

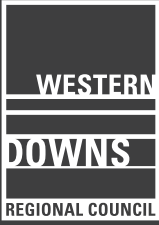
LIVE

Western Downs

YOUR NEXT MOVE
WHY THE WESTERN
DOWNS IS THE
PLACE FOR YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY

live | work | play

LET OUR BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES AND STARRY NIGHTS
CAPTURE YOUR IMAGINATION AS YOU CREATE A NEW LIFE
FILLED WITH POSSIBILITIES



Experience Western Downs

It's the people that make it.

MAJOR EMPLOYER OF THE REGION



Western Downs Regional Council offers a diverse range of jobs across the region all year round whilst being committed to providing outstanding service to the local community. Everything we do is underpinned by our positive culture which includes being a future focused organisation that cares about its people and their safety whilst striving to make a real difference in our community. Visit www.wdrc.qld.gov.au to see our current vacancies

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

DIVERSE ECONOMY

VIBRANT COMMUNITY

QUALITY LIFESTYLE

DESTINATION EVENTS



Western Downs Regional Council is building a future for the region that focuses on supporting a strong, diverse economy, active and vibrant community, and quality lifestyle. With a raft of major projects being delivered across the region to stimulate the economy and enhance the region's liveability, now is the time to Live Western Downs.



Welcome

OUR COVER – Dan and Hamey Hayllor with their children in a field of irrigated Borlaug Wheat at “Kupunn”.



TSBE CEO ALI DAVENPORT

The Western Downs is a powerhouse in regional Queensland with a strong economy and endless opportunities, which make it a wonderful place to live, work, study and play. The Western Downs offers the perfect mix of relaxed country hospitality and a

contemporary lifestyle, conveniently located two and a half hours from Brisbane and just three hours from the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.

Whilst the region is well known as the “Energy Capital of Australia” with continued investment in the growing energy and renewables sector, it’s the diversity of the local economy that’s allowed so many industries and passionate individuals to thrive here. The Western Downs is the heart of Australia’s beef production, and the rich agriculture showcases fantastic innovation that’s shaping the future of the industry. With a track record of low unemployment, the region has so many opportunities for new people to establish a fulfilling career.

Country living in the Western Downs comes with many advantages, with renowned parks and open spaces, fresh produce and delicious dining and café options. Great schools and health facilities also ensure families can create a fantastic lifestyle right here in Southern Queensland. Whether you’re a new resident, visiting friends, or simply stopping in, the community of the Western Downs is sure to make you feel welcome.

The loyal support of economic development groups, active Chambers of Commerce and the Western Downs Regional Council provides a platform for the sustainable growth and development of the area well into the future. There’s so much to enjoy across the Western Downs, and I invite you to experience this wonderful part of regional Queensland for yourself.



WESTERN DOWNS MAYOR

MAYOR PAUL MCVEIGH

The Western Downs is a diverse region at the forefront of the changing world, offering fantastic lifestyle opportunities, beautiful natural landscapes, and a happy, inclusive community.

Our region is built on the people that make it - with dynamic agricultural, manufacturing, and energy industries underpinning our diverse economy, and an array of local businesses that demonstrate the region’s unique offerings. Our employers actively live and buy local, promoting a united community and sustainable economic growth.

Our active, vibrant community is supported by energetic locals who are proud of where they live, and it’s this homegrown hospitality that sets our region apart. Our friendly locals support one another and contribute to a caring, welcoming community enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

With stunning natural landscapes, picturesque rivers and creeks, big skies, and fantastic recreational facilities, the Western Downs is bursting with opportunities to head outdoors and enjoy the best nature has to offer. Our fabulous parks and gardens offer the perfect spot to meet, exercise and unwind, and we are home to several iconic destinations such as the award-winning Chinchilla Botanic Parkland, the magnificent Jimbour House, and the fascinating Miles Historical Village Museum.

Our region is bursting with world-class events and festivals driven by passionate local committees, and we proactively advance our region as a tourist destination with investments in new community spaces and facilities to encourage more people to spend time in our beautiful backyard.

We are delighted to build our region and showcase everything that’s great about living on the Western Downs.

Acknowledgement of Country



“We acknowledge the sovereignty and ownership of all traditional custodial owners of the First Nations on whose land we live and work. We acknowledge the Barunggam, Yiman and Jarowair people of the Western Downs, both past and present, their elders, languages, customs, culture and connection to this wonderful country.”

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Western Downs Region



all the facts



FEATURES

Wide open spaces, national parks, waterways, cultural opportunities



LIFESTYLE

Improved well-being through work/life balance and shorter commute times



AFFORDABILITY

With more affordable housing and living expenses, our cost of living is less than most cities



Our Region



Population

Our population is 34,000
Dalby - 12,700
Chinchilla - 5,800
Miles - 2,000
Tara - 2,300
Jandowae - 1,047
Wandoan - 566



Connection to Community

It's the people that make it



Employment opportunities

We are seeking workers in agriculture, resources and energy, health, education and retail



Education Services

Lots of options for primary, secondary, public, private schools and access to vocational training



Health Services

Quality public and private health care providers service the region



Multicultural

We are a multicultural community with residents from all over the world



Our Average Disposable Income

Is \$20,000 higher than the Queensland average



Average age

The average age of a Western Downs resident is 37 years

Transport

ROAD

The Warrego Highway connects Brisbane to Toowoomba, Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles and out to Charleville. The Surat Development Road will take you from Dalby to Tara and the Leichhardt Highway links towns from Moonie to Miles.

Regular bus services from Brisbane are offered by Bus Queensland, Greyhound and Murray's Coaches.

RAIL

Queensland Rail's Westlander service travels from Brisbane to Charleville on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from Charleville

back to Brisbane on Wednesdays and Fridays. The train stops at several stations en route including Dalby, Chinchilla and Miles.

AIR

Just 75km from Dalby, Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport is our gateway to the world. There are also regular passenger services from Roma to Brisbane. The main commercial centres of the Western Downs are connected by air services, including RACQ LifeFlight,



with aerodromes located at Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles, Tara, Meandarra and Moonie.

Aerodromes are managed by either Western Downs Regional Council or Aerodrome Management Services.



Live



The Western Downs covers an area of 38,000 square kilometres (roughly the size of Switzerland). With an elevation of 344m our climate is temperate: hot in summer and cool in winter. The region's main commercial centres are Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles and Tara with lots of small rural communities in between giving residents the choice of a town or country lifestyle. Let the wide open spaces and starry nights capture your imagination.



10 REASONS TO MOVE TO THE WESTERN DOWNS

Lifestyle

The Western Downs offers an attractive, well-rounded and diverse economy by combining a country lifestyle with modern living and conveniences. The Western Downs has an assortment of urban centres, quiet small towns and rural lifestyle blocks - something to suit everyone!

