

DECEMBER 2025

# Desert YARNS

Diamantina Community Newsletter

HAPPY  
*Holidays*

## *In this issue*

- Diamantina Lights Competition Winners
- Summer of Sun Festival





Photos & Cover Pic: Birdsville Christmas Lights Walk, Adelaide Street, shared with thanks to Ari Gardner.

A huge thank you to Council's Parks and Gardens team for bringing the festive spirit to life in Birdsville, with a special shout-out to Danni for her creative work using new and recycled materials.



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## Message from The Mayor

As we approach the festive season, I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and restful Christmas and New Year. I also extend my sincere thanks to all Council staff for their dedication, hard work and commitment throughout 2025 — your efforts make a real difference to our communities across the Shire. I look forward to building on this momentum as we head into an even bigger and better 2026 together.

Significant progress was made this month with several kilometres of road at Cuttaburra successfully sealed — a major achievement and a real credit to the crews involved in delivering this important project.



Mayor  
Francis Murray







Invitations have been sent out for the official opening of the Birdsville Courthouse Museum, and I hope as many locals as possible can join us to celebrate this important and historic occasion.

Looking ahead, the Birdsville Summer of Sun weekend returns in mid-January. I encourage everyone to get behind this fantastic event, which has grown from the Cactus 100 Ultra Marathon to include a variety of activities such as glow golf, paint and sip, and entertainment from the CrackUp Sisters.

I sincerely thank my fellow Councillors for their continued dedication, our local businesses for the vital role they play in supporting our towns and local economy, and all volunteers, event organisers and community members who continue to contribute to the vibrant spirit of our Shire.

I look forward to working together in the year ahead to continue delivering positive outcomes for our communities.

Finally, I encourage everyone to take time over the holiday period to reconnect with family, friends and community.

Mayor

*Francis Murray*

*The Birdsville Courthouse, Police Complex and Aboriginal Tracker's Hut played an important role in Birdsville's history. When the Birdsville Police Station was transferred from the Courthouse to the modern building in 1988, a chapter of remote Queensland policing that had spanned just over one hundred years, closed. In 1993 the site was listed with the Queensland Government's Heritage Register and in 2008 the Diamantina Shire Council became custodians of this historically significant location. In 2021 the site was formally transferred from the State Government to the Diamantina Shire Council to ensure its development as a tourism destination that preserves the remarkable history of policing in the far South Western Queensland border region.*







*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 9 April 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 10 April 2026
-  Birdsville Courthouse Police Complex  
and Aboriginal Tracker's Hut  
21 McDonald Street, Birdsville

### RSVP & Further Information

Please RSVP by Friday 6 February 2026  
Email: [info@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Phone: 07 4564 2000

*Everyone Welcome*







Carcory Homestead Ruin

## *CEO update*



**Julianne Meier**  
Chief Executive Officer

Bedourie is my home, though I've been welcomed wherever I travel across the Shire, so sincere thanks to our community and our region, so full of good old country spirit and warm welcomes!

Special thanks to Diamantina Shire Councillors, staff, contractors, volunteers, and others who have worked tirelessly throughout the year! This past year has been one of change and I'm sure this has been challenging for many of our staff and contractors, nonetheless I'm impressed with those of you who have worked with us to find solutions on this journey. We have accomplished so much due to your commitment, dedication, and pride. I feel incredibly privileged to have your support, and I very much look forward to working with you all in 2026!!







As the year draws to a close let us take time to look back on some of our achievements:

- Desert Champions Way: Outback Camel Trail
- Simpson Desert Racing Carnival delivered with strong support from Council
- Frances Gage McGinn exhibition at the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre and the soft opening of the Birdsville Courthouse
- Bitumen seal of an additional 6.4 km of the Bedourie to Birdsville Road
- Ongoing roadworks and flood damage restoration throughout the year
- Birdsville Bore and Cooling Ponds constructed
- System improvements
  - electronic timesheets for payroll and plant (Definitiv) to be implemented in the new year
  - working towards making procurement easier
  - workplace health and safety system and training
  - financial audit finalised within statutory timelines
- Disaster Dashboard launched
- Community infrastructure
  - Masterplans for clubs to support funding arrangements
  - Bedourie Race Club Shed
  - Betoota Race Club Shed construction underway
- Service Level Reviews underway
- Community consultation on a number of matters to ensure informed decisions are made
- Investment in staff training and development
- Recruitment drive to fill vacant positions



The sealing of 6.4km of the Allen's Yards and Cuttaburra section of the road from Bedourie to Birdsville has been long advocated and I especially thank the team for their continued efforts to bring this dream to reality. We certainly dodged the storms, with some apprehension until after the seal was applied. A huge effort to be congratulated!

Our town services teams have also ensured our towns are beautifully presented throughout the year and I thank you all for your hard work and additional effort in lighting up the towns for the festive season and for supporting our events during the year. These little things bring magic to the outback!

To those of you who have worked on outside jobs, I applaud your efforts to be able to continue in sometimes oppressive heat to ensure continuity of service delivery. Sincere thanks to my executive leadership team and all your staff for the ongoing support.







Last Friday, we celebrated the end of year with our Christmas party, and it was a lovely to see so many of you enjoying the celebrations. Thanks to the Christmas Party working group, our photographer and all of you who assisted because these gatherings would not be possible without your support.

