



INFORM

July - Edition 7



Tom Saunders Memorial Open Draft - 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hello and welcome to the Mayor's report



This month has been very busy for Council on a number of fronts, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

Budget workshops and flood damage contracts are continuing to roll out, with both TMR and Council roads finally getting to the rubber on the road status.

A big warm welcome to Louise as our new CEO, as well as her husband, Chris. Louise is busy getting her feet under the desk with a raft of Council projects already underway.

The Growing Our Regions projects are ticking along, with Cumberland, Terristerial, and Copperfield all at various stages of development. Sandy Creek Bridge on the heavy vehicle bypass road has now commenced, and various components are being constructed off-site to fit the project. Tenders for flood damage projects to the value of \$33 million have been let, and work will be underway this week. This includes Council's own road network, as well as the spillway at Charleston Dam.

On top of this funding, a further \$16 million has now been allocated to ESC for flood damage on State-owned roads.

Mid-August is the projected commencement date for works on the Georgetown–Forsyth Road, as we await further instructions from TMR in relation to this project.

Events around the region have been fast and furious, with the Gulf Stockman's Challenge seeing a great roll-up of contestants, both young and old, resulting in another very successful weekend.

Pigs and Rigs—what can I say? It just gets better, with a fantastic couple of days that were well supported by everyone involved, making for another great event.

I didn't get to Einasleigh, but from all reports it was another very successful event for 2026. There were some great photos on social media, especially of the cattle crossing the Copperfield Bridge. It just goes to show the versatility of this piece of infrastructure—road, rail, and cattle crossing.

Also, a big shout-out to the Mt Surprise Campdraft organisers for a big weekend of activity in the arena, where competition was hot and keenly contested. Well done to all involved.

As of late, we have been advised that the Federal Government has diminished it's portion of disaster funding through the DRFA (Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements) system currently in place.

The ramifications of such an ill-informed decision by a government so out of touch with the reality and the level of disaster support required to sustain regional and remote Councils like ours will be a devastating blow for both State and Local Governments alike.

As a result of the Commonwealth's actions, the LGAQ will be mounting a challenge to this change in methodology, and I have been asked to fly to Melbourne to assist in the pushback against what I see as an ill-conceived strategy.

Last week I spent some time at the ROC Assembly in Cunnamulla, where Chairs and CEOs of the Regional Organisations of Councils met with the LGAQ to discuss the current issues and challenges facing our organisations.

This event was held in Cunnamulla from 13–15 July. Minister Ann Leahy was in attendance and provided valuable input, particularly regarding the DRFA cutbacks.

I was also able to fly with the Minister to Winton and meet with the full Council there, where once again the DRFA was high on the agenda. From there we flew to Julia Creek and attended the Mt Isa–Townsville Economic Zone function, where Mayors from the Gulf and North West hosted a dinner for Minister Ann and Assistant Minister Sean Dillon, who was also in attendance.

The following day, the Minister for Primary Industries attended the Ag Summit, where a partnership with the State was agreed upon for NWROC to have a seat at the table for the advancement of the Prosper 2050 initiative, including the development of agriculture in the Gulf and North West. Once again, DRFA shortfalls were robustly discussed.

A very successful week with unfettered access to high-level ministers over a couple of days certainly puts Etheridge Shire in a good position moving forward.

Until next month
Happy Trails.

Mayor Barry Hughes



Mayor Barry Hughes along with 5 other Queensland mayors travelled more than 16,000 kilometres to Melbourne to deliver a message to the Federal Government on behalf of the communities they serve. Queensland communities need certainty that Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) will be there when they are needed most—during times of disaster, when people are at their most vulnerable



Mayor Barry Hughes
0458 621 233
Mayor@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Deputy Mayor Laurell Royes
0459 278 377
Cr.Royes@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Councillor Ian Tincknell
0459 136 283
Cr.Tincknell@etheridge.qld.gov.au



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



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



Suggestion Box Etheridge Shire Council

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

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

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

Together, we can create positive change.



FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IN AN EMERGENCY

CONTACT PERSONNEL

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

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

SUGGESTION BOX

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

All suggestions are welcome being anonymous
or otherwise.

Let's work together to make the Shire better!



BUDGET SNAPSHOT 2026 – 2027



- Rates, levies and charges
- Fees & charges
- Interest income
- Other income
- Rental income
- Sales revenue
- Recurrent grants & contributions



- Employee benefits
- Materials & services
- Finance interest costs
- Depreciation and amortisation: PP&E

TOTAL BUDGET
\$ 56.4 MILLION

SHIRE ROADS & TOWN STREETS
\$ 1.9 MILLION

\$ 450 PENSIONER CONCESSION PER ANNUM

TOTAL ASSET VALUE
\$ 344.1 MILLION

CAPITAL WORKS TOTAL
\$ 17.4 MILLION

6.4 %  **GENERAL RATES & CHARGES**

Major Capital Works Projects 2026–27

- Forsayth/ Georgetown Airstrip Fencing **\$ 1.3M**
- Georgetown Water Main Upgrade **\$ 107,545**
- Forsayth WTP Raw Water Reservoir **\$ 190,500**
- Signage Replacements (Oak Park Rd, Kidston Rd, O'Briens Ck Rd) **\$ 201,375.00**
- Georgetown Bus Stop **\$ 87,820**

Carried forward projects:

- Coordination Centre Georgetown **\$ 1.98M**
- Multi Purpose Centre Mt Surprise **\$ 1.55M**
- Sandy Creek Culvert **\$ 2.89M**
- Growing Our Regions Projects (Cumberland Dam, Einasleigh, Elders Trail, Terrestrial Centre Extension) **\$ 3.56M**

Scan here for
further info



*As Mayor of Etheridge Shire Council, I am pleased to present the **2026–2027 Annual Budget**. This budget reflects our commitment to supporting the services our community relies on, investing in projects that strengthen liveability and planning responsibly for the Etheridge Shire's future.*



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
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

Louise Knol
Chief Executive Officer



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Expressions of interest are required to be received by 31st August 2026.

