



Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre Community Care Newsletter

April—May 2024



4 Dear St Gin Gin Q 4671

4130 4630

ggnc@bundaberg.qld.gov.au

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

Message from the Neighbourhood Centre Team:

As we say goodbye to Summer and welcome the cooler mornings of Autumn, it's a reminder that life is full of changes and opportunities to pause and reflect.

The year has started off with a bang as we continue to increase the opportunities for community members to engage in workshops, activities and events throughout Gin Gin and surrounds. In the past two months we have enjoyed Craft and Watercolour Workshops, Cards, Pilates and Tai Chi, Country Kitchen's Cooking on a Budget Workshop, International Women's Day Breakfast and so much more.....

We're passionate about our community and are happy to hold workshops of interest and benefits to members. Feel free to let us know any suggestions of topics you feel would be of value to our community. If you haven't visited the Community Hub or attended an event we invite you to pop down and see our friendly staff. Don't forget JPs in the Community visit our office Wednesdays and Fridays weekly, for 1pm to 3pm and offer JP services.

During the months of April and May we are planning events for Youth Week, a Disaster Ready Information session on 18 April, designed to educate residents on the types of natural disasters that can occur here and how to build disaster resilience, Family Frolics Fun Day, Reconciliation Week and a Domestic Violence Prevention BBQ on 7 May. Watch out for more information on these events either at the Hub, Highway Noticeboards or on our Gin Gin Neighbourhood Facebook page.

*Wishing all the Mums a very Happy Mothers Day
on Sunday 12 May*



Upcoming April and May Hub Public Holiday Closures

Easter Monday	Monday	1 April
Anzac Day	Thursday	25 April
Labour Day	Monday	6 May
Bundaberg Show	Thursday	30 May



For any
emergencies
please call
Council's Call
Centre on
1300 883 699

Staff in the Spotlight—Brian



Hi, I'm Brian and I'm volunteering as Tech support at the Hub. I've been many things in the past, including grape picker, professional shooter, piggery manager, bank manager, and data analyst. Since starting here I've been fortunate enough to have assisted many people with their IT issues and access services online. My wife and I have a property just out of Gin Gin on the Mount Perry Road with our expanding menagerie of dogs, a cat, chickens, ducks, guinea fowl, sheep and cows. I'm really enjoying living here and would be happy to assist you at some time!

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

Child & Family Support Officers:

Jodie Goodwin & Kim McDonald

Community Services Trainee:

Maya Sylvan

Funded by



Free Community Support Within The Community Hub

The Gin Gin Community Hub offers a variety of supports for the community all in one place! If you are interested in any of the supports mentioned, please contact our helpful staff by phone, email or face to face.



Emergency Relief

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 Connect Worker

This program can connect you to social and support services, including counselling, parenting help, financial literacy or crisis supports and much more.

Your Community Connect Worker aims to provide tailored short-term support to build skills, capability and facilitate access to supports and services for participants.



Gin Gin Child & Family Support

Advice and referral service for parents, carers and families with young children aged 0-8 years. Information and Support provided on child development, parenting, behaviour management, routines and other child related topics. Other child related activities are held accordingly as well as regular Early Years Playgroups.



Community Food Pantry

Leave something or take something you need. Our community pantry was built by the local Men's Shed for all those who want to give to their community or those who need a bit of assistance.



JP Service

If you're in need of a JP, pop into the Hub on Wednesday or Friday from 1–3pm and see Terry or one of the other volunteers to utilise this FREE service.



Community Computer Kiosk

Use computers and Wi-Fi at The Hub from 8.15am-4.45pm on weekdays and 9.00am-11.30am on Saturdays. Get free tech support and computer skills training from our volunteer Tuesday and Wednesday. Staff may help with simple requests on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Printing and photocopying has a small cost. Scanning and emailing is free.

With the help of **Share the Dignity** and community donations, we can assist people in need of toiletries and menstruation products free of charge, here at the Neighbourhood Centre.