We've had a big year and deservedly many of us are looking forward to a break. For those of you who are travelling, I wish you a safe journey. For all of you I wish you a safe and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Please be kind to yourselves and to one another.

*Julianne*

## *Season's Greetings to our Community*

As the year draws to a close, Diamantina Shire Council would like to wish all residents, families and visitors a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year

### **Council Christmas & New Year Closures**

Council Offices & Services will close from  
5pm Friday, 19 December 2025 till  
Monday, 5 January 2026:

- Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre (Birdsville)
- Bedourie Administration Office
- Bedourie Outback Information Centre
- Bedourie & Birdsville Playgroups

**We wish everyone a joyful festive season  
and a bright start to the New Year**







## Diamantina Lights

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2025 Christmas Lights Competition. Thank you to all residents, businesses, and stations who helped brighten our region with festive displays this year.

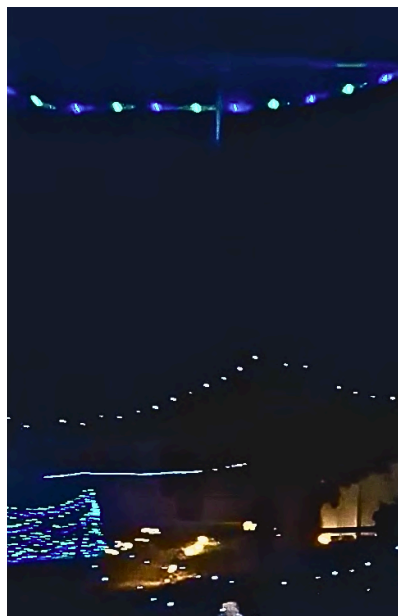
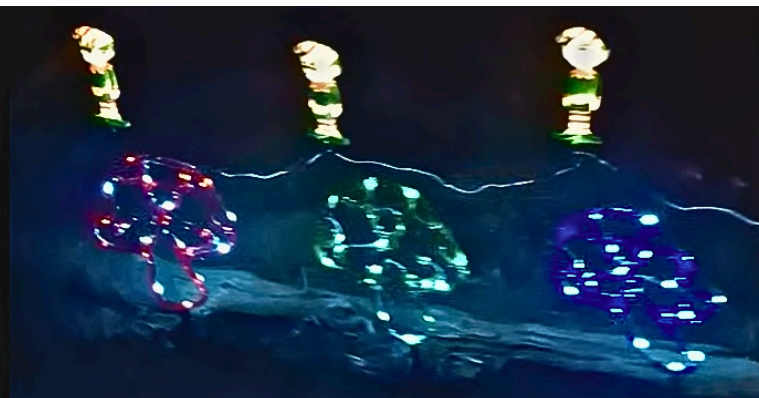
### Birdsville Winners

- Best Business: Birdsville Hotel
- Best House: 18 Jardine Street
- Best Station: Roseberth Station.

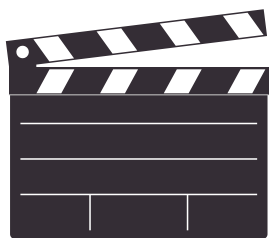
### Bedourie Winners

- Best Business: Bedourie Police Station
- Best House: 11 Kepler Street
- Best Station: No entry

Council extends its congratulations to all winners and thanks the community for spreading Christmas cheer across the Shire.







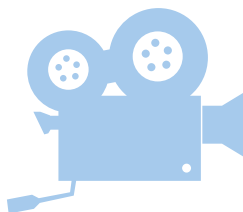
## Lights, Camera, Birdsville! Feature Film Production Set to Bring Big-Screen Action to the Desert

Pathline Productions Brisbane based small film production company—Producer Sam Price and Writer / Director Sean were in Birdsville from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November until Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November scouting locations for the upcoming filming of a feature film ( Horror / Suspense Thriller) in and around Birdsville ( the location in line with the script and creative brief is a non-descript desert location) exact locations have not been set as yet.

Their aim of the production is to invest as much as possible and engage all the Businesses in Birdsville through the acquisition of goods and services.

The overview of the production schedule is;  
4<sup>th</sup> May to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in Birdsville

- Week 1 is Pre-production based in town.
- Weeks 2 -4 will be on location around Birdsville  
– exact locations to be determine in due course.



A cast and crew of approximately 35–40 people will be in the region for the duration of filming, requiring accommodation, catering and transport. This presents a great opportunity for local businesses and community groups to get involved — now's the time to start brainstorming ideas and opportunities.



They will also be putting a few call outs in due course for paid castings opportunities in the **Birdsville, Bedourie & Betoota Community Group** on Facebook.

Sam and Sean have asked me to pass on their “Thank You” for the hospitality, they had a fantastic time and are excited to bring this production to Birdsville.

Patrice Brandenburg-Wallace  
Director Communities





## 2024 - 2025 Annual Report

Our 2024–2025 Annual Report is now available, celebrating the resilience and spirit of our Diamantina communities.

Throughout a year shaped by flooding, road closures and workforce challenges, we continued to invest in essential services, deliver important projects and support the events and connections that bring our towns together.

Thank you to our residents, volunteers, partners and staff who make this region such a strong and vibrant place to call home.

