

Edition 12 - December 2025



Inform Newsletter



Photo: Supplied

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hello and welcome to the Mayor's report



As mentioned in last month's report we are in the home straight for 2025, well with the finish line in sight with just on a fortnight to go things are progressing well for the Xmas shutdown.

TMR road works are front and centre of Councils attention with work on the Kennedy Highway progressing well with the rock corduroy with gravel overlay coming together nicely. This work is being carried out in difficult circumstances with lots of water and bottomless mud to contend with. On our trip to Hughenden last week CEO Ken and I pulled in to talk to the crew and got a first-hand update and a good look at the progress on site. A big shout out to Josh and crew for the works completed thus far.

Pretty much a copy and paste for the crew on the Gulf Development Road as works progress towards the break. Nice to see the black stuff going down there and after having a meeting with TMR head office in Cairns last week they indicated that they were happy with where the project was at.

Final meetings for the year for FNQROC and NWROC in Cairns and Hughenden respectively this week kept Ken and I busy with business and travel where the recent changes to both the Environmental Laws pertaining to Agriculture especially those relating to the EPBC act, and the changes to the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill were very topical because of the impending impacts on Councils. Both the Minister for Local Government and Senator Susan McDonald were in attendance virtually to expand on these subjects.

Some good news on the Natural Resource Management front with substantial funding allocations being provided to both Southern and Northern regions for projects in the future.

Regional Plans and Housing are still high on the agenda of all councils with work continuing to push these topics through increased advocacy from both ROC organisations.

On the home front it was great to see the schools of our shire deliver the end of year activities and graduation ceremonies. There is always an air of excitement with a tinge of sadness as year six students move on and year five students step up to take on roles and responsibilities in 2026.

The Horse Sports season is upon us as we countdown to Xmas with Einasleigh hosting their event on the weekend where a good roll up of competitors travelled for the fun filled program. Georgetown Horse Sports are scheduled this weekend which brings to a close a very busy and successful year for all the committees related to Rodeo, Campdraft, Challenges, Horse Sports, and associated clinics that are all an important part of the social fabric of our region. Well done to all those involved and may you continue to provide these important events which contribute across many layers in our communities.

Works on the Terrestrial Centre are ticking along, and the pouring of the slab is expected in January when works resume. A big thank you goes out to all the staff and contractors who have been very committed to ensuring that projects and associated admin are given every opportunity to be completed successfully, your attention to this process is greatly appreciated.

Council officially closes for the Xmas break on the 20th of December and recommences on the 5th January.

On behalf of Etheridge Shire Council, Tammy and I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy festive season, followed by a prosperous New Year, which will deliver your aspirations in spades and bring you fulfilment and fun filled family time in 2026.

Until next month,
Happy Trails.

Regards
Mayor Barry Hughes
Etheridge Shire Council

First Point of Contact in an Emergency

Contact Personnel:

Council's nominated first point of contact is
CEO

Phone: 0439 414 771

If the LDMG (Local Disaster Management Group) is activated by the chairperson (The Mayor) the Controlling Officer will be CEO

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 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Etheridge Shire Council has 2 Affordable Living Houses available online. Council is currently taking applications for all available dwellings. Applications Pack can be found on the Etheridge Shire Council Website.

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





PUBLIC NOTICE

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>
December	Wednesday, 17 th December 2025	Georgetown	9:00am

Ken Timms PSM

Interim 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.





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
21 January 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
18 February 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
18 March 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
15 April 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
20 May 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
17 June 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
15 July 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
12 August 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
16 September 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
14 October 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
11 November 2026	Georgetown	9:00am
16 December 2026	Georgetown	9:00am

Ken Timms PSM
Interim Chief Executive Officer



CONGRATULATIONS!

THE ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE KAREN FOR RECEIVING HER DIPLOMA IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE, A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT THAT REFLECTS HER DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING OUR YOUNGEST COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

WE ALSO CONGRATULATE DAN ON RECEIVING HIS 15 YEARS OF SERVICE CERTIFICATE AND THANK HIM FOR HIS ONGOING DEDICATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE ETHERIDGE SHIRE.

IF YOU SEE KAREN OR DAN, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO CONGRATULATE AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE.





PUBLIC NOTICE

ADOPTION OF MAJOR AMENDMENT TO THE ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING SCHEME 2020 – TAILORED AMENDMENT NO. 1: GEORGETOWN INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT

SECTION 20 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Etheridge Shire Council has resolved to adopt Amendment No. 1: Georgetown Industrial Precinct to the Etheridge Shire Planning Scheme 2020 on 25 November 2025.

The purpose and general effect of the amendment is to provide additional industrial land to meet anticipated demand and to support economic growth within the region by providing new industrial land to the west of Georgetown to support the Gilbert River Irrigation Project and the Etheridge Agricultural Precinct.