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



Mel's Crafter in Residence Workshops—Craft & Chat

- Where:** Gin Gin Neighbourhood Hub
April 15 Decoupage Soap
April 29 Clay / Pottery Work
May 13 Paint by Numbers



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**—Adults & Children **11.30am—1.30pm**
Every Tuesday—Adults Only **10am—12.00pm**
Where: Gin Gin Neighbourhood Hub
Cost: **FREE**

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.

What's Been Happening at the Hub

Craft n' Chat with Mel

The participants expressed their creativity in February and March by painting terracotta pots, crafting beaded necklaces, dream catchers and Easter decorations. We were thrilled to see their enjoyment and enthusiasm. We will announce Mel's new Craft n' Chat dates shortly. Don't miss them by following our Facebook page.



Watercolour Workshops with Sophie

Sophie's weekly Watercolour Workshops have been popular with both adults and children. We are now trialling an Adults only Watercolour Workshop. Participants have said that this session is extremely relaxing, fun and a great place to socialise and meet new people.



Defib Hero Community Grant Program

To support the bid to see life-saving support available within three minutes of every Bundaberg resident, Council is offering \$1,000 grants towards the purchase of a defibrillator for eligible community groups. Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from suitable organisations to receive the grant. For more Information visit:



<https://www.bundabergnow.com/2024/01/09/bundaberg-region-defib-hero-status-awaits/>

<https://www.bundabergnow.com/2023/11/27/first-defib-hero-community-program-to-launch/>

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



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 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 Swimming Pool

NOW OPEN

Monday to Friday—9am to 5pm

Saturday—10am to 5pm

Sunday & Public Holidays—11am to 5pm

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

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

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.

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 everyone. Here we are again at another newsletter. I hope you are all keeping well. I also hope those of you with little ones who have begun their schooling journey this year are also adapting to the changes. We have a number of activities coming up.

I will be supporting Bullyard State School in term 2 with their upcoming Playgroups. There is an Autism Information Session coming up in April. This information session is designed for parents, families and individuals who have concerns their child may have Autism or those living with or supporting someone who has Autism and in need of support. Come along, enjoy a coffee, chat and free morning tea while connecting with others in the community.

Also coming up in April is the Kids Tie Dye Experience where children aged up to 12 years can come along and experience the marvel of tie dye. Children will create their own take home t-shirt. There is a small fee of \$5 per family and all resources are provided. For more information about these activities, please call Jodie at the HUB.

Family Frolics 2024 will be happening on May 15 at Gin Gin State School. Planning is well underway to ensure the day is fun and exciting for everyone. This is a family event for children under 8 years to come along and explore a range of experiences that enhance their development and encourage early literacy and connection.

Wallaville Playgroups

Hello everyone. Wallaville Playgroups have been super fun in Term 1. Thank you to all the families who have been supporting us by attending. Because of this we have been able to offer Playgroups again in Term 2 which is super exciting. Check out some of the fun children have had this term.



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.

Child and Family Support

Early Years Playgroups

There has been a lot of focus on fine motor skills throughout the recent playgroups. There has been lots of different experiences that encourage the use of fine motor skills and finger dexterity. Fine motor skills are important for children to do things like eating, writing, manipulating objects and getting dressed.

We have introduced some new songs into our routine. It has been fun learning the words and the actions together. This is to support early literacy, language skills and parent participation with their children.

Children have enjoyed doing lots of singing, dancing and action songs over the past few playgroups. Getting them focused and moving as a group is also providing them with a sense of inclusion and confidence.



Let's Play Together Playgroup

Parents, carers, and families with children aged up to 18 months are welcome to attend our "Let's Play Together Playgroup" which is held on the second Thursday of each month. An informal, less busy playgroup focusing on younger babies and their development. The next Let's Play Together Playgroup is on Thursday May 9. This Playgroup will not occur in April due to school holidays. However, in that time, if you feel you need support or someone to talk to, Jodie will be available for one on one support. Please send her an email, give her a call at the HUB to arrange a time, or pop in and see her.