### View the Diamantina Shire Council Annual Report 2024 – 2025

[diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Plans-Reports-and-Publications](https://diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Plans-Reports-and-Publications)



## Stay up to date with Council's Disaster Dashboard

The Diamantina Disaster Dashboard is your one-stop source for real-time information during emergency events, helping our community stay informed and prepared.

The dashboard includes updates on:

- Emergency news
- Road closures
- Power outages
- Weather and flood warnings
- Fire danger ratings
- Council's social media feed
- Council emergency contact details
- Activated evacuation centres
- And much more

Having access to timely, reliable information supports safer decisions for you, your family and your business — especially during severe weather or disaster events.

### View the Diamantina Disaster Dashboard at [disaster.diamantina.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.diamantina.qld.gov.au)



Disasters

Our Disaster Dashboard is live at  
[disaster.diamantina.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.diamantina.qld.gov.au)





# WHAT'S ON IN THE DIAMANTINA

**Birdsville Community Christmas Eve** Wednesday 24 December 2025

*Birdsville Hotel (1pm - 5pm) & Anzac Park (5pm onwards)*

**Summer of Sun Festival** | 9 - 11 January 2026

*Birdsville*

**Cactus 100 Ultra** | 9 - 11 January 2026

*Birdsville*

**Australia Day Celebrations** | Monday 26 January 2026

*Birdsville & Bedourie*

**Courthouse Opening Welcome Event** | Thursday 9 April 2026

*Wirrari Visitor Information Centre, Birdsville*

**Birdsville Courthouse Official Opening** | Friday 10 April 2026

*Birdsville Courthouse, Police Complex and Aboriginal Tracker's Hut Museum*

*RSVP: Friday 6 February 2026*

MERRY  
*christmas*





## Community Christmas Eve

1-5pm

Kick off the celebrations with us at the  
Birdsville Hotel with drinks, nibbles and  
Christmas fun.



5pm Onwards

Head over to Anzac Park for a community BBQ  
hosted by Cr Morton and family.  
Bring a plate.





# SUMMER OF SUN Weekend

BIRDSVILLE 9-11TH JAN 2026

GLOW  
GOLF

PAINT  
'N SIP

100  
ULTRA

YOGA

BILLABONG  
RECOVERY

& LOTS  
MORE

THE CRACK  
UP SISTERS

WE'D LOVE  
TO SEE YOU  
HERE!

f SUMMER OF SUN

Follow Summer of Sun on Facebook for event updates

LIKE



We're back in 2026!



January 9-11  
Birdsville

come for the run & stay for the fun!

SUMMER OF SUN  
festival  
event

It'll be hot!

Stay tuned to the  
**Cactus 100 Ultra**  
**Facebook page** for  
further information  
and registration  
details

SUMMER OF SUN  
Weekend



# Save The Date



**AUSTRALIA DAY 2026  
BIRDSVILLE & BEDOURIE  
MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2026**

Join us in Birdsville & Bedourie for a relaxed, family-friendly  
Outback Celebration this Australia Day.

More details coming soon.





## Have Your Say – Regional Aviation Survey Now Open

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Regional Aviation Engagement Session held in Bedourie on Tuesday, 2 December. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is gathering community feedback to help shape the future of regional air services, with current Air Service Contracts due to expire in December 2026.

If you were unable to make it to the session, you can still share your thoughts. TMR is inviting residents, businesses, and community organisations to provide input through an online survey.

Have your say here:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/QLDregionalaviation](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QLDregionalaviation)

Your feedback is important and will help ensure future air services continue to meet the needs of our region and support strong connectivity across Queensland.

### We want to hear from you!

Tell us what kinds of events you'd like to see in the Diamantina Shire so we can plan community days.

It will only take a few minutes and your feedback will help shape our events for the year ahead.

Take the survey at:

[diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Have-Your-Say](https://diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Have-Your-Say)





## Kids Corner

Birdsville Splash Park is  
open and operating!

Operating daily  
from 7am to 8pm

Birdsville's family-friendly covered splash park  
is a favourite for kids of all ages. This free,  
zero-depth space is the perfect spot to cool off  
on a hot day.

📍 Adelaide Street, Birdsville.



**Christmas in  
Bedourie  
2025**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
from  
*Diamantina Playgroups*

Birdsville & Bedourie Playgroups & Libraries  
are now closed for 2025

We look forward to welcoming families  
back to playgroup from  
Monday 5 January 2026

**Merry Christmas**  
THIS SEASON



## Birdsville Little Reds Playgroup — Hot Days Call for Water Play and Cupcake Decorating!

with Khalli Rowlands

On the very hot Tuesday morning we had in late November, we went to the pool to cool off! There was lots of swimming and laughs from the children and a we enjoyed a delicious fruit platter from the Birdsville Hotel. We had so much fun that we stayed for most of the morning.

The children were very tired afterwards! It was a great morning for us to cool down and relax.



The next day, we headed to Jardine Street Park where we had some fun water stuff set up. It was another hot morning so playing in the water was what was needed!

We listened and danced to music and then when it got a bit too hot, we went and played on the playground. It was another great fun morning with Little Reds Playgroup.







Thursday morning started with the Birdsville State School and Little Reds Playgroup meeting at the Wirrarri Information Centre to write Letters to Santa, do some Christmas colouring in and read a Christmas book.

