

Winton

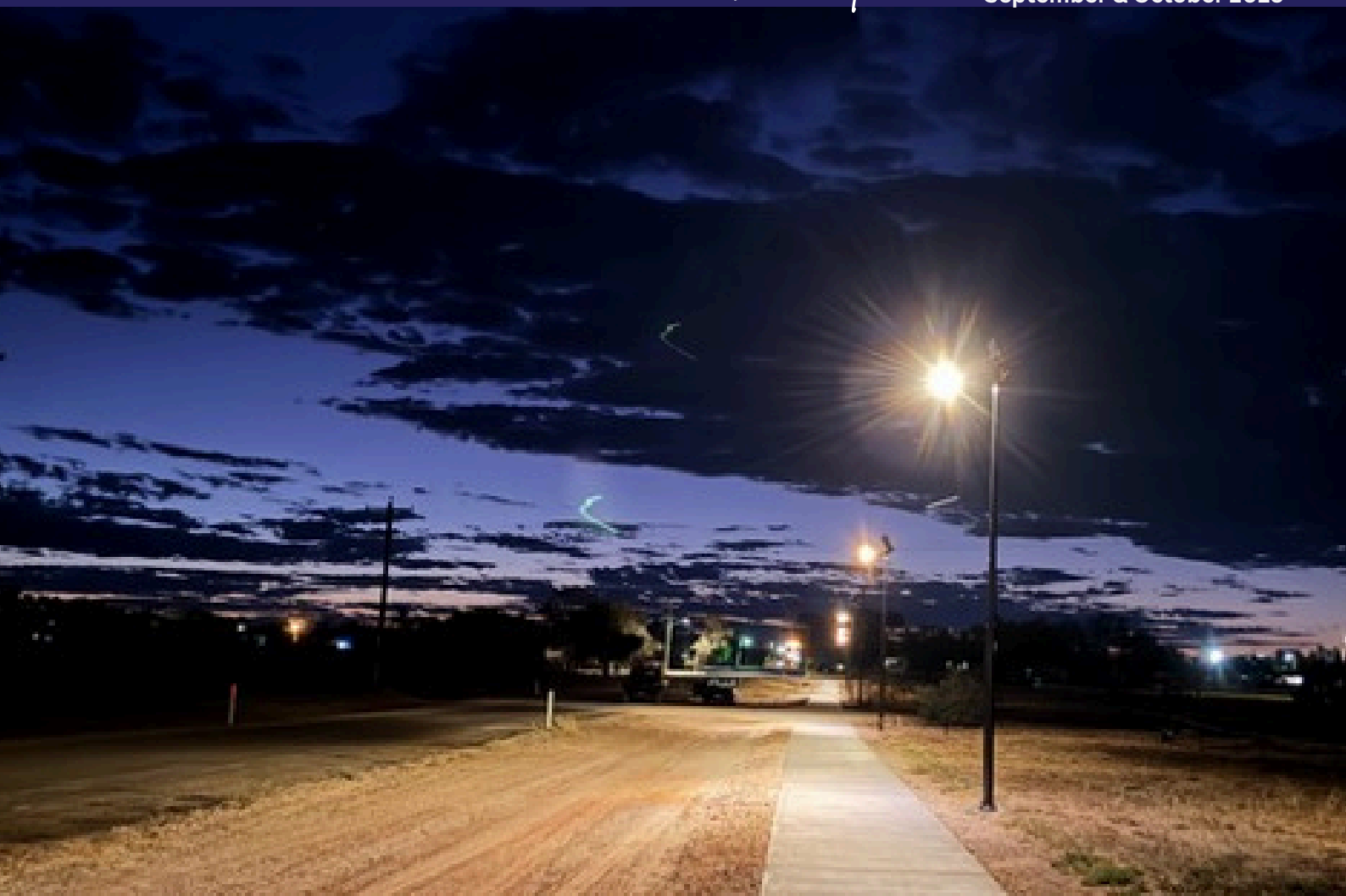


Winton Shire Council

Newsletter

September & October 2025





IN THIS EDITION:

MAYOR'S MESSAGE	P 3
REGIONAL TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE	P 4
LGAQ VISIT	P 5
COMMUNITY SERVICES	P 6
- Neighbourhood Centre	
- Winton 60 & Better	P 7
- Good News Stories	
- Library	
- Outback Futures	
WORK CAMP	P 9
WORKS DEPARTMENT	

RURAL LANDS	P 11
OUTBACK REGIONAL GALLERY	P 12
WALTZING MATILDA CENTRE	P 13
COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT	
COUNCIL'S EVENT CALENDAR	P 14
60 & BETTER CALENDAR	P 15

Acknowledgment to Country.

Winton Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Winton Shire falls on and pays respects to Elders past and present and emerging.

We acknowledge those from the defence force who served in the past to preserve our freedoms and those serving today who continue to protect the country which we all call home.

Cover photo: Ray Hermann Statue - "The Winton Whiz"

Mayor's Message

As we welcomed the arrival of spring this September, it's been heartening to see our shire bustling with visitors and renewed energy after a quiet start to the tourism season.

The Outback Festival once again provided a fitting finale to the tourist season. The festival lived up to its reputation of quirky outback events such as the famous Quiton Dunny Derby, Iron Man and Iron Woman & Junior, and the Yabby Races just to name a few. Congratulations to the committee and volunteers who continue to make this iconic festival such a success. Also, congratulations to all the competitors in all the events over the 5 days. It was wonderful to see so many families and friends reunite and enjoying the packed program of events.

It was a great honour to attend the unveiling of the Ray Hermann statue during the Outback Festival – a fantastic monument celebrating the legacy of “The Winton Whiz.” This initiative by the Diamantina Rodeo & Campdraft Association Inc. recognises Ray Hermann’s extraordinary rodeo career and his lifelong contribution to the Winton community. The statue is based on Darryl Doyle’s famous 1985 photograph of Ray riding Gill Bros’ ‘Brock’ at Dingo, Queensland, and was brought to life by sculptors Tom and Travis Tischler, featuring Ray’s original riding gear. Winton Shire Council contributed \$90,000 towards the statue, with the remaining funds raised through generous donations and the efforts of the Diamantina Rodeo & Campdraft Association.

Council has also endorsed its Economic Development Strategy 2025–2029 – a comprehensive framework to guide sustainable economic growth, attract new investment, and create opportunities across the region. The Strategy sets a clear vision for Winton Shire, building on our strengths in agriculture, tourism, events, and opal mining, while embracing new opportunities in small business, innovation, and regional partnerships. You can read the full Strategy on Council’s website: www.winton.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/3378/economic-development-strategy-2025-2029

In other news, the Experience Winton website has now migrated to a new platform and also hosts the refreshed Waltzing Matilda Centre website. Don’t forget to submit your community events to be included on the Experience Winton site. Council’s corporate website will also be moving to a new platform over the coming months, and we thank you for your patience during this transition.

Finally, a special thank you to our Parks and Facilities team, who have planted the last of the cycads kindly donated by Cycad International as part of the Winton 150 Celebrations.

Mayor
Cathy White

Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund

The Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) is a program designed to address critical gaps in tourism infrastructure and deliver long-term economic benefits to regional communities, with up to \$20 million to go back into local communities. For more information, visit the website:

www.detsi.qld.gov.au/tourism/funding-grants/regional-tourism-infrastructure-fund



Winton Shire Council recently welcomed members of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Policy Executive team ahead of their meeting in Longreach. Hosted by Mayor Cathy White, the visit highlighted Winton's world-class tourism attractions and facilities, including the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Waltzing Matilda Centre and the Country Universities Centre.

Policy Executive members heard directly from local operators about both the opportunities and challenges facing the tourism industry, particularly the impacts of recent floods and the resilience shown in recovery. The visit also provided a valuable forum for councils to share broader challenges, such as the urgent need for sustainable childcare funding in rural and remote communities.



