BARCOO Banter

COMMUNITY NEWS • DECEMBER 2021

Send to us, tag us, share with us your best photo to feature in our monthly newsletter!

Barcoo SHIRE COUNCIL

BARCOO Banter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

In this Issue:

- Mayor's Message P3-P4
- Barcoo Shire Libraries/Tourism P5
- Barcoo Shire Closures P6
- Community Notices P7-P8
- Fishers Nursery Gardening P9-P10
- Arts & Culture Workshops P11-P12
- Save The Date 2022 P13-P14
- Council Meeting Wrap Up P15
- RFDS Christmas Schedule P15

Please send all Newsletter content to:
newsletter@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cut off date for January 2022 News
21 January 2021

Contact Council

Jundah Council Office
Phone: (07) 4658 6900
Email: shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Mayor Sally O'Neil: 0424 791 449
sally.oneil@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cr Roger Batt: 0448 585 942
roger.batt@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cr Andrew Miller: 0428 437 975
andrew.miller@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cr Dianne Pidgeon: 0458 585 921
dianne.pidgeon@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cr Tony Jackson: 0428 583 254
tony.jackson@barcoo.qld.gov.au

MAYOR'S Message

WITH SALLY O'NEIL

Hello Everyone
Hope this last Banter for 2021 finds you well; I didn't think the cool weather would last forever; recent weeks are reminding us of a typical December in the Barcoo Shire. Here's to hoping the weather will bring some decent rain into the New Year.

Everyone would be aware of the new variant to COVID recently which has triggered the requirement throughout Qld to wear face masks while at in door venues. This will be eased once Qld reaches 90% vaccination. Once again I urge people to get vaccinated for the protection of themselves and those around us.

This year Council held the staff Christmas party at the Jundah Hall. The event was well attended with great food, lucky door prizes, a visit from Santa and the usual gift of a ham to all staff.

The following is the externally funded project status update:

- Jundah to Longreach boundary sign installation – Signs erected through Jundah, remaining to be installed in the New Year.
- Windorah K&C and culverts – 95% complete
- Windorah water treatment plant – Contractor returned to site and will return to complete project on the 17th January.
- McPhellemy's crossing – prior to the run in Coopers Ck the rat walls had been poured and stripped and rock placed to the top of the walls. Once the river drops in the new year the contractor will return to place the remaining rock to the same level as the previous crossing.
- Haughtonvale Rd culvert/floodway – yet to commence, tender in progress
- Yaraka Retreat Rd culvert/floodway – yet to commence, tender in progress
- Ray Paynter culvert/floodway – yet to commence, tender in progress
- Stonehenge water treatment plant new shed and filter upgrade – filter upgrade remaining
- Rural Addressing stage 2 – signs on site yet to be installed.

Santa with the kids at the staff Christmas party

MAYOR'S Message

WITH SALLY O'NEIL

The following is an update of our work crews and their progress on roads around the Shire. Darren Matheson's crew have recently completed the Morney Birdsville Rd pave and seal. Jason Beilby's have completed subgrade and 4 floodways have been stabilised on the Morney Birdsville Rd pave and seal at the Shire boundary.

The maintenance grader has recently completed emergency flood damage on the Jundah Winton Rd. If there are sections of roads requiring immediate attention, please notify Council.

