



Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre Community Care Newsletter

February—March 2024



4 Dear St Gin Gin Q 4671

4130 4630

ggnc@bundaberg.qld.gov.au

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

Message from the Mayor:

Warm wishes to everyone in the Gin Gin region and surrounds for 2024.

May this year bring prosperity, joy and unity to you, your families, and your loved ones.

With the summer season well underway and the onset of hot weather conditions, I urge everyone to prioritise safety. Stay informed, be prepared, and look out for one another.

To the young people in our community embarking on a new school year, I wish you all the very best. Embrace the opportunities for growth and learning that await you.

Here's to a safe and successful year.

All the best,

Mayor Jack Dempsey



Upcoming Public Holiday Hub Closures

Good Friday	Friday	29 March
Easter Saturday	Saturday	30 March
Easter Monday	Monday	1 April



Message from the Neighbourhood Centre Team:

Welcome to 2024! We hope you all had a wonderful break with family and friends over the festive season. It is great to see everywhere looking green again after all the rain we've had.

We are excited to welcome our new Community Services Trainee, Maya to our Neighbourhood Team. Feel free to pop in and say hello while you enjoy the air-con and free Wi-Fi and computers in the Hub on these hot days.

We're passionate about our community and have many free social programs and events. Feel free to come along and join in any of these programs. New members are always welcome!

Staff in the Spotlight — Maya



Hello, My name is Maya. My background is working in Costume departments on film, television and theatre sets and in customer service and payroll/accounts. I took several years off work to focus on being a Mum and was looking for a new career path that would suit family life and life living in regional Queensland. I was considering studying Community Welfare at Uni when I saw the Community Services Traineeship with Council. I thought this would be the perfect way to get a taste of the industry and I'm so grateful to Bundaberg Regional Council for the opportunity. I couldn't have been any luckier to end up with such a wonderful team as I have here at the Gin Gin Community Hub.

Branch Manager Community Services:

Kirstin Harrison

Neighbourhood Centre Community Development Officer:

Jen Campbell

Neighbourhood Centre Support Officers:

Amber Larsen & Miranda Card

Community Connect Worker:

Fiona McLean

Relief Neighbourhood Centre Support Officer:

Sandi Reeve

Community Services Trainee:

Maya Sylvan

Funded by



Free community support



Looking for a JP in Gin Gin?

'JP's in the Community', provide JP Services at the Gin Gin Community Hub on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1–3pm.

If you're in need of a JP, pop into the Hub on the set days and times and see Terry or one of the other volunteers to utilise this FREE service.

Emergency Relief Program



Experiencing crisis or hardship?

Emergency Relief assists those in the local community who find themselves in a crisis. If you are struggling for any reason; phone the Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre on 4130 4630 and the friendly staff will assist you with reviewing your needs and eligibility.

Community Food Pantry

We need your help! The Gin Gin community is experiencing the higher cost of living pressures. You can help by donating any new or unwanted (unopened) non-perishable food items to the Gin Gin Community Food Pantry. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Wide-Bay Burnett Legal Service

Wide-Bay Burnett Legal Service is a free service that comes out to Gin Gin via Appointment. This service aims to address disadvantage through the provision of free, quality legal advice.

Community Connect services

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre



Finding your way through the process of planning and connecting with services can be **challenging and time consuming.**

If you need support with this, the Community Connect Worker can assist with case coordination to ensure you get referrals to the right service at the right time.

Phoenix House

Phoenix House provide supportive, safe and trusted counselling services and comes to the Gin Gin Community Hub via appointment. Contact 4153 4299 to book an appointment.

A Community Connect Worker can help you:

- * Assess support options
- * Connect with services
- * With Referrals to appropriate services
- * Build your skills and confidence
- * Present you with options/referrals about service providers in the region
- * Liaise with service providers, to assist with appropriate referral and connections
- * Link you with supports—occupational therapy, speech therapy, support groups
- * Link you with your local community
- * Work with you to develop capacity

Phone 4130 4630

Be Active Be Alive Program starts again in Gin Gin on 8 February. For full details go to:

<https://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/healthy-programs>

Free community support

FREE Community Computer Kiosk



The Hub has FREE public computers and Wi-Fi available for community use from 8.15am to 4.45pm Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings from 9.00am to 11.30am. The Neighbourhood Centre provides FREE support with technology help and learning basic computer skills with one-on-one volunteers. This service is presently unavailable for bookings until our new volunteer starts next month. Staff may be able to assist with simple short requests in the interim. Other services available include printing and photocopying at a small cost. There is no charge for scanning and emailing.



Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

Share the Dignity

With the help of Share the Dignity and our community donations, we can assist people in need with toiletries and menstruation products free of charge, here in the Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre. Please speak to our friendly counter staff if you require some assistance.

Upcoming Workshops & Events



International Women's Day Breakfast

- Date:** Friday 8 March 2024
Time: 7–8.30am (seating from 6.45am)
Where: Gin Gin Bowls Club
37 Somerset Street, Gin Gin
Cost: \$15
RSVP: By Friday 1 March 2024
Contact: 4130 4630 or
ggnc@bundaberg.qld.gov.au

Join us for this year's International Women's Day Breakfast. The day marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality and acknowledging how we can enhance and foster women's empowerment.

On this day you will hear from local speakers about their experiences as women change makers. Full breakfast provided.

[#InspireInclusion](#)

Gin Gin Golf Club

Ladies Intro Golf: Saturday mornings 9–11am
Juniors—beginners, intermediate
Have Fun, enjoy exercise & a friendly welcome
New Members Welcome!

*(find them on facebook: Gin Gin Golf Club)
or for more information
contact Deb Keslake
on 0420 740 124*

Free Social Programs, Projects and Events—New members welcome!



Mel's Crafter in Residence Workshops—Craft & Chat

February 5 Flowerpot Painting
February 19 Beaded Necklaces
March 4 Dream Catchers
March 18 Easter Craft



Craft & Chat Group

When: Every **Monday**
Time: 9—11.30am
Where: Gin Gin Neighbourhood Hub

BYO projects or use some of the craft items available



Balanced Bodies Pilates

When: Every **Wednesday**
Time: 1.45—2.45pm
Where: Gin Gin Youth Activity Centre

BYO Mat, towel & water bottle



Cards 'n All

When: **Mondays** 1—4pm
Tuesday 8.30—11.30am
Where: Gin Gin Neighbourhood Hub

Enjoy cards, scrabble or rummy



Tai Chi

When: Every **Monday**
Time: 9.30—11.30am
Where: Gin Gin Youth Activity Centre

Wear comfortable clothing & footwear



Sophie's Watercolour Workshops

When: Every **Thursday**
Time: 9—11.30am
Where: Gin Gin Neighbourhood Hub
Cost: **FREE**

All supplies provided

Call in and see our friendly staff at the Hub, or phone: 4130 4630 or email: ggnc@bundaberg.qld.gov.au for more information on any of our FREE social programs.

GGNC Project & Event pics....

Craft 'N Chat with Mel



Makerspace—Watercolour Workshop with Sophie Hayati



Gin Gin Community Noticeboard

Gin Gin Men's Shed provide support for local men through hands-on activities such as working with timber and metal work. It is also a place for friendship and talking about issues such as health.

Open Wednesday & Friday 7am-11am

Tuesday Social Tennis

8.30am—11.00am

Cost: **\$4.00**

Tea/coffee supplied

Bring racquet, water, hat, sunscreen & soft soled shoes

All players welcome—Starts again in February 2024



Gin Gin Gardening Group

"Friendship Through Gardening"

New Members welcome

Please contact Pat Jackson on 0409 902 500 or Joy Foley-Jones on 0408 022 308



Gin Gin Crop Swap

2pm 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month

Dear Street Park (cnr Elliot and Dear Streets)

You can bring anything from your garden or foraged which is edible, medicinal or useful. There is a great list of suggestions on their Facebook page.

Gin Gin Ladies' Woodworking Guild Inc.

We can assist. Our Shed completes small projects for the community and can help you complete your projects

For more info, call Maree on 0414 593 633
Or visit us at 4 Station Street on Wednesdays 9:00am—noon

Women's Fitness Classes

Enjoy basic fitness & flexibility with low impact classes, designed for mature women at the National Fitness Hall, cnr Mulgrave & Walker St, Gin Gin.

New members welcome!

CIRCUIT CLASS **Tuesdays** 9-10am

FITBALL CLASS **Thursdays** 9-10am

Cost: \$15 for Tues & Thurs classes attended in same week OR \$10 for single class (either Tues or Thurs)

Membership: \$10 per year

All equipment supplied

Bring towel, water bottle & positive attitude

Phone **Merrilyn** on **0474 071 000**



Gin Gin Swimming Pool

NOW OPEN

Monday to Friday—9am to 5pm

Saturday—10am to 5pm

Sunday & Public Holidays—11am to 5pm

Gin Gin Queensland Country Womens' Association (QCWA)

This is the year to join the QCWA. We do hand crafts, cookery, social catchups, country kitchens, volunteering, bus trips and MORE!

