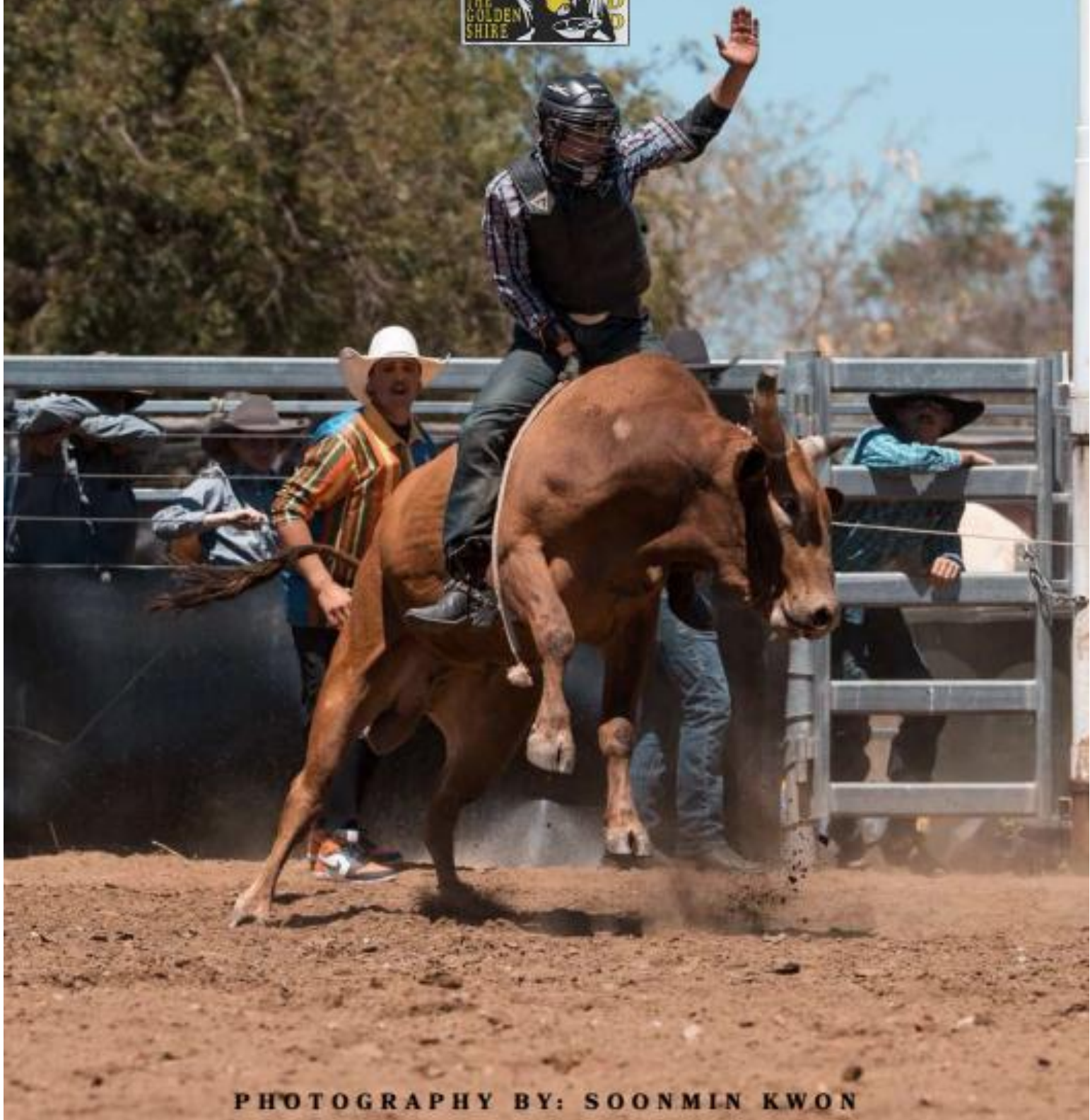


ETHERIDGE SHIRE
COUNCIL

INFORM

SEPTEMBER - EDITION 9



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: SOONMIN KWON

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hello and welcome to the Mayor's report



Spring has sprung and as the days warm up so does the increased risk of fire, so a timely reminder to stay alert with regard to this matter. Fuel loads on ground are in high volumes and conditions are already presenting challenges across the region with large fires in the Mareeba and Normanton districts.

Ongoing issues dealing with the Flying Fox invasion continue to raise concerns for Council around loss of trade for all our businesses as well as the concern pertaining to health and wellbeing of all residents impacted by the colony roosting in town.

Council will continue to liaise and assist in managing this issue and has to this point had very little response from the State through the Dept. of Environment which holds jurisdiction in relation to the invasion.

As stated in the public notice distributed by Council, the responsibilities centre around -

1. Compliance with State Legislation and Guidelines.
2. Community wellbeing and amenity.
3. Public health and safety.
4. Protection of Council's facilities and public spaces.
5. Conservation of native wildlife.

Council must adhere to Legislative and Regulatory guidelines or face the risk of penalties being applied through large fines if inappropriate activities are undertaken.

Last week I attended the FNQROC meeting held in Mossman where a majority of Mayors from the region were represented. Once again, the Disaster Funding debacle was high on the agenda and the growing tide of push back on this issue is expanding daily as Local Governments around the nation come to terms with the extent of the financial fallout impacting Councils of all shapes and sizes.

To make things even more untenable the Federal Minister Kristy McBain flew into Cairns the day before the FNQROC meeting and met with a few coastal Mayors unannounced to those of us on this side of the Great Divide, POOR FORM I would suggest.

Councillors and support staff travelled to the Gilbert River Community shed on Wednesday 9th September to meet with residents in that area to discuss concerns, enquiries, and ideas. A big thank you to all who attended with good robust discussions a result of the meeting. Roads, gravel pits and quality of material, B.O.M. river heights and rainfall gauges, signage were all given an airing at the meeting.

Unfortunately the Georgetown-Forsyth road construction project start was halted due to naturally occurring asbestos in the soil which has delayed momentarily the works getting underway.

Samples are being tested as I write this report and things should be up and going once results are received.

This week I travel to Atherton to attend a full day workshop on Bio-Security briefings and updates regarding a number of important issues.

These include:

- How Local Government can support a Bio-security response.
- Strengthen understanding of coordination, communication, and decision making arrangements.
- Identify local and regional capability gaps, challenges, and improvement opportunities.
- Share and compare between all relevant agencies.
- Contribute to the future preparedness activities across Queensland.

This week CEO Louise and I along with Cr. Carroll met with the QPS representatives from Cairns and Brisbane to progress the policing issues here in our region. We were able to secure a commitment with regard to having an extra vehicle based here in Georgetown before the upcoming wet season to service the region. Ongoing discussions are continuing with regard to the housing issue both here and Forsyth.

Until next month,

Happy Trails.

Kind Regards

Mayor Barry Hughes.



Mayor Barry Hughes

0458 621 233

Mayor@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Deputy Mayor Laurell Royes

0459 278 377

Cr.Royes@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Councillor Ian Tincknell

0459 136 283

Cr.Tincknell@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Councillor Seven Ryan

0448 089 144

Cr.Ryan@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Councillor Ian Carroll

0459 623 582

Cr.Carroll@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Suggestion Box Etheridge Shire Council

Your Ideas, feedback, and suggestions help us
build a stronger community.

Simply scan the QR code below to share your
thoughts with us.

No idea is too big or too small – whether it's
about services, facilities, or new initiatives, we'd
love to hear from you!

Together, we can create positive change.



FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IN AN EMERGENCY

CONTACT PERSONNEL

Council's nominated first point of contact is
CEO - Louise Knol
Phone: 0439 414 771

If the LDMG (Local Disaster Management
Group) is activated by the chairperson (The
Mayor) the Controlling Officer will be
CEO - Louise Knol
Phone: 0439 414 771

SUGGESTION BOX

A suggestion box is available for the staff and
public in the foyer of the Etheridge Shire Council
Main Office and within the Engineering Services.

All suggestions are welcome being anonymous
or otherwise.

Let's work together to make the Shire better!