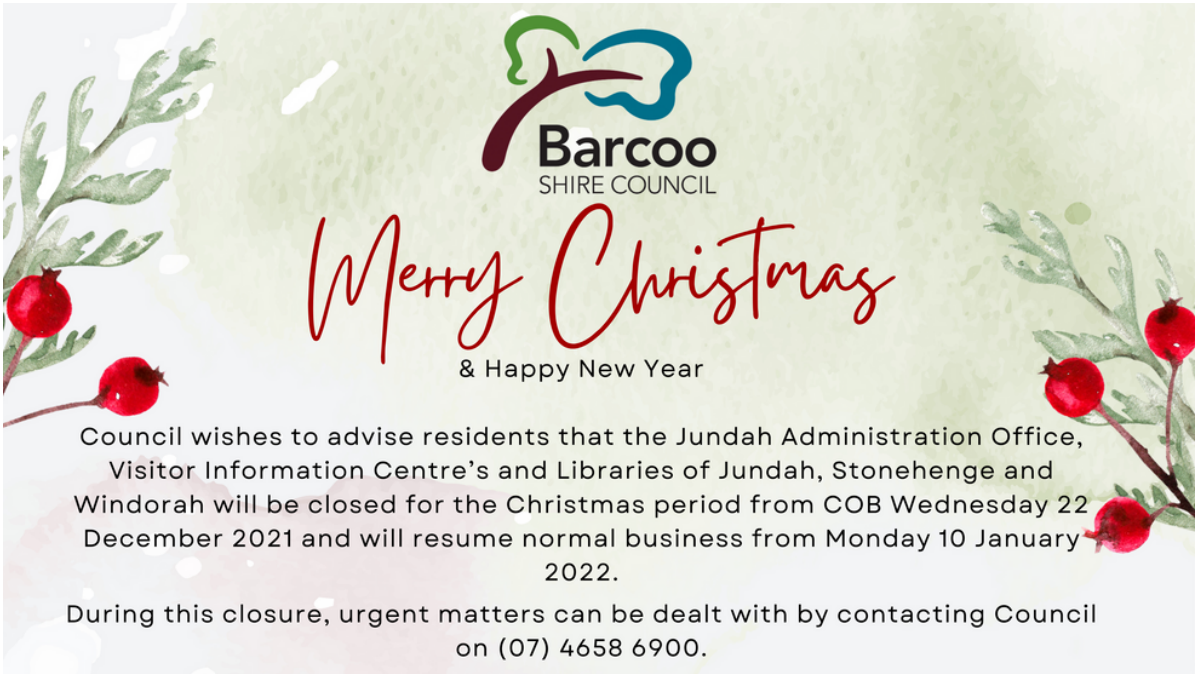
The road crews are now on break and will return on the 19th January 2022.

Don't forget, Council meetings are open to the public and all community members are welcome. Council meetings are rotated around the three towns, and we notify via an online flyer of upcoming Council meeting dates and times. The January meeting will be held in Jundah on the 19th of January.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below if you have any queries or concerns.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of the Barcoo Shire Council.

Regards Sally
Mayor Barcoo Shire Council
Sally.oneil@barcoo.qld.gov.au
0424 791 449