If this may be something that interests you or you would like more information, please contact

Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services on

PH: (07) 4079 9090 or Email: renee.bester@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Louise Knol

Chief Executive Officer

2026 ETHERIDGE FLOODS CHARITY PROCEEDS APPLICATION

AFFECTED ETHERIDGE SHIRE RESIDENTS
ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR CHARITY
FUNDS RAISED BY PROPHURST PTY LTD

SCAN ME!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
APPLICATION. EACH SUBMISSION
WILL BE INDIVIDUALLY REVIEWED.
PLEASE CONTACT COUNCIL FOR
ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS

PH- 4079 9090

APPLICATIONS WILL BE OPEN 31ST
JULY TO 31ST AUGUST 2026.

ETHERIDGE SHIRE
COUNCIL





PUBLIC NOTICE

INDEPENDENT LIVING

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

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

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



SURVEY

SMS EVERYONE

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

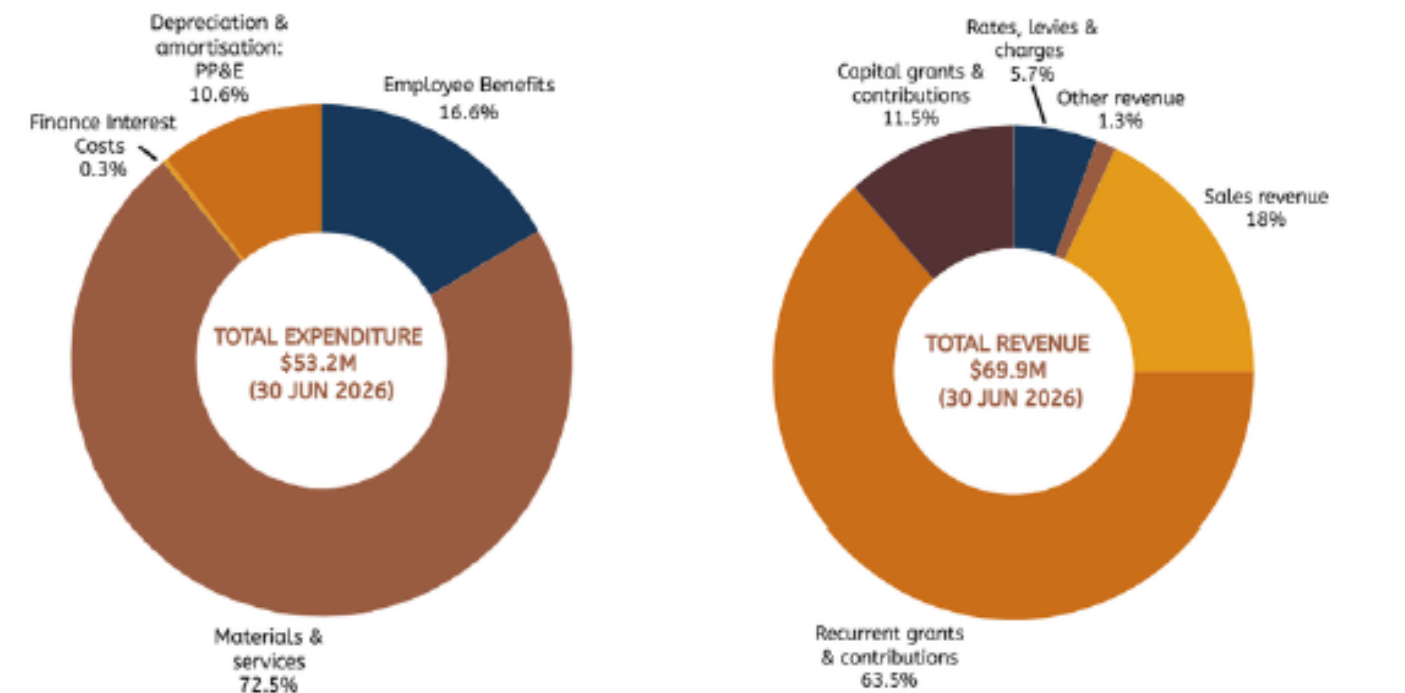
Share your thoughts on using SMS for Etheridge Shire Council Rates & Water Notice Reminders, General notifications and Disaster Notifications.

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

Financial Management

Work continues on the 2026/2027 Budget with Council's final budget workshop held last week. Our end of financial year processes are progressing smoothly and will continue to do so until August. A big thank you to our finance team for their ongoing efforts and commitment during this busy period.

Council's adopted annual revenue budget for 2025/26 is \$68.5 million, with \$69.9 million reported as at 30 June 2026. The operating expenditure of \$53.2 million creeping over the adopted annual budget of \$50.8 million.



Audit Activities

Council continues to work closely with internal and external Auditors to maintain strong financial governance and compliance. Matters identified during the External Interim Audit Visit are now being progressed and preparations are now underway for the final audit scheduled for September.

Committee Activities

The Biosecurity Advisory Committee is currently liaising with the Department of Local Government to clarify the required process for Local Law Amendments. Etheridge Shire Council's Biosecurity Plan is also on the agenda for the next meeting scheduled in July.

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet in August to continue delivering arts and cultural initiatives across the region.

Etheridge Shire Show Holiday 2027

Each year, Council is required to submit preferred dates for the Shire's Agricultural Show and/or Special Holidays to the Department of Industrial Relations. At the July General Council Meeting, Council resolved to advise the Office of Industrial Relations that Friday, 6th August 2027 be nominated as Etheridge Shire's Show Day, to align with the Forsayth Turnout, as done in previous years.

Draft Community Sport & Recreation Strategic Plan

A massive thank you for all of the feedback that was received for the Draft version of the Sport & Rec Plan for 2026 - 2032. Council received fantastic suggestions from the community, and we're excited to incorporate them into the final version. Keep an eye on our social media and website for updates and to access the final plan once released.

Outside School Hours Care

Council released a community survey in April to gauge interest and identify local needs regarding the potential introduction of an Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) service for families. The proposed service would be a structured, professionally managed program delivered by qualified staff.

Survey results indicate a strong need for OSHC within the Etheridge Shire. These results have been provided to Councillors, and a workshop to further explore options and next steps has been recommended.

Community Resilience

Council's newly appointed Community Resilience & Recovery Officer, Tamara, and Community Recovery Rebuild Support Officer, Nardeen, are in full swing. If you see these two lovely ladies around the Shire or at the Forsayth Turnout please say hello and have a chat about how they can support you.

Resilience initiatives are well underway, with funded first aid courses to be held from the 27th - 30th of July.

Cemetery Upgrades



Council has completed the following upgrades to Cemeteries across the Shire.