FROM THE CORPORATE SERVICES DESK : AUGUST 2026

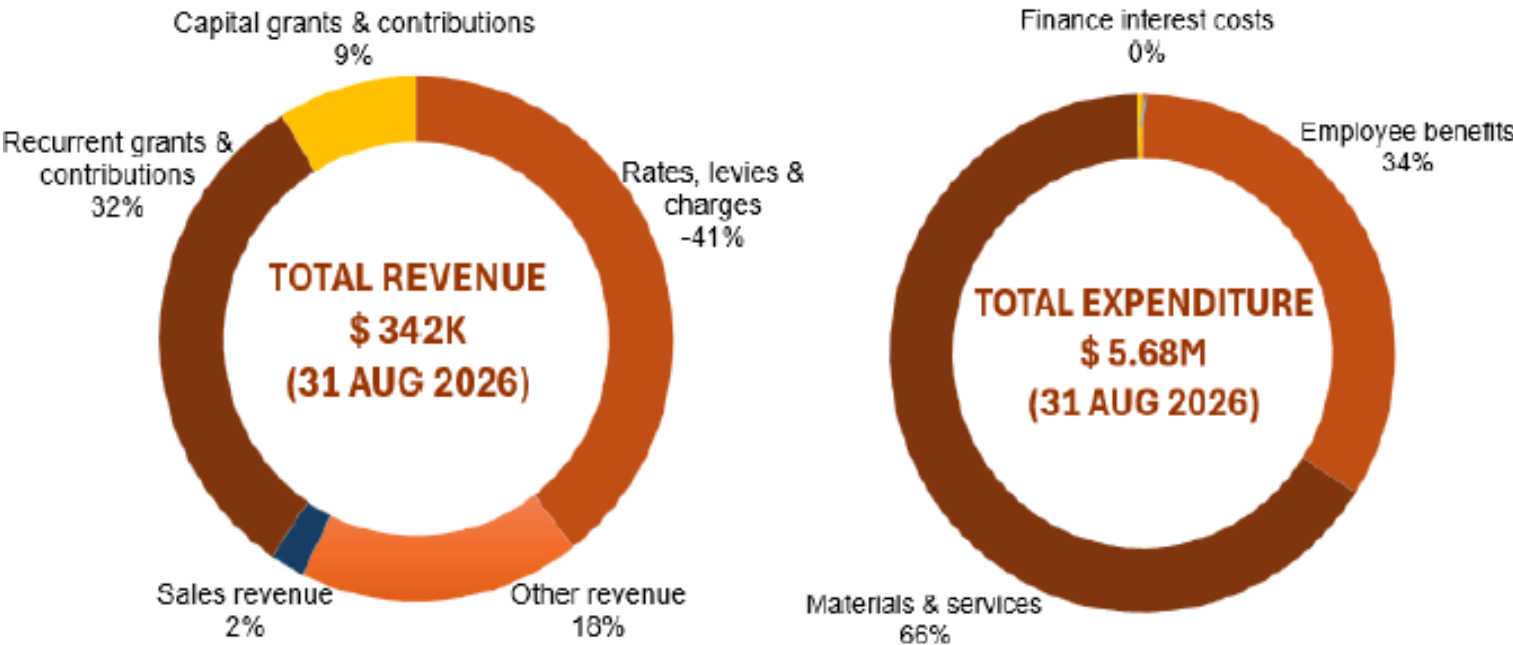


Financial Management

Council is tracking well against our financial targets for 2026/2027. Work is also underway to finalise the draft financial statements for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Council's adopted annual revenue budget for 2026/27 is \$ 57.9 million, with \$ 342,748 reported as at 31 August 2026. The operating expenditure of \$ 5.6 million for this Financial year, remaining in line with the adopted annual budget of \$ 44.9 million.

Council will continue to monitor expenditure closely as we move through the new financial year to ensure we deliver programs responsibly and maintain long-term financial stability.



Audit Update

Our External Auditors completed their final visit for the year in early September. Their final report will be presented to the Audit Committee at the next meeting, outlining any findings and recommendations to Council once received. This process ensures Council maintains strong financial governance and keeps our systems transparent and accountable.

Rates Notices

Rates notices have been issued as at the 21 September!

Please check your mailboxes and email accounts for your notice.

Council will allow a 15% discount on general rates (not including utility charges), if payment is made within 30 clear days from the date of issue of the notice.

If you have any questions or need a copy of your rates notice, please contact Council's Rates Officer on (07) 4079 9090.

Draft Community Sport & Recreation Strategic Plan

The draft Sport & Rec Strategic Plan was workshopped with Giffith University during their visit to the region in late August. Once the final document is received, it will be forwarded to Council for review and progression to the final version.

Outside School Hours Care

Due to the high level of interest expressed by the community for Outside School Hours Care, a workshop was held in late August to explore options for introducing the service to the Shire. Council will now move forward with a cost benefit analysis of the available options and determine the most practical and sustainable approach for local families.

Committee Activities

Council is currently seeking quotations to undertake a full review of all Council Local Laws to ensure they remain up-to-date and effective. The Etheridge Shire Council Biosecurity Plan is also listed on the agenda to be discussed at the next Biosecurity Advisory Committee Meeting.

Community Opportunities: Nominations & Funding Available

Council is currently taking applications for the following:

- 2027 Australia Day Award Nominations
 - Expressions of Interest for Agistment of cattle and horses in Georgetown
 - 2027 University Tertiary Scholarship
 - RADF Community Funding
-
-



PUBLIC NOTICE

2026 General Meeting Dates

In accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Etheridge Shire Council General Meetings for the 2026 Calendar year are to be held on the following dates in Georgetown.

Date	Venue	Time
16 September 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
14 October 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
11 November 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
16 December 2026	Georgetown	9:00am

Louise Knol
Chief Executive Officer



PUBLIC NOTICE

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL RADF Advisory Committee is currently seeking expressions of interest for a new Youth Member.

Members of the RADF Advisory Committee assist Council in providing a link between Council and local stakeholders, community members and arts & culture groups.

Expressions of interested are required to be received by 30th October 2026.

If this may be something that interests you or you would like more information, please contact
Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services on
PH: (07) 4079 9090 or Email: renee.bester@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Louise Knol
Chief Executive Officer



PUBLIC NOTICE

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Etheridge Shire Council has 4 Independent Living Houses available at the Georgetown Independent Living Facility

Application packs can be found on the Etheridge Shire Council Website.

For more information please contact Council on (07) 4079 9090.



SURVEY

SMS EVERYONE

We're inviting you to take part in the SMS Everyone survey.

Share your thoughts on using SMS for Etheridge Shire Council Rates & Water Notice Reminders, General notifications and Disaster Notifications.

Your feedback will help shape how we communicate with you in the future.



ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

...The Golden Heart of the Gulf

PUBLIC NOTICE

Etheridge Shire Council 2027 University Tertiary Scholarship

Are you contemplating undertaking tertiary studies for 2027?

Eligible applicants should consider applying for the Etheridge Shire University Tertiary Scholarship.

Council is now calling for nominations for the 2027 Scholarship Program.

Further information including eligibility and application forms can be located on Council's website

www.etheridge.qld.gov.au

Applications close 4:00pm Friday, 27th November 2026

For more details, please contact Caitlin Tansey on (07) 4079 9090 or via email on CaitlinT@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Renee Bester
Director of Corporate Services

ABN 57 665 238 857

Address all correspondence to:
The Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 12
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871

Phone: (07) 4079 9090
Email: info@etheridge.qld.gov.au
41 St George Street, GEORGETOWN QLD 4871



PUBLIC NOTICE

Forsayth Road Betterment Works

Etheridge Shire Council advises that upgrade works will be undertaken on the unsealed section of the Georgetown – Forsayth Road, starting with a 2km section near Flat Creek Station.