The amendment includes:

- **Part 3 – Strategic Framework** – Consequential changes to reflect the identification of additional industrial land to the west of Georgetown on the Gulf Developmental Road.
- **Part 5 – Zones** – Amendments to the Township Zone Code, specifically the Industrial precinct provisions to reflect the inclusion of a large area to the west of Georgetown to accommodate a mix of industry uses, including medium to large scale industry uses with adequate separation from residential and other sensitive land uses.
- **Part 6 – Codes** – Amendments to the Reconfiguring a Lot Code to include structure planning for larger sites.
- **Strategic Framework Map** – Amendment to Strategic Framework Map SFM – 1 to reflect the inclusion of land to the west of Georgetown in the Urban Designation.
- **Zone Maps** – Amendment to Zone Map ZM-2 Georgetown Zones and Precincts to reflect the inclusion of land to the west of Georgetown in the Township Zone, Industrial Precinct.

The major amendment to the Etheridge Shire Planning Scheme will commence on 1 December 2025

The amended planning scheme may be inspected and/or purchased from the following locations:

- Etheridge Shire Council in person during Council opening hours at Etheridge Shire Offices, 41 St George Street, Georgetown, or requested via telephone on (07) 4079 9090;
- Terrestrial Information Centre, 20 Low Street, Georgetown, during opening hours;
- Etheridge Shire Planning Scheme 2020 Version 1.1 will be available to view and download from Council's website at www.etheridge.qld.gov.au

For any further information please contact Etheridge Shire Council on (07) 4079 9091.

Ken Timms
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Etheridge Shire Council



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Etheridge Shire Council seeks Expressions of Interest from the public for the sale of one (1) mower.

Mower details

- IS5100Z Ferris Zero Turn 61" Deck
- Purchased new in 2018
- VIN 5900979 2017409265
- 1036 hours



EOI must contain contact details that include name of person/organisation submitting along with phone number, email address and amount submitted for the mower **excluding GST**.

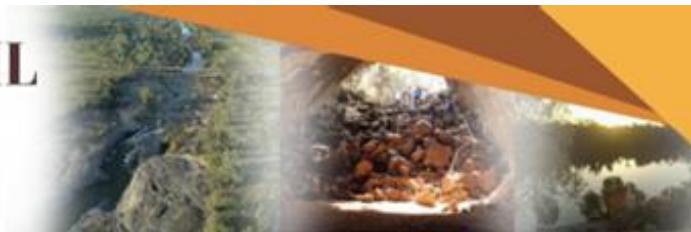
EOI must be submitted in a sealed envelope labelled with EOI Mower 63612C.

EOI must be lodged at Etheridge Shire Council office by leaving in the tender box at the front office.

EOIs close at 12.00pm (AEST) Friday 16th January 2026

For further information, please contact Cameron Barnes on 0439 113 585 or Jack Parry on 0418 621 235

Ken Timms PSM
Chief Executive Officer



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Etheridge Shire Council seeks Expressions of Interest from the public for the sale of one (1) generator.

Generator details

- Generator 33 KVA Caterpillar
- Purchased new in 2015
- Serial number OLY00000CMMR02451
- 1604.9 hours



EOI must contain contact details that include name of person/organisation submitting along with phone number, email address and amount submitted for the generator excluding GST.

EOI must be submitted in a sealed envelope labelled with EOI Generator.

EOI must be lodged at Etheridge Shire Council office by leaving in the tender box at the front office.

EOIs close at 12.00pm (AEST) Friday 16th January 2026

For further information, please contact Cameron Barnes on 0439 113 585 or Jack Parry on 0418 621 235

Ken Timms PSM
Chief Executive Officer



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Etheridge Shire Council seeks Expressions of Interest from the public for the sale of one (1) mower.

Mower details

- Ferris Zero Turn 72 inch Deck
- Purchased new in 2020
- VIN 5900507 IS5100ZCCC33D
- 305.8 hours



EOI must contain contact details that include name of person/organisation submitting along with phone number, email address and amount submitted for the mower **excluding GST**.

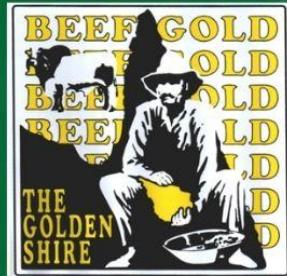
EOI must be submitted in a sealed envelope labelled with EOI Mower 85379C.

EOI must be lodged at Etheridge Shire Council office by leaving in the tender box at the front office.

EOIs close at 12.00pm (AEST) Friday 16th January 2026

For further information, please contact Cameron Barnes on 0439 113 585 or Jack Parry on 0418 621 235

Ken Timms PSM
Chief Executive Officer



WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Christmas & New Year Waste
collection dates.