- Einasleigh Cemetery Fence Replacement
- Gilbert River Columbarium Wall Installation

Ground Penetrating Radar surveys have been completed at the Forsayth, Einasleigh and Georgetown cemeteries

to identify and mark previously unmarked graves. Council kindly asks that the survey pegs remain in place, as each peg represents someone's loved one who was once buried there. Council has not yet determined how these graves will be formally marked and is open to community suggestions before making a final decision.

Mt Surprise & Einasleigh Connectivity Project

Council is currently seeking quotations for projectors and screens to be fixed in both locations to enable for teams and zoom meeting capabilities.

Unearth Etheridge Tourism Signage Updates

As part of the 2025/26 Budget, Council has worked with Griffith University to update our tourism signage around the Shire.

We are excited for everyone to spot these on their travels!



CHARLIE AND NELL'S

Dance Classes



Free!

Come along to the Georgetown Hall and learn the Pride of Erin, Gypsy Tap, and many more traditional dances in a fun and welcoming environment.

All ages are welcome.
Children must be supervised by a responsible adult.

AUGUST
10TH & 17TH



6PM - 8PM

INVITATIONS

LOCAL ESTABLISHED PRODUCERS



Forum

Let's connect, collaborate, and grow together.
Everyone's participation is valued

- Welcome & Announcements
- Introductions
- Topics
- Open discussion
- Closing



September 18

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Georgetown Shire hall

RSVP: 4 SEPT 2026

Jordan Villaruz 0408 842 160



Welcome

**Topic: Sharing your
Success Story &
Experience**

Introduction

Speakers :

Dan & Kassie Sheahan

Kevin & Shelly Taylor

Robbie & Lyn French

Q&A after sharing 15min

Lunch 12:00 -12: 30 PM

Walk&talk - 12:30-1:00PM

Glen & Cheryl Connoly

Person 5: TC

Closing 1:50 pm -2:00 PM

THANK YOU



Check it out!

Etheridge Shire Council recently teamed up with Griffith University to give our tourism signage a much needed refresh!

The new signs help showcase everything that makes our backyard such a special place to explore. We're excited for everyone to see them as they get out and enjoy our wonderful Shire.



40 MILE



GEORGETOWN

MT SURPRISE



CHRISTMAS MARKETS & COUNCIL BREAK UP PARTY

SEEKING DONATIONS

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

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

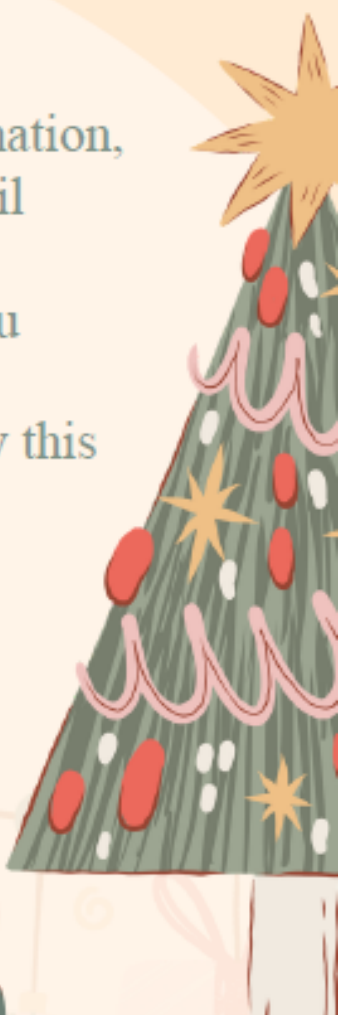
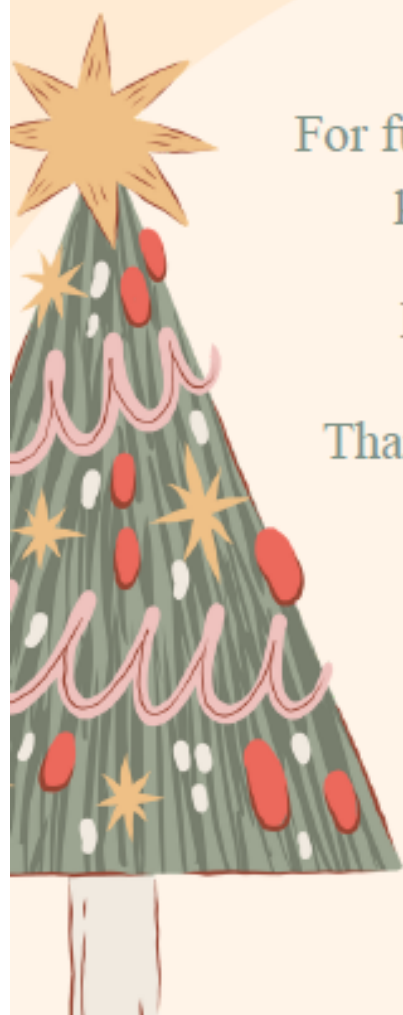
Funds raised from the raffle will go towards ESC's crisis fund, supporting those in need within our community.

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

Phone: 4079 9090

Email: CaitlinT@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Thank you for supporting our community this Christmas!



STALL HOLDERS WANTED!

GEORGETOWN

Christmas
MARKET

**\$10 PER
TABLE**

NOVEMBER

27TH • 6 PM-LATE

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

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

CALL OR MESSAGE 0458 712 370

This Session's Theme!

Sprout Squad



26th August



3:15 PM



Terrestrial Centre

Please RSVP by 19/08 3:00pm
by messaging 0458 712 370

or

Send an email to
Library@etheridge.qld.gov.au



BOOK CLUB

5:00PM

THURSDAY
6TH AUGUST

Nibbles, tea &
coffee provided



ETHERIDGE
LIBRARY



State Library
of Queensland



Queensland
Government





MEMORY LOUNGE

All Etheridge Seniors Welcome!



Terrestrial Centre



Wednesday, 19th August

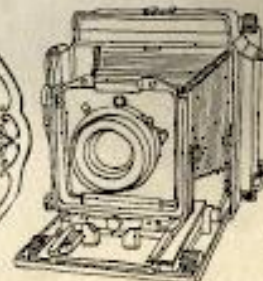
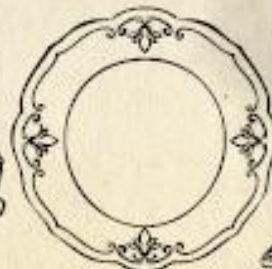


10:00am



Morning Tea Provided

RSVP to 0458 712 370





RUST N ROSES WIRE WORKSHOP

15th & 16th August

Join us for two hands-on wire workshops and explore your creativity in a welcoming setting. Learn new techniques and create your own wire masterpiece.

