with around 20 facets. Median paired carinae of clypeus obscure. Metanotal groove distinct. Propodeum with angulate posterodorsal border; the area of petiolar insertion carinate. Ventral outline of petiole less convex than in other species. Postpetiole 1.1 -1.2 times as long as broad. Mesopleuron and sections of lateral surfaces of propodeum with fine puncturation; dorsal surface of propodeum with transverse rugae. Petiole in dorsal view globular to subglobular. Antennae 12 segmented including a 3 segmented club; front margin of clypeus just above the mandibles with a single, central elongate hair or seta; upper surface of head is smooth and lacks grooves or depression. Shattuck, 1999 - Australian Ants

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Full closure of Munga-Thirri–Simpson Desert National Park

6pm 30/11/2022 - 6pm 15/03/2023

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



Bedourie Rural Fire Service training - 25th & 26th March 2023

Shane Hopton, Inspector/Area Director of the Rural Fire Service would like to invite all RFS/SES members, council staff and interested members of the Bedourie community to attend this important training weekend on Saturday 25th March and Sunday 26th March 2023. SES/RFS members are all volunteers who give up their time freely to attend training so that they can be more effective in assisting the community in times of need, unfortunately however, member numbers are very low and as such, are hoping to increase membership of both SES/RFS and would welcome anyone that wishes to join.

Could any members with slip-ons or equipment in their possession, please bring them along. This gives the trainer a chance to correlate information and provide replacement parts including pumps and hoses if required. Training timetable:

Saturday 25/3/23

0900 Induction on the RFS

1200 BBQ

1300 Safe Firefighting Techniques including Machinery

1500 Lighting Techniques

1630 Finish

Sunday 26/3/23

0900 Appliance understanding and operation

1200 BBQ

1300 Structure fire awareness

1500 Finish

Please RSVP to Thomas Higgs ASAP if attending: Thomas Higgs (Thomas.Higgs@Diamantina.qld.gov.au) 07 4746 1601 0428 395 334

DESERT YARNS

diamantinashire@gmail.com

07 4564 2000



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Are you a Diamantina Shire resident? Want to be kept informed on community notices and items of relevance to Diamantina Shire?
Please complete consent form and email to admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au



Diamantina Shire Council Email Consent Form

This consent form will be used to give permission to the Diamantina Shire Council to collect and/or distribute personal email addresses in accordance with the terms of the consent.
For consent to be valid it must be voluntary, informed, specific, current, and given by a person with capacity to do so.

Email Address

Telephone

--	--

Given name (s)

Surname

--	--

Please indicate residency:

- ☐ Bedourie
☐ Birdsville
☐ Station
☐ Non-Resident of the Diamantina

Declaration

Council maintains a database of email addresses for Residents/non-Residents who have chosen to receive periodic information (in accordance with anti-spam and privacy laws).

Authorisation *(Please read carefully and tick applicable box A, B or Both)*

- ☐ A. Considering the above, I authorise Diamantina Shire Council and consent to the email address above to be added to Council Community Email List.
- ☐ B. I consent to Diamantina Shire Council sharing or distributing the email address above to Businesses and Clubs ONLY within the Diamantina shire

I understand my consent is voluntary and I may change or withdraw this consent at any time by notifying Diamantina Shire Council.

Signature

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

--	--

Office Use:

Added to Community Email Group

☐

Signature

Authorised Person:

Please return completed Consent Form to admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au or via mail.

17 Herbert Street, BEDOURIE QLD 4829

07 4746 1600

www.diamantina.qld.gov.au

Doc ID:107755

07 4746 1272

admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au

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COMMUNITY NOTICES



All correspondence addressed to:
The Chief Executive Officer
17 Herbert Street
BEDOURIE QLD 4829

Telephone: (07) 4746 1600
Facsimile: (07) 4746 1272

 www.diamantina.qld.gov.au

Diamantina Shire Council

MEDIA RELEASE

7 February 2023

Diamantina Dollars 3rd Round Announcement

The Diamantina Shire Council has been successful for the 'Diamantina Dollars' initiative which is a State Government Drought Funding Community Local Buy voucher program. Two rounds of this program have previously been delivered to Diamantina Shire residents through the Diamantina Shire Council.

Mayor, Councillor Dare, has praised the program stating, *"The 'Diamantina Dollars' have been an excellent program for our community and I am excited to announce, on behalf of The Council, that a 3rd Round is able to be released."* The 3rd Round will allow community members to access another \$200 in vouchers for individuals or \$400 in vouchers for families.

