

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

#### Hello and welcome to the Mayor's report



This month has been a bit disrupted for me by medical issues with my shoulder replacement treatment going off script, but Council continues to progress projects across the length and breadth of the shire.

This month we said goodbye to Glen Hudson who has moved on to be closer to family in the deep south. Glen has been a valuable and committed member of the admin team here at Etheridge for the last nine years and will be sorely missed and big shoes to fill.

Also, Council accepted the resignation of CEO Mark Watt this month, Mark will be also moving south to be closer to family. Whilst only being here for a short time Mark has done a great job and has been instrumental in managing Councils forward progression and development of future projects. We wish both these people all the best for the future and thank them sincerely for their dedication and contributions to Etheridge.

Well done to the organising committees of both the Georgetown Camp draft and the Forsayth All Sports Club Inc for the success of your events. Feedback has been excellent, and we recognise the efforts that make these events an important part of the Etheridge social calendar.

This week we have hosted the Griffith University Team as they work towards bringing stage two of the Terrestrial Development to fruition. This project is developing nicely with the assistance of the Growing Our Regions funding for Georgetown, Einasleigh, and Cumberland Dam. These projects are exciting and bring about generational change that will have long lasting benefits for our shire.

I have held a meeting with Local Member Robbie Katter to place Georgetown and Croydon on the next round of contract negotiations for air services across the gulf region and to provide feedback along with all western mayors regarding the current situation surrounding REX Airlines. There is a concerted push for increased service delivery and frequency of flight times into the gulf and western centres to accommodate for increased demand. Council is ticking along with both internal and external workforce doing a fantastic job ensuring that public expectations are being met.

On a sad note, we have lost Stevie, Glady, and Daley from our shire community, and our condolences are forwarded to all the families of those who have passed, and our thoughts are with you.

Until next month Happy Trails.

Regards Mayor Barry Hughes

# First Point of Contact in an Emergency

### **Contact Personnel:**

Council's nominated first point of contact is

CEO - Mark Watt

Phone: 0439 414 771

If the LDMG (Local Disaster Management

Group) is activated by the chairperson

(The Mayor) the Controlling Officer will be

CEO - Mark Watt

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!





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 lan Tincknell 0459 136 283 Cr.Tincknell@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Councillor Seven Ryan 0448 089 144 Cr.Ryan@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Councillor lan Carroll 0459 623 582 Cr.Carroll@etheridge.qld.gov.au

#### **ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL**

# Monthly Community Connect Sessions

- Mt Surprise Hall, Mt Surprise 9AM WED, 09 JULY 2025
- **Lynd Junction**11AM WED, 13 AUGUST 2025
- Sports Centre, Georgetown
  9AM WED, 03 SEPTEMBER 2025
- **Einasleigh Hall, Einasleigh**9AM WED, 08 OCTOBER 2025
- Forsayth QCWA Hall, Forsayth 9AM WED, 12 NOVEMBER 2025



Come and have a chat with your local Councillors!







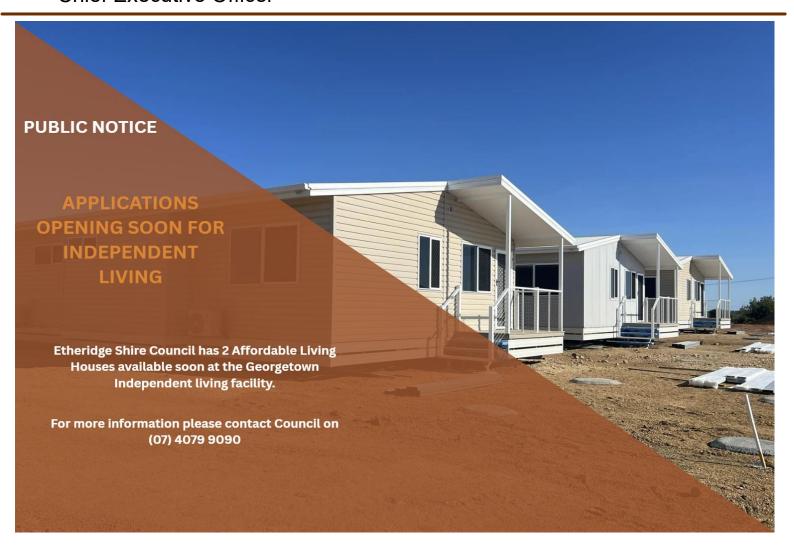
#### **2025 General Meeting Dates**

In accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Etheridge Shire Council General Meetings for the 2025 calendar year are to be held on the following dates in Georgetown.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
September	Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
October	Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
November	Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
December	Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Georgetown	9:00am

#### **Mark Watt**

Chief Executive Officer





# **Rates Notice**

Rates Notices will be issued soon. While the exact date is not yet confirmed, they are expected to be distributed sometime in September.

## Rates – Council Pensioner Remission



Are you a Pensioner living in our Shire? Have you applied for your Pensioner Remission?

The Etheridge Shire Council would like to advise all pensioners living in our Shire that are not currently receiving the Pensioner Remission to apply before the 30 June. Forms may be downloaded from our website: <a href="mailto:etheridge.qld.gov.au">etheridge.qld.gov.au</a> or by calling the Shire Office on 4079 9090.

#### ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL





# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **Emergency Management Levy**

Etheridge Shire Council is committed to advocating on behalf of our community for improved emergency response services across the region.

As part of this commitment, Council resolved at its August General Meeting to subsidise 50% of the Emergency Management Levy for all ratepayers who pay their rates within the discount period.

This subsidy will only be applicable if all rates and charges are paid in full (example – a ratepayer must pay in full the amount owing on a rate card, including arrears, otherwise the discount will not be allowed). This subsidy is only for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Council thanks residents for their continued support as we work together to strengthen community safety and resilience.

For further information, please contact Council on (07) 4079 9090 or info@etheridge.qld.gov.au.