Workshop 1 – Hearts & Wreaths

Workshop 2 – Windows

📍 Georgetown Campdraft/Rodeo Grounds

Limited Spaces!

Message 0458 712 370

For more information and to book your spot!

CENTENARY
GEORGETOWN
QCWA
1926-2026

Georgetown
GOLDEN JUBILEE
DEBUTANTE BALL

1976-2026



SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST
6PM TO 12 MIDNIGHT



ENTRY IS
\$25
FULL FARE

\$15
PENSIONERS

\$10
HIGH SCHOOL



PLEASE BRING
A PLATE
TO SHARE

VENUE:
SHIRE HALL

FORSAYTH STATE SCHOOL

STUDENTS RECENTLY HAD THE EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INNISFAIL MUSIC AND SPEECH EISTEDDFOD, WHERE THEY PROUDLY REPRESENTED THEIR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY. STUDENTS COMPETED IN POETRY RECITALS AND VIOLIN, PERFORMING BOTH SOLOS AND DUETS.

STANDING UP IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE CAN BE A DAUNTING EXPERIENCE. HOWEVER EACH STUDENT SHOWED GREAT COURAGE AND DETERMINATION AS THEY PERFORMED, STEPPING OUTSIDE THEIR COMFORT ZONES AND SHARING THEIR TALENTS WITH OTHERS. THEIR HARD WORK AND PREPARATION WERE REWARDED WITH SEVERAL AWARDS IN BOTH POETRY RECITAL AND VIOLIN.

THE EISTEDDFOD WAS NOT ONLY AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE BUT ALSO A CHANCE FOR STUDENTS TO GROW IN CONFIDENCE, DEVELOP THEIR PERFORMANCE SKILLS AND CELEBRATE THE TALENTS OF OTHERS.

PERFORMING IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE IS A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT, AND EVERY STUDENT WHO TOOK TO THE STAGE HAD REASON TO FEEL PROUD. TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE EISTEDDFOD, THE FINAL NIGHT CONCLUDED WITH A FUN GLOW STICK PARTY. CREATING A MEMORABLE AND COLOURFUL END TO A WONDERFUL WEEK OF MUSIC, POETRY AND COURAGE.





GEORGETOWN PIGS & RIGS 2026

The Georgetown Pigs & Rigs has come and gone for another year and it did not disappoint! Hosting for a number of people from near and far the following teams were lucky enough to come away with the goods on the day:

Biggest Boar:

More Hoares then Boars - 90kg

Biggest Sow:

Black Soil Bandits - 74kg

Longest Tusks:

Hairy Hounds Pound - 155mm



Babe & Boar:

Samantha from Coighty's Misadventures with a 70kg boar

Most Weight:

Black Soil Bandits - 2449kg

Best Average Weight 10+ Pigs:

More Hoares then Boars - 53.2kg

Average Weight:

Double Bacon Deluxe - 44kg



Young Hunters:

Under 8's - Layton Pedersen weighing in at 72kg

Under 14's - Ethan Pedersen weighing in at 68kg

Most Wild Dog Scalps:

Minnie's Mob - 13 Scalps

Most Toads:

Minnie's Mob Kids - 46kg, over 800 toads!

Heaviest Toad:

Mistletoe Mob Kids - 240g



Best Rig:
Gilbert River Boars - Tye

Best Rig Set Up:
The Tailgate Drops the Bullsh*t Stops - Blake

Loudest Rig:
Black Soil Bandits - Luke

Ugliest Dog:
Yogi - taking it out for the third year in a row!

Camp Oven Cook Off Winner:
Jodi Kernan

1st \$100 board Winner - Andy

2nd \$100 board Winner - Kelvin Manser

\$1000 Board Winner - Deeko & Amanda Butler

Yeti Esky, Beer & Fire Pit - Jodi Kernan

Wheelbarrow of Goodies - Gary Smith



The Grand Total for 2026 was 205 pigs, with a combined weight of 9,053kg!

We want to recognise and celebrate the incredible committee, volunteers and sponsors who stood behind this event. Your contributions—big and small—helped bring our community together and made the day one to remember.

This year marked 10 years of Pigs & Rigs and we can't wait to see what is in store for the 11th!





THIS EVENT WAS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

GULF STOCKMANS CHALLENGE AND CAMPRAFT

A massive congratulations to the Gulf Stockmans Challenge Club for the success of the Gulf Stockmans Challenge and Campdraft, held from the 3rd - 5th of July.

The weekend was packed with fun, great riding and plenty of community spirit. Locals and visitors turned out in force to cheer on competitors - including some incredibly talented young riders!

Events like this simply don't happen without valued sponsors, dedicated volunteers and spectators. A big well done to all - what a weekend. Bring on 2027!



TGT/Olssons Novice Campdraft

1st - Morgan Webb

2nd - Bryce Foster

3rd - Matthew Clarke

4th - Logan Bethel

5th - Cameron Clarke

6th - Aaron Prior



Tableland Bikes and Power Equipment Junior Challenge

1st - Harry Prior
 2nd - Lexie Prior
 3rd - Tori Rogers

4th - Mason Sheahan
 5th - Connor Webb
 6th - Colton Kernan



Bunjie Helicopters Rookie Challenge

1st - Jody Southern
 2nd - Logan Bethel
 3rd - Bryce Foster

4th - Jody Southern
 5th - Glen Connolly
 6th - Amy Cook



ADS Injection Futurity Campdraft

1st - Kevin Taylor

4th - Hailey Wellby

2nd - Kevin Taylor

5th - Kevin Taylor

3rd - Peter Hills

6th - 7th - Glen Connolly

6th - 7th - Emma Webb



Central Veterinary Surgery Juvenile Campdraft

1st - James Blennerhassett

4th - Logan Clarke

2nd - Logan Clarke

5th - James Blennerhassett

3rd - Reid Bassami

6th - Lexi Sheahan

7th - Lacey Taylor



Georgetown Roadhouse Junior Campdraft

1st - Harry Prior
 2nd - Harry Prior
 3rd - Lexie Prior

4th - Mason Sheahan
 5th - Tori Rogers
 6th - Charlotte Clarke



Central Tyre Service Encouragement Challenge

1st - Terry Borland
 2nd - Sharon Grogan - Howlett
 3rd - Jodi Kernan
 4th - Kelsey Land
 5th - 6th - Jodi Kernan
 5th - 6th - Olivia King