After we finished at the Information Centre, we said goodbye to Birdsville State School students and headed to our home where we started decorating some cupcakes!

It was such a fun little activity for the morning and all the kids loved playing with all the different toys and decorating the cupcakes.



Birdsville Little Reds Playgroup thank all parents and children for being so patient and understanding with all the change that have been happening with playgroup recently! Enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you all back at Little Reds Playgroup in 2026.







Birdsville State School

[birdsvilles.eq.edu.au](http://birdsvilles.eq.edu.au)



As we farewell another school year at Birdsville, we look back with pride and forward with great excitement. Thank you for your ongoing support and we look towards a bright and engaging year ahead.

Our students have enjoyed a wealth of opportunities this year, from Bedourie Splash 'n' Arts Camp and Windorah Sports Camp to Cross Country, Sports Carnival, swimming lessons at school with Leanne, and a week of intensive swimming in Bedourie. We even took on the challenge of learning Tae Kwon Do!

Working with the Outback Advantage Cluster has been a true highlight for our staff and students. This collaboration allows our students to benefit from the collective expertise of outstanding teachers across the region, ensuring they engage with high-quality, relevant and inspiring curriculum tailored to their needs.

One of the great advantages of learning in the Outback is meeting remarkable people. This year we were fortunate to spend time with the RAAF flight crew of a C27J Spartan, enjoy visits from our friends at The CrackUp Company, the Queensland Ballet and learn from the ever-popular Deadly Arthur.

We remain committed to supporting families through our Food Program, and our ongoing programs that supply all essential school requirements including uniform and shoes. We are also continuing our support for families by facilitating access to services that promote physical, mental health and wellbeing. This year we also worked closely with specialist speech pathologists to strengthen children's speech development, a vital foundation for reading and writing success.







Birdsville State School

[birdsvilless.eq.edu.au](http://birdsvilless.eq.edu.au)



Attendance will continue to be a major focus for us in 2026. Research is clear: regular attendance contributes to healthier students with greater long-term opportunities. At Birdsville State School we believe that every day matters, and we look forward to partnering with families to ensure strong attendance across the year.

Transitioning into the next stage of schooling has become an important priority for the Department, and at Birdsville State School we have embraced this through an extended and nurturing transition program. Our littlest learners have been given time and space to feel safe, confident and ready for school life.

We're proud of the improvements to our grounds, including the installation of a new sensory garden. Maintaining our facilities is part of our commitment to leaving a legacy for future students. Small schools like ours hold a special place in the connection between past and present, and we take our role as custodians of this history very seriously.

Of course, small school life is full of both goodbyes and hellos. This year we have farewelled some special people and wish them every success on their next adventures.

With our calendar already filling with exciting events for next term, we can't wait to get underway. Until then, we wish our families and the wider community a safe, joyful Christmas and New Year. May the peace and joy that is the season envelope your family in love.

Nita Tilney | Principal  
Birdsville State School | Adelaide Street

Follow **Birdsville State School**  
on Facebook







Bedourie State School

[bedourie.ss.eq.edu.au](http://bedourie.ss.eq.edu.au)

On Thursday 4 December, we had our annual End of Year celebrations at the Bedourie Community Hall. A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support our children of Bedourie.

It has been a big year for Bedourie State School, and would not have been possible without a village of amazing people and organisations.

A huge thank you to our 2025 P & C and the Diamantina Shire for your ongoing support throughout the year. Bedourie SS present and past Staff as well as our local businesses and surrounding stations a heartfelt thank you.

To our neighbouring schools - Birdsville and Boulia State Schools thank you for your ongoing willingness to combine for the growth of our students.

To Dajarra, Jundah, Windorah, Stonehenge, Birdsville, Mt Isa SDE, Longreach SDE, Boulia State Schools and their families thank you for supporting our biannual Splash n Arts camp this year.

Hopefully, we haven't missed someone but if we have, we say thank you. Merry Christmas everyone and may 2026 bring even more great moments to celebrate at Bedourie State School!

View all the pics on the [Bedourie State School Facebook page](#).







RURAL  
Child Health

# Little Learnings Library

A toolbox for Rural Families

## Do you find yourself...

Wishing it was easier to access parenting information and support?  
Constantly turning to Google, searching for parenting advice

## Child Health Nurse in your back pocket.

The hottest topics for parents everywhere are covered from **birth to 4 years!**

- Walking, talking, eating, sleeping, illness and looking after yourself
- Monthly recorded chats with a HUGE variety of Health care professionals
- All information available on an app so you can listen or watch on the go, anywhere, anytime!



Hi I'm Rebecca,  
your rural  
child health  
nurse

## Get your FREE access now

- Scan the QR code
- Choose the age bracket that suits you best
- Check your email for confirmation and instructions
- Download the app and you are ready to go

Scan HERE  
to get started!

**Rabobank**  
Rabo Client Councils



In partnership with the Southern Queensland Rabo  
Client Council you can access for free



## Health Matters

### Birdsville Fluoride Fact Sheet

We are sharing the Birdsville Fluoride Fact Sheet on the following pages to provide the community with clear, reliable information about fluoride in Birdsville's drinking water. This document explains why fluoride is used, how levels are managed and monitored, and what it means for public health, particularly dental health.