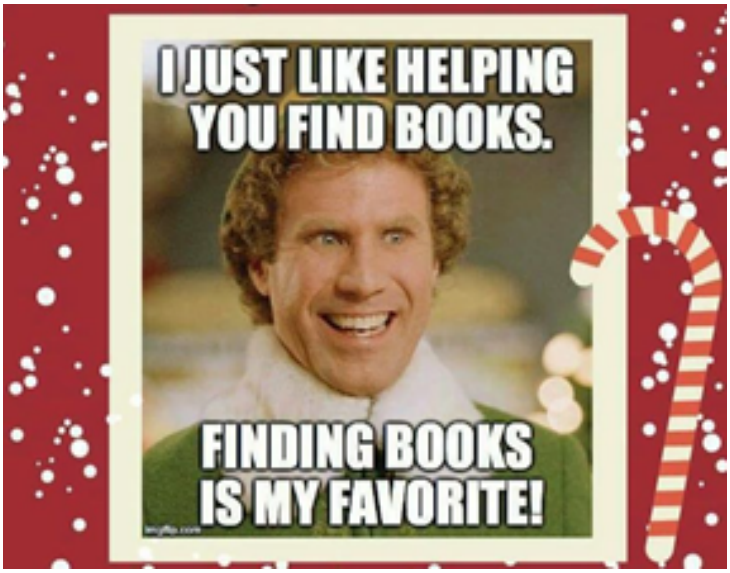
WHATS ON @ THE LIBRARY

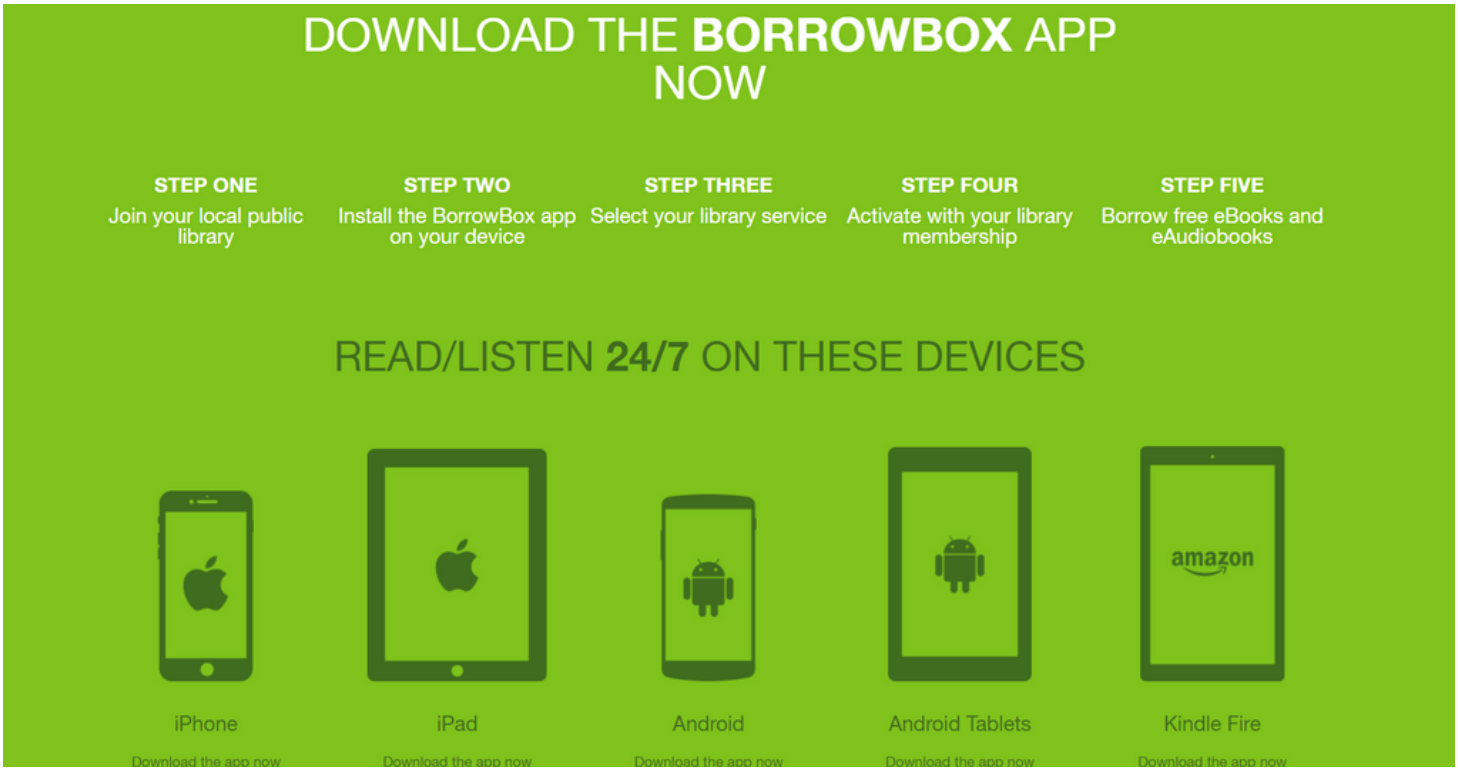
Hi from the Library!

As we lead into the festive season, don't forget that even though the library is closed you can borrow books online! See the step-by-step instructions below for more details.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the library with new programs for all ages! Enjoy your break and have a very Merry Christmas!

BSC Library Staff!





Visitor Information Centre visitor numbers for December 2021 as at 12pm 20/12/21:

Jundah - 86 Stonehenge - 95 Windorah - 45

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPERATING HOURS

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Animal registrations are now overdue.

Please ensure that your animal details are correct and up to date with the Council.

Council's Local Law stipulates that all dogs over three months of age must be registered and there is a penalty will apply if the dog is not registered. If your dog is found wandering and is not registered, Council will not be able to contact you. However, if your dog is registered, a Council officer will contact you and reunite you with your dog.