S & K Civil Contracting Juvenile Challenge

1st - James Blennerhassett
 2nd - Lacey Taylor
 3rd - Reid Bassani
 4th - James Blennerhassett
 5th - Reid Bassani
 6th - Logan Clarke





Hutchinson Builders Classic Challenge

1st - Emma Webb
2nd - Emma Webb
3rd - Logan Bethel

4th - Morgan Webb
5th - Peter Hills
6th - Kevin Taylor



Kennedy Rural Open Challenge

1st - Peter Hills
2nd - Emma Webb
3rd - Jody Southern

4th - Morgan Webb
5th - Ashleigh Fairbrother
6th - Peter Hills



Mini Challengers

- Bobby Hills
- Lucy Webb
- Rori Westcott

THIS EVENT WAS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
27 JULY 2026

**Queenslanders dig deep as 2026 QLD Variety Bash
hits the road for children in need**

Queenslanders are proving that community spirit is alive and well, with dozens of everyday Australians preparing to travel from Innisfail to Gladstone via the road less travelled this August after spending months fundraising for children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with disabilities.

The 2026 QLD Variety Bash, running from 17-27 August, will see a colourful convoy of 25-year-old vehicles travel across regional Queensland. Every kilometre travelled represents months of fundraising by participants who have been hosting barbecues, selling raffle tickets and rallying their local communities, despite ongoing cost-of-living pressures affecting households across the state.

"At a time when so many Queenslanders are tightening their belts, our Bashers continue to show what's possible when communities come together for children in need," said Variety Queensland General Manager Erin Lazarou.

"These are everyday people who give up their time, fundraise in their own communities and cover their own participation costs so every possible fundraising dollar can go where it's needed most. Their commitment never ceases to amaze us."

The Variety Bash is Australia's longest-running charity motoring event, with participants committing to raise a minimum of \$8,500 per Bash vehicle before taking to the road. Many Queensland teams far exceed that target through months of community fundraising.

Participants also pay a provisions levy that covers the cost of the event itself, ensuring fundraising dollars can have the greatest possible impact.

This year's route begins in Innisfail before travelling through Woodleigh Station, Cobbold Gorge, Greenvale, Hughenden, Barcaldine, Capella, Carnarvon Gorge and Biloela, before finishing in Gladstone, where the Variety Bash 2026 final night is proudly supported by Gladstone Regional Council's Ignite Event Fund.

Along the way, Variety Queensland will distribute more than \$170,000 in grants to children, schools and communities across the state. The funding will provide inclusive playground equipment, interactive learning technology, sound systems that support children with ADHD, autism and hearing loss, school breakfast programs, assistance for students to attend school camps, and essential equipment for children with high support needs.

For many participants, these grant presentations are the highlight of the journey.

"Meeting the children and families whose lives are changed through the generosity of our Bash community reminds everyone exactly why they spend months fundraising," Ms Lazarou said.





The event also delivers a valuable economic boost to regional Queensland, with participants spending thousands of dollars on accommodation, meals, fuel, supplies and local businesses as the Bash makes its way across the state.

Adding to the excitement, school communities along the route will welcome an unforgettable parade of creatively themed vehicles inspired by favourites including Bluey, Hot Wheels, Ghostbusters, Muppet Mayhem, Dr. Seuss, The Simpsons, The Smurfs and many more.

This year also marks a new partnership, with WIN Television joining as Variety QLD's TV Media Partner.

More than four decades after the first Variety Bash, the event continues to demonstrate that when communities work together, remarkable things can happen for Queensland children.
ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Matthew Mawkes

Fundraising Campaigns & Marketing Manager

matthew.mawkes@varietyqld.org.au | +61 483 317 513

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Variety – the Children's Charity of Queensland

Variety – the Children's Charity of Queensland empowers children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with disabilities to live without limits.

Variety fills the gaps when systems fall short, providing practical support that makes a real difference in a child's daily life. From funding essential equipment to opening doors in education, sport and the arts, Variety helps ensure every child can participate, belong and thrive through grants, scholarships, programs and experiences.

More information about Variety Queensland available here: qld.variety.org.au

The Variety Bash

In 1985 famous Australian entrepreneur, aviator and businessman Dick Smith invited his mates for 'a drive in the bush' to raise funds for Variety – the Children's Charity. The Variety Bash was born and quickly became a successful annual fundraising event which is now held in every state and territory across Australia.

The first Queensland Variety Bash was held in 1990. Over 35 years, this iconic event has built a strong community of Variety Bashers united by a spirit of fun, generosity and giving back. Each kilometre driven helps change lives, making the Bash a unique and rewarding way to make a difference.

More information about the 2026 QLD Variety Bash available here:

<https://www.varietybashqld.com.au/>

Fast Facts:

Vehicles:	118 Vehicles
Participants:	319 Participants and Officials
Distance:	Over 3,000 km Travelled



Mobile Women's Health Service



Well Womens Clinics

(These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)

Service includes Cervical Screening Tests (Pap Smears), Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, etc.

All services are provided by a specially trained Women's Health Nurse.

Georgetown Primary Health Centre

Monday 3rd August 2026 Ph: 4062 0000

Forsyth Primary Health Centre

Tuesday 4th August 2026 Ph: 4062 2200



WELCOME TO THE FRONT DOOR WALK-IN CENTRE

Helping people access the right
mental health and wellbeing
support, at the right time.

Our services provide a welcoming,
compassionate starting point, helping
individuals and families connect with supports
that meet their needs whether through
MyndKind or other local services.



WE ARE
**Mynd
Kind**
PEOPLE



OPEN HOURS

- **MONDAY 9am > 1pm**
- **TUESDAY 9am > 1pm**
- **WEDNESDAY 9am > 12pm**
- **THURSDAY 9am > 1pm**
- **FRIDAY 9am > 1pm**



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



0447 337 544



Kathryn.Eley@nwrh.com.au

WWW.NWRH.COM.AU

July 2026 Project Update

In June, the Kidston Pumped Hydro Project welcomed the Genex Board to view firsthand the project's progress. The Board members comprise of Genex and J-Power representatives, and the team enjoyed hosting our Australian and Japanese Board members to site.