We encourage residents to read the fact sheet to better understand the water treatment process and to support informed, confident decision-making about our local water supply.

Learn more about Diamantina's water supply and download the Birdsville Fluoride Fact Sheet at [diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Plans-Reports-and-Publications](https://diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Plans-Reports-and-Publications)



### Birdsville Primary Health Centre

31 Adelaide St, Birdsville

Call 07 4564 2400

See services at [centralwest.health.qld.gov.au](https://centralwest.health.qld.gov.au)

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December (telehealth ONLY)



### Bedourie Primary Health Centre

Upcoming Bedourie RFDS Clinic on  
30 December 2025.

This will be a doctor only, no nurse. Anyone requiring an appointment please contact the clinic 4746 1500.

RFDS visits will return to regular fortnightly clinics from Wednesday, 7 January 2026.

Everyone, have a wonderful Christmas and see you in the New Year,

Jacky  
Director of Nursing

Kepler St, Bedourie  
Call 07 4746 1500  
[centralwest.health.qld.gov.au](https://centralwest.health.qld.gov.au)



## Naturally occurring fluoride in Birdsville's drinking water

Fluoride is a natural element often found in water, plants, rocks, soil, air and some foods. Research shows that fluoride helps protect teeth against tooth decay. Regularly drinking water containing small amounts of fluoride can help reduce tooth decay for people of all ages.

### What is the drinking water standard for fluoride?

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines recommend an upper limit of 1.5 mg/L (or parts per million) of fluoride in drinking water. This is equivalent to one twentieth of a teaspoon of fluoride in a bathtub of water.

Many Western Queensland towns source their drinking water from groundwater (i.e. bores). These water sources can contain natural fluoride levels that are above this limit.

Monitoring of Birdsville's drinking water supply has indicated that it contains naturally occurring fluoride at an average concentration of 1.8 mg/L. This is slightly above the recommended limit in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Conventional water treatment processes and most domestic water filters do not reduce the level of fluoride present in your drinking water.

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

There are two side effects that have been associated with elevated levels of fluoride in drinking water. The first is dental fluorosis and the second is skeletal fluorosis, which only occurs with very high levels of fluoride in drinking water.

### What is dental fluorosis?

The main side effect associated with elevated levels of fluoride in drinking water is a condition known as dental fluorosis.

Dental fluorosis is largely an aesthetic concern and most often occurs as a mild change to the appearance of tooth enamel. It can appear as small, almost invisible, white lines in the enamel. More rarely, and in more severe cases, it can appear as pitting or staining of the enamel.

Dental fluorosis can occur if too much fluoride is ingested when teeth are developing at around one to four years of age. Teeth already present in the mouth are not at risk of developing fluorosis.

The risk of developing dental fluorosis, or experiencing more severe forms of the condition, increases with greater levels of fluoride in drinking water. However occasionally dental fluorosis occurs in developing teeth at relatively low fluoride levels.

Showering or bathing in water containing high levels of fluoride does not increase the risk of developing dental fluorosis.





## What can I do to minimise the risk of dental fluorosis?

Most domestic water filters do not reduce the level of fluoride present in your drinking water. Parents can reduce the risk of children developing dental fluorosis by:

- Ensuring children do not take fluoride supplements (e.g. fluoride tablets and/or drops).
- Cleaning children's teeth with low fluoride or fluoride free toothpaste until the age of 18 months, unless otherwise recommended by a dentist.
- If fluoridated toothpaste is used, ensuring only a pea-sized amount of toothpaste is used and that children spit out after brushing and rinse their mouths with water.
- Monitoring and restricting other sources of fluoride in their children's diet (such as seafood and tea, which are known to contain fluoride).
- Providing bottled drinking water with low fluoride content where possible and not substituting bottled drinking water with soft drinks or other drinks high in sugar.
- Breast-feeding infants where possible and using bottled water to add to infant formula.

## Help and assistance

For general enquiries contact your local Public Health Unit:

- Longreach: (07) 4658 4790
- Rockhampton: (07) 4920 6989
- Townsville: (07) 4433 6900

For more information:

- Contact your dental professional
- Visit [www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth)
- Call 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](mailto:oral_health@health.qld.gov.au)

The information in this fact sheet applies only to those parts of Queensland with levels of naturally occurring fluoride above the drinking water Guideline or 1.5 milligrams per litre. It does not apply to locations with standard levels of water fluoridation.

*Disclaimer: Please note that any material printed is regarded as an uncontrolled copy. It is the responsibility of the person printing the document to refer frequently to the latest electronic copies for updates.*



## VISITING SERVICES

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

**JANUARY 2026**

### Flying Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

Dr Adam Bush

Dr Sarah Janssens

Dr Alison McDougall

Dr David Hodgson

- 6 January – Barcaldine
- 13 January – Longreach
- 20 January – Longreach

### Flying Surgeon

Including endoscopy services

Dr Christian Ibraheem

Dr Ferdinand Ong

Dr Goutham Sivasuthan

- 6 January - Longreach
- 13 January - Longreach
- 20 January - Longreach

### Cardiology

Dr Scott McKenzie

Dr Karthikeyan Gopal

- Telehealth every Tuesday & Friday PM

### Respiratory Physician

Dr Alistair Cook

- 19 Jan – Telehealth



## Queensland Government support for growing small and family businesses

If you're a small and family business looking to invest in specialised equipment to take your operations to the next level, support is now available.