Community Services

Winton Neighbourhood Centre

HUMPHREY B. BEAR

A special event was held for local children with visiting Humphrey B. Bear, including a book reading session, and a fun dancing performance. At the conclusion of the show, children had the opportunity to meet Humphrey personally and have their photos taken with him. Humphrey B. Bear then made a special visit to the hospital, lifting the spirits of all the patients and staff.

YOUTH, SPORT & REC

August was packed with activities for all ages!

Kids celebrated Science Week with papier-mâché volcanoes, while teens enjoyed the launch of The Hub every second Friday. Outback Futures hosted cooking sessions at the Waltzing Matilda Centre, and high school students began applying for their tax file numbers. The boys met with Wendy from Outback Futures to discuss Bring The Boys. At After-School Care, kids cooked up tasty treats, enjoyed crafts and games, and tackled a three-day volcano project. Graduating students also worked with Tammy Robinson (formerly Ever After) to prepare for their big day.

The community had a free day at the tennis courts with a sausage sizzle.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Youth Discos

The Family Support and Youth Sport and Rec officers launched Discos at the Youth Centre with a Glow-in-the-Dark event and a Book Week-themed nights. Both were fun, family-friendly evenings with games, dinner, and entertainment.

SKATEBOARDING WORKSHOP:

On August 28–29, Mat Chiggwidden and his team delivered a two-day skateboarding program in Winton. The inclusive sessions helped beginners build confidence and develop new skills in a fun, supportive environment. The workshop left a big impact—sparking more use of the Winton Skatepark and encouraging youth engagement through sport.

WINTON LIBRARY

The theme “Book in an Adventure” was celebrated at the Kid’s Book Club. In addition, a staff member was invited to a local school to participate by reading to students. This month’s technology workshop focused on an introduction to iPads, iPhones, and Google Maps. Two staff members also attended the “Ancestry Library Edition” webinar, which provided valuable training and resources.

OUTBACK FUTURES

The Family Support and Youth Sport and Rec Officers partnered with Outback Futures on Gather the Girls, Bring the Boys, and the Children’s Arts Project, strengthening community ties and supporting wellbeing.

Community Services Cont.

Winton Neighbourhood Centre

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

On Monday 1 September, Community Care Staff members transported a group of community members to Longreach for the Cent Sale Spectacular held by Bolten Clarke. They were delivered a fabulous morning of delicious food, tea and coffee, and entertainment. Everyone who attended is still talking about the lovely morning that was held by all.

60 AND BETTER

Our 60 & Better program kept members active and connected with favourites like croquet, fitness sessions, chair yoga, and plenty of bingo fun. Festive cheer filled the Neighbourhood Centre with a hearty lunch of ham, chicken, pork, veggies, pavlova, and trifle – plus reindeer antlers for a playful touch for our Christmas in August. Members also enjoyed an early Seniors Week outing with Red Dirt Tours, taking in Winton's stunning landscapes and sharing smoko together – a perfect day out with more adventures to come!

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Little Swaggies Takes Big Steps in Quality and Leadership

On 6 August, our leadership team attended the *Targeting Quality Program – Leadership and Governance in Childcare* workshop in Brisbane, gaining new tools to strengthen vision, culture, and continuous improvement.

Little Swaggies is proud of our 2023 Assessment and Rating Report, achieving Meeting the National Quality Standards across six areas, with only one area marked Working Towards. This result reflects the dedication of our educators and staff, who continue to deliver high-quality care for children and families in our community.

Little Swaggies Childcare is proud to celebrate Brooke McCoy, who has recently completed her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.

Since joining the team in 2022, Brooke's dedication, positive energy, and genuine care have made her a much-loved educator and role model. This milestone reflects her hard work and passion while strengthening the quality of care we provide to families.

Congratulations, Brooke – we're excited to support you as you continue to grow in your career!

Community Services Cont.