During the visit, the Board were impressed by the significant progress achieved across multiple areas of the project. Highlights included the Unit 2 generator being installed into its final location, with auxiliary works continuing to progress, and the assembly of the Unit 1 stator and rotor nearing completion in the assembly bay ahead of installation.

Tailrace excavation works have been completed, and concrete works have commenced on the outlet structure in Eldridge Pit (lower reservoir). Mechanical piping and electrical works are underway throughout all five floors of the powerhouse, while preparations continue for the intake canal to receive water, with the final trash racks for the two intake shafts scheduled for installation shortly.

Checkout the photos below.



Genex Board at the bottom of Eldridge Pit and standing in front of the two tailraces



The Board inside the one of the tail race tunnels looking out into Eldridge Pit



Eldridge Pit is the lower reservoir and will receive the water from the upper reservoir (Wises Dam) after it passed through turbines.



The Board inspecting unit 1 stator assembly

Did you know that a tailrace performs a crucial two-way function?

- **During Generation:** water flows from the upper reservoir (Wises Dam), through the intake shafts driving the turbines that are located 250m underground and exits via the tailrace tunnel into the lower reservoir (Eldridge Pit).
- **During Pumping:** the reversible pump-turbines reverse their rotation, drawing water out of the lower reservoir (Eldridge Pit) through the tailrace to pump it back up the intake shafts into the upper reservoir (Wises Dam)

Genex is proudly sponsoring the Forsayth Turnout and Show and the Georgetown Camp Draft that will occur in early August. We are sure that everyone will have a great day celebrating the region's pastoral history, traditions and showcasing farming produce and livestock.

Additional details surrounding the project are provided through the Genex website www.genexpower.com.au or can be requested by email to info@genexpower.com.au

Please direct any expressions of interest to the MDJHJV Email:

ProcurementQLD@k2hydro.com

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

RAISE
OUR
VOICE

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Raise Our Voice in Parliament 2026

SUBMIT YOUR
SPEECH.
SHAPE THE
CONVERSATION.



Have Your Voice Heard in Parliament House!

Are you - or a young person you know - ready to shape Australia's future? The **2026 Raise Our Voice in Parliament** campaign is officially underway, and we want to hear from you.

We're inviting young people (aged 25 and under) to write a **90-second speech** answering: *"What is one big issue shaping your future, and what is a meaningful action you want Parliament to take on it?"* Selected speeches will be read out in Parliament by federal, ACT and Queensland members of parliament during **Youth Voice in Parliament Week (October, 2026)**, ensuring your ideas reach the ears of the nation's decision-makers. Whether you're passionate about climate justice, housing affordability, or mental health, this is your platform to turn your vision into political reality. Submissions close **7 August, 2026**, so don't miss out!

How to get involved: Visit the [Raise Our Voice Australia website](#) to download the [school toolkit](#) and submit your speech.

In a snapshot:

- **Who:** Young people aged 25 and under
- **The Task:** A 90-second speech (approx. **200 words**).
- **Key Deadline:** Submissions close **August 7, 2026**.
- **The Event:** Speeches read in Parliament from **12-15 October 2026** (federal), 20-22 October 2026 (ACT), 27-29 October 2026 (Queensland)

Landcare Week

3-9 AUGUST 2026



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Share Your Story Etheridge Shire Floods 2026

Were you affected by the 2026 Floods?

Your memories, experiences and photos could become part of a historical record for future generations.

Residents, sporting clubs, emergency crews, helicopter pilots, volunteers and community helpers are invited to share their stories for the proposed publication:

“Unearthing Einasleigh & District Floods of 2026”

Submissions may include:

- Personal flood experiences
- Evacuations & rescues
- Community recovery efforts
- Flood photos & historic flood levels
- Children's drawings or stories
- Poems, paintings & reflections

Colleen Taylor will be visiting:

- Christmas in July – 24-26 July
- Forsayth Turnout – 1-2 August

If you would like your story recorded and preserved as part of Etheridge Shire history, please get in touch.

Contact Colleen Taylor:

☎ 0474 035 111 ✉ elanglade117@gmail.com



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

FUTURE FORCE AG INTENSIVE SCHOOL 2026

We're excited to launch a new program giving students real-world agricultural experience and industry-ready skills.

The Future Force Ag Intensive School is a hands-on experience connecting students with industry, innovation, and career pathways in agriculture.

Students will build practical skills, confidence, and industry connections, while completing a recognised chemical certification.

The program highlights the wide range of opportunities in agriculture and helps students identify clear pathways into further study and careers.

ACROSS TWO ACTION PACKED DAYS, STUDENTS WILL:

- Complete a Chemical Certification Course
- Participate in on-farm and industry visits
- Focus on real-world skills and career pathways in agriculture
- Be guided into employment pathways in agriculture

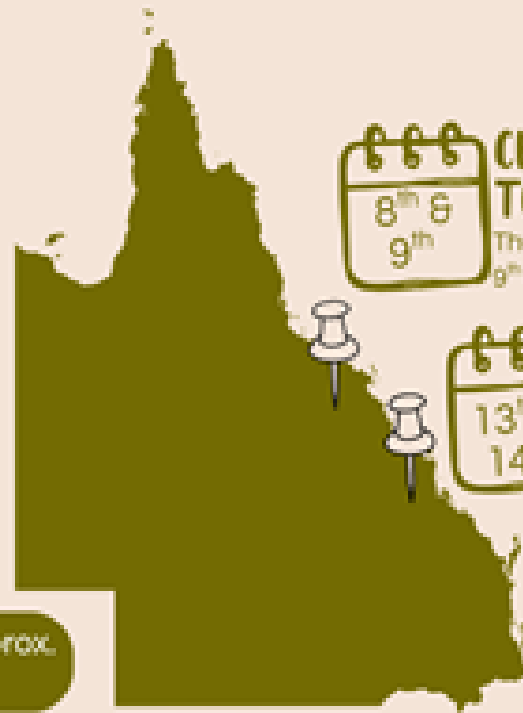
ELIGIBILITY:

Enrolled in a QLD high school

Aged 15 years or older as of 1 October 2026

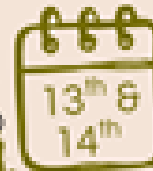
Available to attend both days (8am-4pm) of the Ag intensive school

Committed to completing pre-work (approx. 7 hours) prior to attendance



CHARTERS TOWERS

Thursday 8th - Friday 9th of October



ROCKHAMPTON

Tuesday 13th - Wednesday 14th October

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 10TH OF AUGUST 2026

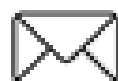
WHY APPLY:

- ✓ FREE Opportunity
- ✓ Travel Subsidies Available
- ✓ On-Farm Excursions
- ✓ Industry Connections
- ✓ Pathway into the Ag Industry
- ✓ Regional location opportunity

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN

- Application close 10th of August 2026
- EOI does not mean guaranteed placement
- Successful applicants will be contacted
- Schools can apply on a students behalf

CONTACT US



ageducation@cqu.edu.au



<https://futureforce-agqld.com/>



**Help us reach
more men
and boys**



By the time family and domestic violence reaches crisis point, the harm is already done.