We know that small and family businesses looking to buy, install and complete training to use new equipment face significant costs in time and money that can stop or slow growth plans.

Supporting small businesses to overcome these barriers helps them and the people they support—staff, suppliers and customers—to grow.

Check your eligibility for the Business Growth Fund and submit a registration of interest before 5pm Friday 30 January 2026.

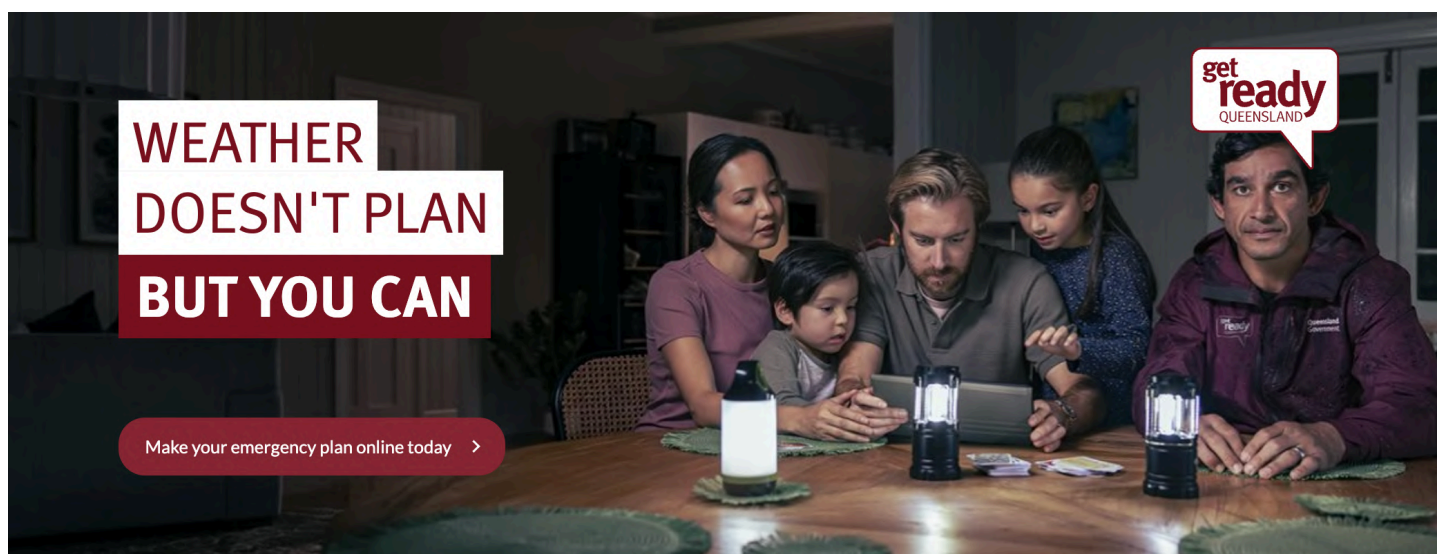
This program offers grant funding of between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to help businesses grow, increase productivity and efficiency, increase market share or develop and expand export opportunities.



**A new round of the Business Growth Fund is now open to small and family businesses**

Successful applicants can use their grant to cover the purchase, installation, setup, and training costs associated with specialised equipment—maximising economic returns and paving the way for sustainable job creation.

Visit [business.qld.gov.au/growthfund](https://business.qld.gov.au/growthfund) to explore the full eligibility criteria and learn how to apply.







## On the Ground with Garth Borgelt

As 2025 draws to a close, we want to sincerely thank the Infrastructure Services teams for a huge year of delivery across roads, facilities, fleet and maintenance.

Thanks also to our Technical Projects administration team for supporting across all of the Infrastructure directorate.



*The new Pavilion-style shed proudly funded by the Works for Queensland Program (W4Q) at the Bedourie Race Course is a great new addition to our facilities. Photo: ABC Sheds.*



## 2025 at a glance – key achievements

### Roads & Construction

- 6.4 km of new sealed roads constructed
- 270 km of roads repaired following flood damage
- 5 new concrete floodways constructed
- Resealing completed:
  - Streets – 49,985 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Roads – 8.7 km
- Crack sealing (bitumen) – 70 km
- 150,000 tonnes of gravel crushed
- 26 gravel pits rehabilitated
- 300 million litres of water carted for road construction - That's roughly 120 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

### Compliance & Approvals

- 18 Cultural Heritage and Environmental compliance clearances completed

### Facilities Services

- 290 service requests completed across:
  - Buildings (36)
  - Fixtures & fittings (108)
  - Electrical (53)
  - Air conditioning (47)
  - Plumbing (46)

### Workshop & Fleet

- Over 900 maintenance orders completed
- 9 new vehicles added to the fleet (all Toyotas):
  - 2 Fortuners – Directors (Corporate Services & Infrastructure)
  - 1 LandCruiser 300 Series – CEO
  - 1 LandCruiser GXL Dual Cab – Works Manager
  - 5 LandCruiser Workmates – Works crews and labourers
- New plant and equipment commissioned:
  - 6 new generators
  - 1 Selwood 6" pump with tandem trailer
  - 3 camp trailers
  - 1 fully fitted carpenter's trailer
  - 2 x 3,500L diesel trailers

These numbers tell a powerful story of effort, teamwork and long-term thinking. The scale of work completed, often in challenging conditions, reflects the team's commitment, skill and pride in keeping our communities connected, safe and supported.