Week 1 - Waste collection

Wednesday 24th December 2025

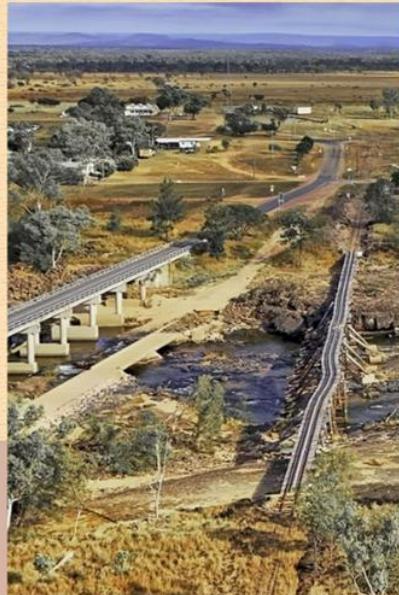


Week 2 - Waste collection

Wednesday 31st December 2025



Introducing **LIBRARY DROP SPOTS**



FORSAYTH
Goldfields Hotel

EINASLEIGH
Post Office

MT SURPRISE
BP & Tourist Park

The library is more accessible than ever!

You can now head to any of our local drop spots to:

- Return loans
- Collect reservations
- Request reservations
- Receive information about libraries online
- Fill out a membership form (ITS FREE!)

Call us on 07 4079 9025 or head to your local drop spot to find out more!

PARKRUN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



We're looking for volunteers to help us bring parkrun to the Etheridge Shire!

No, you will not need to run!

Volunteer your way:

- Time Keepers
- Barcode scanners
- Tail walkers
- Finish tokens
- Family friendly
- Course marshals
- Setting up/packing down

If you're interested in volunteering please contact us or scan the QR code!

(07) 4079 9090
abbey.taylor@etheridge.qld.gov.au





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Etheridge Shire Council would like to wish all residents and visitors a safe, joyful, and relaxing festive season. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Stay safe, enjoy the holidays, and we look forward to a wonderful 2026 together.

Etheridge Shire Council Office Closure

Please note that our team will be on a well-deserved holiday break from the 22nd December and will return to normal hours on the 5th January.





Please join us!

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS CEREMONY

MONDAY 26th JANUARY | 10AM | GEORGETOWN



MERRY CHRISTMAS
MERRY CHRISTMAS



THE JOLLIE SHIRE



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 0000. 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 area door and take a seat inside the waiting area and the staff will attend to you.



Georgetown Primary Health Centre

IMPORTANT NOTICE - GEORGETOWN PHC PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED DUE TO A QUEENSLAND HEALTH UPGRADE ON OUR PHONES.

WE WILL HAVE A TEMPORARY DIVERSION ON THE OLD NUMBER TO ENSURE YOU CAN STILL CONTACT US.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU CHANGE THE NUMBER YOU HAVE FOR GEORGETOWN PHC TO

07 4062 0000



GEORGETOWN ROADHOUSE

CHRISTMAS HOURS

DECEMBER 24 - 6:30AM-6:00PM

DECEMBER 25 - CLOSED

DECEMBER 26 - CLOSED

DECEMBER 27 - 10AM-4PM

DECEMBER 28 - 10AM-4PM

DECEMBER 29 - 10AM-4PM

DECEMBER 30 - 10AM-4PM

DECEMBER 31 - 10AM-4PM

JANUARY 1 - 10AM-4PM

JANUARY 2 - 6:30AM-6:00PM

**24HR FUEL AVAILABLE OUTSIDE
OF THESE HOURS**

Happy NEW YEAR

Thankyou for your valued support
throughout this year.

We look forward to seeing you in

2026!

Georgetown
Roadhouse

★ ★ ★ New Year's Eve ★ ★ ★

E	E	D	R	M	N	O	F	M	P	W	N	G	C	N
L	G	W	A	I	F	E	T	A	R	S	E	L	E	C
X	A	O	E	D	G	M	B	R	L	O	F	M	J	R
B	V	S	Y	N	C	H	E	E	R	S	E	F	I	O
W	W	A	W	I	Y	J	O	S	N	Y	W	I	H	T
X	J	L	E	G	N	C	L	O	C	K	J	L	K	K
N	B	L	N	H	O	E	P	L	A	S	Y	M	A	B
R	C	D	Q	T	I	A	V	U	B	P	H	K	P	H
Y	T	O	R	B	H	S	Z	T	T	K	I	O	F	T
U	P	O	E	P	E	M	G	I	Q	Y	K	U	O	V
M	R	P	A	N	M	N	W	O	D	T	N	U	O	C
G	H	R	A	Y	A	P	S	H	O	O	L	L	A	B
R	T	Q	L	H	K	X	B	K	V	L	A	Z	R	F
Y	L	Y	F	U	E	S	J	D	S	Z	U	K	B	S
O	C	W	M	X	R	Z	L	Z	G	P	D	K	F	P