Community

The Western Downs is home to more than 34,000 residents and 8,188 families. The median age of our population is 37 years and 7.1 per cent of our residents were born overseas. We are proud to be a multicultural community and support diversity and inclusivity.

Parks and Recreation

Residents enjoy an abundance of recreation spaces including sporting, community and cultural facilities.

Centrally located parks include the award-winning Chinchilla Botanic Parklands. There are seven lakes and weirs for recreational use and the glorious Bunya Mountains area is right in our backyard.

Things to do

Life in the Western Downs is rich with experiences and events that attract Queensland and interstate travellers. Highlights include the Chinchilla Melon Festival, Big Skies Festival, Jandowae Timbertown Festival, Opera at Jimbour, Tara Festival of Culture and Camel Races, Dalby Delicious and Delightful Festival and Miles Back to the Bush Festival. Outdoor adventures, sports and recreational activities, local retail and hospitality in each town also offer residents their own unique experience.

Cost of Living

Living in the Western Downs is affordable compared to many parts of Queensland. Our average rent is \$250 per week compared to the Queensland average of \$395 per week. Across the district there are 15,000 homes with an average sale price of \$200,209 which is \$258,151 lower than the Queensland average of \$458,360.

Economy

The Western Downs diverse economic base means that opportunities are plentiful across agriculture, intensive agriculture, energy and manufacturing industries. With large projects in infrastructure, energy and agriculture approved or on the horizon, our local economy is buzzing with investors from all over the world.

Jobs

The number of local jobs in the region has increased significantly over the past 10 years to 20,834 jobs (that's 4,000 more). Job opportunities will continue to rise in the region due to the strong pipeline of developments. There is a growing demand for a wide variety of roles such as labourers, managers, machinery operators, drivers, ICT and science-based roles, technicians and trades workers, as well as roles supporting the growing community such as aged and disability carers, registered nurses, retail managers and child carers.

Health Services

There are six hospitals across the Western Downs at Chinchilla, Dalby, Jandowae, Miles and Tara. Wandoan is served by an out-patients clinic. Quality public and private health services locally ensures residents receive excellent care without having to travel to larger cities for treatment. Our senior citizens are comfortable with access to aged care services while our new mums receive excellent maternity services.

Education

Education for all ages is a priority in the Western Downs. There are 33 schools and 24 regulated early childhood education and childcare services in the region. Dalby State High School offers the region's only specialist Agricultural College and Trade Training Centre. Many of our libraries also offer online education programs.

Connectivity

With so much to do in the region you don't need to leave for weekend activities. However, if you did want to catch a show or go to the beach, the Western Downs is only a short distance from Toowoomba, Brisbane and both the Sunshine and Gold Coasts.

Housing Affordability

It's no secret that Australians have become more mobile in the past 12 months, and many are making the move from city to country. This regional "boom" has arrived in parts of the Western Downs which means the property market is strong and steady. We caught up with local real estate agent, Trina Martin from Surat Basin Real Estate to find out more.

ASK A LOCAL

The offices of Surat Basin Real Estate have been humming for the past 18 months as the property market experiences exciting growth patterns, especially in the Chinchilla housing market.

According to Trina Martin, a four-bedroom, two-bathroom brick home in suburban Chinchilla is selling for around \$200,000 to \$300,000 which is well below the median house price in Brisbane - \$620,000; Sydney - \$1.14 million and Melbourne - \$869,000 (source www.theurbandeveloper.com).

"Chinchilla is seeing good movement across all areas of residential property at the moment. We are also seeing investors back in the market taking advantage of lower priced units," she said.

"In fact, it's currently cheaper to buy a \$300,000 home than to rent one in Chinchilla!" she said.

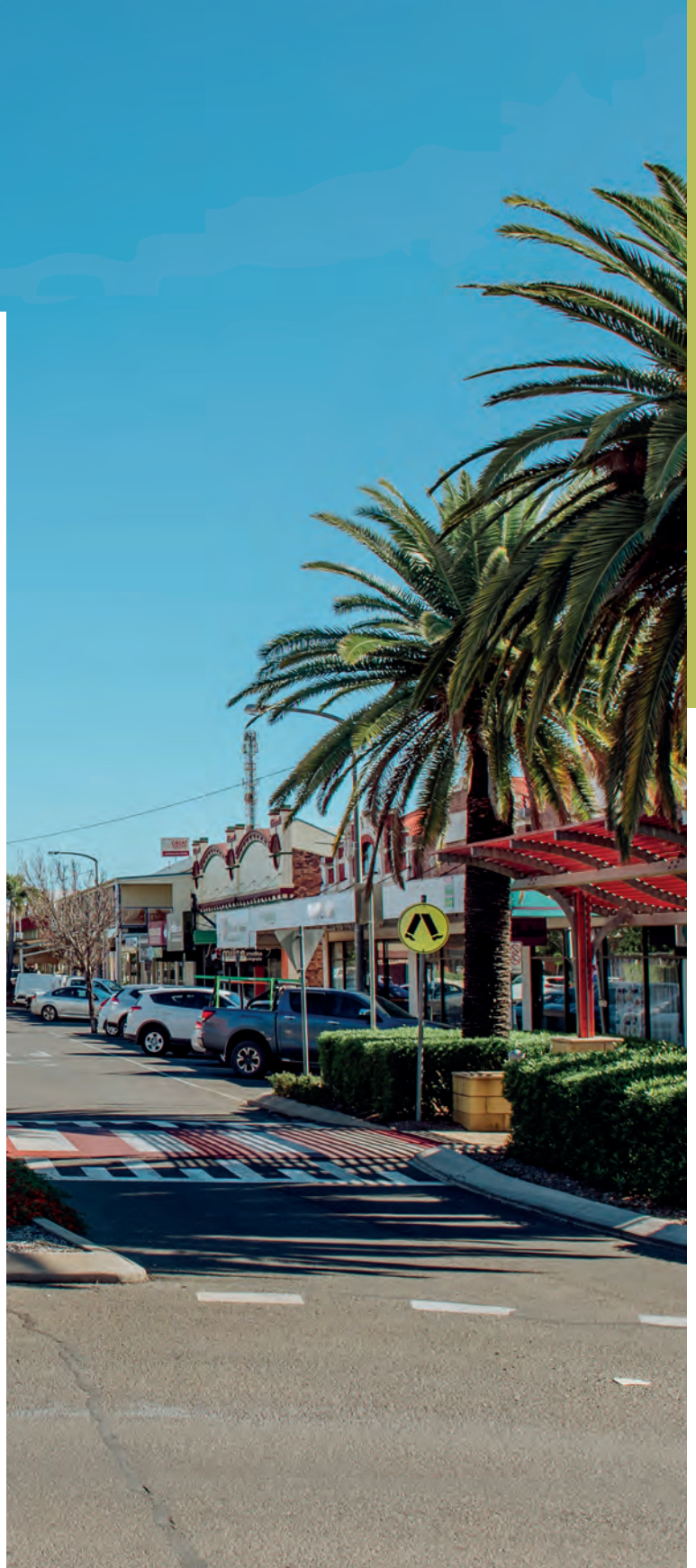
"You can still buy a unit or townhouse for between \$130,000 and \$190,000. Whereas a block of residential land is around \$40,000 and rural residential acreage - say two acres- is around \$90,000 to \$120,000."