Mark Watt
Chief Executive Officer





# PUBLIC NOTICE

#### **Attention School Leavers**

Etheridge Shire Council will be seeking applications for the following Traineeships to commence in 2026:

- Information Technology & Communications
- Business Administration
- Childcare

Please keep an eye on the Council website and Facebook page for more information in the coming months. Do not hesitate to contact Council on 4079 9090 should you require further information.

Mark Watt
Chief Executive Officer



#### POSITION VACANT WORKSHOP SUPERVISOR – DIESEL FITTER

Etheridge Shire Council is seeking applications from highly motivated, enthusiastic, and teamoriented individuals to assist and support the Council's Workshop Staff in the fabrication, repair, and maintenance of the Council's plant and equipment while managing the day-to-day operations of the Council workshop.

The applicant must hold Certificate III (Engineering Mechanical Trade).

Applications are to include a covering letter, resume and at least 2 references. Applications can be posted, delivered to the Administration Office or emailed to:

Position Vacant - Workshop Supervisor - Diesel Fitter

The Chief Executive Officer Etheridge Shire Council PO Box 12 GEORGETOWN QLD 4871

Email: info@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Director of Engineering Services, Raju Ranjit on Ph: 07 40799090 or Councils website www.etheridge.gld.gov.au

Applications close at 4 pm 12th September 2025

Mark Watt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

#### ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL





# POSITION VACANT WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISOR

Etheridge Shire Council is seeking applications from highly motivated, enthusiastic and team orientated persons to advocate and ensure compliance throughout Etheridge Shire Council's departments with all relevant Safety policies and procedures.

The successful applicant will be responsible (but not limited) for the following:

- Managing Council's SAFEPLAN & FEDERAL SAFETY Program.
- Investigating, documenting and taking appropriate action for all risk issues raised in order to eliminate or mitigate against the risk occurring again.
- · Developing, conducting and reporting on safety audits and risk assessments regularly.
- Developing and continually updating safe work practices, safe work method statements, WH&S programs, policies and procedures.
- Driving the formulation of policies and practices in relation to risk management issues, maintaining and driving awareness of all legislation relevant to WH&S.
- Managing all WH&S legislation requirements, coordinating all organisational WH&S reporting on incidents, injuries, hazards or risks.

Successful applicants will contribute to ensuring that Council is compliant with all relevant WHS legislation as well as implementing and enforcing measures to provide a safe and healthy work place for staff, contractors, suppliers and community contacts that work within Council's parameters.

Applications are to include a covering letter, resume and at least 2 references. Applications can be posted, delivered to the Administration Office or emailed to:

Position Vacant – Workplace Health and Safety Advisor The Chief Executive Officer Etheridge Shire Council PO Box 12 GEORGETOWN QLD 4871

Email: info@etheridge.gld.gov.au

Further information and a full Position Description can be obtained by contacting the Chief Executive Officer Mark Watt on Ph: 07 4079 9090 or Councils website www.etheridge.gld.gov.au

Applications close 4pm 12th September 2025

Mark Watt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





# POSITION VACANT ENGINEERING ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The "Engineering Administration Officer" will be primarily responsible for the administration of the Prequalified Preferred Supplier Contract for Wet & Dry Hire of Plant and the Coordination of Requests for Tender (RFT). Other administration support within the Engineering Department as required.

To perform this role effectively, the applicant will need to demonstrate

- good time management skills;
- · be able to communicate effectively both verbally and written;
- · work within a team environment:
- · have a strong administration background;
- · be able to interpret and report upon financial data and
- demonstrate a proven history in contract administration.

Applicants are required to provide a written overview of their experiences in demonstrating their ability to meet the key responsibilities and accountabilities as outlined in the Position Description and provide a current Resume with at least two (2) referees.

Applications can be posted, delivered to the Administration Office or emailed to:

Position Vacant – Engineering Administration Officer Etheridge Shire Council PO Box 12 GEORGETOWN QLD 4871

Email: info@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Further information can be obtained by contacting Councils HR Department on Ph: 07 40799090.

Applications close at 8am Wednesday 17th September 2025

Mark Watt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# 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.





Join the Club!



# **Grant & Governance Workshop**

Etheridge Shire Council in partnership with the Department of Sport & Recreation invite members of local sporting community groups to attend a workshop on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30 pm.

The workshop will include Council's

Community Assistance Grants availability
and application process and the ClubIQ
toolkit including a suite of free practical
resources.

Venue: Georgetown Sports Centre or Microsoft Teams

RSVP: by 5 September via info@etheridge.qld.gov.au



# **Defibrillator Access**

Defibrillators have been installed at the Mt Surprise Clinic, Einasleigh Clinic, Forsayth Library and Georgetown Sports Centre

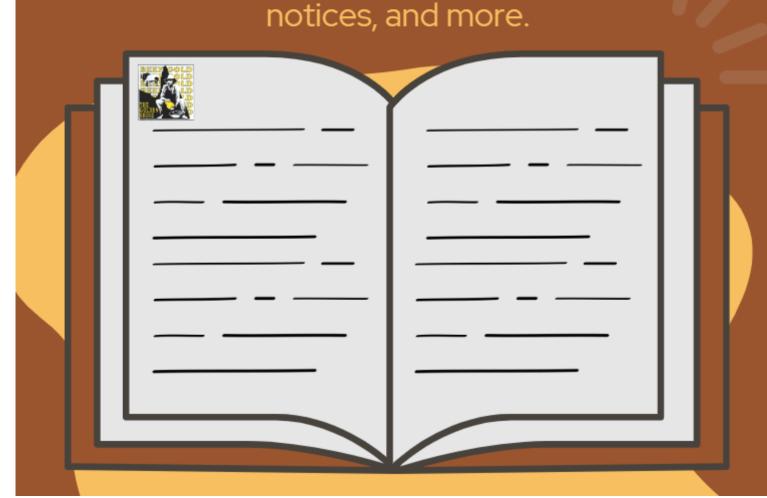
Instructions to access Defibrillators are available at each location



# Share It with the Shire!

Have something you would like to share with the community but don't know how?