Meet & Greet—Second Friday of each month. 9:00am—9:30am at the Gin Gin Youth Hall, 6 Walker St, Gin Gin

Call/SMS Michaela on 0422 146 789 for more information

Gin Gin Soup Kitchen

Every Wednesday at 5:00pm

Located at the Gin Gin SDA Church
88 Mulgrave Street, Gin Gin

Would you like to feature your club or group in our newsletter or Gin Gin Neighbourhood Facebook page?

Contact our staff on 4130 4630 or email: ggnc@bundaberg.qld.gov.au

Child and Family Support



Hello families. Firstly a big Happy New Year to you all and welcome to 2024. I hope you are all enjoying the holidays with your little ones and are keeping safe and dry with all this rain. The early Years

Playgroups will resume on 31 January.

This year, we are making some slight changes to our usual routine because we want to ensure that children are offered the best start to their language and communication autonomy. To do this, we will be introducing a morning greeting song, a mat time song to accompany story time, as well as

introducing a new goodbye song to farewell our friends and conclude playgroup.

Having a mat/story time with parent participation as we read a story and sing to children is very

beneficial to their needs and development. There is research to support this experience so I look

forward to introducing these small yet fun changes to our regular routine.



Wallaville Playgroups

We will continue our Playgroups in the School Yard this term. This is a wonderful opportunity for families in the Wallaville area with children under school age to

access a Playgroup setting for their child. We aim to provide age-appropriate

activities which cover all areas of development.

Playgroups are a great starting point for building friendships and making connections for both

parent and child, so come along and see the

enjoyment playgroup can bring.



Early Years Wallaville Playgroups

I am pleased to be able to facilitate Wallaville Playgroups again this year in Term 1. Pop up Playgroups bring benefits to not only the families who attend them but also to the school. Families are able to familiarise themselves with the school environment as well as form new friendships with other families from the area. This term they will be held on fortnightly Tuesdays with the first playgroup being on 30th January.

Let's Play Together Playgroup

Our birth–18 months playgroup returns on Thursday 8th February and then each second Thursday of the month thereafter. If there is a topic you'd like to share or discuss, please feel free to let me know and we can explore ideas with other mums and their babies as well as provide you with information.

Kids Canvas Art Activity

The recent art experience was a hit for the kids in the community. We had 16 children attend and create their masterpieces using their creative imaginations.



Gin Gin Child and Family Support facilitates Early Years playgroups each fortnight on a Wednesday (during school terms), from 9.30 am –11.30 am at the Gin Gin Community Hub. Families with children 0–5 years are welcome to attend and morning tea is provided. Please bring a water bottle and spare clothes for messy play.

Book Club

We read the same book and then discuss it, expanding our reading experiences.

Date: Last Monday of the month

Time: 12.30pm



Kids' Book Club

Get together with other book lovers, share your book experiences and do fun activities!

Date: 1st Thursday of month (excluding public and school holidays) **Time:** 3.15 - 4.15pm



Story Play

Visit the library for stories, rhymes, songs and plenty of fun! Story Play is designed for children aged 0 - 5 years and their guardians.

Date: Mondays (excluding public & school holidays)

Time: 9.30am



Library Lovers' Day



Library Lovers' Day is celebrated every year around the world on 14th of February and it is a chance to celebrate everything you love about your library!

Come in to Gin Gin Library in the week 12–17th of February and uncover something new by choosing a book with only the first line displayed. Be daring—you might discover a new favourite author.

New Staff

We welcome our new Library Assistant to the team at Gin Gin Library. Please come and say hello to Cherie next time you are in the Library.



Book in for events: Library counter or Phone 4130 4620

Gin Gin Library Coordinator: Sharon Millett
Library Assistants: Georgina Browne, Cherie Gillette
Library Volunteer: Jordan Levin



talk ★ read ★ sing ★ play

ocean

Interactive Experience

Gin Gin Library | 5 February – 16 March

Childers Library | 25 March – 4 May

Bundaberg Library | 15 May – 6 July

For curious minds under the age of six!

Drop into your local library over the next few months to experience hands on ocean-themed exploration and play with the little one in your life! Each library will host this area, designed to help your little one enjoy fun, enriching experiences while learning about the ocean and its animals.

Contact one of our libraries for more information.



Kolan Community Options

Hello everyone.

Welcome to 2024. As usual, the weather is the topic of conversation. Isn't it hot and humid! The rain has given us some reprieve and it is great to see the grass and gardens fresh and green which makes up for the heat and humidity we have been suffering through.

We would like to thank everyone for opening their windows and turning on fans or air conditioners when our care staff visit for in-home services. Staff are very appreciative. Please remember to also keep yourself cool and hydrated during this glorious summer weather.