Prevention is the work that happens earlier.

- Recognising disrespect, control and coercion before they escalate.
- Building safer workplace cultures before harm occurs.
- Strengthening conversations with young people about respect, equality and accountability.
- Equipping communities to challenge harmful attitudes early.
- Addressing emerging forms of abuse, including technology-facilitated abuse, before they take hold.

White Ribbon Australia exists to do this work.

We work across workplaces, schools, communities and online spaces to help prevent family and domestic violence by challenging the conditions that allow it to continue.

But White Ribbon Australia does not receive ongoing government funding for this critical prevention work.

We rely on donor support.

Your tax-time donation helps us reach people earlier with education and action.





Gulf Savannah NRM is a not-for-profit natural resource management company working across the Northern Gulf region with offices in Mareeba, Georgetown and Croydon.

Board Director

We are seeking to recruit three (3) Directors to join our skills-based Board for a three-year term at the November AGM. The role involves quarterly meetings, plus special workshops and public meetings and is afforded a modest stipend plus sitting fees and travel/expenses.

Associate Directors

Expressions of Interest are also open for Associate Directors, a 12-month training and mentoring opportunity for aspiring Board Directors, through our Emerging Leaders Program.

For more information and to apply, go to

Georgetown Primary Health Centre

Dear Georgetown Community Members

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

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

We had a wonderful visit from the Director of Queensland Ambulance Service for Far Northern District, James Foreman, and the Mount Garnett Officer in Charge, Alex Shelton, come for a visit to our clinic to better appreciate the area we work in and so we could discuss how we could work together to provide a more efficient service to our remote community.



WE ARE HIRING

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

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

ANNUAL FLU VACCINATIONS

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

PATIENT TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

RFDS DOCTORS CLINIC UPCOMING DATES FOR 2026

Thursday: 9th July 16th July 30th July 6th August

Friday: 24th July

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

UPCOMING VISITING HEALTH TEAMS:

NWRH (Mental Health support)

Face to face

Service is free

Telehealth is offered.

Home visits can be arranged.

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

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

VISITING DENTIST

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

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

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

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

WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE

3rd August

19th November

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

Kind regards,

Jas and Serena

Directors of Nursing

Georgetown PHC.



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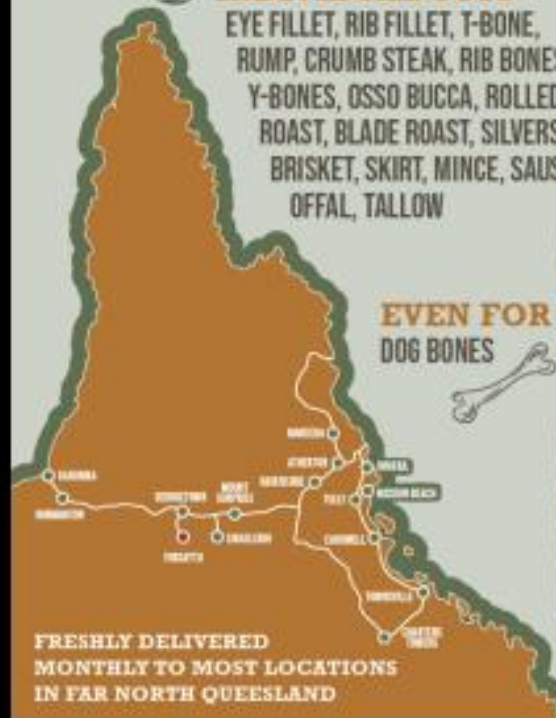
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Pork Mince
Leg Roast
Pickled Pork
Thick Pork Sausages
Pork Belly Spare Ribs
Bacon Hocks

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Lamb Shoulder Chops
Lamb Leg Roast
Lamb Cutlets



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Doris Casey Memorial Hall

Easter Markets-28/03

Doris Casey Memorial Hall

Mothers Day Markets 10/05

Anzac park

Heritage Festival - 20-26/06

(location to be decided)

Christmas in July - 25/07

Anzac Park

End of Winter Markets - 29/08

Anzac Park

Christmas Markets 05/12

Doris Casey Memorial Hall

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



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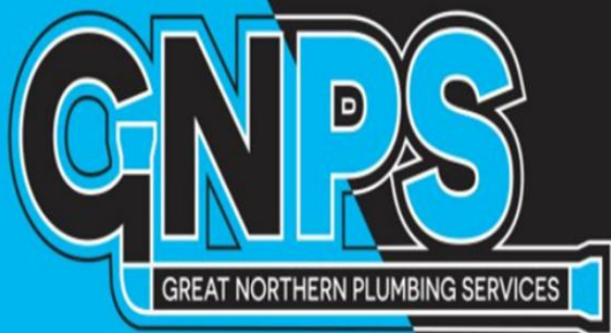
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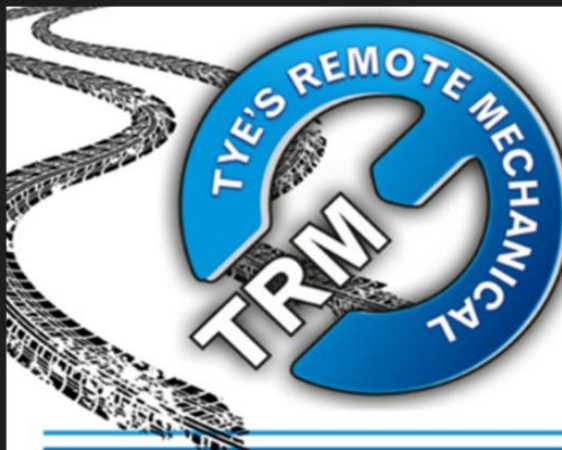
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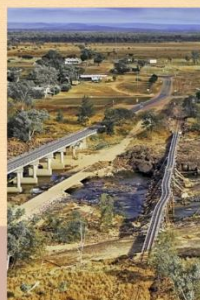
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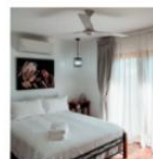
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We look forward to working together.
Kind regards,

