

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR





This month saw Etheridge Shire host the North West Regional Councils descend on Georgetown for the by-monthly face to face meeting of member councils.

This event was very successful, with up to fifty delegates attending and having Kowanyama attend as new members of the organisation highlighted the growth and strength of the representation across the region.

Twelve councils are now represented under the banner of the NWROC and this provides a great platform for advocacy to ensure we are being heard. A big thank you to all of the local businesses in Georgetown for being able to contribute to the success through accommodation, catering, and hosting throughout the forum.

Etheridge Shire hosted also the First Responders Dinner to acknowledge the contributions to our communities by frontline agencies in times of adversity. Councils CDEO Caroline has done a great job to organise the dinner which was well attended and well received by everyone. These agencies are serviced by everyday people, everyday in our community and for that we say a very big thank you.

Council conducted a community connect meeting in Mt Surprise this week to discuss the Works for Queensland (W4Q) project proposed for their community.

A good roll up of residents saw the choice of a multi purpose centre being the priority and Council will now set the wheels in motion to deliver this project under a staged programme working within the budgeted amount in the first instance. This is great outcome for the community of Mt Surprise and we recognise the efforts of residents to enable this project to proceed.

Works on widening the narrows on the Gulf Development Road is well underway with a two and a half section to be widened east of the Einasleigh River. Travelling through the worksite a few times this week the quality of works being undertaken by our work crews is quiet evident.

On that note I met with TMR Cairns this week to discuss a broad suite of issues in relation to the State Road Corridors within Etheridge Shire. Still no word on the slicing and dicing of the funding pie for the Hann Highway sealing project where Seventy Million Dollars was allocated for that section of the Kennedy Transport Corridor. I raised the issue of safety concerns from the travelling public in relation to the disregard of traffic control systems on the GDR at the White Water blowouts. I can only urge people to obey red and green light signals until repairs are undertaken once TMR gives the go ahead.

I did travel to Canberra this month to attend the annual Australian Local Government Association Conference and let me tell you that -5 degrees every morning does not go well for a boy from the bush.

As always, networking is a great benefit. From attending these events and being able to compare notes across subjects such as cost shifting by governments, rate increases to keep abreast of increased expectations, ageing infrastructure and associated costs, and the impacts of population drift away from regional areas. I am pleased to report that Etheridge is travelling pretty good in comparison to those Councils who are increasing rates by up to 25% in some cases to maintain sustainability.

Last week I attended the Developing Northern Australia Conference where there were five hundred delegates in attendance. A broad range of topics were presented from an interesting line up of presenters. Economic Development was the driver for most presentations across the regions of northern Australia to help secure the future and reignite investor confidence for the long term.

As we get to the end of the month we look towards the Forsayth Turnout and Etheridge Show and wishing you all the best for another successful event show casing the very best of everything that Etheridge has to offer.

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 - 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>
August	Wednesday, 20 th August 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
September	Wednesday, 17 th September 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
October	Wednesday, 15 th October 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
November	Wednesday, 19 th November 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
December	Wednesday, 17 th December 2025	Georgetown	9:00am

Mark Watt

Chief Executive Officer

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: etheridge.qld.gov.au or by calling the Shire Office on 4079 9090.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS UPDATE

Community Update – July

By Caroline Steele, Community

Development & Events Officer

Over the past month, Birdie's Tree emergency preparedness resources were delivered to local schools and childcare centres through Get Ready Queensland funding. Birdie Tree books help support children in a natural disaster (understand).

The Thank a First Responder Dinner on July 1st was a great success. Thank you to the Mayor and CEO for stepping in to host the event, which celebrated our local heroes.









TIME FOR A TREE CHANGE?

COME AND ENJOY THE CHANGE OF LIFESTYLE THAT ONLY A COUNTRY
TOWN CAN OFFER

POSITION VACANT TOWN MAINTENANCE LABOURER

Etheridge Shire Council is seeking applications from highly motivated, enthusiastic and team orientated persons with a desire to work as a Town Maintenance Labourer.

The successful applicant will gain the opportunity to assist in beautification of the town through ongoing maintenance of grounds and gardens at Council properties throughout the Shire.

Applicants with a HR Drivers Licence will be highly regarded and an interest in horticulture would be great. Live in a great small town still within reach of the coast. There is an award-winning daycare, an excellent primary school, golf course and a multi-sports centre (Tennis, Squash, Gym, Lawn Bowls) with a beautiful swimming pool. Do yourself a favour and check us out.