Send it to inform@etheridge.qld.gov.au and you could see it featured right here in the Etheridge Shire Inform Newsletter! We welcome local stories, local news, upcoming events, community achievements, public



# HOSTEL OPEN DAY

Come along to our Hostel Open Day and discover what our facility has to offer on the 11th of September 2025 at 3:00PM.

Meet our friendly team, take a guided tour, see the comfortable living spaces as well as services available and receive information for Centrelink Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme funding program.

It's a great opportunity to ask questions, explore the environment, and learn more about how we support education within our shire.



# Expression of Interest

Etheridge Shire Council is hosting a Seniors Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2025.

We would appreciate numbers to arrange catering and transport on the day if necessary.

If you would like to be a part of Senior's Day, please RSVP to Caroline on 07 4079 9009

Email:

caroline.steele@etheridge.qld.gov.au by 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025



## Georgetown Primary Health Centre

# INFORMATION ON HOW TO ACCESS THE HEALTH CENTRE FOR EMERGENCIES AFTERHOURS AND NON-URGENT BOOKINGS IN BUSINESS HOURS.

#### **OPENING HOURS:**

Mon – Fri 9am -12pm & 2pm – 4pm Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 10pm – 12pm

# EMERGENCIES ONLY WILL BE SEEN AFTER HOURS – CALL 000 OR PRESS THE RED EMERGENCY BUTTON AT THE HEALTH CENTRE MAIN FRONT DOOR

When calling 000 select the option for ambulance. The call centre will take your details then contact us. It is important when you hang up from the ambulance that you stay off your phone so that the nurse can call you back directly.

The health centre phone number is 4062 1266. This number is available in business hours only. The number may be diverted in these hours if the nurse is on fatigue or an ambulance job. *Please do not contact nurses on social media or private phone numbers.* 

For non-urgent health care needs please call the health centre to make a booking before you arrive, and on arrival please press the doorbell at the waiting aera door and take a seat inside the waiting area and the staff will attend to you.



### **Georgetown Primary Health Centre**

Hello Georgetown Community!

We are quickly coming up to the last quarter of the year!

We had two big losses within our community in the last month.

Mr Stephen Harris and Mrs Gladys Winters.

We send our heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences to their families, and they will be greatly missed by all the clinic staff.

RIP Stevie and Gladys.

Georgetown clinic has been very busy especially with callouts overnight which has resulted in the need for fatigue for staff. Fatigue leave is for the nurse and communities' safety. We understand this can be frustrating but unless there is an emergency staff will be taking fatigue when it is required. Please check the clinic doors when you present for notice of closure due to fatigue or if we are currently out of the clinic on another emergency. As always, we are on call 24 hours a day and still run the clinic day to day as required.

Please leave a message for non-urgent issues and when we are back on shift, we will attend to all messages as required.

#### **INFLUENZA**

There is still a lot of Influenza around especially in the cities, we still have flu vaccines available so please if you would like a flu vaccine contact the clinic to make an appointment.

#### IMPORTANT CHANGES TO OBTAINING SCRIPTS FROM RFDS DOCTOR

Due to extensive consultation with the RFDS medical team, necessary change has been implemented regarding how patients are getting scripts from the RFDS Doctors. Going forward and effective immediately **ALL patients** must make a booking if they would like their script updated.

Ultimately it was agreed that patient safety was at risk with patients getting scripts without seeing the Doctor. If you have extenuating circumstances, and you have seen a doctor in the last 6 months please talk to the nurse on shift, as we may be able to arrange a phone consult for you.

Thank you for your understanding as Queensland Health and RFDS work together to provide gold standard health care to the community, with patient safety front and centre in our approach to health care delivery.

#### PATIENT TRAVEL SUBSIDY SCHEME

We are still receiving travel form C's without travel approval.

For **EACH and EVERY** time that you are attending an appointment away from Georgetown please see us at the clinic before attending your appointment so we can complete the relevant paperwork to obtain approval for travel as this will ensure less delays in the subsidy reimbursement. This includes appointments for scans and imaging. If you have a referral from a Doctor not with RFDS you will need them to complete the approval form B prior to travelling for your appointment.

Registration and EFT forms are required to be updated yearly so we also need to check on this when submitting forms for subsidy claims.

We will continue to compete travel forms on Mondays and Wednesdays between 2-4pm.

We are more than happy to answer any questions about patient travel so please drop into the clinic and ask.

#### RFDS DOCTORS CLINIC UPCOMING DATES

**Thursday**: 04/09/25, 11/09/25, 25/09/25

Friday: 19/09/25

#### **UPCOMING VISITING HEALTH TEAMS:**

#### Women's' Health including Cervical screening

We know have a relieving Women's Health Nurse while Cher is away.

She will again be here in September, dates still TBA, PLEASE CONTACT US TO MAKE A BOOKING if you are needing an appointment in regard to women's health and cervical screening on 40621266.

#### **NWRH (Mental Health support)**

Face to face

Telehealth is offered.

Referrals can be self-referral, Dr or Nurse referral. Please call us 4062 1266 for more information or NWRH 47819300

#### **Allied Health**

Please contact the Georgetown Clinic on 40621266 to have a referral attended to.

19th November

#### **Dentist Visit dates**

22/09/25 - 26/09/25 adult dental

10/11/25 - 14/11/25 adult dental

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

#### **Optometrist – Outside Optical**

2/9 - held in dental clinic

Please call Outside Optical on 07 47862034 to make an appointment.

#### MEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

Dates for 2025:

4/12/2025

Dr Geoff Clarke the RFDS Nurse Practitioner will once again be offering Men's Health Clinics to our community. Appointments can be booked via the Georgetown clinic on 40621266.

#### SKIN CHECK CLINICS - WITH RFDS DOCTOR AND NURSE

We had an amazing response to the skin clinic checks held in GTN, as with any health clinic this all revolves around funding that is received to run them. RFDS are working hard to find ways to continue these clinics with limited funding and we will let the community know once we have notification if these clinics will continue.

Thank you and Kind Regards,

Jasmond & Serena

# Tablelands Allied Health Outreach Service

Mount Surprise, Einasleigh, Forsayth, Georgetown & Croydon



The first visiting services will be Physio, OT & Social Work

#### TELEHEALTH SERVICES

If you miss out on an appointment or the service you require isn't visiting on this run we also offer Telehealth and Telephone Consultations in conjunction with some of the Primary Health Centres. Please contact Allied Health Admin on 40910467 to discuss an appointment.

#### 2025 DATES

(By appointment only)

March 18 - 20th

June 24 – 26th

Nov 18 - 20<sup>th</sup>

To access these services please contact your local Primary Health Centre / RFDS who will assess your concerns and if appropriate send the referral through to us. Once triaged, appointments will then be offered (via phone call) by our Atherton Outreach Team.

All referrals must be received at least two weeks prior to our visit.

## What services do we offer?

**Dietetics** 

Social Work

Physiotherapy

Speech Pathology

Occupational Therapy



We aim to provide face-to-face outreach services three times per year in 2024. In between these visits, Telehealth and Telephone service can be utilised. Our outreach team consists of a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist, a Speech Pathologist, a Dietitian, and a Social Worker.

#### **OUTREACH PHYSIOTHERAPY**

The outreach Physiotherapist visits Mt Surprise, Einasleigh, Forsayth, Georgetown and Croydon on a 3-day trip 5 times each year.

Physiotherapists provide individual assessment and management for a range of conditions including:

- Musculoskeletal injuries including fractures and muscle/joint pain
- Balance/walking difficulties/falls prevention
- Recovery after surgery, for example total knee replacement
- Pelvic floor health / return to exercise after pregnancy
- Lung conditions including emphysema and bronchiectasis
- Neurological conditions such as stroke, nerve damage, spinal injury
- Burns

Physiotherapy treatment generally consists of:

- Exercise prescription
- Mobility aid prescription
- Strapping/taping
- Facilitation of correct movement patterns
- Patient and carer education
- Manual therapy

If you think you may benefit from physiotherapy intervention, please discuss with the visiting RFDS Doctor or your local clinic nurse. If indicated, they will send a referral to us to follow up with you at our next visit. There is also Telehealth available where consults can take place via videoconferencing as appropriate.

#### What is Social Work?

Social Work is a profession dedicated to helping people achieve optimum levels of personal and social wellbeing.

Social Workers are bound by professional standards, a code of ethics (AASW), and key values that promote social justice, equity, cultural diversity and confidentiality.

This may involve: Facilitating communication between the patient, family, and members of the treating team; liaison with and /or referral to community support services/agencies.

#### We can provide support & counselling in relation to:

- Coping and adjusting to illness/disability and major life changes
- Traumatic events and crisis situations
- Domestic and family violence
- Child protection matters
- Medico-legal issues
- Grief, loss and bereavement
- End of Life Care- Palliative care
- Anxiety and depression and trauma informed care
- Relationship and family concerns
- Stress management
- Pregnancy support
- Carer support

Social work understands that living/working rural remote brings its challenges to your health access and encourages you to phone social work directly on (0740910201) to make an appointment. You do not require a referral from your Primary Health Care Centre to make an appointment.







Speaking out about men's health and wellbeing is a sign of strength, NOT weakness.

## MEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

Proudly supported by Georgetown Primary Health Centre & the Royal Flying Doctors Service



INTERESTED MATE?

Please call Georgetown Primary Health Centre for a booking: 4062 1266



AT THE GEORGETOWN SPORTS CENTRE ON:

24/04/25 14/08/25 04/12/25 WITH DR GEOFF CLARKE RFDS (NURSE PRACTITIONER)



# Do your bit, on the go.

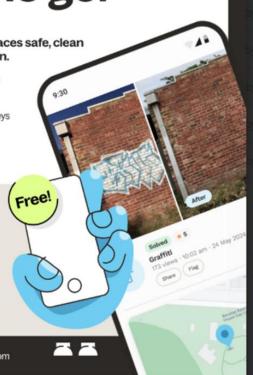
Keep shared spaces safe, clean and great to be in.

- Dumped rubbish
- Road issues
- Abandoned trolleys
- Graffiti
- And more!











# Never

#### Don't toss them

in general waste or recycling bins

### them

using clear sticky tape

Tape

### Take them

B-cycle accredited Drop off point









# ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES

H Physio
Dietitian
Psychology
Occupational Therapy

**Georgetown - 11<sup>th</sup> September** 

## **DIETITIAN SERVICES**

Maddy is an Accredited Practicing Dietitian.

She is here to help you navigate anything from diabetes, to malnutrition, to improving your overall health and wellbeing.



### **PHYSIO SERVICES**

Marcus is a Physio who is here to help with pain, injuries, and stiffness in your muscles or joints. He offers hands-on treatment, tailored exercises, and practical advice to get you moving better, feeling stronger, and staying active.





#### SEE YOURSELF IN ORANGE

#### Far Northern Region State Emergency Service

#### **Recruit Course Information**

Recruit courses are held regularly throughout the year in Cairns<sup>1</sup> and as required in Regional and Remote locations<sup>2</sup>.

You learn the skills needed to be an operational SES volunteer in your community.

#### Upcoming Recruit Courses

Scan this QR code to request further information about joining SES, view upcoming recruit courses and receive an application pack.