Winton Neighbourhood Centre



Community Services Cont.

Winton Neighbourhood Centre

Work Camp Boys Revive Historic Willie Mar's Fruit & Vegetable Garden

Winton is celebrating the restoration of one of its most treasured landmarks — Willie Mar's Fruit & Vegetable Shop and Market Garden. After the devastating 2025 floods left the site in disarray, the Winton Work Camp boys stepped in to clear debris and repair walkways. Thanks to their efforts, the garden is once again ready to welcome locals and visitors. This project honours the legacy of Willie Mar and his family, whose hard work and fresh produce supported Winton for decades, while also giving Work Camp participants valuable skills and experience.

Musical Fence Sign Update – In time for the Outback Festival

The Works Department has refreshed multiple signs at the iconic Musical Fence, just in time for the Outback Festival. This update prepares the venue for a special performance by travelling musicians Topology, who presented their Sunrise Performance "Wired for Sound 150 at the Musical Fence" on Saturday 27 September at 7:00am, proudly supported by Arts Queensland.

Solar Light Installation Show Grounds Footpath

This project involves the supply and installation of solar lights along the new footpath on Cork Street leading towards the Showgrounds. The project is fully funded by the Australian Government under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The procurement process is complete, and the lights have been received. The supplier has confirmed that the other components have been dispatched. The lights selected are fully compliant with the requirements of Dark Sky Certification. The project remains within the approved funding envelope and is scheduled for completion prior to the program's funding deadline.

Planting of Cycads

The planting of cycads and understorey plants alongside the "Winton Sign" at Gordon Kennedy Park has been completed. All cycads have now been planted, kindly donated by Cycad International, significantly improving the visual presentation of this prominent entrance feature.

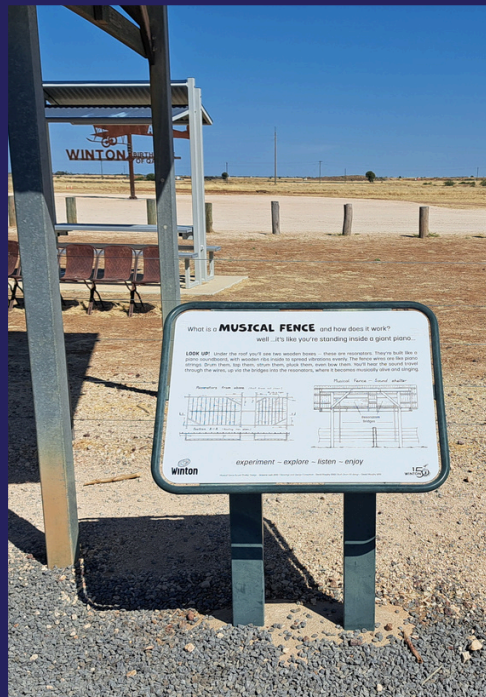
Winton Hotel

Balustrades at the Winton Hotel have been installed as part of the capital works program.



Works Department

Works and Utilities



Rural Lands

Water Facility Maintenance & Upgrades

Ongoing inspections and repairs are improving water infrastructure across the shire:

- **Canis** and **Etna** facilities have had repairs and funding applications submitted.
- **Ayrshire** turkey nest is being treated for seepage with bentonite.
- Quotes are underway for projects at **12 Mile, Dicks Creek, Fieldings, Nadjayamba, Strathfillian, and The Grove.**
- Overflow management at **Vindex Tank** has helped prevent erosion.

Wild Dog Management Update

The Wild Dog Bounty Program continues to support landholders in managing pest populations.

- July saw 96 scalps processed after claim reviews.
- August had 15 scalps submitted.
- Landholders experiencing high wild dog activity are encouraged to contact their Division Leaders to arrange baiting support.

Upcoming Winton Town Common Muster

The town common is due to be mustered once again. This will occur October 11th and 12th. The confirmed date was moved into October due to the levels of water and feed availability, as well as to avoid community event clashes.