Have a happy and safe break and see you in the new year.

Garth Borgelt | Infrastructure Services



## Cuttaburra 1: Road Works Update

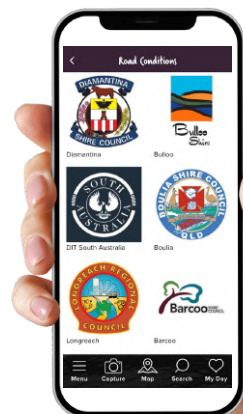
Last week Council's Infrastructure team progressed well on works at Cuttaburra 1, with priming completed on Wednesday morning. The pavement was first lightly watered and allowed time to soak in, before being swept with the tractor and broom to remove any loose material. The spray truck then applied the prime coat, which requires a couple of days to properly soak into the pavement. Sealing was completed Friday morning.



*A big thank you to everyone involved for your efforts in keeping our outback roads safe, connected and in great condition — your work makes a real difference for our community and travellers alike.*



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







## QGAP

### Queensland Government Agent Program

Bedourie QGAP offices will be unattended from  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 25 until Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

If you require assistance, please contact the Boulia or Birdsville QGAP Offices.

Boulia QGAP 4744 1644

Email: [QGAPBoulia@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:QGAPBoulia@police.qld.gov.au)

Will be unavailable from 25.12.25 till the 01.01.2026

Birdsville QGAP 4744 1663

[QGAP.Birdsville@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:QGAP.Birdsville@police.qld.gov.au)

Will be unavailable from 22.12.25 till the 02.01.2026

Normal QGAP duties will resume in Bedourie  
on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Kind regards

Lisy Plant  
QGAP, Bedourie







## QGAP

### Queensland Government Agent Program

The Birdsville QGAP office will be unattended from  
**Monday 22 December 2025 to Monday 5 January 2026 (inclusive).**

If you require assistance, please find below our closest QGAPs Offices' details:

**Bedourie QGAP**

Phone: 4744 1601

Email: [QGAPBedourie@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:QGAPBedourie@police.qld.gov.au)

Closed from 8 December 2025 to 9 January 2026

**Boulia QGAP**

Phone: 4744 1642

Email: [QGAPBoulia@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:QGAPBoulia@police.qld.gov.au)

Closed from 25 December 2025 to 1 January 2026

**Windorah QGAP**

Phone: 4652 5121

Email: [QGAPWindorah@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:QGAPWindorah@police.qld.gov.au)

Closed from 15 December 2025 to 9 January 2026

Normal QGAP duties will resume in Birdsville on **Tuesday 6 January 2026.**

Apologies for any inconvenience.  
Kind regards

Ari Gardner  
QGAP, Birdsville





# Need more from your phone and internet?

The Regional Tech Hub team are here to help.



## WHAT WE DO

We provide free, personalised, independent advice and support on internet, phone and mobile options for anyone living and working in rural, regional, and remote Australia.



## HOW WE HELP

By looking at your location and topography, and understanding your requirements and budget, we can help you to understand all of the connectivity options available to you.



## OUR SERVICES

- Personalised connectivity reports
- Phone assistance hotline
- Escalation support
- Online connectivity resource hub
- Consultation booking to resolve connectivity issues



## TAKE THE NEXT STEP

- 🌐 [regionaltechhub.org.au](https://regionaltechhub.org.au)
- 📞 1300 081 029
- ✉ [helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au](mailto:helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au)
- 📘 [facebook.com/RegionalTechHub](https://facebook.com/RegionalTechHub)



# Regional Tech Hub

## WHO WE ARE

The Regional Tech Hub (RTH) is a federally funded, independent telecommunications advisory service for rural, regional and remote Australians.

The RTH provides free, independent advice and support for rural, regional and remote individuals, businesses and communities with internet and voice connectivity options.

We also help educate consumers with regards to:

- Connectivity literacy
- Emergency preparedness
- Connecting for education and health
- On-farm connectivity
- Small business options
- Issues that affect your access to the internet and communications network.



Helping regional Australia to get connected, improve connectivity, and stay connected.



- 🌐 [regionaltechhub.org.au](https://regionaltechhub.org.au)
- 📞 1300 081 029
- ✉ [helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au](mailto:helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au)
- 📘 [facebook.com/RegionalTechHub](https://facebook.com/RegionalTechHub)



## Queensland Housing Finance Loan

REGIONAL TRIAL 🏡

# We're extending the income eligibility of the Queensland Housing Finance Loan

- ▶ Variable or fixed interest rate
- ▶ No monthly account keeping fees
- ▶ Minimum deposit of 2% of the purchase price
- ▶ No lenders mortgage insurance

**The 2-year trial is for people living in 45 rural and remote councils, earning less than \$201,000 per annum**



Scan the QR code to  
check your eligibility or  
contact **1300 654 322**  
for more information.