Works will start on:

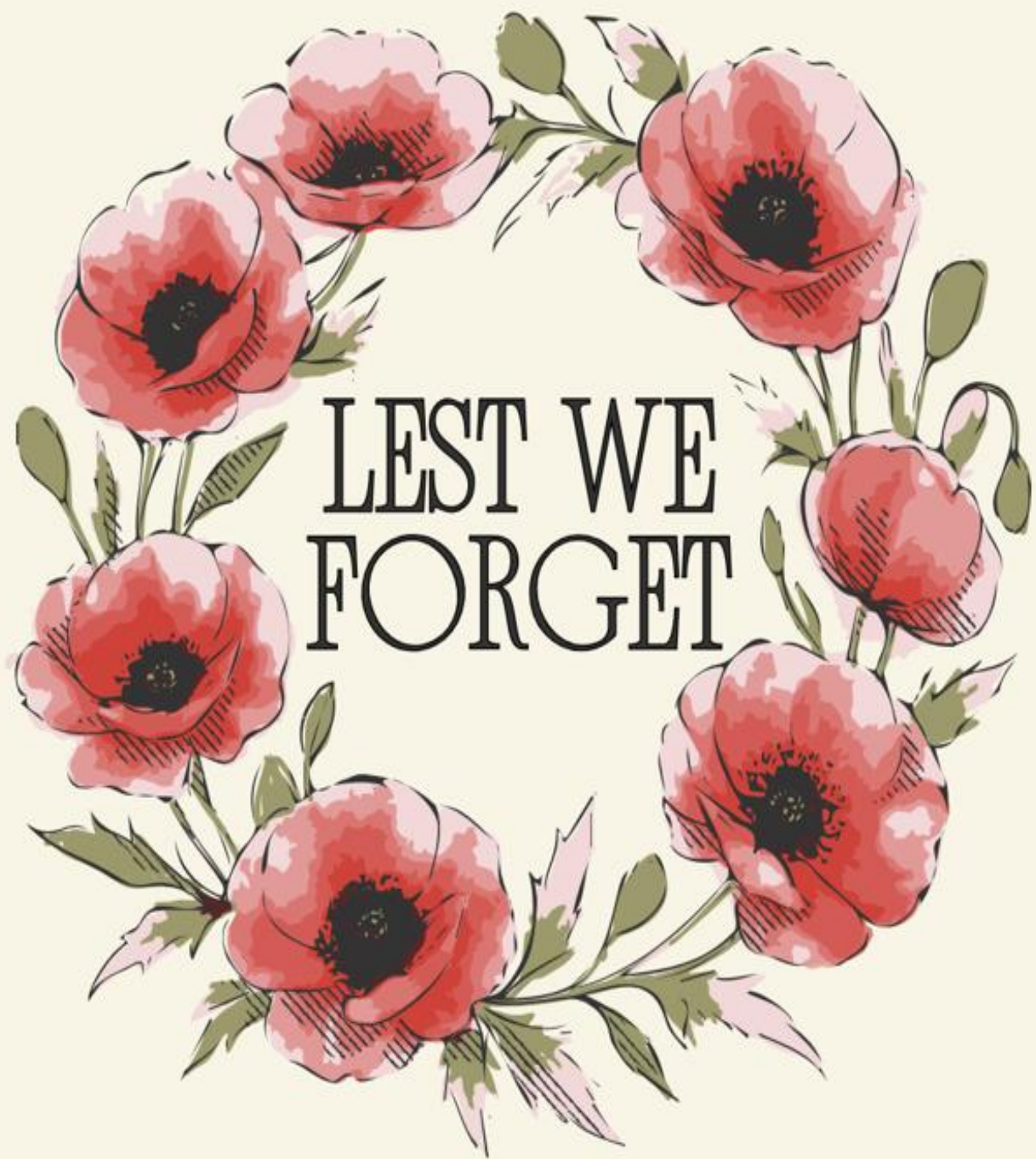
Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Crews will be onsite from 6am to 6pm on a nine-day roster, including alternate weekends, until the end of 2026, subject to weather and site conditions.

For the safety of road users and construction crews, changed traffic conditions will be in place including temporary speed limit reductions, and single-lane operation under coordination of traffic controllers and/or traffic signals during the works.

For enquiries, please contact Council on 4079 9090 or info@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Louise Knol
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



REMEMBRANCE DAY

JOIN US AS WE HONOR AND REMEMBER
THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY

11 NOVEMBER 10:45AM
GREENS PARK, GEORGETOWN



AUSTRALIA DAY ★ AWARDS ★

NOMINATIONS OFFICIALLY OPEN

CLOSING DATE: 27 November 2026

Nomination forms are available on the Etheridge Shire Council Website or at the Council Office.

For more information, please contact:
Caitlin Tansey or scan the QR Code:



(07) 4079 9090



CaitlinT@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Great Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Program

The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers will soon open a call for applications under the Great Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Program (GABRP).

For eligible bores located in the Queensland section of the Great Artesian Basin, funding of **up to 90% of approved project costs** may be available for:

- rehabilitation, replacement or plugging of free-flowing or leaking artesian bores
- installation of piping systems to replace bore drains.

Key dates

- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) open at **9:00am (AEST Qld) on Monday 14 September 2026.**
- Applications close at **4:00pm (AEST Qld) on Monday 30 November 2026.**

Local governments and natural resource management organisations play an important role in helping raise awareness of funding opportunities available to landholders across the Great Artesian Basin.

Please share this information to your members, stakeholders and networks.

For more information about the GABRP, visit the **Business Queensland** website.





20
26

**INNOVATE
WITH NBN®**
Grants Program

Applications now open!



Australian Government mobile service centres

Serving regional Australia

Visit the mobile service centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

We can also help veterans and their families connect to the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services.

Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

Wednesday, 7 October 2026

11 am to 4 pm

Near the Terrestrial Visitor Information Centre, Low St

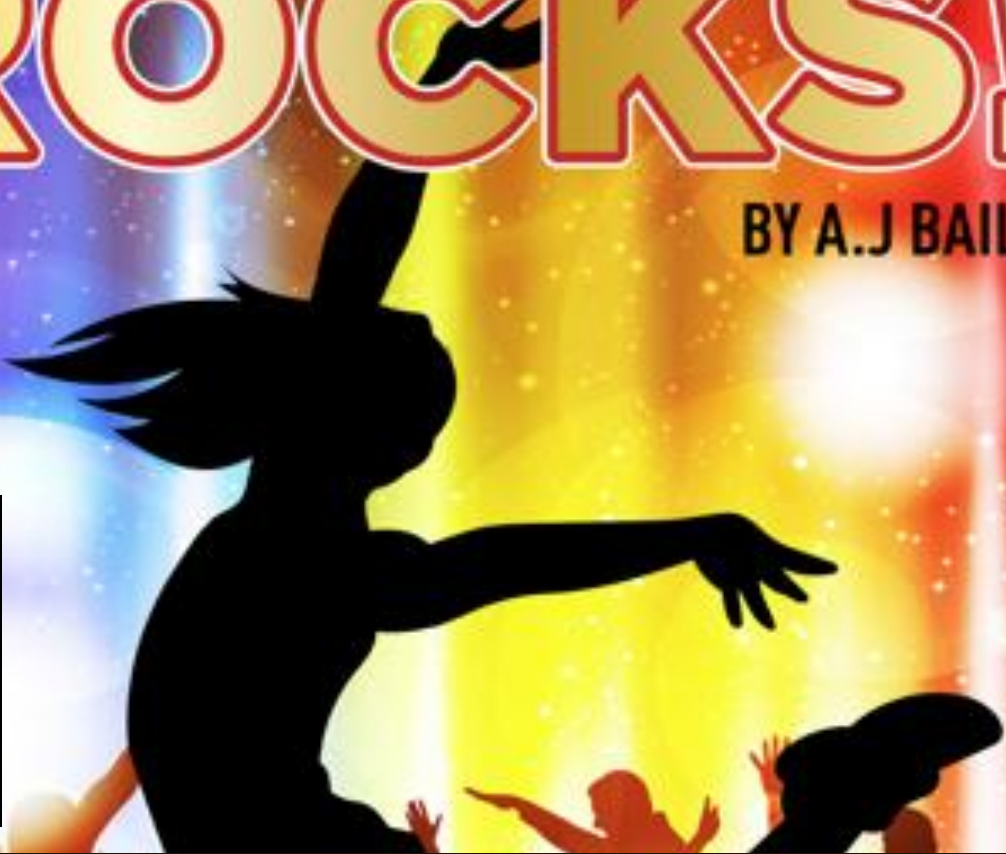
GEORGETOWN



For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

GOLDILOCKS ROCKS!