Trina said she was delighted to see the beautification of older established areas of town.

"It's great that young couples and families are moving into the older parts of town and giving new life into character homes. By enhancing these areas they are also increasing the property value over the long term."

Famous for generous house blocks and wide country streets, Trina believes Chinchilla is the perfect balance of country town living with plenty of amenities and services.

"Queensland seems to be experiencing a surge of interstate migration and we are certainly seeing a diverse group of people moving to the region," she said. "And why wouldn't you? Apart from the housing affordability we have restaurants, department stores, beautiful parkland and a really friendly caring community."





Chinchilla

The median house price for the last year was \$250,000 and \$140,000 for units.

Houses rent for around \$300pw with an annual rental yield of 6.2% while units rent for around \$250pw yielding 9.3% per annum.

Dalby

The median house price for the last year was \$257,000 and \$208,250 for units.

Houses in Dalby rent for around \$300pw with an annual rental yield of 5.5% while units rent for around \$220pw and yield 5.8%.

Miles

The median house price for the last year was \$170,000.

Average house rental is around \$250pw and \$220pw for units.

Tara

The median house price for the last year was \$80,000.

Jandowae

The median house price for the last year was \$121,500.

Note:

Source www.realestate.com.au figures are updated throughout the year but were correct at time of printing.

There was not data for Wandoan at the time of printing.



Photos of actual local real estate by Ange Stirling



Health Overview

The Western Downs

With thanks to Darling Downs Health

Darling Downs Health is divided into three rural clusters: Southern, Western and South Burnett. Each of these rural clusters offers their close-knit community country charm away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

The **Western Cluster** has hospitals in the towns of Oakey, Dalby, Tara, Jandowae, Chinchilla, Miles, Wandoan and Taroom.

The comprehensive range of services provided by Darling Downs Health throughout the region includes both specialist inpatient and outpatient services, such as:

- allied health
- cancer services
- cardiac medicine
- emergency medicine
- intensive care
- medical imaging
- medicine and a range of medical subspecialties
- mental health and addiction medicine
- obstetrics and gynaecology
- paediatrics
- palliative care
- rehabilitation
- surgery and a range of surgical subspecialties.

SERVICES DELIVERED IN THE COMMUNITY INCLUDE:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health programs
- Community mental health programs
- BreastScreen Queensland
- child and maternal health services
- community care services and home care services
- community rehabilitation
- infectious diseases
- oral health
- public health
- aged care assessment
- sexual health
- refugee health
- women's health.



Chinchilla District hospital

ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES

The Western Downs offers a variety of essential allied health services to residents of all ages. Some are offered by private practitioners and others are offered in outpatients of local hospitals.

Dentistry: Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles

Optometry: Dalby

Podiatry: Chinchilla, Dalby, Tara and Wandoan

Pathology: Dalby and Roma, Chinchilla and Tara

Physiotherapy: Dalby and Chinchilla



MATERNITY

With Western Downs Maternity Service

The Western Downs Maternity Service provides antenatal and postnatal care to mums and their families in Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles, Tara, Taroom and surrounding areas.

The service provides maternity care through its Midwifery Group Practice (MGP). The model of care enables mums to have the same midwife throughout their pregnancy and birth at Dalby Hospital as well as postnatal care. Midwives work closely with other health professionals, including doctors, to provide additional support.

Dalby Hospital features a modern maternity unit with access to a birthing pool for water immersion during labour and water birth. Each private room has an ensuite. Families who travel to Dalby Hospital to give birth can also access a free, fully furnished apartment either before or after their baby arrives (depending on availability).

According to Western Downs Acting Midwifery Unit Manager, Kate Fay, Dalby's midwives, doctors, Indigenous Health Worker and other health professionals are all passionate about providing local, safe and inclusive care to all women of the Western Downs.

"The MGP model is well established and provides education and support to women and their families, empowering choice around pregnancy, birth and into early parenting," she said.

"Our team genuinely want the families in our local area to have a positive birth experience and a great start to family life".

For more information regarding the service and care options, please contact the Western Cluster Maternity Service on 4669 0525.



Miles Primary Health Care Centre



Wandoan Primary Health Care Centre



Tara District Hospital



"The maternity staff at Dalby Hospital were exceptional during our pregnancy journey. I felt so supported, safe and genuinely cared for. Based on my experience, I couldn't recommend this hospital and the MGP program enough. I hope more local women get to enjoy the same experience as I did."

Mother of two, Kelsey from Tara



It's the people that make it.

Dalby Health Service



Midwife profiles

With Lyn Burt, Chloe Roberston-Doogue and Lauryn Morton

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MIDWIFE?

LYN: 43 years.

CHLOE: This is my first year as a midwife.

LAURYN: Six and a half years.

WHEN DID YOU START WORKING IN DALBY?

LYN: 1978.

CHLOE: I started working in Dalby in February 2021. I'm now working in the Midwifery Group Practice. I am very thankful to be part of this model of care that provides continuity of care for women and their families.

LAURYN: November 2019.

HOW MANY BABIES DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE DELIVERED IN YOUR CAREER?

LYN: I have not kept count and have no idea. But I have birthed a second generation of babies in Dalby.

CHLOE: I have assisted two women birth their babies in Dalby since I started here as a registered midwife. As a student midwife I have assisted approximately 40.

LAURYN: 173 last time I checked.



CHLOE ROBERSTON-DOOGUE



LAURYN MORTON



LYN BURT

WHAT DO YOU LOVE THE MOST ABOUT BEING A MIDWIFE?

LYN: What I love most has changed over the years but at the moment I enjoy watching families grow.

CHLOE: Educating women in what to expect during their pregnancy journey, supporting them through their birthing experience and then watching them embrace motherhood. Being a part of that experience is an amazing gift and a privilege.

LAURYN: Every day is different. Every birth and every family you meet are different. Every day I have the opportunity to do something meaningful and make a difference in someone's life. The building of trust between midwife and woman. Those 2am call outs knowing you're about to be there for a woman in one of the most challenging times of her life. The moment people become parents for the first time and the look of utter love on their faces seeing their newborn. Most of all, the bittersweet discharge time where you've realised you've made an absolute impact in someone's life.