Distribution of the 3rd round of 'Diamantina Dollars' will begin from Wednesday 8th February 2023. The vouchers will be available for collection at either the Wirrari Centre in Birdsville or the Visitor Information Centre in Bedourie. *"This round of the 'Diamantina Dollars' couldn't come at a better time, as after drought people are doing it tough and now our residents are flooded in and they need support. Our friendly staff at our Visitor information Centres will help you collect your 'Diamantina Dollars'"*, said Councillor Dare.

The purpose of Diamantina Dollars is to support and encourage community members to spend locally for their essential goods and services and keep the money within the shire in the wake of the debilitating drought throughout the majority the 2010's and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic.

Cr Rob Dare
Mayor

ENDS
Media inquiries:

Cr Rob Dare, Mayor
E: rob.dare@diamantina.qld.gov.au
Ph: (07) 4746 1600



Races

AUGUST
FRI - 25
SAT - 26
SUN - 27
2023

Betoota Races Weekend

FASHIONS ON THE FIELD
BAR & CANTEN ALL WEEKEND
BOOKIES ON COURSE!

More details to come...

LIVE MUSIC
Friday & Saturday
night with
MOTHERS
SECOND CHOICE!

COMMUNITY NOTICES



BEDOURIE & BIRDSVILLE PLAYGROUP

ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED

BEDOURIE
Bedourie Community Hall

Monday: 9am - 12 noon 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Tuesday: 9am - 12 noon 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday: 9am - 12 noon 2.30pm - 4.30pm

BIRDSVILLE
Birdsville Community Hall

Tuesday: 8am - 12 noon 1pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday: 8am - 12 noon 1pm - 4.30pm
Thursday: 8am - 12 noon 1pm - 5pm

FREE TO ATTEND

www.diamantina.qld.gov.au



SAVE THE DATE!!!

BEDOURIE RACES

SEPTEMBER 9TH 2023

More details to follow!

Simpson Desert RACING CARNIVAL

The Diamantina
Birdsville Bedourie Betoota
Where the Desert meets the Channel Country



QGAP

Queensland Government Agent Program

QGAP Birdsville will be closed from
Thursday 25th January – 28th February 2023.

The Police station will be open for all Police related enquiries during this period.

QGAP enquiries can be directed to Bedourie QGAP

4744 1601

Email QGAP.Bedourie@police.qld.gov.au

Kind regards
Sharon Pursell
QGAP, Birdsville

BIRDSVILLE POST OFFICE & FUEL SERVICE

SUMMER OPENING HOURS

Monday	12 noon - 5.00pm
Tuesday	8.30am - 1.00pm
Wednesday	8.30am - 1.00pm
Thursday	12 noon - 5.00pm
Friday	8.30am - 1.00pm
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED
Public Holidays	CLOSED

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Birdsville Social Club Inc.



2023
Save The Dates

13 & 14 May 2023
Birdsville Rodeo, Campdraft & Bronco Branding

24 & 25 June 2023
Birdsville Horse & Bike Gymkhana

Proudly coordinated by Birdsville Social Club

Birdsville Social Club Inc.



SAVE THE DATE

AGM, Welcome BBQ & Working Bee

FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2023 - 6PM
AGM + WELCOME BBQ @ BIRDSVILLE SPORTS CENTRE

SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2023 - 7AM
WORKING BEE @ GROUNDS, BIG RED ROAD

February 2023

VISITING SPECIALISTS*

Flying Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

- 7 February – Barcaldine
Dr Kirsten Millard
- 14 February – Longreach
Dr Adam Bush
- 21 February – Longreach
Dr Sarah Janssens

Flying Surgeon

Including Endoscopy Services

- 7 February – Longreach
Dr Paul Liebenberg
- 14 February – Longreach
Dr Ming Ho
- 21 February – Longreach
Dr Robert Kalmar

Gastroenterologist

Dr Mark Norrie
Private service - fees & charges apply

- 16 February – Longreach
- 17 February – Longreach

Rheumatologist

Dr Claire Barrett

- 27 February – Longreach
- 28 February – Longreach

Respiratory Physician

Dr Alistair Cook

- 17 February – Telehealth PM
- 23 February – Longreach PM
- 24 February – Longreach AM

*Please speak to your GP about a referral.