<sup>1</sup> Recruit courses held in Cairns require attendance of ALL six days of the same course to graduate <sup>2</sup> Regional and Remote courses are planned to best suit the communities they are held in





# Why State Emergency Services Are Critical for The Etheridge Shire

#### 1. Rapid and Localised Response

Unlike metropolitan areas, emergency services from state or federal agencies often take hours, if not days, to reach remote towns. The SES in Georgetown provides a rapid, on-the-ground response that can be the difference between life and death during floods, cyclones, or road accidents. Their familiarity with local terrain and conditions allow them to act swiftly and effectively.

#### 2. Building Community Resilience

SES volunteers are locals themselves—neighbours, friends, and family. This deep community integration fosters trust and ensures that emergency plans are tailored to the real needs of the people. The SES organises training, workshops, and exercise to prepare the town for potential disasters, empowering residents with the skills and knowledge needed to respond independently if cut off from outside help.

#### 3. Support During Extreme Weather Events

Etheridge Shire is no stranger to the fury of tropical storms. During the wet season, the Etheridge River can swell rapidly, cutting off access roads and threatening property. The SES provides crucial flood, sandbagging, evacuation assistance, and communications support during these times. Their efforts help minimize damage, protect lives, and ensure that vulnerable community members are not left behind.

#### 4. Search and Rescue Operations

Stretching across vast tracts of bushland, the region can be unforgiving for the unprepared. Whether it's a lost hiker, a stranded motorist, or a medical emergency in a remote station, the SES steps in as a first responder, utilising their training in navigation, first aid, and rescue techniques.

#### 5. Restoration and Recovery

The SES's work does not end with the passing of a storm or the dousing of a bushfire. Volunteers play a vital role in post-disaster recovery—clearing fallen trees repairing damaged roofs and supporting families as they rebuild. They are the first to arrive and often the last to leave, helping communities return to normalcy.

#### 6. Road Crash Rescue

The SES's members are on call 24/7 we are available for those calls that come either day or night and of assistance in the road crashes we have on our roads. Our team is quick to respond to those calls to make sure people are removed from there vehicle safety and seeking medical attention as soon as possible. With out our team there could be long waits.

If we didn't have these service out here, for assistance and team members passionate about community integration within the community we wouldn't have a response team we have.

If you "Can see yourself in Orange" please don't hesitate to scan the QR code, we look forward to having you a part of our team.

Georgetown SES Group Written by Cindy Attwood

#### The Vital Role of State Emergency Services

#### Ensuring Safety, Resilience, and Community Support in Remote Australia

Far North Queensland is renowned for its sweeping savannah landscapes, rich Indigenous history, and vibrant, close-knit rural communities. Yet, life in this region is also defined by its unique environmental challenges—extreme weather, isolation, and vast distances between townships. Within this context, the State Emergency Service (SES) emerges not just as a critical emergency responder but as a pillar of community resilience, especially in smaller towns such as Georgetown in the Gulf Savannah region.

#### **Understanding the State Emergency Service (SES)**

The SES is a volunteer-based organisation that forms the backbone of disaster response in Queensland. Comprising dedicated locals equipped with formal training and local knowledge, SES units serve as first responders in times of need.

#### Their roles include:

- Responding to cyclones, storms, and floods
- Assisting with search and rescue operations
- Providing logistical support during bushfires
- Clearing debris, restoring services, and aiding recovery efforts
- Educating the public on preparedness and risk mitigation

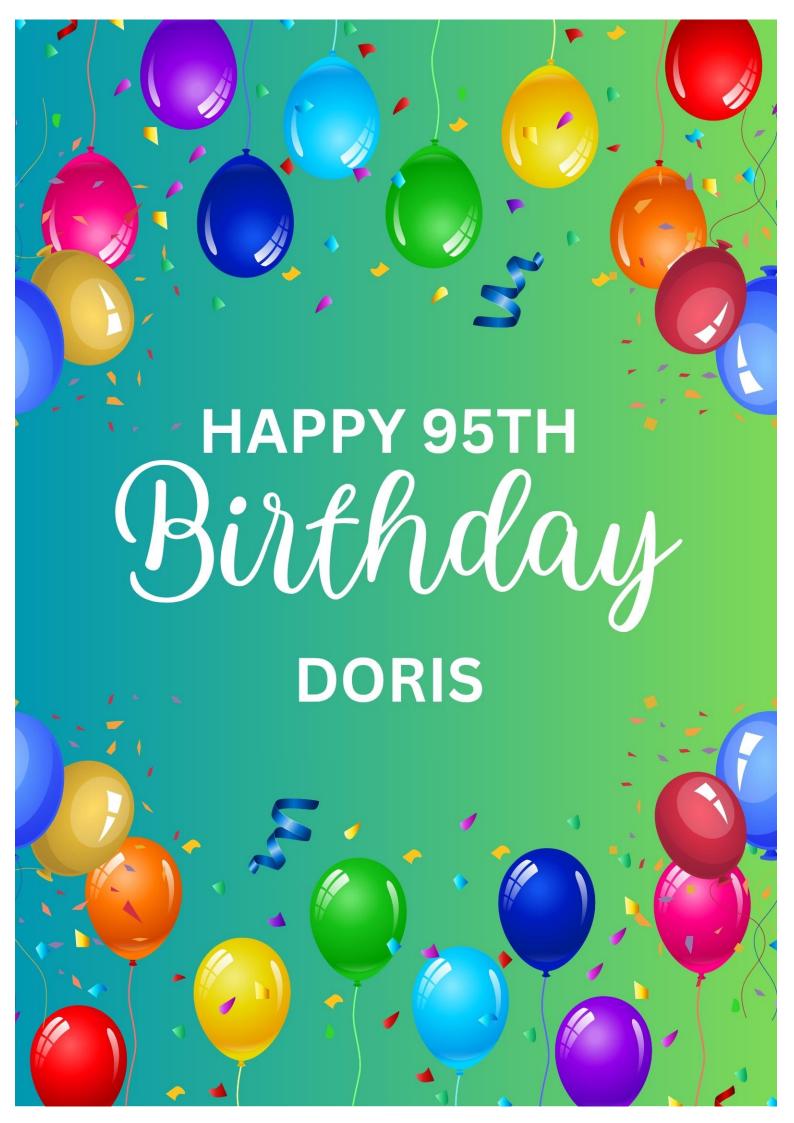
For remote towns like Georgetown, where resources can be limited and distances to urban centres are significant, the SES is literally a lifeline.