BY A.J BAILEY



**Georgetown
Shire Hall**

2nd November 10am

**Mt Surprise
Town Hall**

3rd November 10am

**Forsayth
CWA Hall**

30th October 5pm



Everyone is invited

88th Annual

GEORGETOWN BUSHMAN'S BALL

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2026

@ the Georgetown Town Hall

St George Street GEORGETOWN

6:00pm Doors Open \$25.00p/p • 7:00pm light supper provided • 7:00pm kick on with the band till Midnight

- Lucky door prize, best dressed categories, damper & aussie brownie comp

FREE GIFT BAGS!

**BORROW A BOOK FROM THE
ETHERIDGE LIBRARY TO
CLAIM!**

***5 YEARS & UNDER**

**PROUDLY FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY THE QUEENSLAND
GOVERNMENT AND STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND.**

**sprout
squad!**

3:15pm

21st October

Terrestrial Centre

STALL HOLDERS WANTED!

GEORGETOWN

Christmas
MARKET

**\$10 PER
TABLE**

NOVEMBER

27TH • 6 PM-LATE

**MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE – ST GEORGE
STREET, GEORGETOWN**

**STALLS • RAFFLES • GAMES
FOOD • LIVE MUSIC • BAR**

CALL OR MESSAGE 0458 712 370

CHRISTMAS MARKETS & COUNCIL BREAK UP PARTY

SEEKING DONATIONS

Etheridge Shire Council is seeking donations of prizes, vouchers and goods for the Cent Sale and Wheelbarrow Raffle being held as part of our Christmas celebrations.

Any donation, big or small, would be greatly appreciated and will help make the Christmas event a success for our community.

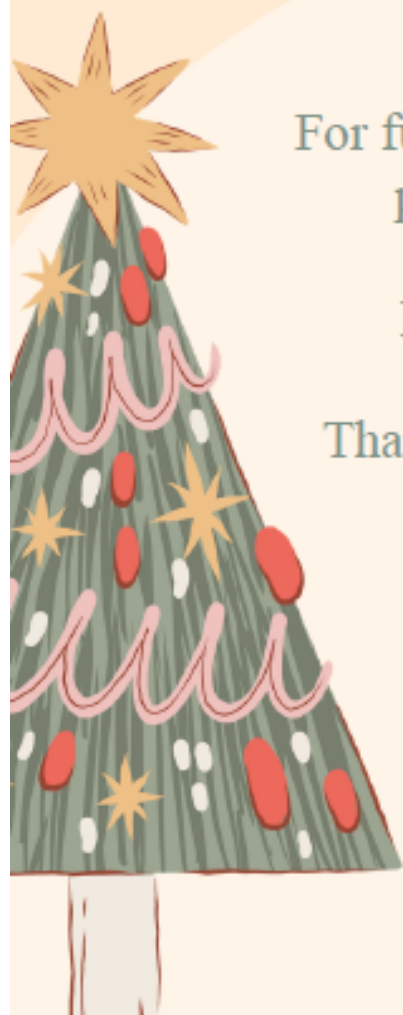
Funds raised from the raffle will go towards ESC's crisis fund, supporting those in need within our community.

For further information or to arrange a donation,
please contact Etheridge Shire Council

Phone: 4079 9090

Email: CaitlinT@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Thank you for supporting our community this
Christmas!



QCWA Jubilee Debutante Ball 2026

The 2026 Georgetown QCWA Jubilee Debutante Ball was a resounding success, bringing together generations of Etheridge families and community members for a very special celebration of tradition, friendship and community spirit.

This year's Ball held particular significance as we celebrated both the centenary of QCWA in Georgetown and the Golden Jubilee of the 1976 Georgetown Debutantes, welcoming back seven of the twelve original debutantes, four partners and six flower girls from 1976. They joined 16 new debutantes and their partners for their presentation in 2026. Four Year 6 students were also presented as they prepare to leave our community for high school, marking another important milestone in their young lives.

The debutantes were announced by Alana Young, Vice President of the Georgetown QCWA, and presented by Matrons of Honour Mrs Kelly Bethel and Ms Samantha Zahner to The Very Reverend Bishop Joseph Cuddy AO; Mrs Margaret Plant, QCWA Division President; and Mrs Pauline Tincknell, Georgetown QCWA President, together with Councillor Ian Tincknell.

We were especially honoured to welcome Mrs Valerie Hall-Matthews, representing Bishop Tony Hall-Matthews, to whom the 1976 debutantes were originally presented 50 years ago. The Etheridge Shire was also represented by Mayor Mr Barry Hughes and Lady Mayoress Mrs Tammy Hughes.



One of the most moving moments of the evening was a memorial ceremony honouring members of the 1976 Debutante Ball who are sadly no longer with us. Candles were lit and corsages placed in loving memory of Debutante Karen Jenkins (née Butler); Flower Girl Helen Pezzotti (née McFarlane); and partners Mr George Butler, Mr David Norris and Mr Wayne Condon. It was a touching opportunity to remember their place in our community and ensure they remained part of this special Golden Jubilee celebration.

Keeping our traditions alive

2026 Debutantes

Jorja Bethel
Nikki Bethel
Emily Butler
Charli Cook
Ella D'Mello
Hayley Fox
Bohdi Herring
Lisa Jenkins
Kaelea Lis
Sahra Lis
Rebecca McFarlane
Rihana McFarlane
Lexi Sheahan
Lacey Taylor
Josie Whitaker
Sheridan Young

Partner

Clint Folker
Hayden Macor
Jace Hughes
Travis Hughes
Jack Green
Mitchell Fox
Dylan Johnston
Bradley Sinapius
Clifford Fitzgerald
Angus Boyd
Joel McFarlane
Liam Fox
Damien Pedersen
James Blennerhassett
Matthew Carroll
Hamish Murphy

Flower Girl

Dolly Steele
Mary-Beth Bethel
Adalyn Bester
Sophie Garde
Spencer Ryan
Harper Thomas
Kensli Wellby
Scydi-Mae Young
Torah Haase
Masie May Pedracini
Ruby Lethbridge
Gracie Lethbridge
Penny Sheahan
River Rae McCallum
Billie Stewart
Suede Young

The 2026 debutantes, and returning Jubilee debutantes joined together to dance the traditional Pride of Erin to When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, performed by the Beerbody Band of Tully. Seeing two generations share the dance floor was a wonderful representation of the purpose of the Jubilee celebration – honouring our history while passing our traditions to the next generation.



The Jubilee debutantes and 2026 debutantes also joined together to cut the beautiful Debutante Ball cakes, lovingly crafted by Mrs Daphne Treen and Miss Kylie Treen.

As a special memento of their debut, the 2026 debutantes received beautiful keepsake gifts, including a signature jewellery box and whipped tallow, generously donated by VK Vinyl, Golden Acres Tallow and Alana Young.

A community effort

An event of this scale simply could not happen without the extraordinary generosity of our volunteers, sponsors, families and wider community.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Daphne Treen and Miss Kylie Treen for their unwavering dedication to the Georgetown Debutante Ball over many years and for once again creating the beautiful bouquets, corsages and Debutante Ball cakes.

Thank you to our photographers, Mrs Renee Bester and Mr Soonmin Kwon, for capturing the special moments of the evening and preserving these memories for our families and future generations.

A very special thank you goes to Kiera Zammit and Caitlin Robertson for the beautiful decorations and the enormous effort involved in transforming and preparing the hall for this Jubilee celebration.

We also sincerely thank Mrs Jodi Kernan and Julie for looking after the door; the Tablelands Division QCWA ladies for selling raffle tickets and tea towels; Quill and Deane for taking care of the kitchen; and the many community members who generously brought a plate to share. Thank you also to Cheryl Bethel, Chris, Lana and Cisca for looking after the bar throughout the evening.