The Bladensburg Ranger has not reported any further sightings of livestock off the common and at this time council will not be getting a permit to check the national park.

INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT & BIOSECURITY OBLIGATIONS POST-FLOODING

The recent flooding event has created favourable conditions for the spread of invasive weeds across the Winton Shire Council and surrounding areas. These weeds threaten pasture quality, livestock health, and native biodiversity.

All landholders have a general biosecurity obligation to actively manage and prevent the spread of biosecurity matter, including invasive weeds, on their properties. Early detection and control are essential to protecting our shared environment and agricultural productivity.



Waltzing Matilda Centre



Outback Regional Gallery

Joe Furlonger: Horizons is a Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art exhibit that ran from 16 August to 6 October. The exhibition of paintings, drawings and ceramics is currently touring Queensland galleries and included three significant artworks from the Outback Regional Gallery collection. Special thanks to Simon Wright, Assistant Director Learning and Engagement QAGOMA, for officially opening the exhibition.

Exhibition Outback in 3D showcases sculptural objects from the Outback Regional Gallery's collection and the diversity of mediums utilised by the artists to depict the Outback region. The exhibition will open 10 October and be on display until 2 November.

The Outback Regional Gallery and Outback Futures facilitated social well-being and visual arts workshops to the children at the St. Patricks School. The program is accepting artworks from ages 5-15 years and exclusively for young artists in the RAPAD region. The project is generously sponsored by The John Villiers Trust and will be exhibited both digitally and alongside the 2026 John Villiers Outback Art Prize.



Ink in the Lines an Australian War Memorial Touring Exhibition will open at the Outback Regional Gallery on November 11. The exhibition reveals how Australian Veterans, and their families share personal stories and experiences through tattoos. Gary Player District President RSL North Queensland District will travel to Winton to officially open the exhibition on the evening of Remembrance Day.

Council Employment

Current Job Vacancies:

- [Facilities Officer](#)
- [Visitor Experience Officer](#)
- [Workshop Mechanic](#)
- [Assistant Children's Services Worker](#)
- [Children's Services Group Leader](#)
- [Plumber](#)
- [Early Childhood Teacher](#)



For further information regarding position descriptions and applications, please visit the [Winton Shire Council](http://www.winton.qld.gov.au) website.

Waltzing Matilda Centre

Visitor Information Centre



WINTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Waltzing Matilda Centre, 50 Elderslie Street, Winton

Ph: (07) 4657 1466

Operating Hours: Mon - Sun 9am - 5pm

Public Holidays 9am - 3pm



Check **local road conditions**:
www.winton.qld.gov.au/news/road-conditions

Waltzing Matilda Centre

(October – March):

9am – 5pm, Mon-Fri

Weekends & Public Holidays:

9am – 3pm

The Tuckerbox Cafe

8:30am – 3:00pm, Tues-Sun

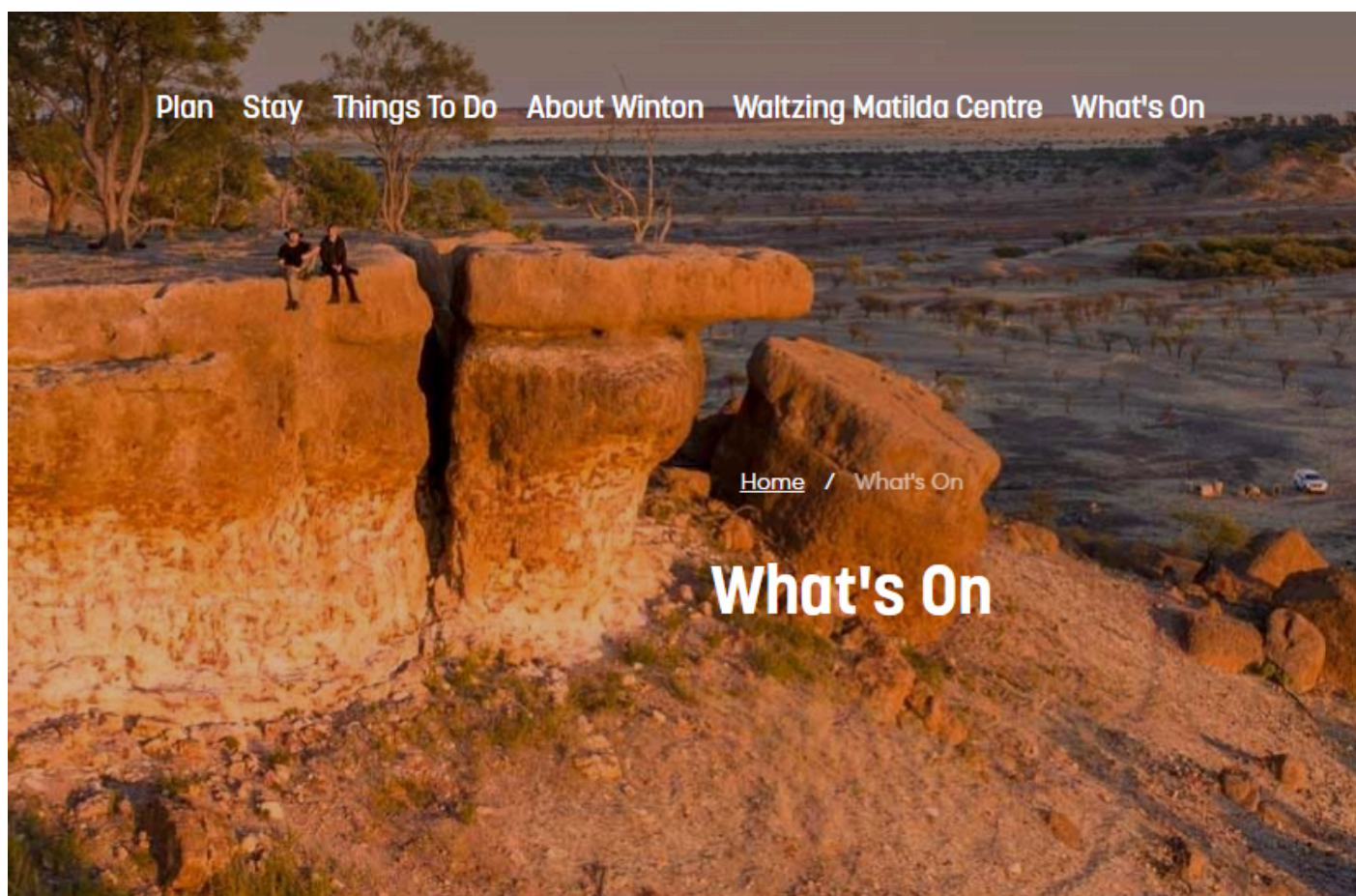
Call 07 4657 1466 for all enquiries.

Council's Event Calendar

Don't forget to submit your 2025/2026 Community Events on Council's event calendar to help keep locals and visitors in the loop about what's happening in our region. Even if you only have a 'save the date' now, you can add more details later so people can plan ahead.

On the new platform, you'll need to create an account to submit your first event, but once set up you'll be able to create and manage your events easily.

www.experiencewinton.com.au/event/new



What's On

[Click here to view the Events Calendar](#)

Want to submit an event?

Log in to your Experience Winton MyCity account to create new events or edit your existing events.