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 – Town Maintenance Labourer 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 Council's Town Maintenance Supervisor, George Smith on Ph: 07 4079 9090 or Councils website www.etheridge.qld.gov.au

Applications close at 4 pm Wednesday 6th August 2025



POSITION VACANT FINANCE ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Etheridge Shire Council is currently seeking a dedicated, motivated and enthusiastic Finance/Administration Officer to join our team of experienced finance professionals based at Councils' Corporate Office located at Georgetown.

The Finance/Administration Officer will provide support to the administration/finance department and undertake all functions pertaining to general administration and finance functions of the Council

The Finance/Administration Officer will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with current legislation, current policies, current procedures, work instructions and furthermore to contribute to the efficient and effective financial management and performance of Council.

Etheridge Shire Council is dedicated to providing high quality customer service to its external and internal customers, but we also value our staff and the important role that they play.

Applications including a covering letter outlining how you (the applicant) can meet the position requirements, resume and 2 current references can be posted, delivered to the Administration Office, or emailed to:

Position Vacant – Finance Administration Officer 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 Jodi Kernan or Megan Alexanderson on Ph: 07 40799090.

Applications close at 4 pm 15th August 2025



POSITION VACANT CHILDCARE - TRAINEESHIP



Etheridge Shire Council is seeking an enthusiastic, children orientated person to join our Childcare team at the Little Gems Children's Centre.

Our centre located in Georgetown is currently seeking a Childcare Trainee to join our team of experienced childcare educators, with the highest importance put on care and early childhood development, we are seeking a Childcare Trainee who is warm, caring and respectful of children's needs and the environment in which they learn.

At Little Gems Children's Centre we are dedicated to providing high quality care to our families' everyday, but we also value our staff and the important role that they play.

The successful applicant must be able to meet the following criteria.

- A passion for working with children;
- A team player who effectively communicates with families and staff alike;
- Willing to obtain Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care
- Hold a positive Blue Card and First Aid;
- Over the age of 18

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

Expression of Interest – Childcare Trainee 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 Childcare, Amanda Butler on Ph.: 07 4062 1265 or Councils website www.etheridge.gld.gov.au

Applications Close Friday - 15th August 2025



POSITION VACANT – 12 MONTH TERM EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Fantastic opportunity
- Prove your people management and time management skills

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer will provide efficient, effective administrative and time-management support to the Chief Executive Officer, Mayor and Councillors that contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of Etheridge Shire Council's Corporate Governance Department.

Etheridge Shire Council is located within the heart of the Gulf Savannah Region with its eastern boundary being only 250km's from Cairns. The main township within the Etheridge Shire is Georgetown which is approximately 400km's from Cairns and 400km's from the Gulf of Carpentaria. The shire has three other township's being, Mt Surprise, Einasleigh, Forsayth. Mining, Tourism, Beef Cattle and Agriculture are the predominant industries which are the driving factor behind the shire's economy.

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer role is to deliver sound administrative support in a prompt and efficient manner, whilst maintaining a high level of confidentiality.

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the successful applicant will work autonomously to ensure a high standard of administrative and project support.

Applications including a covering letter outlining how you (the applicant) can meet the position requirements, resume and 2 current references can be posted, delivered to the Administration Office, or emailed to:

Position Vacant – Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
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 Chief Executive Officer, Mark Watt on Ph: 07 40799090.

Applications close at 4 pm 15th August 2025



CONGRATULATIONS RENEE!

THE ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS AND GRATITUDE TO SENIOR CONSTABLE RENEE MATTHEWS, WHO WAS HONOURED WITH THE DAMIAN LEEDING COMPASSION IN POLICING AWARD AT THE QUEENSLAND HOMICIDE VICTIMS SUPPORT GROUP NIGHT OF RECOGNITION AWARDS LAST MONTH.

WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD TO SEE RENEE RECOGNISED FOR HER OUTSTANDING COMPASSION AND EMPATHY TOWARDS HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THESE QUALITIES REFLECT THE VERY BEST OF OUR COMMUNITY.





GEORGETOWN POST OFFICE NEWS

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

PRICE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2025



Australia Post has announced price changes to a range of retail products and services.