Study

Education

As the population of the Western Downs grows, so does its education facilities. From our 24 regulated early childhood centres to tertiary studies at TAFE Queensland you'll find education is more personal in our local communities. We have 33 public and private schools offering outstanding curriculum opportunities and smaller class sizes so your little people won't get lost in the system.

Early Years

The bigger centres in the region have day care and kindergarten facilities including well-known national chains. Smaller communities utilise neighbourhood centres for playgroup get-togethers and other social events for young families.

Primary School

From tiny one-room country schools to busy multi-class town schools, you'll find the heart of each community is centred on its local schools.

Private Schools

Our private schools offer quality learning in a Christian environment.

Dalby

Dalby Christian College and Early Learning Centre, Our Lady of the Southern Cross College.

Chinchilla

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Chinchilla Christian College

Tara

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

High School

State High Schools are located at Dalby, Chinchilla and Miles. Tara has the Tara Shire State College while Jandowae and Wandoan both have P-10 schools.

Special Needs

Children with special needs can continue to grow and reach their potential in the Western Downs. Many schools offer places for children living with disability on a case-by-case basis.



School Transport

**Live out of town?
Don't worry there are
school bus services
that make the school
commute easy for
busy families.**



It's the people that make it.

MURILLA LONG TERM DAY CARE & KINDERGARTEN

Communities in the Western Downs are resourceful, and where there's a need, they find a way to meet it. The Murilla Community Centre at Miles is the beating heart of the town providing a myriad of essential and support services including day care.

It's the only day care centre in town and it's open from 6am until 6pm, catering for up to 55 children a day, aged from birth to 12 years.

The Day Care Centre and Kindy are busy, bright and bustling places; warm, happy and highly valued. To make sure things flow smoothly, the centre employs 25 enthusiastic staff.

Terese Denning is the Nominated Supervisor of the Murilla Long Term Day Care and Kindergarten.

"We have fine-tuned our service to meet the needs of families in this region," she said. "Many families who

live out of town drive in for work and leave their children at before and after school care.

"Nurses and other emergency workers have no choice because of their shifts. If the parents are working a long day, they are very grateful to know that their children are happy and in safe hands.

"We take the school-aged children to school every morning and we have after hours care for them in a building located at the school as well.

THE MURILLA LONG DAY CARE AND KINDERGARTEN IS A GODSEND FOR AROUND 190 FAMILIES FROM WANDOAN, DULACCA, CONDRAMINE AND EVEN CHINCHILLA.

"Our programs are all play-based with lots of music, art, games and fun outdoors.

"Some children come to us for years and we are like an extended family. It's lovely to be able to support young families as they grow and to know we are giving them reassurance as they set about building a career or just managing the many aspects of life."





DALBY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ALISON WHEBELL

Alison's New Life in Dalby

Alison Whebell has taught in Tasmania, Gold Coast, Thailand and Burma. Late last year, she made a deliberate choice to move to the Dalby Christian College for a green change.

"My friends in Dalby were always telling me how much they enjoyed the lifestyle here so when I came back to Australia from Burma, I thought it would be perfect. When I came to the Dalby Christian College for my interview, I felt it was right for me, I felt I was home."

As well as being a middle school maths and science teacher, Alison currently lives at Dalby Christian College's boarding house where she is the night supervisor of 20 boarders.

"There are 380 students from Prep to Grade 12 and I love that I am known by every student - there's a lovely sense of community within the school and also in the wider community. People are genuinely helpful and caring.

"I don't feel I'm missing out on anything living in regional Queensland!" she said. "I enjoy evenings out with friends, there are great Chinese and Indian restaurants, my morning walk takes me through beautiful scenery and I have more time to do the things I want to do because life is generally simpler."

Alison believes all teachers should include a country school experience on their CV.

"I started out teaching in a country school in Tasmania. They set you up brilliantly and it's definitely a career stepping-stone for young teachers but they are also great career choices for experienced teachers who value their time."

As for school holidays: "I am looking forward to jumping in my car and exploring the Western Downs region and beyond," she said. "I keep hearing about towns and places and I want to see them for myself."



It's the people that make it.

Dalby

State High School

CHARLEIGH'S SHOW CATTLE SUCCESS

Unable to attend the Ekka in 2021, Year 12 student Charleigh Tucker reflects on her time as a member of the successful Dalby State High School Show Cattle Team.

With a family background in livestock, Charleigh entered the Cattle Show Team as a newbie in Year 7. She was always willing to learn from more experienced students and staff who coordinate and manage the team.

Cattle Show Team Student Manager Sue Burrowes thinks Charleigh is perhaps one of the best out of many students to come through the program.

"Charleigh excelled in her ability and knowledge of cattle within the team and is a role model for the younger students coming through the program."

Charleigh was fortunate to receive an Arrow Energy Agricultural Scholarship enabling her to continue in the program.

"The scholarship certainly helped me continue as a boarder at Bunya Campus and be an active member of the Cattle Show Team. The program is held at the Bunya Campus so I can access the training and resources when I need."

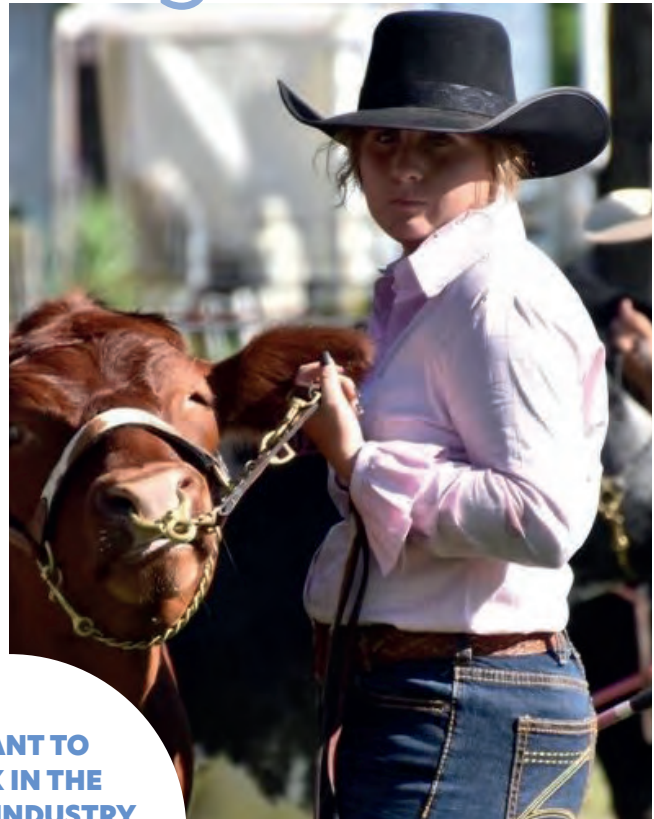
Working with and training cattle requires a hands-on approach, which is what Charleigh loves most about being part of this team.