Best of This Year

Song: _____

Book: _____

Memory: _____

Draw a picture of something
you would like to do in the New Year:

BALDROP

COUNTDOWN

NEWYEAR

BALLOONS

CELEBRATE

NOISEMAKER

CHEERS

HAPPY

PARTY

CLOCK

MIDNIGHT

RESOLUTION



GEORGETOWN POST OFFICE NEWS

Open: MONDAY to FRIDAY from 9 am - 1 pm then 2 pm – 4 pm (excl. all public holidays)

CHRISTMAS SEASON MESSAGE

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for supporting this locally owned and operated business. Your support helps ensure this vital community service hub remains operating.

Whatever you have planned over the Christmas break, stay safe and enjoy the company of family and friends.



CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

Monday 22 December	9am – 1pm then 2pm – 5pm
Tuesday 23 December	9am – 1pm then 2pm – 5pm
Wednesday 24 December (P/H)	9am – 1pm then 2pm – 5pm
Thursday 25 December (P/H)	XMAS DAY CLOSED
Friday 26 December	BOXING DAY CLOSED
Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 January	CLOSED
Monday 29 December	9am – 1pm then 2pm – 5pm
Tuesday 30 December	9am – 1pm then 2pm – 5pm
Wednesday 31 December	9am – 1pm then 2pm – 5pm
Thursday 01 January (P/H)	NEW YEARS DAY CLOSED
Friday 02 January	9am – 1pm then 2pm – 5pm

Trading hours resume as normal after the Christmas break.

SIMON SAYS

According to my kids' Christmas lists, they think this parenting gig pays pretty well.



A LETTER FOR SANTA

Take your letter to the Post Office for an instant reply, from 3 November to 24 December. While stock lasts.

How does Santa get my letter?

Ho, ho, hurry to hand your letter to one of our friendly Post Office team members and you'll receive Santa's reply, right then and there. Just like magic! Plus, a little something for your tree. Available from Monday 3 November until 24 December, while stock lasts.

How to write your letter to Santa

You can write your letter to Santa any way you want! But if you're scratching your head and need a little magic spark, here are some tips to get you started.

Write a letter, wishlist or drawing - every message is special to Santa. And remember, you don't need to send him a gift.

Use your favourite pens, pencils, textas, paper or stickers.

Not sure what to say? Check out our sample letter!

Australia Post. Delivering magic this Christmas.





Dear Santa,



It's me again, CHARLiE! I am almost 8.
I had fun at school this year and
helped Dad pick up my baby sister Mia
from kinder every day. She is cheeky.



I try to share my toys with her,
even the Lego you gave me
last year. Thank you!



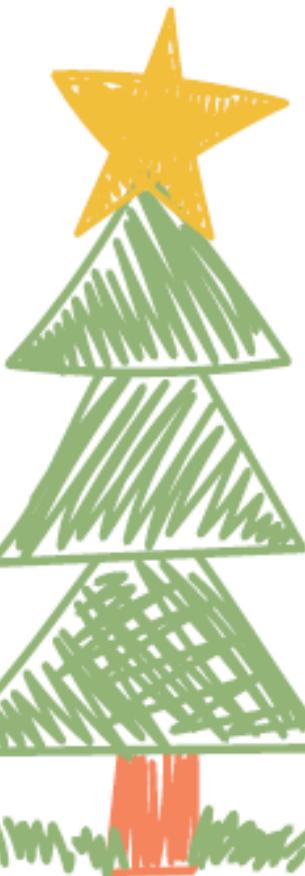
This year, I REALLY want a science
kit please. It is my favourite class.



Mum says it will be hot on Christmas.
I will leave a cup of
cold juice for you and Rudolph.
I hope kangaroos will not eat all
his carrots!



Merry Christmas to you and
Mrs Claus and all the elves.
Safe flight.



MERRY
XMAS

From CHARLiE



Merry Christmas

Georgetown SES would like to
wish you a Joyful and Merry
Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please stay safe and travel safe
over Christmas break and Get
Ready for the wet season. See
you all in 2026!

Georgetown QGAP News

Dear Community,

Thank you for your continued support of local businesses and for helping us keep our doors open. We truly appreciate your patronage.

Our counter hours are from **9:00 am to 4:00 pm**, with a lunch break from **1:00 pm to 1:45 pm** each day.

As we approach the festive season, please note the following changes to our operating hours for December and January:

- **Christmas Closure:** We will close at **1:00 pm on 24 December 2025** and reopen at **9:00 am on 5 January 2026**.
- **Staff Leave in January:** The office will be closed on **Wednesdays and Fridays** throughout January.