The Basic Postal Rate (BPR) has increased from \$1.50 to \$1.70. Effectively, sending a small letter will cost \$1.70 as of the 1si July 2025.

This price increase will also flow through to other products and services. **Mail Redirection** (Domestic and International) will increase by 4.1%. **Mail Hold** will increase by between 2.6% and 4.6%.

Australia Post are also increasing the price of **International Parcels** by a weighted average of 3.25% and **International Letters** by a weighted average of 5%. **Express Post** postage costs will also increase by a weighted average of 1.52% and **Parcel Post** postage prices by a weighted average of 1.95%.

A new Extra Small padded mailer and 250gm domestic parcel rate for own packaging, will be available over the counter and via MyPost Business. More details on the new 260gm sending option will be available in early June.

SIMON SAYS

When I play Golf, I like to take a spare pair of socks with me just in case I get a hole in one.



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!

Well can we believe it half the year has flown by and now the countdown until Christmas begins!

The clinic has had a very busy couple of months which unfortunately means there has been a lot more fatigue leave needed.

Please remember to check the signs before hitting the buzzers and if a fatigue sign is on the door only hit the red buzzer for an emergency so that the nurses can get much needed rest.

Its that time of the year when our flu vaccines have arrived! Are you eligible for a free flu vaccine this year? The following information can assist you in knowing you are eligible for a free vaccine:

6 months to less than 5 years. Your little one will need two doses one month apart if they have never had the vaccine before. ALL children in this age group are eligible.

5 years to less than 65 years – If you have a medical condition that predisposes you to severe influenza, ALL aboriginal and Torres strait Islander people, all pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy. If you are unsure if you qualify in this age group – please fee free to call and speak with the nurse on shift.

65 years and older ALL people in this age group are eligible.

Please call us on 4062 1266 to make a booking if you qualify for free flu vaccine.

<u>IMPORTANT CHANGES TO OBTAINING SCRIPTS FROM RFDS DOCTOR</u>

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 have been receiving travel form C's without travel approval.

For **EACH** 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.

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: 03/07/2025, 10/07/2025, 17/07/2025

Friday: 25/07/2025

<u>UPCOMING VISITING HEALTH TEAMS:</u>

Women's' Health including Cervical screening

PLEASE CONTACT US TO MAKE A BOOKING WITH AN RFDS Dr if you are needing an appointment in regard to women's health and cervical screening on 4062 1266.

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 4781 9300

Allied Health

Please contact the Georgetown Clinic on 4062 1266 to have a referral attended to.

Dentist Visit dates

28/07/2025 - 01/08/2025 adult dental

22/09/2025 - 26/09/2025 adult dental

10/11/2025 - 14/11/2025 adult dental

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

Optometrist – Outside Optical

02/09/2025 - held in dental clinic

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

MEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

Dates for 2025:

14/08/2025 04/12/2025

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. With the new financial year in play we should know whether or not these extra clinics will continue to be run.

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 - 20th

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.

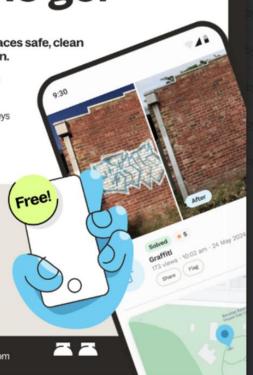
Keep shared spaces safe, clean and great to be in.

- 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





































Thank You

We want to say thank you and how grateful we are for the quick response from friends and neighbours when a fire started on Mt Turner on Monday 14th July. Without these fire fighting units from Namual and Rockdale, and the Ergon boys, as well as Georgetown Fire Services to help Jake it could have been a real disaster. Everyone who came to help thank you so much.

Yours Sincerely,

Lm Bethel.

Mt Turner.

MT SURPRISE

CampDraft

The Mt Surprise Campdraft was held over the weekend of 27-29 June and once again brought together riders, families, and supporters from across the region. With a full program of events across the three days, the draft offered a great mix of skilled horsemanship, friendly competition, and community spirit.

While the cool winter weather made for ideal conditions, it was the hard work of the organisers, volunteers, and local sponsors that made the weekend such a success. A big thank you to everyone involved—we look forward to seeing you all again next year!





Thank you to the hard working Committee for another fantastic year! Without you all this event would have never gone ahead. Missing from the photo- Cara, Aaron, Tom & Christine! Congratulation we made it!