#### Strengthening the Future of the SES in Far North Queensland

As weather events intensify and increase the unpredictability of natural disasters, the role of the SES will only grow in importance. Investment in equipment, training, and support for volunteers is essential. Encouraging local participation, fostering partnerships with other emergency agencies, and embracing new technologies will help ensure that towns like Georgetown remain safe and resilient. In the vastness of region, where isolation and natural hazards are facts of life, the State Emergency Service is the heartbeat of community safety.

In Georgetown, their value is measured not only in the emergencies they respond to but in the spirit of solidarity and confidence they give to the region.

If you wish to join please scan the QR code or contact Julie on 0428 997 748







# Forsayth State School

Following a hard term two's work at Forsayth State School, We celebrated with a drive down the road to Agate Creek to spend some time on country in Term 2, Week 10. Favourite parts of the excursion were (and I quote) "The homemade Chocolate biscuits!" "Scoring some large new finds of quartz" and "Chilling out and finding some rocks in the creek".







Forsayth has been lucky enough to welcome Miss Nardeen.

Nardeen has been an asset to education within the Etheridge shire for years now. Nardeen has a strong background in mathematics, and a well known "Jack of all trades".

This term we welcome back Miss Veronica to lend a hand in the classroom temporarily. Veronica needs no introductions, and it has been a breath of fresh air to have her local knowledge back in our classroom. Her insight within lessons has always been well placed and she is a great role model for our students.

All the best,
Joe Simmons and the team,
Forsayth State School.



When: Thursday 18th of September

**Where: Main Street** 

**Time: 4:45pm** 

Get your rigs, trucks, pushbikes, horses and costumes ready!

Food available from 5:30pm

No theme, just get creative

For more information phone

Julie: 0428997748

or Samantha: 0487006888



# FAST FACTS Rural Fire Brigades

## 1,394 RURAL FIRE BRIGADES



26,590 VOLUNTEERS



**523 FIRE STATIONS / SHEDS** 



284\* LIGHT APPLIANCES donated by the



673 MEDIUM APPLIANCES



36" HEAVY APPLIANCES / TAN



151 SUPPORT / COMMAND / UTILITY



3,908 SLIP - ON UNITS



**471 TRAILERED UNITS** 



2 FIRE BOATS

SOURCE: QLD RURAL FIRE SERVICE. Figures accurate as at 19th Oct 2023

# Yellow Ribbon Day 2 16th September





# Biosecurity News

Department of Primary Industries

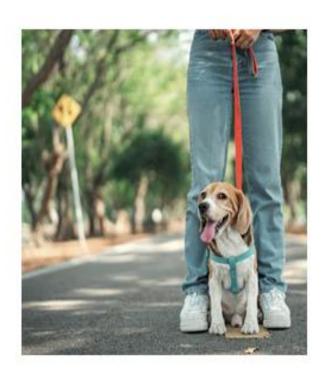
**July 2025** 

#### Increase in dog fines

From July 1, 2025, the penalty value has increased under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008.

For dog owners these increases include an on-the-spot fine of \$834. To avoid penalty:

- keep your dog on a leash in public (unless in an off-leash area)
- ensure your dog is on a lead held by someone who can physically control them
- be able to control your dog using voice commands in off-leash areas
- ensure your dog is safely secured to a fixed object and is supervised.



Owners can also face fines of up to \$116,830 and possible jail time for serious and fatal dog attacks.

You can find out more about responsible dog ownership on our website.



# UNLOCKING LAND POTENTIAL PROJECT

We are calling on graziers to get involved in this project



This project is designed to help graziers get more from their country by better understanding their land's limitations and working with them to improve soil health and pasture productivity. We'll dig into the core issues like:

- · Soil health,
- · Ground cover management,
- · Grazing practices,
- · Weed control, and
- Making the most of your land type.

#### AT A GLANCE

- Workshops
- One-on-one mentoring
- Starting in August 2025
- Demonstration sites for hands-on workshops and follow-up to track results
- Free to participate



see changes in action.

each other.

WHAT'S IN FOR YOU

HANDS ON LEARNING: Participate in real-

life demonstration sites and workshops to

STRONGER NETWORKS: Connect with

other local producers across Northern

Gulf, share experiences, and learn from



This project is supported by the
Australian Government through
funding from the Natural Heritage
Trust under the Climate-Smart
Agriculture Program.

# **Enjoy talking** with others and have experience working with diverse communities?



Census

Become a Census **Engagement Manager** 



\$61.50 per hour (plus super)



**Paid training** provided



Support your community

Apply now at info.census.abs.gov.au/census-jobs



## Nominate a Sporting Legend Applications open

25th July 2025

## Closing 7th September 2025

#### Categories include

- **★** Senior Sportstar
- **★**Junior Sportstar
- ★Para-Athlete of the Year
- ★Rural & Remote Sportstar
- Team Sportstars
- ★ Masters of Sport
- ★ Service to Sport
- **★** Sporting Excellence
- **★**Sports Impact

Cash prizes and gifts for all runner ups and winners.