The Inaugural Bedourie Camel Races Committee

All locals are welcome and are encouraged to join and nominate at the meeting to form the Bedourie Camel Races Committee

When: Saturday February 4th, 2023

Time: 12pm

Where: Simpson Desert Oasis, Dining Room

This is a great event that we would love to see progress and continue to please come along and offer your expertise, ideas and assistance.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Any enquiries please call Rob Dare on 0427461291



DESERT YARNS

diamantinashire@gmail.com

07 4564 2000



Birdsville Bedourie Betoota
Where the Desert meets the Channel Country

COMMUNITY NOTICES



SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPING THE OUTBACK

PUBLIC NOTICE

Water Heat Issue - Birdsville

The Diamantina Shire Council wishes to advise that we are aware of the high heat of the bore water in Birdsville at present.

Council is working to implement a temporarily solution to this problem over the coming days. Work on a permanent solution will be undertaken when roads reopen and Council's plumbing team is back in the Shire.

For residents to keep a steady supply of cool water, we suggest that hot water systems be turned off, which will allow for the bore water flowing into them to cool down and be used for general purposes.

We apologies for any inconvenience and it will be fixed as soon as possible.

Andrew Boardman
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
2 February 2023

Diamantina Shire Council
The Chief Executive Officer
17 Herbert Street
BEDOUIE QLD 4829

ABN: 87 774 161
Telephone: (07) 4746 1600
Facsimile: (07) 4746 1272
E: admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au
W: www.diamantina.qld.gov.au

SKIN CLINICS 2023

Location	Month	Day	Date
BIRDSVILLE	FEBRUARY	Wednesday	15th
	MAY	Wednesday	10th
JUNDAH	MAY	Tuesday	16th
	MAY	Tuesday	30th
	MAY	Wednesday	31st
THARGOMINDAH	FEBRUARY	Thursday	16th
	APRIL	Thursday	20th
YARAKA	FEBRUARY	Tuesday	14th
	APRIL	Tuesday	18th
EULO	MARCH	Thursday	9th
	MAY	Wednesday	10th
STONEHENGE	APRIL	Wednesday	19th
	MAY	Tuesday	9th
	MAY	Wednesday	17th
WINDORAH	MARCH	Tuesday	7th
	MARCH	Wednesday	8th
	MAY	Wednesday	17th
YOWAH	MAY	Thursday	18th
	JUNE	Thursday	1st

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE
PHONE THE CHARLEVILLE RFD'S BASE ON
07 4654 1233

get
ready
QUEENSLAND

qld.gov.au/getready

Prepare your
Emergency kit
Find out more >>

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Bedourie Artesian Spa and Aquatic Centre



Bedourie Aquatic Centre Bedourie Aquatic Centre in Nappa Street is open 6am - 7.30pm 7 days/week.
Access cards can be obtained from the Bedourie Visitor Information Centre during opening hours.

****Please note that NO ALCOHOL is allowed on or in the pool area****

Birdsville State School Pool



SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPING THE OUTBACK

PUBLIC NOTICE

BIRDSVILLE STATE SCHOOL POOL - OPENING HOURS

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

During School Holidays and Weekends:

6:00am to 6:00pm, with the exception of the June/July holiday period.

During School Term Weekdays:

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

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

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

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

Tim Rose
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
12 October 2022

836
Diamantina Shire Council
The Chief Executive Officer
17 Herbert Street
BEDOURIE QLD 4829

ABN: 87 774 161
Telephone: (07) 4746 1600
Facsimile: (07) 4746 1272
E: admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au
W: www.diamantina.qld.gov.au



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL CONTACTS

Andrew Boardman - Chief Executive Officer
(07) 4746 1600
Andrew.Boardman@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Vicki Thiel - Acting Director of Corporate Services
(07) 4746 1600
Vicki.Thiel@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Adam Whitfield - Director of Infrastructure
(07) 4746 1600
Adam.Whitfield@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

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

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

DIAMANTINA SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

Cr Don Rowlands
0447 078 945
Don.Rowlands@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

Cr Sharon Pursell
0413 454 785
Sharon.Pursell@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BEDOURIE

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

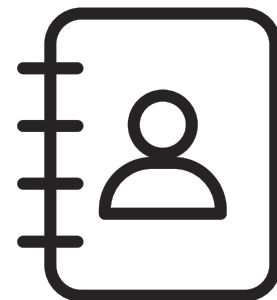
Elisabeth Plant JP (Qual)
(07) 4744 1601

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BIRDSVILLE

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

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

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



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

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