On behalf of Seven and myself, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Warm regards,

Cherie Tansey

Manager, Queensland Government Agent

Office Hours

9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 1:45 pm to 4:00 pm

New registrations available by appointment only before 3:00 pm.

Contact Details

Phone: **07 4029 5201**

Address: **12 High Street, Georgetown QLD 4871**

Postal: **PO Box 28, Georgetown QLD 4871**

Best contact (Email): [**csc_georgetown@resources.qld.gov.au**](mailto:csc_georgetown@resources.qld.gov.au)

Website: [**Government service office locations | Queensland Government**](#)

New Year's Eve at **GOLDFIELDS HOTEL**



**JOIN US FOR A
NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION!**

BBQ DINNER

MUSIC BY BOOSTED BEATS

SITES & ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

BREAKFAST & PIZZA AVAILABLE ON

NEW YEARS DAY

**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STAY - BRING THE BOAT
OR KAYAKS AND ENJOY CHARLESTON DAM!**

Queensland Housing Finance Loan

REGIONAL TRIAL 

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



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

Sport and Recreation Recovery Grant

APPLY NOW

Has your sport or rec club been impacted by severe weather events?

Funding is now available through the Queensland Government's Sport and Recreation Recovery Grant to help your club repair, rebuild and restore operations — and prepare for future events.

Find out more:

 [**Sport and Recreation Recovery Grant | Recreation, sport and arts | Queensland Government**](#)

@QldSportAndRec

How to see us

Free to Access

- Family Support Counselling – This is for children from 7 to 18 years of age, and the people that care for them.
- Youth Drug and Alcohol Counselling – Young people between 12 and 25 years of age who are struggling with drug or alcohol use, or are at risk of.
- Drug and Alcohol Counselling – For adults over 25 years of age who are struggling with drug or alcohol use, and the people close to them who are impacted.
- Counselling for older people – For older adults aged over 65, or over 50 for First Nations Australians accessed under My Aged Care.

For information about your eligibility please see our website or call us on our main number.



CONTACT US

Better Together Community Support

📍 16a Robert St, Atherton Q 4883

✉️ PO Box 793, Atherton Q 4883

📞 Ph: 4091 3850

🌐 @bettertogetheratherton

🌐 www.bettertogether.com.au

✉️ info@bettertogether.com.au

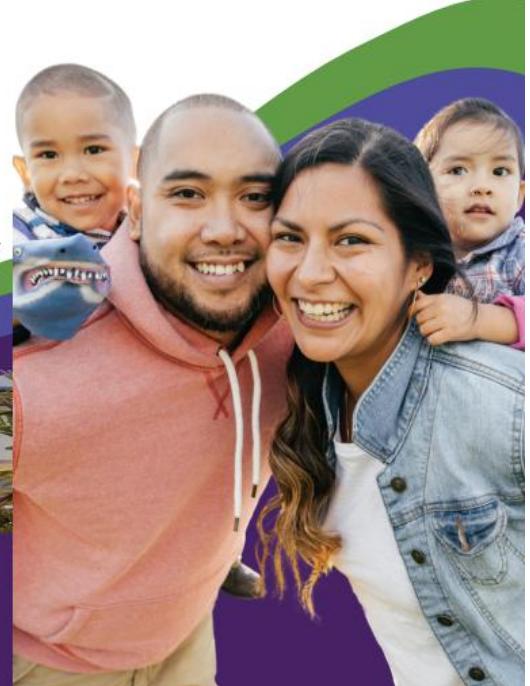


MD0022 (Nov 25)



PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Evidence-based therapeutic interventions, individual counselling, psychometric assessment and reports.



How we can help

The areas we can help with are:

- Stress
- Anxiety including panic, fears, and phobias
- Depression
- Grief
- Anger
- Trauma
- Adjusting to big life changes
- Managing difficult feelings (for kids and adults)
- Coping skills
- Parenting challenges
- Drug and alcohol concerns

And lots more! Anyone can refer with the referral form on our website.

You can use the QR code below to go to our referral form page.



How it works

1. We receive your referral and will make contact with you to book an intake appointment so we can learn more about you and your concerns.
2. If you are eligible, you will go on our waitlist and we will keep in touch until one of our counsellors can see you as a client.
3. Once you are allocated to your counsellors, they will get in touch with you directly to arrange an appointment.



What to expect

- It is likely that you will be on a waitlist for a period of time, but we will keep in touch.
- We will work with you to plan the type of counselling that best suits your needs.
- We use questionnaires to help us understand your needs and track progress
- Counselling is short – medium term support
- We help you to build the tools you need to manage challenges

If you are still unsure or have more questions, contact our friendly administration staff

How to refer to YAODCC

To refer into YAODCC you can fill in the online referral form found at www.bettertogether.com.au/referral-form/ To discuss referral options you can contact the coordinator of the Case Management Team on 0447 326 246 or 07 4091 3850.