What a fantastic day on Saturday with over 10 tonne of pigs weighed in. Cheers to all those that helped either behind the bar, the catering shed and/or with the clean up. There is nothing better than seeing teams come together and just chip in to support and run events. We look forward to updating in coming weeks with our donation to the RFDS once bills are all paid and the dust settles. Here are some presentation photos and please comment if you have photos from the day in comments. Congratulations and job well done to all teams!





SEE YOURSELF IN ORANGE

Far Northern Region State Emergency Service

Recruit Course Information

Recruit courses are held regularly throughout the year in Cairns¹ and as required in Regional and Remote locations².

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.



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





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



👺 Help Shape the Future of Our Land 🖖



Your Local Landcare Group Needs You!

We are currently seeking:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- General Members

If you're passionate about the health of our country, controlling weeds, biodiversity, and leaving the land in better shape for the next generation, we'd love to have you involved.

Our focus is the Gilbert River Catchment, from top to bottom, and all its tributaries. Whether you're a landholder, station worker, or someone in the community who cares deeply about our environment, there's a place for you on our team

No experience necessary just a willingness to learn, contribute, and be part of a positive local movement making real change. You'll be supported by a friendly team, and your voice will truly make a difference.

This is your chance to

- Grow your leadership skills
- Meet like-minded locals
- Take real action to care for the country
- Help leave the land better than we found it

For more info or to express interest, please contact:

Lyn French 0740625329 or grhag7@gmail.com or Michael Anthony on 0427367888

Let's work together for a healthier, more resilient region.





Biosecurity News

Department of Primary Industries

July 2025

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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.

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.





Proudly delivered by:

Proudly delivered by:



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 Queensland Government.



Save the Savannahlander!

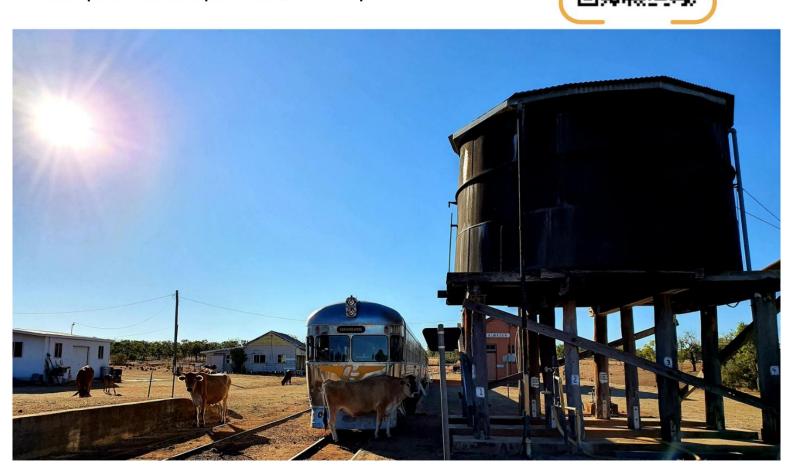
We've had a close working relationship with the Savannahlander for many years, welcoming their guests to Cobbold Gorge and we thank them for their support. Now they need our and your support.

In recent years there's been significant track and bridge damage, which is impacting operations and disrupting service. There is currently a Queensland Government petition underway calling for the House to do all in its power to urgently ensure the repair of the Savannahlander rail line to full operation.

If you want to see <u>The Savannahlander</u> back on track – as we do – please take a moment to sign the petition and share it with friends, family and your networks. Let's make sure the voice of the bush is heard!

Sign the petition here •

The petition is open until 14 Sept 25.



"Alright, settle in SKULLY'S here's how I SKULLY'S lost my leg..." Pt 1 TALES

(...according to me, Skully the Three-Legged Legend.)



You'd be surprised how many humans ask, "What happened to your leg?"
Like it's the most interesting thing about me. I mean — have you seen my
ears? Anyway, I used to tell the real story: cow, bad mood, big kick, leg
gone. But honestly, that one's a bit of a downer, and I'm not here to fetch
your sympathy. So these days, I mix it up. Depends on who's asking and
how much time I've got before the next muster. Here are a few of my
favourites — completely factual, not at all made up, and definitely 100%
true... kinda.

1. Croc Wrestling Champion (Retired)

I was sunbaking on a Cape York beach, working on my tan — you know, belly up, ears flopped back, living the dream. Next thing, a salty croc waddles up and tries to steal my sunnies. I wasn't having it. We wrestled, rolled, and splashed for ten minutes straight. In the end, I got my sunnies back... but he got my leg. I still reckon I won.