**DELIVERING**  
FOR QUEENSLAND



**Queensland**  
Government



## REQUESTS FOR TENDER

Diamantina Shire Council invites tenders for:

- **Road construction & associated works for the Bedourie Subdivision.**  
- Closes 2pm, 31 January 2026
- **Bedourie Levee Bank Construction.**  
- Closes 2pm, 16 February 2026

Details: [diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Tenders](http://diamantina.qld.gov.au/Council/Tenders)

## HOLIDAY RUBBISH COLLECTION

Garbage will be collected on Tuesday's as normal:

- Tuesday 23 Dec 2025
- Tuesday 30 Dec 2025
- Tuesday 6 Jan 2026



**Zack Kinivan was presented with a recognition of service award by Deputy Mayor Damien Watson for completing 5 years at Diamantina Shire Council.**

**Thank you Zack.**



# Community Grants Register

Our Community Grants Register is a regularly updated list of external funding opportunities available to local community groups and individuals.

It includes a variety of Queensland and national grant programs, organised by application closing date. Ongoing or open-ended grants are listed at the bottom for easy reference.

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

If your group is planning a project and needs help applying for a grant, please contact Council for guidance.



Community Grants Register

December 2025

Program Name	Close Date	Available Funding	Objective	Eligible Project Costs
Security Communities Partnership Program Round 2 (Small and Family Businesses only)	Until Funds are Exhausted	\$5,000 - \$20,000	Funding for small and family businesses to install safety and security infrastructure - such as lighting, cameras, and alarms - to deter crime and create safer commercial precincts. Applicants must co-contribute at least 50% towards total project costs.	•Alarm Systems •Access Control & Entry Systems •Surveillance and Detection •Lighting & Environmental Security •Physical Security Measures
Future Drought Fund's Communities Program	11 December 2025	up to \$50,000	Funding for local projects that strengthen social capital, wellbeing, and connectedness for drought resilience, through two streams: Small Network Grants and Regional Drought Resilience Plan Social Outcome Grants.	Seeking simple, one-off, or saved activities that connect communities through networks and events, build skills in drought planning and leadership, and raise awareness about drought impacts, climate risks.
Jan Pottier Foundation - Environment Program (EOs)	11 December 2025	\$100,000 (multi year)	Funding to support transformative conservation initiatives that protect and restore Australia's natural ecosystems, with a focus on biodiversity, climate resilience, and community engagement.	On-ground nature protection, landscape-scale conservation, and community-led biodiversity initiatives.
Queensland Green's Regional Grant-making	12 December 2025	\$5,000 to \$30,000	Seeking projects from charitable organisations with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status delivering services across the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Torres Strait and Darling Downs, and Northern Queensland.	Direct project costs
Queensland Green's General fund community building grants	12 December 2025	\$40,000	Seeking applications from DGR listed charitable organisations with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to support organisational capacity building - strengthening structures, systems, people, and skills to improve outcomes.	Direct project costs
Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program (Round 2)	13 December 2025	up to \$20,000	The fund provides up to \$10,000 for cultural or intercultural sporting events, and up to \$20,000 for multicultural festivals held between July and December 2025, celebrating cultural heritage, diversity, and community connection.	•Hugs and snacks •Equipment & venue hire •Food & Catering •Transport assistance •Performers and entertainment •Cleaning and security expenses

Download the Community Grants Register at:  
[diamantina.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants-and-Funding](http://diamantina.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants-and-Funding)

## Celebrating Service & Loyalty

At our Council Christmas Party, we recognised staff for their years of dedicated service to Diamantina Shire Council. These milestones reflect their commitment and the vital role they play in supporting our communities.

We thank all recipients for their contribution and loyalty.

- Francis Warren – 23 years
  - Jodie Girdler – 15 years
  - Patrick Tully – 6 years
  - Connor Weirmann – 5 years
  - Antony Smith – 3 years
  - Greg Wills – 3 years
  - Kevin Barr – 2 years
  - Teegan Bourquin – 2 years
  - Cherokee Crombie – 2 years
  - Adele Rowe – 2 years
  - Joanne Fiorenza – 2 years
  - Rachael Hunter – 2 years
  - Nerissa Parsons – 1.5 years
  - Elizabeth Plant – 1.5 years
  - Richard Armstrong – 1 year
- Mona Smith – 20 years
  - Pauline Daly – 13 years
  - Paula Brown – 7 years
  - Zack Kinivan – 5 years
  - Brian Holland – 5 years
  - Joy Grange – 3 years
  - Miranda Neilson – 3 years
  - Liam Brooker – 2 years
  - Jason Doyle – 2 years
  - Brendan Howe – 1 year
  - Terance Crawford – 1 year
  - Frederick Derwin – 1 year
  - Jade Smith – 1 year
  - Joshua Parkinson – 1 year





## 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

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Patrice Brandenburg

DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

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Jade Nacario

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

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Garth Borgelt

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

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E: Garth.Borgelt@Diamantina.qld.gov.au

## Connect With Us



Like Diamantina Shire Council  
on **Facebook**



Follow @diamantinaqld  
on **Instagram**



Follow Diamantina Shire Council  
on **LinkedIn**



## 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



*Manager's house at Cluny Station, Bedourie region, 1931-1932. The building is almost covered up on one side with sand blown from outback storms. Photo: State Library of Queensland*



Send your stories and photos for Desert Yarns  
to [marketing@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:marketing@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

[www.diamantina.qld.gov.au](http://www.diamantina.qld.gov.au)