Scan for more information



Why work with us?

With over 30 years' experience working with community and families across the Tablelands, our team has qualified, experienced social workers and family support practitioners who will be able to give you practical support tailored to your needs.



MD0021 Nov 25

What Is YAODCC?

YAODCC stands for the Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Care Coordination Program. This program provides support to young people aged 12-25 who are struggling with or are at risk of alcohol and other drug misuse. YAODCC uses a case management model that empowers young people to identify and address their concerns in a safe, supportive environment. Together with each young person, a tailored case management plan is developed to meet their individual needs and goals. The program serves the following locations: Mareeba, Atherton, Tolga, Yungaburra, Malanda, Ravenshoe, Mt Garnet, Georgetown, and Croydon.



CONTACT US

Better Together Community Support

📍 16a Robert St, Atherton Q 4883

✉️ PO Box 793, Atherton Q 4883

📞 Ph: 4091 3850

🌐 @bettertogetheratherton

🌐 www.bettertogether.com.au

✉️ info@bettertogether.com.au



YAODCC Program

Supporting young people aged 12-25



How can we help?

Supporting young people through complex challenges means helping them create a plan they believe in, that aligns with their needs and goals and empowers them to build their future.

We build trust with young people, working closely to develop a personalised case management plan that helps them achieve their goals.

We'll work together to address any challenges you feel safe to discuss, offering practical harm minimisation strategies, while always respecting your right to make your own choices.

With the young person's consent, YAODCC collaborates with other service providers to develop a joint case plan. This plan is tailored to the young person's unique needs, in partnership with the young person, supporting them to reach their goals.

How does it work?

This service is free and completely voluntary. When a young person decides to work with us, we'll focus on building a trusting relationship where they feel comfortable opening up about what matters to them. Together, we create a plan that's centred on their goals and the future they want to build.

This program is designed to support young people who may have disengaged from school or their community, are facing particularly vulnerable situations, or are transitioning from detention back into their communities.

Our team is flexible and can meet young people in their homes or any other safe environment where they feel at ease.



How to access MyndKind?

To access MyndKind call Medicare Mental Health (formerly Head to Health) on **1800 595 212** to be connected to a service or support that's right for you.

GPs and other health professionals can refer patients to MyndKind via phone or email, but a Mental Health Treatment plan is not required. MyndKind is available free of charge to those who are eligible.

If MyndKind is not the right service for you, Medicare Mental Health will help you find the one that is right for you, such as Medicare-subsidised services, EAP, DVA, online bulk-billing therapies.



What is MyndKind?

MyndKind is a new way for North Queenslanders to access mental health services and support that will best suit their needs.

It puts each person at the centre of their own mental health journey, so they feel heard, understood, and respected every step of the way.

MyndKind aims to provide a better mental healthcare experience for North Queenslanders by providing a more diverse and flexible range of services and support for people to access. This could mean support can take place in a group, a person's home, on the phone, or at the park.

The biggest change is that clients can request a "Journey Coordinator" to help them progress in their mental health journey.



Contact our Journey Coordinator

Better Together Community Support

16a Robert St, PO Box 793,

Atherton QLD, 4883

Ph: 4091 3850

[f bettertogetheratherton](#)

[g bettertogether.com.au](#)

[e info@bettertogether.com.au](#)



ECHO

Eacham Community Help Organisation

11-15 Eacham Place,

Malanda QLD 4885

Ph: 07 4096 6634

[g echomalanda.org.au](#)

[e reception@echomalanda.org.au](#)



Ravenshoe Community Centre

3 Bolton Street,

Ravenshoe, QLD, 4888

Ph: 4097 6726

[e ncc@ravcom.org.au](#)

MD0004 (Oct 25)



**Journey Coordination
and Stepped Care**



An Australian Government Initiative

Medicare Mental Health Phone Service

1800 595 212

What is a Journey Coordinator?

A Journey Coordinator walks side-by-side with clients. They emphasise early intervention for people to access support through a "stepped care" model without the need for a referral or lengthy assessment.

Journey Coordinators help clients navigate the Mental Health system by helping with:

- Connecting** - Having a strong focus on building rapport and a trusting relationship with the person.
- Advocating** - Coordinating referrals to other services and support, and advocate for access where required.
- Capacity building** - Supporting self-management approaches, including access to digital mental health services
- Education** - Information on what a person can expect from services and how to transition between services.

What does "Stepped Care" mean?

A stepped care approach aims to provide a continuum of primary mental health services, which ensures a range of choices are available to community members.