"You get to see cattle grow from animals that aren't used to being handled to quieter, almost pet-like creatures."

In her spare time, Charleigh looks after her own Limousin stud and she applies the skills and knowledge acquired in the program to her own cattle.

"I want to work in the cattle industry and this team has given me an advantage of more detailed knowledge about breeding, nutrition and animal care and welfare."

Charleigh has won many individual and team honours in the program, including Champion Parader at the recent Elders Hoof and Hook awards. But it is the comradery that she will miss most when she graduates from Dalby High at the end of the year.



"I WANT TO WORK IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY AND THIS TEAM HAS GIVEN ME AN ADVANTAGE."



TAFE Queensland

SOUTH WEST REGION

After moving to Australia from the Philippines seven years ago, 19-year-old Philip Marcelo is well on his way to achieving his dream of becoming a theatre nurse.

"I studied a Certificate III in Individual Support - Ageing (CHC33015) at the Dalby campus full-time and without TAFE's friendly staff and teachers' help and support, I wouldn't have been able to successfully complete this course.

"During my course I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to do a placement in Chinchilla. While doing my placement, it made me realise that there's more to nursing than just being a carer. I've learnt that by knowing the person, you're able to deliver the care that they need.

"My advice to someone looking to get into this industry is to try it. It's worth trying, because that's when you can decide whether you'll like it or not. Remember, knowledge is something no one can take away from you. I highly recommend studying at TAFE Queensland because of the endless opportunities, various range of



courses, flexible study options, and the support you get with your studies.

"To the future and current students that are enrolled at TAFE Queensland, this is my final advice – it's not about the destination, but the journey that matters. So take it easy and be patient, and you'll get to where you're meant to be.

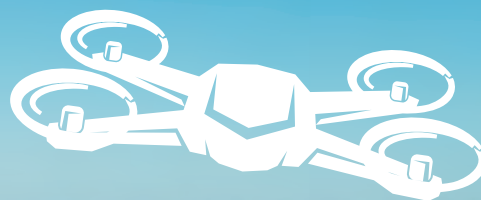
DRONE PILOT TRAINING REMOTE AVIATION AUSTRALIA

Dalby is a great location for teaching and learning in the drone industry. Remote Aviation Australia has been conducting training programs endorsed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in and around the Western Downs since 2017.

Remote Aviation Australia instructor, Rob Korbee, says the company has trained people of all ages and experience throughout Queensland including the Western Downs.

"We work with farmers, big businesses such as mining companies, government departments, defence forces, surveyors and the State Emergency Service," he said.

"Drones (officially known as RPAS or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) have many uses in agriculture such as locating stock, crop spraying, checking water holes and fences. Drones are used to inspect assets like windmills, silos, bridges and buildings. The State Emergency Service also has many uses for drones especially during disasters like floods.



"We also work with schools and TAFE Queensland to fit in with their curriculums.

"Because of the various applications, we like to employ people of many backgrounds as our instructors, including manned pilots, engineers, and even drone racers.

"Qualifications that can be obtained through Remote Aviation Australia include the Remote Pilot Licence (RePL) which is the first step in the CASA certification process. This qualification is essential for anyone operating a drone that weighs over 2kg. Many students have continued their training to be able to fly multirotor drones up to 25kg.

"Drone technology is developing very quickly, making drones literally a job tool of the future."



Work



The Western Downs has more jobs than workers! That means many of our employers are seeking staff. The top employment sectors are currently in construction, agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water and waste services and manufacturing. With so many people working, there is also a need for health care, education and retail services.



COME WORK WITH US

Construction

Construction has become the number one employer on the Western Downs due to several large infrastructure projects in the region. Many of these developments support renewable energy projects with most jobs in construction services as well as heavy and civil engineering. However, with planning changes in place we will also see more roads and housing development in the near future.

Agriculture

The Western Downs region's ever expanding agriculture sector has grown 4.75% in the past four years. The Western Downs produces 38% of Queensland cereals and legumes, has two cotton gins and the second largest cattle saleyards in Australia which trades around 200,000 cattle per year. Innovation within the industry is also attracting attention.

Energy and Mining

With industries in coal, gas, wind and solar, the Western Downs is the energy capital of Australia. We have a number of operational solar farms with several more recently approved including NEOEN's Western Downs Green Power Hub which will be Australia's largest solar farm. To give an idea of the size of our energy sector the Coopers Gap Wind Farm powers more than 260,000 homes while the Kogan Creek Power station provides power to 750,000 Australians.

Manufacturing

Where there is energy and agriculture in abundance, there is demand for manufacturing and for skilled workers. The Western Downs region has more than 123 manufacturing businesses covering agri-foods, machinery, food products, drones and equipment for the advanced renewable energy sector. Companies like White Industries, Finch Engineering, Simplicity Australia are innovative and utilise cutting-edge technologies.

Health

Darling Downs Health continues to be one of the largest employers in the region, providing employment for 4,778 full-time equivalent positions. Residents enjoy excellent "whole of life" care in the region which means there are jobs for a variety of health professionals in each community.

Education

With a total of 33 schools in the Western Downs (including 20 primary schools) there is always demand for teachers of all levels and specialties.

Retail

As well as servicing a population of 34,000 people, the Western Downs captures more than 50,000 shoppers from adjoining areas. The average disposable income is \$20,000 higher than the Queensland average which means the household budget has a little more room for spending.



AGRICULTURE

Resilient, sustainable & thoroughly modern

Agriculture underpins the Western Downs economy and there is no doubt that we owe much of our wealth to successful farms and food producers. Our key agricultural outputs include cotton, grain, beef, pork and chickpeas.

Aiding the region's food capability are the region's research facilities, including the University of Southern Queensland's Institute for Agriculture and the Environment which focuses on developing solutions for a sustainable and profitable future for the rural sector.

BEEF:

The Western Downs is home to nearly 25% of Queensland's beef-producing properties with 42% of the nation's feedlot capacity located within a 200km radius from Dalby. We are proud to house the nation's second largest sale yards which sells around 200,000 head of cattle each year.

THE BEEF SUPPLY CHAIN OFFERS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS

The beef supply chain in the Western Downs includes beef backgrounding properties used to raise cattle on grass prior to finishing. Then we have grass finishing properties and feedlots which each require specialist knowledge. In addition, our beef producers require the services of livestock transport, beef processing, agricultural services and technology.

STANBROKE BEEF:

Stanbroke Beef sources the finest Japanese Wagyu genetics then raises cattle on natural grasses before moving them to a tailored long-fed grain program at Stanbroke's Chinchilla based feedlot. This combination ensures the exceptional flavour, high marbling and tenderness that Wagyu beef is famous for.