We recently sent out Client Satisfaction Surveys to all clients / carers. Thank you to those who have completed and returned the surveys. Please keep them coming in. Completed surveys can be given to care workers, sent back via mail or dropped into the front counter at the Hub. The feedback we receive from these surveys assist us to make sure that we are providing quality and appropriate services to our clients.

As surveys come in it has been noticed that a few clients have said they do not know where to go to raise any concerns about the services they receive. If you or your carer has a concern or feedback please know that you can contact myself, Lee-Anne or our Branch Manager, Kirstin Harrison. If you do not feel comfortable to do this and would like to take your concern further, you can raise your concerns with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission on 1800 951 822.

The Men's and Ladies monthly Social Outings are back on for the year and we would love client's ideas on places to visit. We can travel up to 1.5 hours in any direction. If you would like to go back to a place we have visited please also let us know so we can add it to the calendar. There is often seats available for these outings so if you have a friend or neighbour who might enjoy a social day out while being supported please suggest that they give us a call on 4130 4630 or drop into the Hub and ask to speak with Lee, Alayna or myself (eligibility criteria applies).

Local Social Lunches are held every month to bring clients and the senior community together to limit social isolation and support the forming of new friendships. These lunch are facilitated by KCO staff with attendees paying for their own lunch and drinks. We require RSVP's to book. Transport can be provided upon request.

Lastly, we have had to say goodbye to our much treasured volunteer and mowing contractor, Brian and his wife, Jane as they are moving to be closer to their family. Brian has become an integral part of KCO and he will be sadly missed. We wish Brian and Jane all the best with their move and future endeavours. We are in the midst of engaging a new mowing contractor/s and will let clients know the contractor details as they are available. We thank clients for your patience while we complete the process.

All the best, Lee-Anne & the KCO Team.

Kolan Community Options



Kolan Community Options Groups—All Welcome

Social Lunch Group

2nd Thursday of the month

Thursday 8 February 2024

Thursday 14 March 2024

12 Midday at Highway Hotel

Lunch at own cost. Transport may be available upon enquiry



Men's Group

Monday 26 February 2024

9:30am

Morning Tea Provided

Lunch at Bucca Pub

Cost \$20

Monday 25 March 2024

9.00am

Morning Tea Provided

Lunch at Moore Pk Tavern

Cost \$20



Please note there are no outings on public holidays

Ladies Group

Thursday 29 February 2024

8:30am

Morning Tea Provided

Lunch Provided @ Elliott Heads

Cost \$20

Thursday 28 March 2024

9:30am

Morning Tea Provided

Lunch Mt Perry Federal Inn

Cost \$20



Please note there are no outings on public holidays

The Team

Community Care Coordinator: Lee-Anne Tober

Care Services Lead: Alayna Banks

Care Worker Admin: Lee Wenborn

Community Support Workers: Gayb McNally, Shayla Pounds, Faren Munro

February 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati Lib Kids' Book Club	2	3	4
5 GGN Tai Chi, Craft, Cards Lib Story Play Lib Ocean Interactive Experience begins	6 GGN Cards	7 GGN Pilates KCO Bus	8 GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati C&F Let's Play Together Playgroup KCO Luncheon Highway Hotel	9	10	11
12 GGN Tai Chi, Craft, Cards Lib Story Play	13 GGN Cards C&F Wallaville Playgroup	14 GGN Pilates KCO Bus C&F Early Years Playgroup	15 GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati	16	17	18
19 GGN Tai Chi, Craft, Cards Lib Story Play	20 GGN Cards	21 GGN Pilates KCO Bus	22 GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati	23	24	25
26 GGN Tai Chi, Craft, Cards Lib Story Play Lib Book Club KCO Mens Group	27 GGN Cards C&F Wallaville Playgroup	28 GGN Pilates KCO Bus C&F Early Years Playgroup	29 GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati KCO Ladies Group			

March 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Story Play	5 GGN Cards	6 GGN Pilates KCO Bus	7 GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati Lib Kids' Book Club	8 GGN IWD Breakfast	9	10
11 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Story Play	12 GGN Cards C&F Wallaville Playgroup	13 GGN Pilates KCO Bus C&F Early Years Playgroup	14 GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati C&F Let's Play Together Playgroup KCO Luncheon Highway Hotel	15	16 Lib Ocean Interactive Experience finishes	17
18 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Story Play	19 GGN Cards	20 GGN Pilates KCO Bus	21 GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati	22	23	24
25 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Story Play Lib Book Club KCO Mens Group	26 GGN Cards C&F Wallaville Playgroup	27 GGN Pilates KCO Bus C&F Early Years Playgroup	28 GGN Watercolour Workshop w/ Sophie Hayati KCO Ladies Group	29	30	31