Have a very safe, happy and enjoyable Easter. See you all in term 2.

School holiday activities



Scratch board mandala 2pm Tues 2 April 6yrs + *

Egg carton faces 2pm Thurs 4 April All ages *

Pop-up story play @ Gin Gin Recreational Reserve
10am Mon 8 April All ages

Digital drawing 10am Tues 9 April 5—18 yrs *

***Bookings required**

Lego Club

This is a chance to get together with old friends, meet new friends and create!

All Lego is provided.

Date: every Thursday

Time: 9.30—11.30am

For all ages



National Simultaneous Storytime

Date: Wednesday 22 May **Time:** 11.30am—1pm

Join us in reading *Bowerbird Blues* at the same time all over Australia! There will also be a variety of activities exploring bowerbirds, UV light and the colour blue presented by Tamara Kelly. ***Bookings required**



Vox Books



VOX Books combine picture books and early chapter books with audio recordings. They make learning and literacy development exciting! Each hard cover book comes with a full audio recording. Readers simply press a button to listen and read. Titles feature both a headphone jack and a built-in speaker and the all-in-one design makes them fully and easily portable. There are no CDs or tapes and no need for Wi-Fi or data.

Book in for events: Library counter or Phone 4130 4620

Gin Gin Library Coordinator: Sharon Millett

Library Assistants: Cherie Gillette

Library Volunteer: Jordan Levin

Messy Play



Date: Monday 22 April

Time: 9.30—11am

Venue: Dear Street Park, Gin Gin

Bundaberg Regional Libraries and First 5 Forever are hosting a wonderfully messy morning for you and your little one! This sensory activity is a great learning experience for children under 6 years. Prepare for messy outdoor fun by wearing old clothes and bringing hat, sunscreen, water and a snack.

First 5 Forever is an initiative of the Queensland Government, coordinated by State Library of Queensland and delivered in partnership with local government.



Book Club

Date: Last Monday of month

Time: 12.30pm

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

We've been enjoying some lively conversations. Our current book is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt which will be discussed on Monday 29 April.

Did you know library members can form their own book club and borrow the book club sets from the library? If you want more information come and have a chat.



Story Play



Date: Mondays (excluding public & school holidays) **There will be no Story Play on 22 April—You are invited to our Messy Play Day!**

Time: 9.30am

Visit the library for stories, rhymes, songs and plenty of fun!

Story Play is designed for children aged 0 - 5 years and their guardians.

Kids' Book Club

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

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



Library closures

The Library will be closed on the following dates: 25 April Anzac Day, 6 May Labour Day, 30 May Show Holiday

Hello to our clients, carers and families.

We all hope you had a lovely Easter, isn't this year flying by!

We have been busy here at Kolan Community Options with organising new mowing contractors and onboarding new staff.

We have a new Community Care Trainee, Josh. You may see him out and about on transports, around the Hub and working alongside other Community Care staff.

Home Maintenance—Yard clients have received letters in regards to the new mowing contractors. Council would like to thank our previous contractor, Brian for his service to our community care clients over the span of his contract.

We are happy to announce our new Home Maintenance Yard Contractors will be John Aulfrey and EKM Services.

If you have any questions about the service or the contractors please call the office on 07 4130 4630 so we can have a chat.

Are you the main carer in your home?

Consider registering for Carer Wellways, information below:

What is Carers Wellways?

Carers Wellways provides in-person, phone and online services and support to Australia's 2.65 million unpaid carers.

What services does Carers Wellways provide for carers?

- Carer Support Planning
- Counselling
- In-person Peer Support
- Facilitated Coaching
- Tailored Support Packages
- Emergency Respite Care

How do I contact Carers Wellways?

By calling **1800 422 737** Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm, you can talk to a Carer Gateway service provider who will help you access services and support.

Carer Gateway also offers a national website at carergateway.gov.au where you can find online support and information.