Our sincere appreciation goes to Veronica Loudon, Janelle Zahner and Miss Tonya from Columba College, Charters Towers, who generously gave their time and patience to teach our debutantes and partners the Pride of Erin, helping ensure this much-loved tradition continues into another generation.

A special thank you also goes to Cheryl Bethel, Bud Mercer and Shirlee Young for helping with the clean-up following the Ball.

We acknowledge the many parents, grandparents, family members and significant others who supported our debutantes, partners and flower girls throughout their preparations. Their encouragement, time and commitment were an important part of making the evening possible.

A particularly heartfelt thank you must go to Mrs Pam Swain and the Georgetown QCWA Committee for their guidance, commitment and countless hours of work behind the scenes to once again make the Georgetown Debutante Ball a reality.

Thank you to the Etheridge Shire

The Georgetown QCWA sincerely acknowledges the Etheridge Shire Council and Etheridge Shire ratepayers for their continued support of this significant cultural and community event. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support and donations received from Project One Constructions and Wendy Mercer, together with the many other individuals and businesses who contributed to the success of the evening.



The support provided to the Jubilee Debutante Ball enabled the Georgetown QCWA to deliver an event with benefits extending well beyond the evening itself. The Ball preserved an important local tradition, created opportunities for young people to participate in a significant community milestone, strengthened intergenerational connections and encouraged former residents and families to travel home to Georgetown and reconnect with the Etheridge.

The return of our 1976 debutantes, partners and flower girls after 50 years was a particularly powerful reminder of the enduring connection people maintain with Georgetown and the wider Etheridge Shire.

Events such as the Debutante Ball are about much more than one evening. They preserve our history, celebrate our young people, bring generations together and provide an opportunity for those who have moved away to return home, renew friendships and remain connected to the community that helped shape them.

The Georgetown QCWA extends its sincere thanks to everyone who participated in this significant cultural event; to the volunteers and sponsors who helped bring it together so beautifully; to everyone who attended and supported our debutantes; and especially to those who travelled long distances to return to Georgetown for this very special Golden Jubilee celebration.

We hope you enjoyed your time with us and that you will return again someday to our beautiful Etheridge Goldfields.

Warm regards,
Alana Young
Vice President
Georgetown Branch QCWA





GEORGETOWN CRICKET BLAST

BOYS & GIRLS

WHAT TO EXPECT:



CRICKET BLAST
ACTIVITIES & MATCHES



MODIFIED EQUIPMENT



FUN AND INCLUSIVE

PROGRAM DETAILS:



STARTS MONDAY 12TH OCT

ROOKIES (5-7 YEARS)

CHALLENGERS (7-12 YEARS)



3:30PM - 4:15PM



GREGG T BETHEL MEMORIAL OVAL

Pack 1 - Play



Pack 2 - Progress



SCAN
HERE TO
REGISTER!



\$55

8 WEEKS
PLUS PACK



\$10

8 WEEKS
NO PACK



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

TRISH.SPRY@QLDCRICKET.COM.AU 0466 809 987

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL & LIFELINE PRESENT

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING

Etheridge Shire
Residents

Recognise



Respond



Refer



Learn practical skills to support yourself and others during difficult times.

- Free 2-hour self-paced eLearning course
- Delivered by Lifeline

Scan me



For more information and to register scan the QR code or visit Council website.



Australian Government



Queensland Government



Assistance provided by the Australian and Queensland governments through the jointly funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



Active Body Healthy Mind

Benefits of regular physical activity

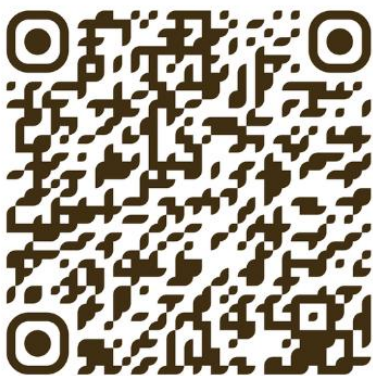
Improves mood, focus and brain health

Reduces symptoms of stress, anxiety & depression

Supports better sleep

Improves overall wellbeing and quality of life

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING ACTIVE?
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR ADD A SUGGESTION**



REGISTER NOW

- **Outdoor Group Fitness**
- **Gym Orientations**
- **Aqua Aerobics**
- **Yoga**
- **Boxing**
- **Community Team Sports**

**Contact Tamara for any further information-
Ph: 0477 509 440 TamaraW@etheridge.qld.gov.au**



CALLING ETHERIDGE ARTISTS

-WE ARE SEARCHING FOR ILLUSTRATIONS-
A SMALL SKETCH OF SOMETHING THAT
REPRESENTS OUR SHIRE.

WHETHER IT'S A HORSE, COW OR TRACTOR,
A WINDMILL, CATTLE TRUCK OR FLOWER.
WE WANT THEM ALL!

**YOUR SUBMISSION WILL BE USED IN AN EXCITING
COLLABORATION**



**Drop your illustration into the
Council office or email to
TamaraW@etheridge.qld.gov.au
Any questions: 0477 509 440 or
4079 9090**



ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
PRESENTS

GET READY GEORGETOWN

FREE
POPCORN

COLOURING
COMPETITION



FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY | 5.30PM DOORS OPEN
9 OCTOBER | **6.00PM START**

TERRESTRIAL CENTRE

- JOIN US FOR THE SCREENING OF FAMILY FAVOURITE 'THE WILD ROBOT'
- BYO CAMP CHAIRS, PICNIC BLANKETS & BEANBAGS
- DRINKS AND CHOCOLATES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

**get
ready**
QUEENSLAND



ETHERIDGE HOMEGROWN & HANDMADE SWAP

HERITAGE PARK, GEORGETOWN
31ST OCTOBER 2026
FROM 8:30AM



*Bring five items you have made or
grown and take five different items that
someone else has created!*



COMMUNITY SOCIAL 6-A-SIDE SOCCER

Tuesdays - 6pm to 7pm

Gregg Bethel Oval

Starting Term 4- 6th October

**Get active, meet new people and have
some fun!**

**No experience needed, everyone is
welcome!!**

**Contact Tamara
0488 233 384**



A cattleman, a publican and a bull rider

John Andersen



A rescue operation, the like of which I doubt has ever happened before in Australia, has not long taken place at Einasleigh.

Where the flippin' hell is Einasleigh I can hear you saying.

Well, It's about four and a half hours away from Townsville, across Hervey's Range, up past Greenvale, Lynd Junction, over the Copperfield River at Carpentaria Downs Station and then voila, the Copperfield River Gorge and Einasleigh: a four and a bit hour's drive, but 150 years in the past in terms of time-machine travel.

It's still one of our great Wild West towns. Glen couldn't figure out what was going on.

This had never happened before.