2. Shark Bait at Surf School

Took myself to surf school on the Goldie — had a little dream of being the first three-legged surfer dog. I was nailing the pop-up when boom, outta nowhere, a shark shows up. Mistook me for a seal doing yoga. Took the leg, left the board. I got a distinction in wave etiquette though.

3. Drop Bear Ambush

Went camping in Kosciuszko, right? Cold air, crackling fire, marshmallows—the lot. Then, out of the gum tree above... BAM! A drop bear landed on me like a tonne of bricks. I only survived because I was wearing eucalyptus-scented roll-on. Lost a leg but gained eternal bush cred.

4. Bunyip Bungle

There was a rumour of a bunyip living near a billabong up north. I went to check it out, naturally. We made eye contact. I tried to shake paws. He took offence. It cost me a leg and my lunchbox. Still, not many dogs can say they've met a real bunyip and lived.

5. Emu Race Disaster

Signed up for the annual Longreach Emu Races. I had the fastest emu this side of the Great Dividing Range. But halfway through, she did a sharp left, I did a somersault, and well... the landing wasn't ideal. Emu won. I reckon I still came second in style points.

"Alright, settle in lost my leg..." Pt 2

(...according to me, Skully the Three-Legged Legend.)

- here's how I SKULLY'S TALES



6. Magpie Mafia Incident

Swooping season. I'd nicked a chip from a kid's plate. Innocent stuff. Turns out it was turf belonging to the magpie mafia. They sent a warning — one leg gone, and a clear message: stay off the playground in spring.

7. Uluru Esky Lid Slide

I tried to sled down Uluru on a flattened esky lid. Not my finest decision. I hit a rock, got some air, and was intercepted mid-flight by a wedge-tailed eagle who mistook me for airborne roadkill. Lost the leg but got a scenic tour on the way down.

8. Yowie Encounter up on the Newcastle Range

I was chasing a scent through the scrub near Wirra Wirra Station when I stumbled on a yowie campsite. Big footprints, bigger smell. I tried to sneak past, but stood on a twig — classic rookie move. The yowie panicked, threw his damper at me, then bolted through the bush and trampled my leg in the escape. I limped out with one leg down and a yowie tooth in my collar. Still have it.

9. The Great Flying Land Cruiser Incident

We were mustering out west of Joetown when someone (naming no names, Quentin) hit a bump doing 80 in an old Cruiser ute. I was riding up front — ears out the window, wind in my whiskers — when the whole thing took flight like a rusty wedge-tailed eagle. We hit the ground with a kathunk, and I bounced clean out the tray. The ute survived. My leg didn't. Still reckon I got more airtime than most skydivers.

So yeah — pick whichever story you like best. They're all true, depending on who's asking and how many biscuits you've got. Truth is, I may be down a leg, but I'm up in spirit, speed, and sheer determination. I've outrun fourlegged dogs, outsmarted cows (mostly), and out-charmed just about everyone I meet. I'm Skully — three legs, one big life, and zero regrets. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got a lizard to chase and a nap to pretend I'm not taking.

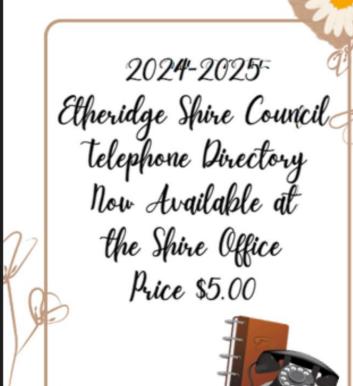


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ECALL: 1800 232 529 (1800 ADA LAW)





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

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.

Ways to access the service

The early childhood program targets children 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.

RADF offers

- Playgroups Home visits
- Resources, support and guidance

Scan the QR code for more information





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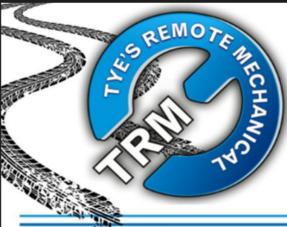
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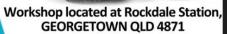


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August

1st -Etheridge Shire Holiday

2nd-3rd -

Forsayth Turnout

8th-10th -

Georgetown Campdraft

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

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.