#### Awards Night is held on

25 October 2025 at Townsville Entertainment & Convention Centre



🔎 nqsports.com.au

## FROM TSAS CHOICES PROGRAM FREE INFORMATIVE PARENT/CARER SESSIONS



"NOT MY KID" is the phrase we hear everyday when we work with families. We are here to tell you that "YES...YOUR KID" deserves to feel safe, supported and informed. TSAS is offering FREE parent/carer sessions for every parent that wants to protect and empower their tweens and teens. Media and the internet are having a profound effect on our kids emotional, social and cognitive development.

I in 4 young people first experience an unwanted sexual experience by the age of 15 1 in 3 young
Australians are
using pornography
to teach them
about sex

1 in 10 Australian adolescents are experiencing online sextortion

Young people can not be left to navigate this alone. Parents/carers are crucial to supporting young people to understand their rights and responsibilities when it comes to sexuality, healthy relationships and online safety. Most parents did not grow up with smart phones, social media or targeted pornography. This is new territory and it is messy.



# FREE PARENT/ CARER EDUCATION SESSIONS TO SUPPORT YOU TO BECOME THAT ASKABLE PARENT/CARER

- Get the information and tools to support you to become closer to your kid and be the safe person that they can come to with all of their curious questions and challenging situations.
- Interactive 2 hour sessions covering topics including Never too early/ late; Discussing media; Staying informed about sex, tech, gaming and teen dating; Consent; Speaking openly about bodies; Relationships and Porn; Family/home tech safety plans.
- Plus "Ask Us Anything" Q&A

#### Online zoom session dates: Wed 13th August @12.00pm or Wed 27<sup>th</sup> August @7.00pm.

TSAS is committed to the prevention of sexual harm and violence, and the safety of our kids and community. Our community education is a FREE service. We also offer consultation and support around inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviours.

Contact our Community Educators on 0448984326 or education@tsas.org.au to register for your FREE session.









# Have your say on PALM scheme settings

We're reviewing our Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme settings to ensure they deliver for both workers and employers.

### We want to hear from you on:

- accommodation standards
- · pay parity
- · worker safety nets and minimum pay
- · welfare and wellbeing support
- deduction transparency
- cultural competency
- transport standards.

### Have your say online

Scan the QR code to have your say.

Submissions close 14 September 2025.



## GET YOUR BUSINESS DIGITAL READY

DigiGrow: Digital Capacity Building for Business



Empowering businesses in Queensland's remote north-west to enhance their digital skills through engaging workshops and personalised 1:1 mentoring.

The Department of State Development & Infrastructure is sponsoring up to 100 businesses for 1:1 mentoring sessions.

Email info@businesshq.org.au to get your coupon code today!

#### Your next local workshop:

**Location:** Mt Surprise Community Hall

23 Garland Street, Mount Surprise

Date: 8 September 2025

Workshop: 5pm - 6pm

**Location:** Georgetown Sports Centre

St George Street, Georgetown

Date: 9 September 2025

Workshop: 5pm - 6pm

Individual appointments with our Business Advisor may be available in your location. Please call **1300 249 482** or email **info@businesshq.org.au** to book an appointment.





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#### DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

Australian Small Business Advisory Services

AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

#### With thanks to:



The DigiGrow: Digital Capacity Building for Business program is an initiative of the Ouvernsland Government. **FREE WEBINAR** 

# Teen Mental Health Matters

For Parents & Carers

Hosted by a Clinical Psychologist from Black Dog Institute, for Parents & Carers of Students from the **Croydon & Etheridge** communities.



Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm (AEST)



Georgetown Sports Centre, or Doris Casey Hall, Croydon

<u>Join via this link</u> Passcode: 695 368







# Woolley Butler McFarlane Family Reunion

Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th October 2025

Cost \$80 per person

#### Program

#### Friday 3rd October 10am till late

Meet and greet with Morning Tea (Georgetown Sports Centre)

Lunch (Georgetown Sports Centre)

Afternoon Tea will be available if you want to continue to catch up or head to your accommodation for a rest before returning for Dinner.

Dinner (Georgetown Sports Centre) with the Family Entertainment

#### Saturday 4th October

Breakfast of Puftaloons 7am -8.30am before heading out to the Gilbert River Cemetery. (Georgetown Sports Centre)

Gilbert River we will have a dedication of the 5 plaques for the babies who were lost. Tour of the Old Township. Morning Tea before we head back to town via the Cumberland Cemetery for a late Lunch (Georgetown Sports Centre).

Bonus Event The Georgetown Bushman's Ball is on that night (cost not included in the Reunion Fees).

#### Sunday 5th October

8am Dedication of a new Headstone for William McFarlane the original was lost in the "56" flood. After a tour of the (Georgetown Cemetery) we will have Damper and Tea. This is the end of the official Family Reunion but for those staying on the Bonus Event for Sunday is the Georgetown Bush Races. (Cost not included)

#### Monday 6th October

Everyone will either be Traveling Home safely or staying on to explore the Etheridge Shire.

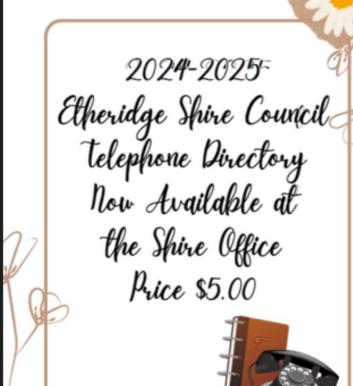


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**Every 4th Sunday of the Month** 

\$10 Per Book \$3 Pen \$8 Troll

Event will not occur if Bingo falls on a public holiday or Golf Club event

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PLEASE BRING A SHARED PLATE FOR SMOKO

Venue: Georgetown Golf Club Please bring correct change

9am to 11am











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#### THE ETHERIDGE F-NEWSTETTER

our community newsl or the Etheridge Shire

www.etheridge.qld.go

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

General News General Meeting Updates Council Reminders What's on in Etheridge Job Vacancies Local Business Directory

**GENERAL NEWS** 

## Latara Motel





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#### Seniors Legal & Support Service How can we help?