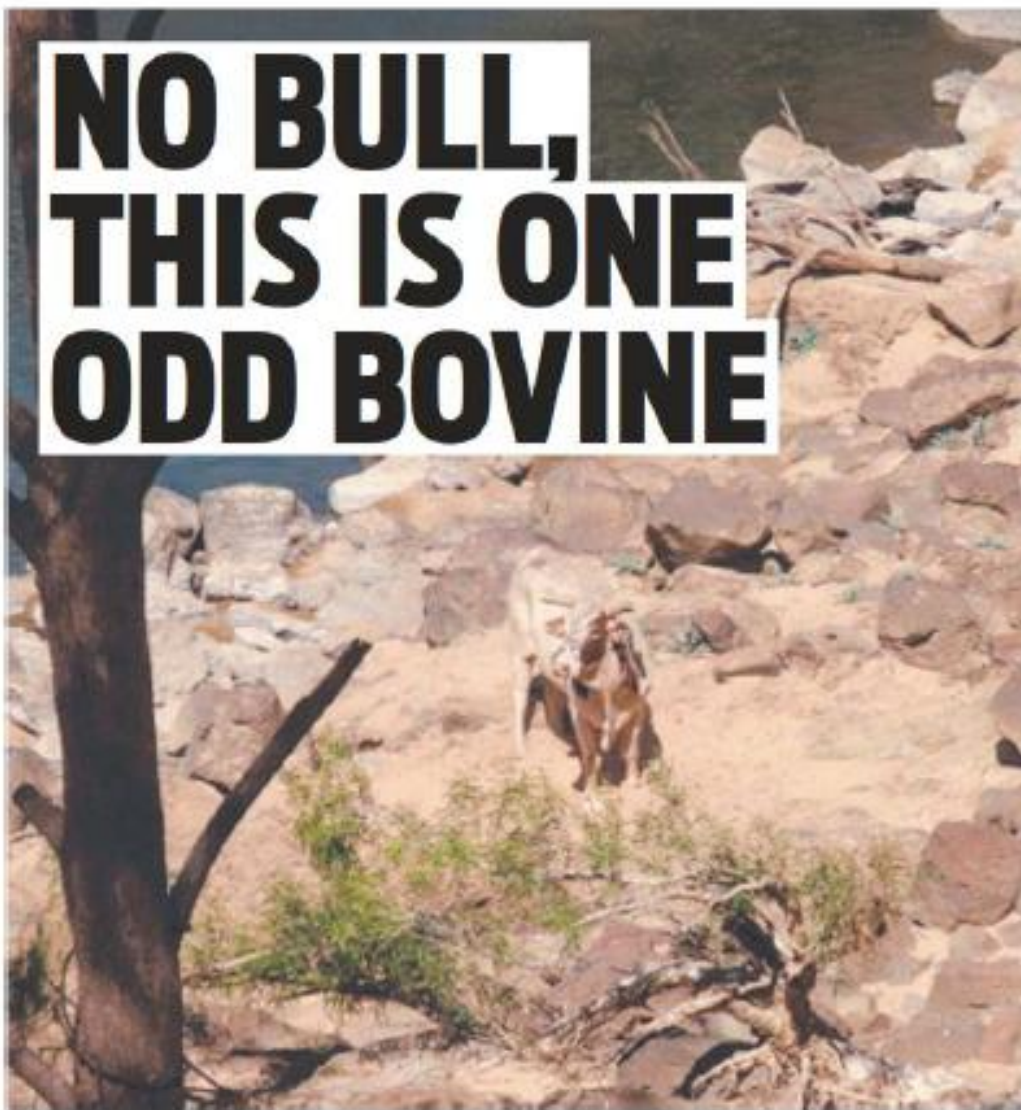
So, now you know where we are; let's talk about Operation Bull Lift.

Glen Mosch is a local cattleman and tourism operator who also contracts out bucking bulls for rodeos.

If you are having a rodeo and want bulls with the sort of buckability that turn bull riders into space travellers, Glen's your man. First, a fortnight ago one of his valuable bulls went missing.

Glen went for a look-see and found him nearly 50 metres down the bottom of the Copperfield River Gorge.

NO BULL, THIS IS ONE ODD BOVINE



He was trapped on a sand island; the rock wall of the gorge on one side and the deep river on the other.

Glen was figuring out a way to get him back on top, but in the meantime he was throwing hay down for the bull to eat.

"He's living the dream," Glen told me. "He's got hay laid on, water views and his own patch of paradise."

Glen couldn't figure out what was going on.

This had never happened before.

A bull going over the edge and into the gorge?

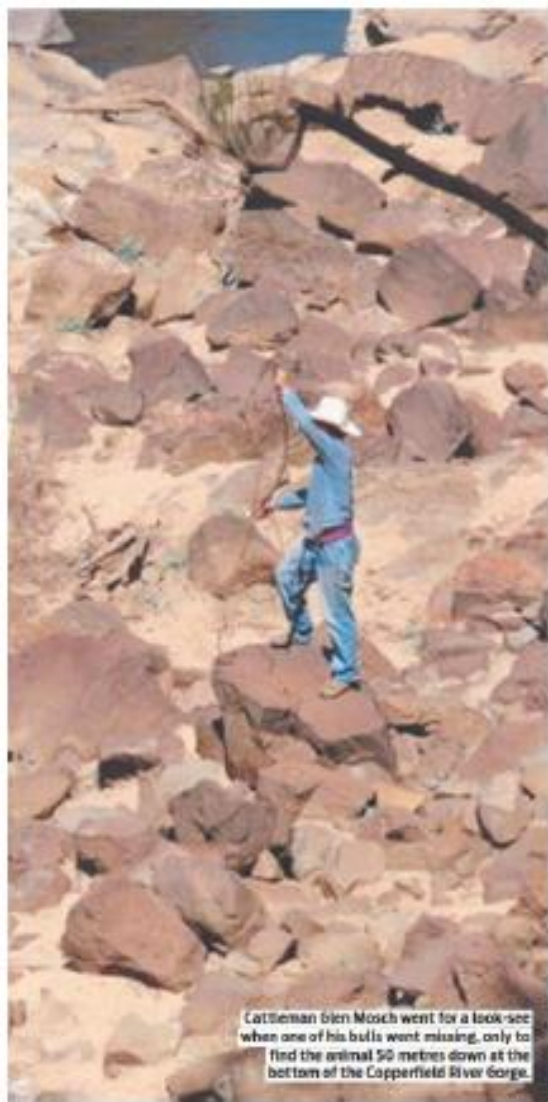
Richard, a machinery contractor with an excavator back in Forsayth, told Glen he could help, but not straight away.

So, the bull continued living the life of a beach bum down in the gorge.

The rescue plan kicked into action when Richard turned up with his excavator on the back of his semi-trailer.

Einasleigh publican and bull rider Braydon Wellby went down into the gorge with a rope.

descend into a gorge ... the rest is history



Cattleman Glen Mosch went for a look-see when one of his bulls went missing, only to find the animal 50 metres down at the bottom of the Copperfield River Gorge.

His mission? To rope the bull, get it on the ground, and tie its back legs. Easy peasy...not.

He then had to get a rope on it so Richard could lift it by a sling up and out of the gorge in the excavator.

You have to keep in mind, this is a rodeo bull, and now, suffering the indignity of being lifted out of the gorge by a rope attached to an excavator bucket, he's not exactly full of the milk of bovine kindness.

He's survived a fall down a gorge and been stranded on his own for a couple of weeks.

In terms of brains, he's not the hottest branding iron in

“

He's living the dream ... he's got hay laid on, water views and his own patch of paradise.

Glen Mosch

Cattleman and tourism operator

the fire. And you can bet he's cranky, and that inside this low-wattage brain there are only two thoughts: charge and kill and charge and maim.

Right now both horns are on the charge and kill button.

With a few rests along the way, slowly, slowly, they got him to the top.

After getting to the top and having the strap taken from his legs, our bull pressed the 'Kill' button.

He'd been saved, but remember what I said about him not being the hottest branding iron in the fire.

With rope-like strings of drool hanging from his bottom lip, he took aim at his chief tormentor, the excavator bucket, and charged, headbutting it a few times.

And then, realising this was giving him a migraine, he had a blow, using the time to glare at his saviours watching from a safe distance.

He shook his head, sending ropes of snot and saliva flying into the air, letting them know that if they wanted to take the fight to the next level, he was more than ready to rumble.



Finally, he pawed the dirt to let them know who was boss and then with one last snort and a toss of the head, trotted off into the bush.

Thirty seconds later, if you'd have asked him what he'd been doing the last couple of weeks, he would have scratched his head with one hoof and said, "duh, dunno, eatin' grass and fightin', I suppose". All forgotten in seconds.

Glen still doesn't know what caused the bull to go over the lip of the gorge.

He can only surmise one of the other 40 bucking bulls in the paddock took it on in an all-in brawl and in the ensuing push and shove, it went backward over the edge.

Anyone who has ever seen bulls fight, knows how much power and energy is involved and how easily this could happen.

Such is the life of a bucking bull, even when they are on downtime, away from the rodeo arena.



Georgetown Primary Health Centre

Dear Georgetown Community Members

First of all as many of you will now know Serena has resigned from her position at the clinic to take on the Role of Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Population and Primary Health in the Northern Territory.

Serena has dedicated the last 8.5 years in Georgetown as the DON and she will be difficult to replace. I'm sure many if not most of you have been under the care of Serena while she has been in Georgetown and are thankful to have someone at the clinic they knew they could depend on when needed.