Rates are now overdue and accruing interest

The rate revenue is a primary source of funding for the provision of services, facilities, programs, activities and capital works in the Barcoo Shire. You could be charged a general rate or a minimum general rate, depending on the valuation of your property as determined by the Department of Resources. On your rates notice you are also charged for services that are separate to your rates which could include Garbage Collection and Water.

Did you know that you can pay your rates weekly, fortnightly, monthly or anytime you have spare money so to reduce the rates when they arrive?

You can phone Barcoo Shire Council on 4658 6910 and speak to one of our friendly staff.

To everyone who has paid their Rates and Animal registration thank you.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Windorah Service Station

Christmas Hours

DECEMBER 25TH & 26TH CLOSED
JANUARY 1ST 2022 CLOSED

DECEMBER 20TH-JANUARY 10TH
7 AM - 1 PM
4 PM - 5 PM

From everyone at the Windorah Serva we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

WESTERN STAR HOTEL WINDORAH DECEMBER/JANUARY TRADING HOURS

SUNDAY TRADING HOURS
11AM - 1PM & 5-7PM

23RD DEC - NORMAL TRADING DAY

24TH-27TH DEC - CLOSED (TAKEAWAY ALCOHOL WILL ALSO BE UNAVAILABLE)

28TH DEC - 7TH JAN- CLOSED HOWEVER YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONTACT THE PUB FOR TAKEAWAY ALCOHOL ONLY.

NO MEALS OR ACCOMMODATION WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THIS PERIOD.

THE WESTERN STAR HOTEL STAFF ALONG WITH IAN AND MAZ WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

PUB PHONE NUMBER - 4656 3166

Thank you to everyone who lit up their house or property turn-off for the 2021 Barcoo Shire Christmas lights competition!

The winners are...

Property Turn Off: Braidwood
Jundah Residential: Kay Wood
Stonehenge Residential: Ron Wilson
Windorah Residential: Di & Chumpy Ward

Congratulations

GARDENING FEATURE

Over recent years, Australian native plants have become very popular replacements for the traditional pines and firs as Christmas trees. While Australia has followed very closely the European traditions, many Australian plants will make a beautiful hardy Christmas tree.

Some of the most popular Australian Christmas trees being used are the Norfolk Pine or Araucaria excelsa, she-oaks such as Casuarina cunninghamiana and Casuarina littoralis, the Black Cypress or Callitris endlicheri and even the Australian Christmas Bush or Prostanthera.

This is not only happening in Australia, but in other countries of the world. Many Australian natives are being exported around the world for this very purpose. A good example is the popularity of the Queensland bottle tree, or Brachychiton repestre, in Japan to help celebrate the festive season.

Have you ever wondered where the tradition of having Christmas trees as part of the Chrtistmas celebrations came from? The tradition of Christmas trees goes back over a thousand years, to when Scandinavian people, who, prior to becoming Christians, worshipped trees.

After becoming Christians, they made evergreen trees part of their Christian festivals. The legend of the first Christmas tree is told about an English missionary, travelling through Europe about twelve hundred years ago, who found a group of heathens about to make a sacrificial killing to the god Thor, under an oak tree. The missionary stopped the sacrifice and cut down the oak tree, and as the oak fell, a young pine tree appeared. He told the people that the pine was 'the tree of life' and represented Christ, and thus we traditionally have pine trees for Christmas.

The tradition of decorating the Christmas tree came from a different source. On the first day of January, the Romans exchanged decorated tree branches for good luck, and this custom was adopted by the English for Christmas.