Youri Dreezen and Sharnie Koster

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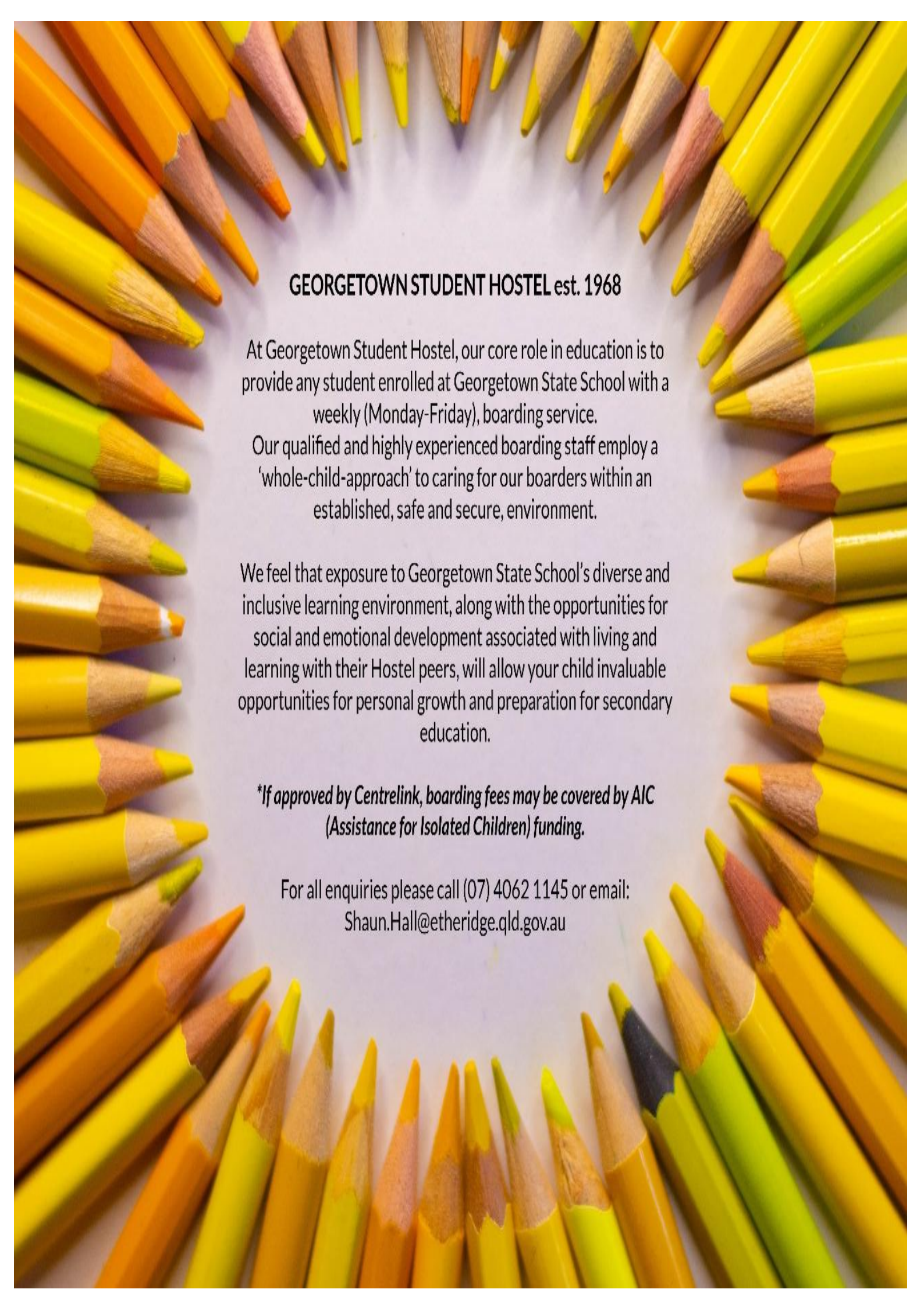
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GEORGETOWN STUDENT HOSTEL est. 1968

At Georgetown Student Hostel, our core role in education is to provide any student enrolled at Georgetown State School with a weekly (Monday-Friday), boarding service.

Our qualified and highly experienced boarding staff employ a 'whole-child-approach' to caring for our boarders within an established, safe and secure, environment.

We feel that exposure to Georgetown State School's diverse and inclusive learning environment, along with the opportunities for social and emotional development associated with living and learning with their Hostel peers, will allow your child invaluable opportunities for personal growth and preparation for secondary education.

**If approved by Centrelink, boarding fees may be covered by AIC (Assistance for Isolated Children) funding.*

For all enquiries please call (07) 4062 1145 or email:
Shaun.Hall@etheridge.qld.gov.au



Calendar of Upcoming Events

2026

AUGUST

1ST - FORSAYTH TURNOUT
6TH - BOOK CLUB
7TH - 8TH - 9TH - GEORGETOWN CAMPDRAFT
10TH - CHARLIE & NELL'S DANCE CLASS
15TH - 16TH - RUST N ROSES WIRE WORKSHOP
17TH - CHARLIE & NELL'S DANCE CLASS
19TH - MEMORY LOUNGE
22ND - QCWA DEBUTANTE BALL
26TH - SPROUT SQUAD

SEPTEMBER

6TH - FATHER'S DAY
10TH - R U OK DAY
18TH - 19TH - 20TH - GEORGETOWN RODEO & BIKE SPORT

OCTOBER

3RD - GEORGETOWN BUSHMAN'S BALL
4TH - GEORGETOWN BUSH RACES
5TH - KINGS BIRTHDAY (PUBLIC HOILDAY)

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

INFORM ARTICLES

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

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



inform@etheridge.qld.gov.au



www.etheridge.qld.gov.au