GRASSLAND GOATS:

With around 12,000 head on their Moonie property, Grassland Goats currently provides 80 to 120 carcasses to market each week. They also keep a stud herd for breeding.

CONDABILLA FISH:

Producing exquisite expert quality Murray Cod, Condabilla Fish Farm is also one of the most sustainable and ethical aquaculture farms in the country.

Located at Chinchilla, the farm utilises floodwaters from the Condamine River to fill its ponds and grow fish from fingerlings to market.



It's the people that make it.

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Speaking from experience, second generation farmer, Dan Hayllor, reckons the Western Downs is a great place to grow up and that kids have more opportunities here than in many city suburbs.

Why is growing up in the country great for kids?

"Growing up in the country gives kids more experiences about life," he said. "They are part of a supportive and social community, and they are connected to the environment. Country kids are constantly learning life skills and problem solving whether it's about caring for animals, growing produce, how to drive and fix bikes, cars or tractors."

Graincott Farming Co. is the Hayllor family business which includes grain and cotton farms throughout the region covering a total of 6,500 acres. Dan grew up in the area and attended schools in Dalby followed by UQ Gatton to study Agribusiness.

What do you love about farming?

"Farming is very scientific work, supported by technology but it's still an outdoor life which I love," he said. "I like being able to grow crops to the best of my ability, because when everything goes to plan, it's very satisfying work. Some weeks we put in massive hours - for example, before a weather event. Sometimes you have to work hard to get things done before that weather event hits and it can make a huge difference to your overall success. So, you have to be in tune with the environment and constantly on your toes."

What advice would you give a family about moving to the region?

"It's not remote! We still go to Brisbane and the coast - it's just a daytrip. We catch shows and exhibitions, take the kids to museums or beaches. But we don't have the daily commute, so we have more time to spend doing things we enjoy and being with family.

"This region is growing all the time, it's prosperous and it's not going backwards at all. If you want a job, we've got jobs and they are well-paid too," Dan said. "You're not going to miss out on anything here and in fact, you are going to gain the most precious thing of all - your time!"

Dan and Hamey Hayllor with their children Hunter and Addison live near Dalby.



POWER IN THE WESTERN DOWNS

The Energy Capital of Australia

Ever since the first mine opened on the Western Downs in 1914, the region's resources sector has been on an upwards trajectory with investors from all over the world keen to get a share. Due to strong investment over the past 15 years by the energy sector into large-scale resource industry developments, the Western Downs region has seen significant power infrastructure upgrades. Legacy infrastructure from resources provides an ideal network for renewables developments. The Western Downs truly is 'the Energy Capital of Australia' with coal, gas, solar and wind powering our economy.

Coal

Coal mining has contributed to the Western Downs economy in some capacity since 1914. CS Energy's Kogan Creek open cut black coal mine located near Chinchilla commenced operations in 2007 to supply coal to the adjacent Kogan Creek Power Station. Yancoal operates the Cameby Downs open cut mine located east of Miles, which started production in 2010.

Gas

Queensland's Surat Basin, in which the Western Downs sits, is currently the Australian region with the most coal seam gas activity. The gas industry have and continue to bring infrastructure and investment

MFE

MFE is a Chinchilla based business that offers project management, site maintenance, workshop services and utilities management to a broad clientele including the resources and agricultural sectors. MFE is in its 11th year of operation and currently employs around 40 staff.

Louise McMahon is the Business Services Manager at MFE and we asked her about what it's like to work at MFE.

Recruitment

"We are always looking for staff," said Louise. "We won't turn away a good employee, especially not in this growth area."

to the region, providing new jobs, and strengthening and diversifying the economy. Arrow Energy, Senex Energy, Shell QGC, Origin and Central Petroleum - Incitec Pivot JV all operate in the region, producing for both domestic and export markets.

Thermal Power Stations

Power stations throughout the Western Downs contribute to the economy in more ways than simply through energy provision. Six thermal power stations are located at Braemar, Condamine, Daandine and Kogan Creek.

CS Energy's Kogan Creek Power Station is one of Australia's most efficient and technically advanced coal-fired power stations. Commissioned in 2007, it contains the largest single generating unit in Australia and has one of the lowest environmental impacts of any coal-fired power station nationwide. Kogan Creek Power Station is also very water efficient, because it uses dry cooling technology and sources the limited water it does require from bores. Kogan Creek Power Station can generate up to 750 megawatts of baseload electricity - that's enough to power one million Australian homes.

Solar and Battery

Western Downs Regional Council has approved 22 solar farms since 2016. The Darling Downs Solar Farm and Baking Board Solar Farm are operational, with a number of solar

farms under construction.

Currently under construction is NEOEN's Western Downs Green Power Hub located near Chinchilla which will become Australia's largest solar farm once built. At a size of 460MW of installed solar panels, the site will power 235,000 homes.

Construction of Vena Energy's Wandoan South Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Queensland's biggest battery and the second largest in Australia, is nearing completion. The Wandoan South BESS is the first milestone of the overarching Wandoan South Project, approved to generate up to 650MW of solar power and 450MW of energy storage across several stages.

Wind

While looking spectacular, wind farms provide clean, renewable energy. The Coopers Gap Wind Farm is one of Australia's largest wind farms and a great example of AGL's commitment to building a sustainable energy future for all Australians. The wind farm has a capacity of 453MW, powering approximately 264,000 homes.

Two other wind farms are approved and awaiting construction in the region. These include the Wambo Wind Farm located near, which will produce enough clean energy to power approximately 170,500 homes when fully operational, and the Dulacca wind farm which will power 124,000 homes.

Training and Upskilling

"A lot of people think that if you work in regional Queensland then you don't have the same access to upskilling as our city counterparts - that's simply not true," she said. "Around 30 per cent of our staff are currently upskilling with diplomas, apprenticeships and traineeships. Anything is possible these days with online learning programs. I'm completing my MBA out of South Australia."

The Dollars

"Our staff are paid competitively and live just 5 minutes from home. No long commutes. In addition, the cost of living out here is generally cheaper."



Local Employer - WDC

Exciting new infrastructure projects begin with first turning the soil. WDC is a Surat Basin company with skills in civil earthworks, roadworks, pipeline excavation, structural foundations and more.

"WDC works for mining and resources companies, developers and government. We are always seeking skilled workers including Project Managers, Supervisors, Plant Operators, Concreters and Carpenters. Pay and conditions are comparable to city employers and we offer opportunities for self-development including training.

"If you work for us, you are part of a small locally based team where we construct exciting projects with a strong commitment to building long-term relationships with clients and employees and where your voice matters.