Services within the stepped care model step people up to more intensive services and supports, or down to less intensive services and support, as their needs change during their mental health journey.

Who is MyndKind for?

MyndKind supports people in North Queensland who find it difficult to access mental health services.

This might be because they face financial hardship, limited transport and other challenges that make it hard to get the help they need.



ABOUT FOOTPRINTS

Footprints Community is a well-regarded not-for-profit provider of community-based services, working in the community for over 30 years. We specialise in working with older people, those that experience disability, mental illness, as well as those who are at risk of homelessness.

Our professionally qualified and highly skilled workforce operate within a client-centred practice framework ensuring principles of strengths-based and trauma-informed practice are implemented into service delivery.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST ...



ABOUT BETTER TOGETHER

Better Together is partnering with Footprints to deliver the care finder program to the Atherton Tablelands region, building on its great reputation for delivering quality services.

Care finder identifies isolated and vulnerable older people in our community who are finding it hard navigate the system and access the right services to support their independence.

HOW CAN PEOPLE FIND A FOOTPRINTS CARE FINDER?

• 1800 FOOTPRINTS (1800 366 877)
• carefinder@footprintscommunity.org.au

Find a care finder in North Queensland



This service is supported by funding from Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) through the Australian Government's PHN Program.

Contact us:

• 1800 FOOTPRINTS (1800 366 877)
• carefinder@footprintscommunity.org.au
footprintscommunity.org.au

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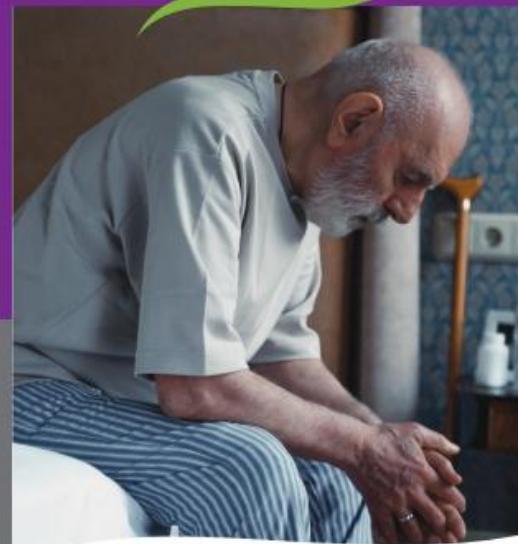


FEBRUARY 2025

CONNECT SOMEONE YOU KNOW WITH SUPPORT



Care finder service



WITH
 **BETTER TOGETHER**
Community Support



HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM HELP?

Care finders support vulnerable people who:

- are unable to access services without intensive support
- do not have a family member or friends who can help.

Care finders can help people:

- understand what aged care services are available
- set up an assessment and
- find and choose services.

They also help with access to other community supports, to connect for the first time, or to change or find new services.

Care finder services are provided at no cost as they are fully funded through Northern Queensland Primary Health Network.

A CARE FINDER CAN HELP SOMEONE WITH:

- talking to My Aged Care (on their behalf if needed) and arranging an assessment, attending and providing support at the assessment
- finding and short-listing aged care providers in their area, completing forms and understanding aged care service agreements
- checking-in once services are up and running to make sure everything is acceptable
- problem-solving other challenges and connecting to supports in the community, such as health, mental health, housing and homelessness, drug and alcohol services and community groups.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Care finders specifically help vulnerable older Australians who need intensive assistance to access aged care and other supports.

To receive care finder supports, a person is:

- isolated and does not have a carer or support person they feel comfortable to act on their behalf and
- eligible for government-funded aged care.

Care finders supports people who:

- may have difficulty communicating because of language or literacy challenges
- find it difficult to understand information and make decisions
- may be reluctant to engage with aged care or government
- may be left in an unsafe situation if they do not receive services.

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www.etheridge.qld.gov
Issue 20 | March 2025

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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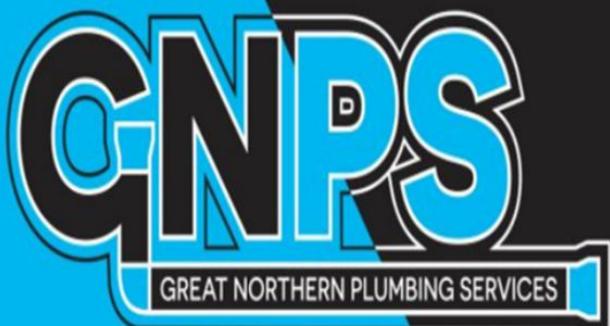
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Christmas Cookies

RECIPE BY MARIA SMITH

INGREDIENTS:



- » 3 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- » 1 teaspoon baking powder
- » ½ teaspoon salt
- » 1 cup margarine, softened
- » 1 ½ cups white sugar
- » 2 eggs
- » 2 teaspoons vanilla extract



DIRECTIONS:



Sift flour, baking powder, and salt together, set aside. In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time, then stir in the vanilla. Gradually blend in the sifted ingredients until fully absorbed. Cover dough, and chill for 2 hours.