However, the German town of Strasburg (now in France) would have to be credited with being the first to use Christmas decorations, using gilded nuts, stars, angels, toys and sweets wrapped in bright paper, selling these at their local markets. The people of Poland also adopted the practise of decorating Christmas trees, with bright paper ornaments and candles.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

According to old tradition, a family's Christmas tree should include these twelve ornaments to ensure happiness:

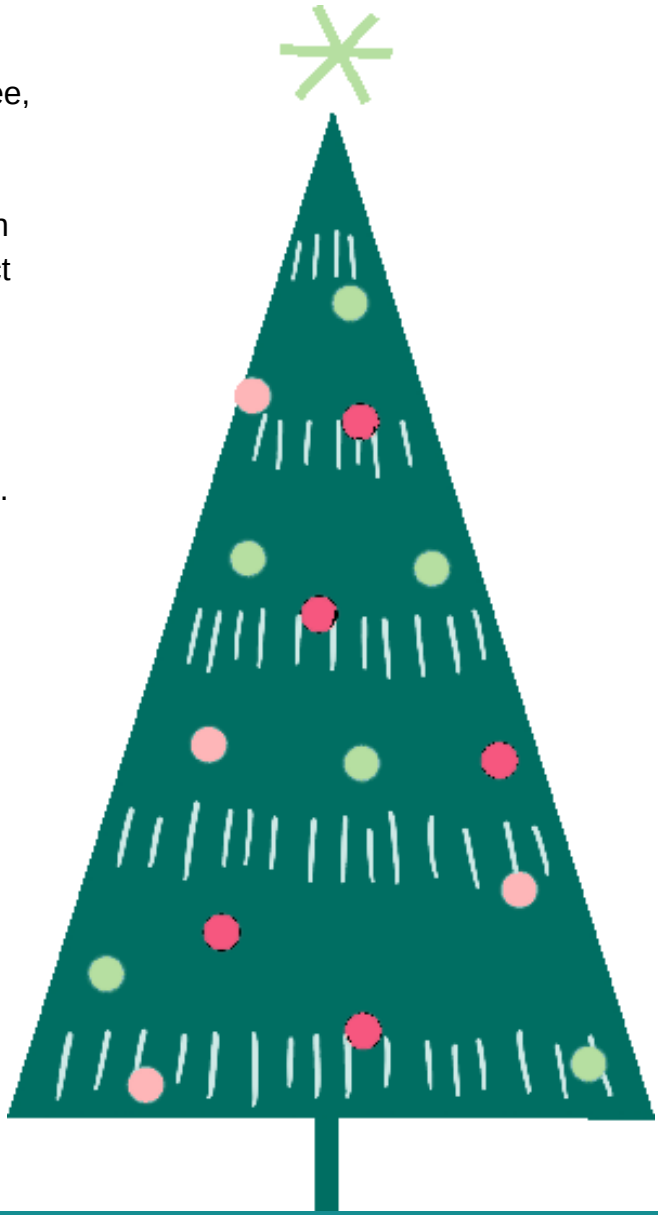
Angel - symbolises God
Bird - symbolises good luck
House - signifies family shelter
Teapot - symbolises hospitality
Pine Cone - symbolises eternity
Fruit - symbolises plentiful blessings
Rose - symbol of the Virgin Mary
Animal - symbolises peace with nature
Santa Claus - symbol of giving and caring
Fish - symbolises Christ, as well as fertility
Flower Basket - represents beauty in the home
Heart - represents true love

GARDENING FEATURE

SAVING YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Straight after Christmas, one of the biggest problems faced by many people is how to look after the Christmas tree that has been inside for the last few weeks. While they may still look attractive, some care will be required when relocating them to their outdoor position for the next eleven months. Always one of the first problems encountered after moving their tree outside is browning of the outer shoots. Quite often this will happen within days of relocating the tree, but don't worry, fresh green shoots should appear within the first five to six weeks. Sometimes some of the older, brown tips may need to be pruned, and the tree may even need some light reshaping, particularly if decorations or children overcome with too much Christmas spirit have bent or broken some of the branches.

Ideally the best position to place the Christmas tree after being inside is an open, but quite shaded area, such as a greenhouse or under the shade of a tree, e.g. a mango tree, but without any direct sunlight.Over the next five to six weeks, gradually move the tree into a sunnier position. An important note to remember is that the shadier the position in which the tree is kept during the year, the more compact in appearance the tree will be, and will therefore make a more attractive Christmas tree for the following year.



Another question always asked straight after Christmas is "Should the Christmas tree be repotted into a bigger pot?". This is not advisable, as the bigger the pot, the bigger the plant, and eventually the tree will become too big to move inside. As far as fertilising goes, a teaspoon of Osmocote during the next few weeks is highly recommended, then probably another application of Osmocote during Spring would provide the best Christmas specimen for Christmas 2022.