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Kolan Community Options Groups—All Welcome

Social Lunch Group

2nd Thursday of the month

Thursday 11 April 2024

Thursday 9 May 2024

12 Midday at Highway Hotel

Lunch at own cost. Transport may be available upon enquiry



Men's Group

April

Date: Friday 19 April 2024

Where: Morning Tea provided at The Hummock & Lunch at Bargara Tavern

Time: 8:30am

May

Date: Friday 17 May 2024

Where: Morning Tea provided at Childers. Brunch and Wine Tasting at Lychee Hill Estate Winery

Time: 8:30am



Ladies Group

April

Date: Tuesday 23 April 2024

Where: Morning Tea provided at Bundaberg. Visit the Bundaberg Library and lunch at The Melbourne

Time: 8:30am

May

Date: Thursday 23 May 2024

Where: Morning Tea provided at Childers. Brunch and Wine Tasting at Lychee Hill Estate Winery

Time: 8:30am



Kolan Community Options 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

Community Care Trainee: Joshua Sheedy

April 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Easter Monday Public Holiday Hub & Library Closed	2 GGN Technology Support, Cards GGN Adult Watercolour Workshop Lib Scratch mandala	3 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus C&F Autism Info Session	4 GGN Watercolour Workshop Lib Lego Club Lib Egg carton face	5 GGN JP	6	7
8 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Pop-up Story Play in park	9 GGN Technology Support, Cards GGN Adult Watercolour Workshop Lib Digital Drawing	10 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus C & F Tie Dye Activity	11 GGN Watercolour Workshop KCO Luncheon Highway Hotel Lib Lego Club	12 GGN JP	13	14
15 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Story Play	16 GGN Technology Support, Cards, Adult Watercolour Workshop, Early Years Wallaville SS Playgroup	17 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus	18 GGN Watercolour Workshop, Disaster Session Lib Lego Club	19 GGN JP KCO Men's Group	20	21
22 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib No Story Play Lib Messy Play @ Dear St Park	23 GGN Technology Support, Cards GGN Adult Watercolour Workshop KCO Ladies Group	24 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus Early Years Playgroup	25 Anzac Day Public Holiday Library closed	26 GGN JP Bullyard SS Playgroup	27	28
29 GGN Tai Chi, Craft, Cards & Technology Support Lib Story Play Lib Book Club	30 GGN Adult Watercolour Workshop, Cards Early Years Wallaville SS Playgroup					

May 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus	2 GGN Watercolour Workshop Lib Lego Club Lib Kids' Book Club	3 GGN JP Bullyard SS Playgroup	4	5
6 Labour Day Public Holiday Hub & Library Closed	7 GGN Technology Support, Cards, Adult Watercolour Workshop, DV BBQ	8 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus C&F Early Years Playgroup	9 GGN Watercolour Workshop Lib Lego Club KCO Luncheon Highway Hotel C&F Let's Play Together Playgroup	10 GGN JP Bullyard SS Playgroup	11	12
13 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Story Play	14 GGN Technology Support, Cards, Adult Watercolour Workshop Early Years Wallaville SS Playgroup	15 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus Family Frolics Fun Day	16 GGN Watercolour Workshop Lib Lego Club	17 GGN JP Bullyard SS Playgroup KCO Men's Group	18	19
20 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Story Play	21 GGN Technology Support, Cards, Adult Watercolour Workshop	22 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus C&F Early Years Playgroup Lib National Simultaneous Storytime	23 GGN Watercolour Workshop KCO Ladies Group Lib Lego Club	24 GGN JP Bullyard SS Playgroup	25	26
27 GGN Tai Chi, Craft & Cards Lib Story Play Lib Book Club	28 GGN Technology Support, Cards, Adult Watercolour Workshop Early Years Wallaville SS Playgroup	29 GGN Technology Support, Pilates, JP KCO Bus	30 Bundaberg Show Holiday Hub & Library Closed	31 GGN JP Bullyard SS Playgroup	30	31