[SUBMIT AN EVENT](#)



Winton 60 & Better October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01 Exercises 8:30am Darts/games 9:30am	02 Chair yoga 8:30am Morning tea at local eatery TBA 9:30am	03 Exercises 8:30am Darts/games 9:30	04
05 Croquet 8:30am Games 9:00am	06 Croquet 8:30am Games 9:00am	07 Meeting 10.00am	08 Exercises 8:30am Darts/games 9:30am	09 Chair yoga 8:30am Morning tea at local eatery TBA 9:30am	10 Exercises 8:30am Darts/games 9:30 Lunch North Gregory Hotel	11
12 Croquet 8:30am Games 9:00am	13 Croquet 8:30am Games 9:00am	14 Movie/Bookclub 10.00am	15 Exercises 8:30am Paper Craft	16 Chair yoga 8:30am Morning tea at local eatery TBA 9:30am	17 Exercises 8:30am Darts/games 9:30	18
19 Croquet 8:30am Games 9:00am	20 Croquet 8:30am Games 9:00am	21 Morning Melodies 10:00am	22 Exercises 8:30am Darts/games 9:30am	23 Chair yoga 8:30am Morning tea at local eatery TBA 9:30am	24 Exercises 8:30am Darts/games 9:30	25
26 Croquet 8:30am Games 9:00am	27 Croquet 8:30am Games 9:00am	28 Bingo 10.00am	29 Exercises 8:30am Morning tea TBA 10am	30 Chair yoga 8:30am Morning tea at local eatery TBA 9:30am	31 Exercises 8:30am Darts/games 9:30	

Contact: Chloe Stockham chloes@winton.qld.gov.au



QLDLibraries App

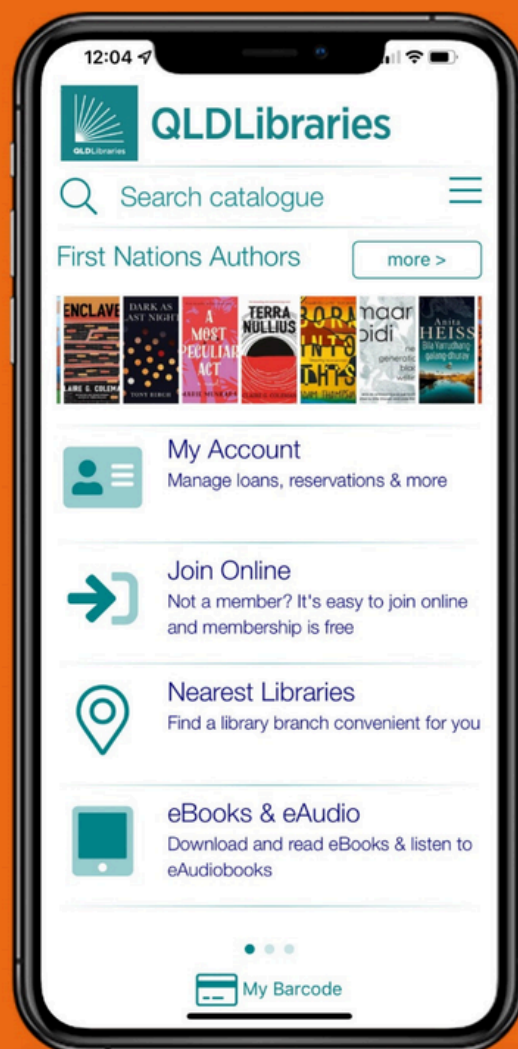
Access your IKC or Queensland Rural Library from your mobile device.

- search from 400,000+ items
- reserve books, DVDs and more
- download eBooks & audiobooks
- download the latest magazines
- manage your loans & reservations
- link family members to your account
- your favourite library apps built-in:



Download the app then sign in with your library card or join online.

www.yourlibraryapp.com/QLDLibraries





WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL

IT WORKSHOP

**One on one it sessions
or group workshops available**

**Develop your digital skills in
a secure & supportive
environment**

- Online banking & shopping
- Laptop & smartphone
- Introduction to MyGov
- Staying safe online
- Canva and ChatGPT
- Google Map



DATE

**EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
(EXCLUDING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)**



TIME

10.00 - 11.00 AM



LOCATION

WINTON LIBRARY

**FUNDED BY WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL & STATE
LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND**



**State Library
of Queensland**



**Queensland
Government**



Australian Government

Be Connected

Every Australian online.