ADA Law's Seniors Legal & Support Service provides free advocacy and legal services for older people at risk of or concerned about elder abuse including financial matters. Our outreach service can help older people with:

- · conflicts with family and friends
- · family agreements
- · family or friends using money
- · how they are taken car of at home.

#### What can we do?

Our Seniors Legal & Support Service team can provide:

- information, legal advice and support regarding concerns about money, family property, and care arrangements
- · information on future planning documents and your legal rights
- · referrals to other legal, consumer and support services
- · representation befor tribunals.

ECALL: 1800 232 529 (1800 ADA LAW)

aged from birth to five years; however, if older siblings wish to participate they are most welcome. The experiences that are planned for birth to five year old children are play based and use the Early Years Learning Framework as a point of reference. The team will aim to be a consistent presence in the families and children's lives through a variety of ways. Families can contact the RAFS team and request face-to-face contact any time during the year.

Please Note: We do not provide a babysitting service during any of our events. RADF staff

are unable to take sole responsibility of children during the play sessions.

The early childhood program targets children

#### RADF offers

- Playgroups Home visits
- Resources, support and guidance





#### Remote Area Families Services (RAFS)

#### About RAFS and what it provides

The Remote Area Families Service is an Early Childhood program designed to support children and families in rural and remote Queensland and the Barkly Tablelands of the Northern Territory, who live beyond the reach of mainstream services. Our service aims to support parents' needs in relation to the early childhood development and education of their children in rural, remote and isolated areas. The focus of the service is directed at all families with children aged birth to 5 years regardless of their cultural or religious backgrounds. RAFS operates throughout QLD from five bases:

- Charleville Emerald Longreach Mareeba
- Ways to access the service

Scan the QR

code for more

information

III If you require an interpreter please phone: 131 450



Max Whitaker

Mobile: 0429 990 651

Phone: 07 4742 1220 Fax: 07 4742 1690

Email: admin@curley.com.au

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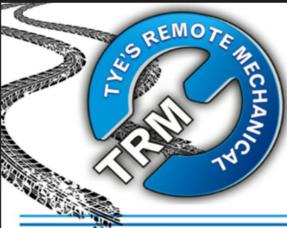
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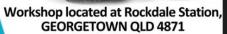


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> We look forward to working together. Kind regards,

Youri Dreezen and Sharnie Koster

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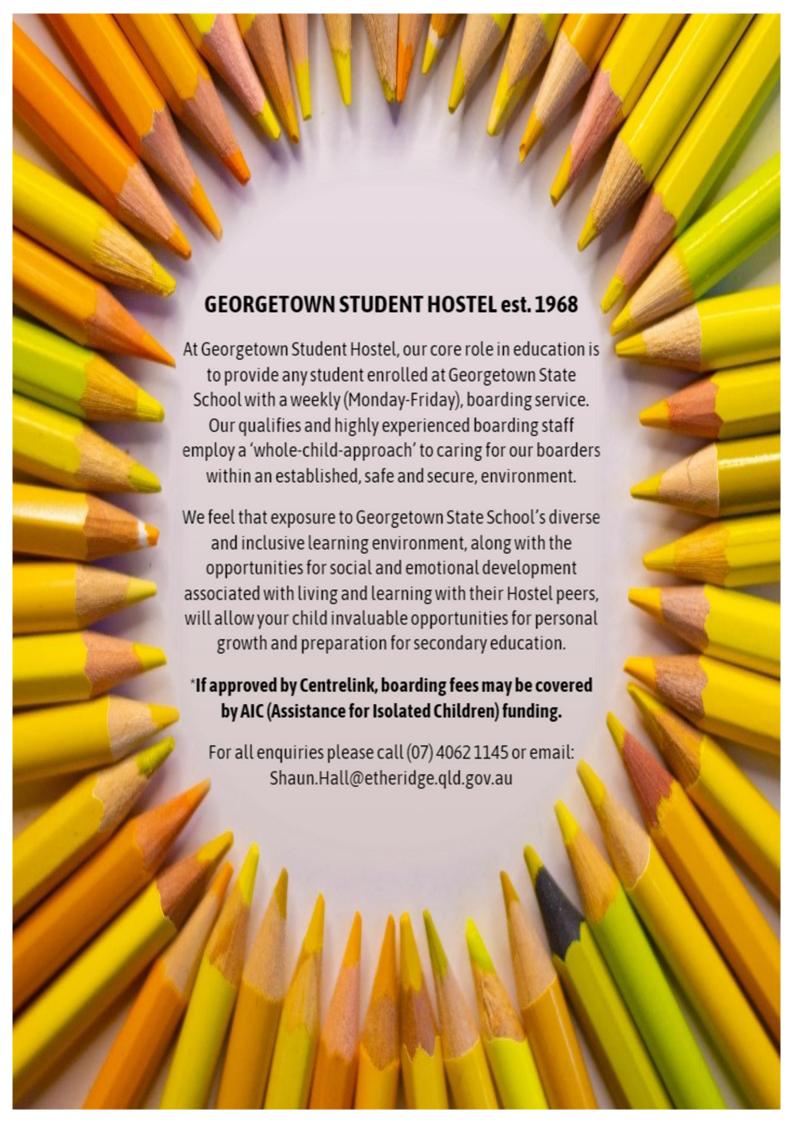
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# CALENDAR OF 2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

September

7th -Father's Day 12th-14th -

Einasleigh Races and Rodeo

19th-21st -

Georgetown Rodeo and

Motor Sports

October

4th -

Bushman's Ball

5th-

Georgetown Bush Races

6th -

The King's Birthday

November

11th -

Remembrance Day

December

25th -

Christmas Day

COUNCIL IS COMPILING AN ETHERIDGE SHIRE EVENTS CALENDAR AND WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SHARE YOUR 2025 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.