We thank Serena for all she has done for the clinic during her time and wish her the absolute best on her new adventure which I am sure she will excel in!



Indra Mulholland has also left Georgetown to head over to Northern Territory.

We thank Indra for her dedication to the clinic and for doing a bulk of the Ambulance oncall which without her we would not have been able to run the ambulance. We wish her all the best for her next journey.

A big thank you to Carmen Ryan and Rod Tansey for taking on the oncall of the Ambulance while we go through recruitment. Without your dedication to the community we would have no ambulance. We appreciate all you do!

Please see below a list of our services and other relevant information for you about our health service. If you would like further information and need assistance from us in any way, please free to call us.

Due to increased callouts in the Ambulance and fatigue leave required to be taken our clinic can be closed during hours of normal operation, this may also mean that we are in an emergency with a patient in the clinic and we will not be available through the clinic phone. A reminder if this is an emergency please contact 000, if it is not an emergency please leave a message on the clinic phone and we will return your call as soon as we are able to.

WE ARE HIRING

Casual cleaner to fill vacancy gaps. Must have a driver's licence, ability to work in Australia, no criminal history, over 18 and willingness to work in a health care team environment. You must ensure you are fit to undertake cleaning duties and disclose any pre-existing injuries that may affect your ability to work as a cleaner.

Please apply with a cover letter detailing your cleaning experience, a current resume with 2 recent work references (one of these must be a supervisor you have had within the last 2 years). Casual allowance, uniforms and training provided. Please see Serena or Jas if you are interested. We welcome your application.

ANNUAL FLU VACCINATIONS

Free and available from the ages of 6 months and over. Please contact the clinic to make a booking.

PATIENT TRAVEL INFORMATION

All patient travel must be approved by the Director of Nursing before you are leaving Georgetown for your appointment. When you come in Indra in reception will also check all the other important forms on file are up to date. **Patient travel can now be attended most days of the week**, but please call ahead so we can ensure Indra is on shift. A reminder that travel will only reimburse you to the closest town where the appointment can be held, for example if a scan can be done in Atherton but you choose to go to Cairns, reimbursement amounts will be calculated on Atherton.

RFDS DOCTORS CLINIC UPCOMING DATES FOR 2026

Thursday: 3rd Sept, 10th Sept, 24th Sept, 1st Oct

Friday: 18th Sept

If you can't attend your appointment, please contact the clinic to notify staff, so the appointment can go to another patient who is on the waitlist.

UPCOMING VISITING HEALTH TEAMS:

NWRH (Mental Health support)

Face to face

Service is free

Telehealth is offered.

Home visits can be arranged.

Consults can be held privately at Savannah House in the NWRH consulting space.

Referrals: can be self-referral, or Doctor or Nurse referral. Please call us 4062 1266 for more information or NWRH 4781 9300.

VISITING DENTIST

07/09/26-11/09/26 Adult

19/10/26-23/10/26 Adult

23/11/26-27/11/26 Adult

Please call 1300 300 850 to make a booking. Payments are required for those without a concession card.

WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE

19th November

Please contact the clinic on 40620000 to make an appointment for the Women's Health Nurse

Kind regards,

Jasmond

Directors of Nursing

Georgetown PHC.

September 2026 Project Update

We have been engaging with our communities over the past month providing project updates and hearing from you about your interests and issues.

In mid-August, Kidston welcomed **Etheridge Shire Council** Mayor Barry Hughes, Cr Ian Carroll and Director of Engineering Alan Clarke, to the project site. We appreciated the opportunity to host Council representatives and showcase the significant progress being made on the project firsthand. Engagements such as these are important in maintaining the strong and productive working relationship we continue to enjoy with Council, while ensuring they remain informed about project updates.

In late August and early September, the Kidston team held **Community Information Sessions** in Einasleigh and Georgetown. We held our Einasleigh meeting at the iconic Einasleigh Pub where the owners Braydon and Tayla provided supper and made everyone feel very welcome. The following evening, we held a session in Georgetown and a big thank-you to Venies Fruit and Veggies for providing us with their delicious catering!

The Information Sessions provided an opportunity to update the community on the progress of the Pumped Hydro Project and share plans for the installation of a 200 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) as Stage 3 of the Kidston Clean Energy Hub. The proposed BESS will be built within the footprint of the former Kidston Gold Mine, alongside the existing Kidston Solar Farm and Pumped Hydro Project.

With the co-location of renewable energy generation, pumped hydro and BESS energy storage facilities, the Kidston Clean Energy Hub represents a unique, multi-technology renewable energy precinct.



Community Information Sessions

(L) Tony Ford Project Director, Pumped Hydro and James Birkmanis, GM Development at Einasleigh Hotel getting ready to present

(R) Getting everything ready at the Georgetown Shire Hall for our second information session

During the sessions, we provided an update on the Kidston Stage 3 BESS approvals process, highlighted local economic opportunities available during both construction and operations, and announced a \$3.5 million contribution to Etheridge Shire Council through a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) over the 20-year life of the project. This CBA exceeds the minimum requirements under new Queensland Planning Laws and is additional to First Nations contributions. These benefits will be delivered throughout construction and operations. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2028 and last for approximately 22 months.

The sessions also provided community members with the opportunity to ask questions about both the Pumped Hydro Project and the proposed BESS, including matters relating to local procurement opportunities, project impacts and the anticipated use of local roads.

We wish to thank everyone who attended the Information Sessions. Your participation and feedback are invaluable as we continue to progress the project.

Details surrounding the project are also provided through the Genex website www.genexpower.com.au and further information can be sought by emailing info@genexpower.com.au.

Genex Power is the 100% owner of the Kidston Clean Energy Hub, in which the 250MW pumped hydro project and 200MW BESS will supplement the existing 50MW solar farm. Genex is a wholly owned subsidiary of Electric Power Development Co., Ltd (J-POWER).

Furry Tales

Dora vs The Gilbert River

When the emergency calls started rolling in and the Gilbert River began flexing its muscles, Blancourt Station knew it was about to cop a proper soaking. With the owners away, the call went out to trusted family friends, Kelvin and Kelly—good sorts you want in your corner when things turn pear-shaped.

They arrived with purpose: dogs loaded, cat (in theory) secured, and horses shifted to higher ground before the Gilbert came charging through like it owned the joint. The place was prepped, the job nearly done... except for one small, furry complication.

Dora the cat.

Now Dora, being a cat of strong opinions and questionable listening skills, could not be located. Not under beds, not behind cupboards, not even in her usual “I’m not coming out and you can’t make me” hiding spots. Meanwhile, the water was rising quicker than gossip at the Wenaru Hotel. Faced with a tough call, Kelvin made the decision no stockman enjoys—he had to leave Dora behind.

Cheryl took the news with a heavy heart, but also with a fair bit of country logic.

“That cat’ll be right,” she reckoned. “She’ll find her way upstairs, ride it out, and be sittin’ there waitin’ with a story when we get back.”

Well... turns out Dora had a different plan.

The flood came and went, and when the family returned, Dora was nowhere to be seen. Gone. Vanished. Not a whisker, not a paw print, not even a half-hearted “meow” of complaint. For months, the grandkids kept asking the same question:

“Has Dora come back yet?”

Seven long months passed. Plenty of time for theories to grow legs.

Had she surfed the mighty Gilbert River like some sort of four-legged pro?

Fought off crocodiles with nothing but attitude and sharp claws?

Been stalked by dingoes and come out on top?

Or was she out there, somewhere, just walking home at her own pace—because, well... she’s a cat?

Then one evening, right on dinner time, Cheryl heard it.

A familiar, unimpressed little *meow* at the door.

In strolls Dora.

Skinny? Yep.

Looking like she’d seen a few things? Absolutely.

Grateful to be home? Not even slightly.



She walked in like she’d just ducked out for the afternoon. No explanations. No apologies. Straight to the bowl like, “What’s for tea and why is it late?”

So where was Dora all that time?

No one knows.

And if there’s one thing certain in this world, it’s this—
if Dora the Explorer could talk, she wouldn’t tell us anyway.