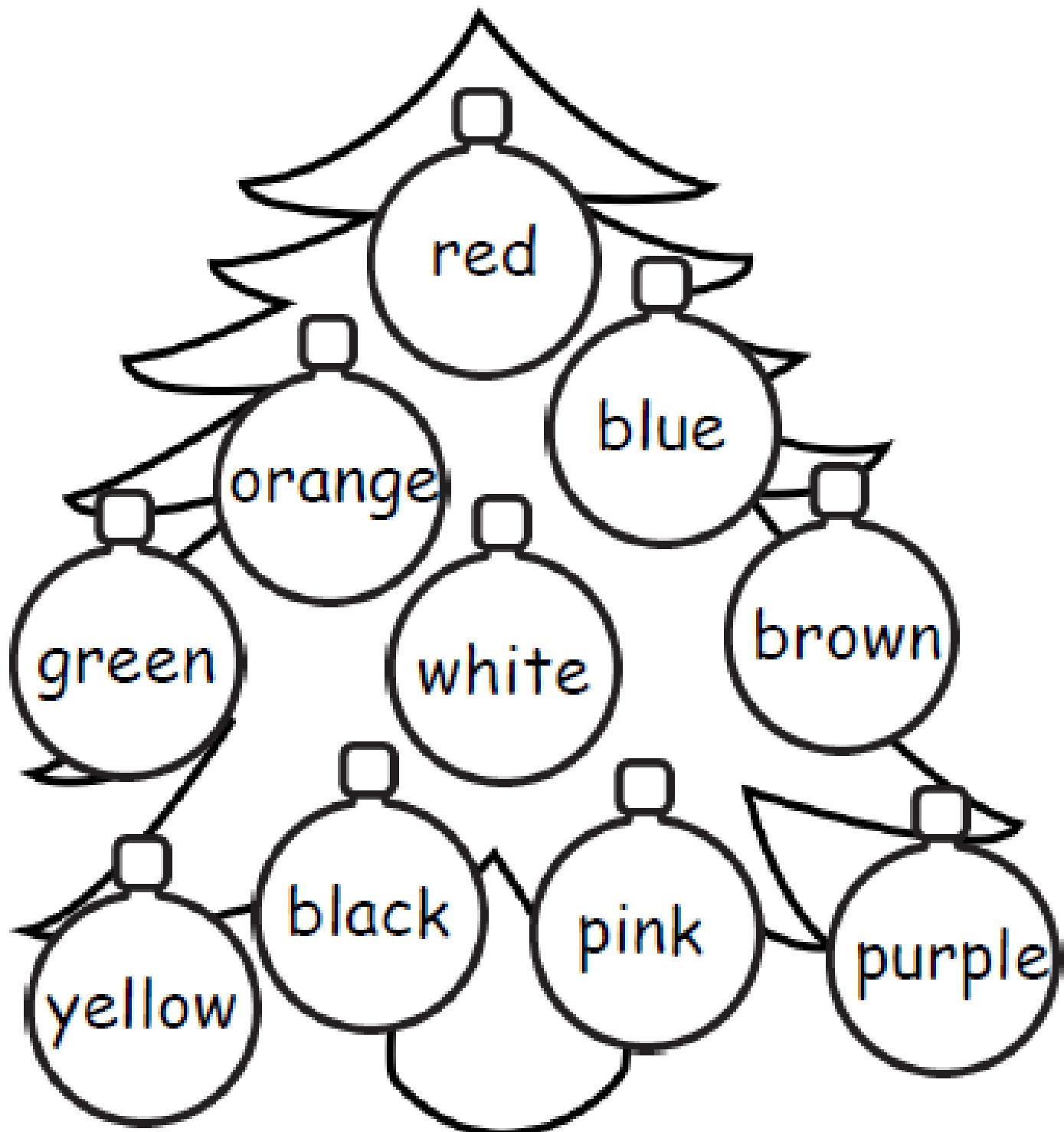
Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets. On a clean floured surface, roll out small portions of chilled dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut out shapes using cookie cutters.

Bake 6-8 minutes in the preheated oven, or until edges are barely brown. Remove from cookie sheets to cool on wire racks.

Name _____

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2026

January

1st -
New Year's Day
16-17-18th -
Goldfields Ashes
26th -
Australia Day

February

14th -
Valentine's Day

March

8th -
International Women's
Day
2nd -
Clean up Australia Day

**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.



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