"The lifestyle out here makes all the difference. When you move to the Western Downs you become part of a friendly, supportive community. You'll find housing is more affordable and the commute time to work is much shorter so people have more time to enjoy recreation."

Cameron Fabian, Operations Manager WDC

Hydrogen

In addition to existing energy industries, the commercial production of hydrogen is an exciting opportunity for the Surat Basin.

A new hydrogen technology cluster has been established in Toowoomba within TSBE, in partnership with NERA (National Energy Resources Australia) and supported by Queensland Government.

In October 2021, CS Energy, in partnership with IHI corporation Japan, announced the creation of a renewable hydrogen demonstration plant next to Kogan Creek Power Station near Chinchilla. With construction to commence in 2022, the future of the Queensland Government's Hydrogen Industry Strategy is looking bright and will open up opportunities for training and jobs.

It's great that the Western Downs Region will play its part in a globally significant hydrogen industry which will assist in decarbonising our economy and increasing Australia's GDP by up to \$26 billion.

AGL's Coopers Gap Wind Farm



Image courtesy of Powering Australian Renewables

CS Energy - Kogan Creek Power Station.



"OUR SUCCESS TO DATE HAS BEEN VERY MUCH ABOUT THE PEOPLE. THEY ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE CULTURE, OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE ONES WHO DELIVER OUR PROMISES TO OUR CUSTOMERS."

**GREG MCMAHON -
MANAGING DIRECTOR
- MFE PTY LTD**

Family and Community Focus

"We realise and appreciate the uniqueness of being a regional business and therefore make our community a priority in everything we do.

"Because we all live, work and play in the same community, we understand the importance of family, so staff will often slip off to attend school events and special occasions."

The Future

"The barriers between city and country are significantly reduced due to improved connectivity and if you need to go there, Brisbane is only a three-hour drive away."



EMERGING EXPORTERS on the Western Downs

With growing demand for trusted, clean and green food in Asia, and significant investment in infrastructure right on our doorstep, the opportunity now exists for Western Downs producers and processors to grow into export markets.

In its fourth year, the Emerging Exporters Program is building on the successes of the past three years and is being run to assist those who are interested in exporting their products.

This program, delivered by Food Leaders Australia (FLA), is an initiative of Shell's QGC business and is a three-year program to see a cohort of exporters make inroads into new markets.

Emerging Exporters is a part of Shell's QGC business' commitment to regional economic development and working with the community to diversify local economies.

TSBE's FLA Export Manager Food and Agribusiness, Justin Heaven said previous cohort participants have been successful in breaking into the international export market.

"We've seen participants like **Four Daughters Premium Black Angus** successfully export to China and Riverbend Pork Group export to markets in Asia," said Mr Heaven.

Dan and Karen Penfold owners of Four Daughters Premium Black Angus joined the Emerging Exporters Program in 2019.

With support provided through the Emerging Exporters Program, Four Daughters has exported their premium Black Angus beef to China and continue to explore new markets and opportunities.

Another participant from the 2020 cohort Business Manager of **Rangeland Quality Meats**, Alister Hughes said the Emerging Exporters Program was a great experience.

"Being in a room full of like-minded businesses is a great opportunity to grow your knowledge base, whilst being able to have all your questions answered by people and businesses who have walked the road before you."



*Alister Hughes
Rangeland
Quality Meats*



"It provided me and my business a better understanding of the process, and do's and don'ts and what to look out for when entering the export markets," Mr Hughes said.

Morrissey and Co also joined the Emerging Exporters Program in 2020 and is a fifth generation family-

owned and operated business based in the regional town of Jandowae in South West Queensland.

Morrissey and Co has utilised the network and the opportunities within the Emerging Exporters Program to review and develop their business for the next generation.

Experience Western Downs

It's the
people that
make it.



Bonnie, Molly, Matilda, Jamina Penfold
Four Daughters



From left: Tom, Sally,
John, Christine and
Sean Morrissey of
Morrissey and Co.

Business owner, Christine Morrissey, said she is pleased to be a part of the program.

"We are thrilled to be participating in this program to develop and grow our business for the next generation," she said.

Shell's QGC Emerging Exporters Program is a tailored program including targeted workshops and one-on-one support which gives participants the tools and capabilities to become competent, sustainable exporters who can manage risk and make informed decisions before embarking on their export journey.

This social investment program, supported by Shell's joint venture partners Tokyo Gas and CNOOC, contributes to a strong and diverse economy within the Western Downs.

It's the people that make it.

RETAIL SECTOR

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR STRONG ECONOMY!

The Western Downs strong economy is underpinned by the energy and agricultural sectors. This means that many residents have money to spend and they like to spend it locally.

MAJOR CHAIN STORES

- Coles
- Woolworths
- IGA
- Aldi
- Bunnings
- Harvey Norman
- Supercheap Auto
- K Hub
- Big W
- The Coffee Club
- Dominos, Subway, McDonalds, Hungry Jacks, KFC, Red Rooster
- Crossroads, Millers, Noni B, Rockmans

WESTERN DOWNS AVERAGE INCOME IS \$20,000 HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE IN QUEENSLAND

50,000 more shoppers from adjoining western areas

\$136 Million Was spent by the mining sector on goods and services locally in 2017/18



SHOPPING IN MILES LISA KENNEDY COLLECTIONS

It's true that nearly all country towns have at least one fabulous boutique that challenges the notion of city shopping. In Miles, that store is Lisa Kennedy Collections.

With a reputation built on the unique style and sharp eye of owner and curator, Lisa Kennedy, this beautiful store in Murilla Street is part of the fabric of the town. It's a meeting place for locals who admire good design and country style.

Lisa stocks brands including Rollie Nation, Eb & Ive, Louenhide and Cat Hammill. You can even pick up a gorgeous cashmere sweater or unique piece of jewellery.

Lisa Kennedy Collections' beautiful selection of homewares, clothing and accessories is offered for sale online, instore and through touring pop-ups around the region.

URBAN PADDOCK

If you're passing through Dalby, Urban Paddock is a "must stop" destination and if you live locally, it's where you go regularly for coffee and catchups.

Located in the beautifully restored historic Quambi House, Urban Paddock is an award-winning café serving family friendly fare proudly made from mostly local ingredients. There is also a gorgeous boutique with carefully curated, quality homewares, gifts, arts, crafts and fashion.

Spinifex and Co *Luxury Clothing from Bell*

Have you ever dreamed of creating your own fashion label? How would you begin! And could you do it from regional Australia? We caught up with Kayde Lehman the founder of Spinifex and Co located in Bell to find out more.

Kayde Lehman has just opened her first flagship store in the town of Bell near Dalby. The store was a natural progression following on the success of her online business. But Kayde wasn't always a fashionista - far from it! She was working as a contract musterer in a remote and isolated part of the Pilbara region of WA when she started creating her own designs.