Clothing Order Update



A new partnership between Better Together and Thread Together, helps bring brand new clothing to our community through the Mobile Wardrobe.

For those that have made an order

Thread Together has processed the orders, however, due to a shortage of donations and volunteers, orders are taking longer than expected.

Please know you haven't been forgotten. Thread Together are working hard to complete orders as clothing donations becomes available.

Thank you for your patience and understanding

For more information call Amanda on 0488 791 418

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Einasleigh



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Doris Casey Memorial Hall

Easter Markets-28/03

Doris Casey Memorial Hall

Mothers Day Markets 10/05

Anzac park

Heritage Festival - 20-26/06

(location to be decided)

Christmas in July - 25/07

Anzac Park

End of Winter Markets - 29/08

Anzac Park

Christmas Markets 05/12

Doris Casey Memorial Hall

Pending weather, locations may change, more details to come closer to each event.



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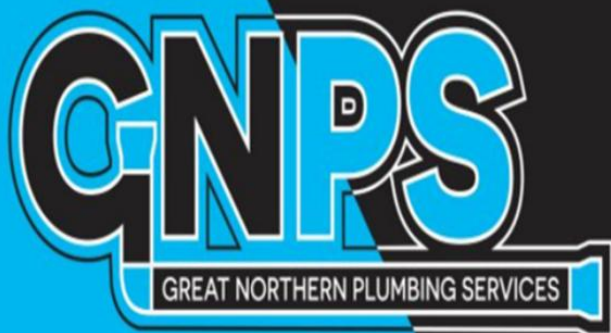
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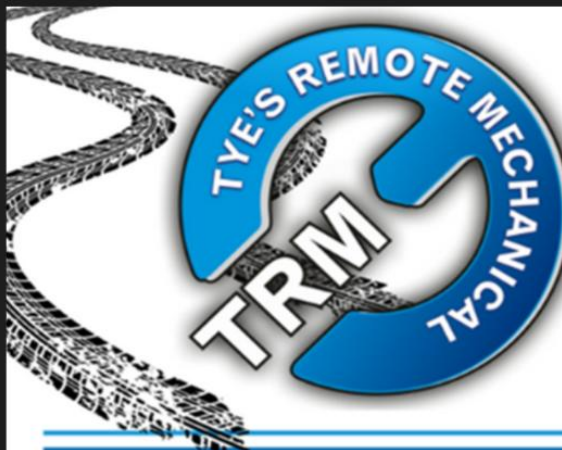
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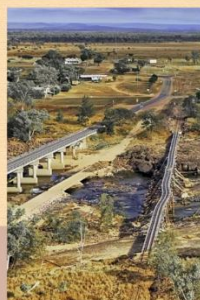
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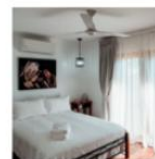
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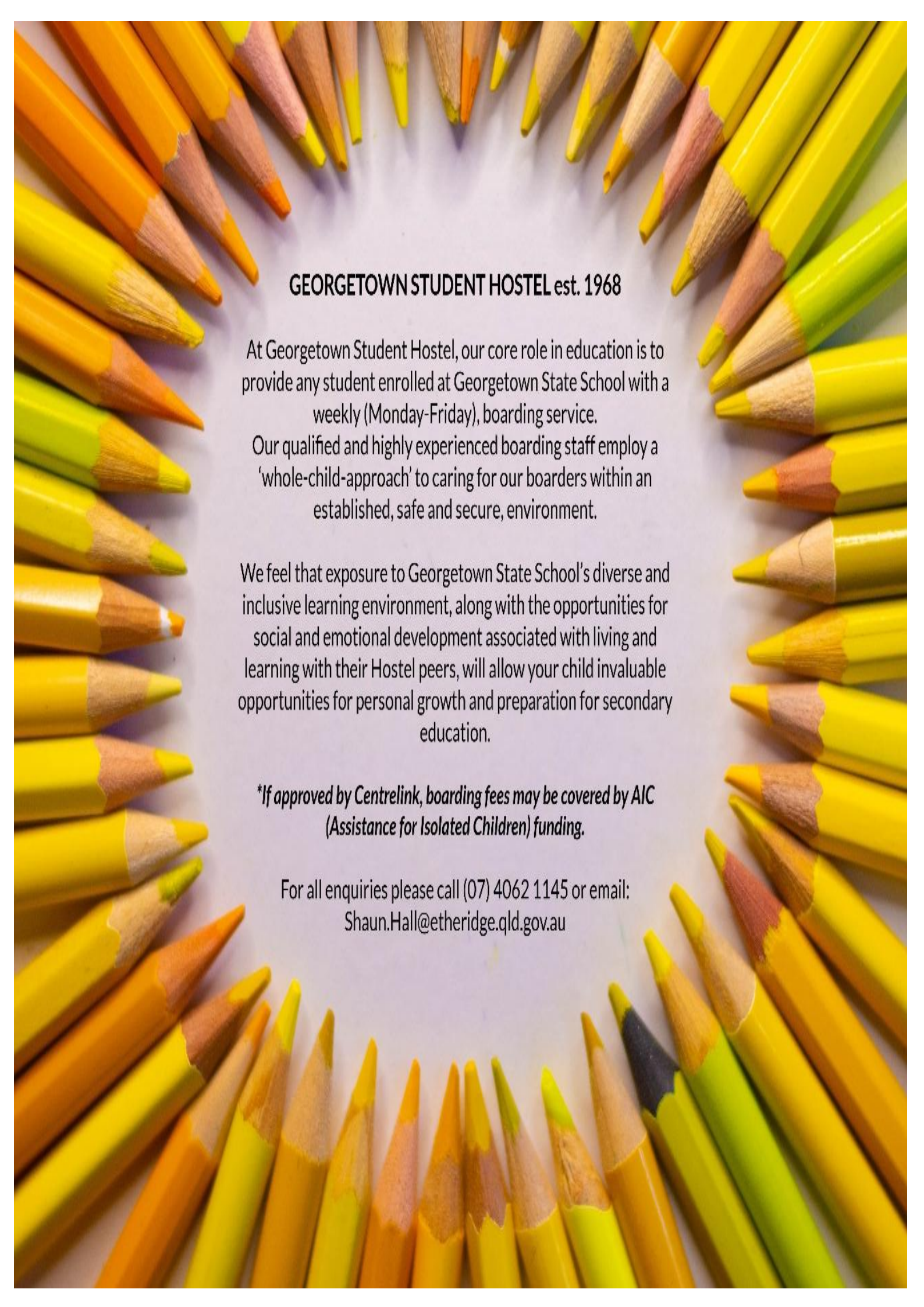
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Calendar of Upcoming Events

2026

OCTOBER

3RD - GEORGETOWN BUSHMAN'S BALL
4TH - GEORGETOWN BUSH RACES
5TH - KINGS BIRTHDAY (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)
9TH - FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT - TERRESTRIAL CENTRE
12TH - GEORGETOWN CRICKET BLAST
21ST - SPROUT SQUAD
30TH - GOLDBLOCKS ROCKS - FORSAYTH
31ST - ETHERIDGE HOMEGROWN AND HANDMADE SWAP

NOVEMBER

2ND - GOLDBLOCKS ROCKS - GEORGETOWN
3RD - GOLDBLOCKS ROCKS - MT SURPRISE
3RD - MELBOURNE CUP
11TH - REMEMBRANCE DAY
27TH - GEORGETOWN CHRISTMAS MARKETS
28TH - GREGG BETHEL MEMORIAL CRICKET DAY

DECEMBER

24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE
25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY
26TH - BOXING DAY
31ST - NEW YEAR'S EVE

**COUNCIL IS COMPILING AN
ETHERIDGE SHIRE EVENTS
CALENDAR AND WOULD
LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
SHARE YOUR 2026 EVENTS
AND DETAILS WITH US.**

INFORM ARTICLES

The Inform will be distributed on the last Thursday of each month unless unforeseen circumstances prevent this.

Articles need to be submitted electronically by no later than 1:00pm on the Wednesday prior. Late articles will not be published.



inform@etheridge.qld.gov.au



www.etheridge.qld.gov.au