CHRISTMAS WISH

On behalf of my family, and myself I would like to wish everyone a happy, holy, safe Christmas.
Neil Fisher - Fishers Nursery

ARTS & CULTURE WORKSHOPS

With thanks to Red Ridge, we had the opportunity to have a fabulous young artist come all the way to Stonehenge to paint a fence! Oh….and 2 water tanks! The local kids were invited to come along and have a go. Cooper and Lillie were the first to arrive and had an absolute blast using the cans. Artist Kirby from Ispray even mentioned what a super little artist Lillie was…. he was very impressed. Along comes Councilor Pidgeon and her young lad Brodie. Brodie jumped straight in, I don't think Brodie thought he would ever graffiti something in his life, let alone whilst being encouraged by Mum!

Councilor Pidgeon also had a play with the paint and Jamie could be heard making a tongue in cheek comment to her about what a great vandal she is! Most locals popped in at some point over the couple of days it took to complete the work, and everyone was just so wrapped with the result. The rear area at the Stonehenge VIC has been brought alive and I am looking forward to finding some native bush foods to plant around then hopefully this year we will get together with STAG and work on the old schoolhouse and jail cells being put to proper use as a Tourist attraction! We will also be working on a mosaic path project for the rear toward the middle of the year and a native animal wire workshop with the school kids hopefully mid-March!

There is always external funding available for non-for-profit groups – send me an email if you have a space – wall, tower, tank, shopfront, school, skatepark or ANYWHERE you think could use some brightening up as Kirby and his crew would love to spend more time brightening up the West!

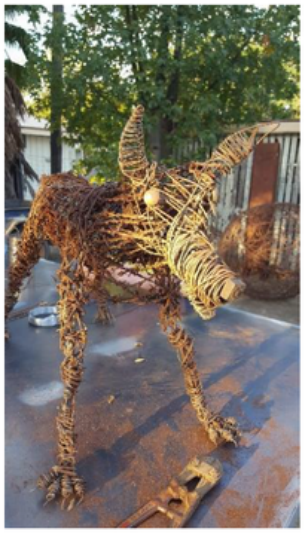
Active attendees – 7
Attendees that did not participate - 9

Gypsy Betts - Community and Tourism Coordinator
kerryn.betts@barcoo.qld.gov.au

ARTS & CULTURE WORKSHOPS

Free Mini Garden Sculpture Workshops

With Milynda Rogers
Sculpture Artist



Saturday & Sunday January 15th and 16th
Jundah Hall (8.00am – 5.00pm)

What to Bring

A plate to share for lunch and what you can from the list below:

RECYCLED WIRE	FOUND OBJECTS
• Old barbed wire 15 to 30 metres • Old plain wire at least 10 metres • Tie wire • Copper wire • Wire netting, different coloured wire	• Screws; Nuts • Bolts; Pegs • Coloured Beads for eyes or noses • Any objects for decoration
TOOLS NEEDED	**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**
• Ordinary pliers • Pointy nosed pliers (optional) • Side cutters (optional) • Bolt cutters (optional)	• Protective Glasses; Gloves • Long sleeves • Long trousers; • Covered in shoes; • Sunscreen

To register contact Gypsy on 0400 524 217 or kerryn.betts@barcoo.qld.gov.au

SAVE THE DATE 2022

If you're from a regional community impacted by drought, bushfires and COVID-19 then this program will help you build safe work practices on the farms and in the wider community.

This mix of accredited and non-accredited units will provide you with the skills and knowledge to:

- offer initial support to adults who are developing a mental health crisis and support others until appropriate professional help is received or the crisis resolves
- provide a first aid response to a casualty in a remote or isolated site over an extended period of time until medical assistance is provided
- implement standard and transmission-based precautions, and respond to infection risks in the workplace

DURATION: 5 Days

Fully funded under the Workforce Transition Support program. Eligibility criteria applies.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Provide First Aid in remote or isolated site (HLTAID013)		**Infection Control Skill Set** (HLTSS00064)	**Standard Mental Health First Aid** (NONAC06022)	

When	Where
From Monday 23th May to Friday 27th May From 8:00am to 4:00am each day Please enquire as soon as possible as places are limited. Applications required by Wednesday 11th May 2022	**JUNDAH** Jundah Community Hall 11 Dickson Street Jundah QLD 4736

For more information or to apply call (07) 4694 1944
or email WTSP.Southwest@tafeqld.edu.au

1300 308 233 tafeqld.edu.au

MAKE GREAT HAPPEN tafe Queensland

RTO 0275 | CRICOS 03020E

SAVE THE DATE 2022

With a range of pre-employment skills and competencies in the construction, infrastructure and resource fields, this program offers the opportunity to build skills to help you gain employment. If you're working at heights or in confined spaces these programs can assist in improving safe work practices, and you'll gain the skills to test and tag electrical equipment.

These accredited units of competency will provide you with the skills and knowledge to:

- enter and work on a construction site in Queensland
- comply with current workplace health and safety legislation and work confidently at heights
- plan and prepare for entry and exiting of confined spaces
- inspect, test and tag electrical equipment

DURATION: 5 Days

Fully funded under the Workforce Transition Support program. Eligibility criteria applies.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Restricted - Electrical safety testing of electrical cord connected equipment and cord assemblies (Test and Tag) (UEESS00098)		N/A	N/A	N/A

When	Where
From Monday 28th February to Tuesday 1st March 2022 From 8:00am to 4:00pm each day Please enquire as soon as possible as places are limited. Applications required by Wednesday 16th February 2022	**JUNDAH** Jundah Community Hall 11 Dickson Street Jundah QLD 4736

For more information or to apply call (07) 4694 1944
or email WTSP.Southwest@tafeqld.edu.au

1300 308 233 tafeqld.edu.au

MAKE GREAT HAPPEN tafe Queensland

RTO 0275 | CRICOS 03020E

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING WRAP UP

COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY

Council adopted the Community Grants Policy (BSC-007) and associated Appendix 1 (prequalified organisations, events, activities and projects) as presented and as amended to a $5,000 annual limit in accordance with sections 194 and 195 of the Local Government Regulation 2012. To View the updated policy please visit www.barcoo.qld.gov.au

WINDORAH CARAVAN PARK

Council resolved to:

1. lay the matter of retendering the lease of the Windorah Caravan Park on the table until the end of the 2022 tourist season (November 2022),
2. Consider any expressions of interest received from commercial operators or local businesses, and;
3. Review the caravan park fees prior to the commencement of the 2022 tourist season.

All minutes can be downloaded on the Shire Publishing Portal from the following link: https://myportal.barcoo.qld.gov.au/public/publications

RFDS CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Christmas & New Year

Royal Flying Doctor Service
QUEENSLAND SECTION

RFDS Clinic Schedule

With the festive season just round the corner the RFDS team has made a few changes to the schedule to work around the public holidays. Below is the revised schedule. Telehealth is always available, call 1300 69 7337 to speak with a Doctor. Clinics will be held on:

30/11/21	Windorah
1/12/21	Yaraka/Stonehenge
2/12/21	Thargomindah
3/12/21	Yowah
3/12/21	Jundah - Skin Clinic
4/12/21	Birdsville - Skin Clinic
7/12/21	Jundah
8/12/21	Birdsville
9/12/21	Thargomindah
10/12/21	Eulo/Yowah
14/12/21	Windorah
15/12/21	Yaraka/Stonehenge
16/12/21	Thargomindah
17/12/21	Yowah
20/12/21	Eulo/Yowah
21/12/21	Jundah
22/12/21	Birdsville
23/12/21	Thargomindah
29/12/21	Yaraka/Stonehenge - Appointment to be made by 10am on 24/12/21
30/12/21	Thargomindah
31/12/21	Yowah
4/1/22	Jundah
5/1/22	Birdsville
6/1/22	Thargomindah
7/1/22	Eulo/Yowah
11/1/22	Windorah
12/1/22	Yaraka/Stonehenge
13/1/22	Thargomindah
14/1/22	Yowah