"My first range was just T-shirts and sweaters but I had a vision for what I wanted to eventually achieve," she said.

"When we moved to our cattle property near Bell I decided to really build the business.

"I've worked on cattle properties - vast properties - all my life and I do find that the colours and textures of the bush definitely influence me. I like clothing to be

comfortable but quality is number one: all my garments have to be top quality and made from natural fibres.

"I draw the designs for every garment myself and then send my drawings away to a pattern-maker in Sydney who fine tunes the cut and fit to my specifications.

"I source fabrics - including linens, cottons and silks - from all over the world and the garments are made by a family in China.

Kayde has not found living in Bell any deterrent to running a successful fashion business - anything but!

"I find the local community is really supportive and the shop is now a place where the girls can get together and have a cuppa and a chat. We share ideas and do photo shoots together. It has been amazing!

"I love seeing the local ladies looking great in my designs and I am so proud when Sydney and Melbourne influencers feature my garments on their sites ... it really is a dream come true!"



Business Navigator Western Downs

Having strong and sustainable businesses that create employment for local people and opportunities for local communities is a key priority for the Western Downs. After chatting with the Western Downs business community back in 2017, Shell QGC introduced a business support service to help Western Downs' communities

achieve these priority goals. In 2018, Shell's QGC Business partnered with Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE) to deliver the Business Navigator Western Downs program.

Business Navigator Western Downs is a business growth and innovation

advisory service providing coaching, advice, and hands on assistance to support new and small business owners to accelerate their growth. The team provides strategic planning, product development, growth coaching, digital enabling, financial management and media/marketing services.

For more information visit the website at www.NavigatoWesternDowns.com.au

SUCCESS STORY JUBRI'S HIDEAWAY

One of the success stories to come from the Business Navigator Western Downs program is that of aspiring business owners, Brian and Judy Harms. Avid gardeners and lovers of beautiful things, Brian and Judy dreamed of turning their rural property and garden spaces into a function venue. With the support of Business Navigator Western Downs, Brian and Judy's dream became a reality, and they opened Jubri's Hideaway to the public in July 2020.

Jubri's Hideaway, just outside of Dalby, is an informal, boutique venue with a county chic style and is perfect for intimate weddings and small gatherings. Judy said the move into the wedding business was a major career change, but the transition had been smooth thanks to the help from the Business Navigator Western Downs team.

"The advice and assistance we've received has been wonderful - from determining our target market, to pricing, to the website and introductions to other business owners", Judy said. "A big thank you to Business Navigator Western Downs. Without their help we would still be struggling to work out how to get our business idea up and running. The professional advice and assistance just keeps coming."



Experience Western Downs

It's the
people that
make it.

The Bun

A local favourite for more than 100 years

The Bun opened in 1911 and has welcomed generations of families and travellers through its doors over the past century.

Owners Jaimee Neilsen-O'Donnell and Stephen O'Donnell are excited to breathe new life into the historic pub and can't wait to restore the building's classic colonial features.

"We want The Bun to be exactly the kind of place where we would like to enjoy our days off," said Jaimee. "That means a proper pub, but with amazing food, wine and coffee. Friendly, approachable service from people who love to eat fresh country produce as much as we do."

Jaimee and Stephen are no strangers to Western Downs pubs, having transformed the Windsor Hotel in Miles into a boutique gastropub with all the furnishings and meals to match.

The Bun Hotel boasts an old school front bar, a mix of indoor and outdoor dining spaces and is well known for it's busy weekend lunches.

With plenty of parking for all types of road trippers, The Bun Hotel is the perfect place for a pit stop, dinner or overnight stay.

Kaimkillenbun is a friendly rural township, located 12 minutes from Dalby on the way to the Bunya Mountains. One hour from Toowoomba and under two-and-a-half hours drive west of Brisbane.

The Bun Hotel serves a range of craft beers, excellent coffee and high quality pub meals, seven days a week. Bookings are recommended for lunch on weekends. Check out the website for meal times www.thebunhotel.com.au



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

JEFF WADE WADE CUSTOM FABRICATION TARA

Jeff Wade could never imagine himself commuting to work in a big city - well not when he can walk to work in Tara!

After years of running fabrication workshops, Jeff started his own business in 2020 and hasn't looked back.

"To deliver quality builds for my customers gives me great satisfaction and being self-employed lets me create my own work-life balance," he said.

What's great about owning a business in Tara? The customers of course!

"The community is very loyal and keen to support local business. There's a lot of variety in my work. I do repairs, designs and custom fabrication work for farmers and various contractors that come to town. So far, I haven't had to go out looking for work."

The weekends are for trail bike riding and of course Jeff has built his family a custom bike trailer with bed, shower and fridge for overnight stays.

"You make your own fun out here," he said. "And we are never bored!"



Dream Big

COUNCIL TRAINEE

NAME: Isabel White

ROLE: Natural Resource Management Project Support Officer Rural Services Team

Having grown up on the family cattle property near Jimbour, Isabel White dreamed of a career in a rural industry that would build on her existing knowledge. Western Downs Regional Council's trainee program helped make her dream come true.

To earn the title of "Project Support Officer" in Western Downs Regional Council's Rural Services team, Isabel had to complete a Certificate III in Land Conservation Management (online through Axiom College) and a twelve-month on-the-job traineeship.

She learned about things like stock routes, weed control, water quality and pest management.

"I was lucky that the course content and job training built on the knowledge and experience that I already had, adding to my skills and experience base," she said. "I found the course really interesting. At one stage I was collecting native seeds from around the region and propagating local plant varieties."

"I also began a program of sampling and testing water quality in local creeks and dams. Council decided to keep this going and has instigated quarterly water sampling as part of my role."

Isabel says the best part about her job is working with a great team.

"We get along really well and I enjoy going to work each day," she said.

As for the future, Isabel says she'd like to continue to study in the field and one day she'd like to own her own cattle property too.

Council is committed to providing local opportunities to kickstart careers in our region as part of its Early Career Program, equipping our region's future generations with job-ready skills and qualifications. WDRC provides a number of new traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities across the region throughout the year with vacancies advertised on Council's website and Facebook page



Experience Western Downs

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GERKIES STORM CHASING CHINCHILLA

From a wild and dangerous hobby to a successful business, this is the story of the very talented Gerke family from Chinchilla.

Storm chasing could be considered an "extreme sport" in videography terms. And while gathering the footage might be an adrenaline hit, watching it is mesmerising on a deep primordial level. Our fascination with storms is universal as evidenced at GOMA in Brisbane, where "Domination 2" an artwork by Gerkes Storm Chasing has been a big hit.

"The power of storms is incredible and no two are the same so you have to really know what you are doing and you have to know meteorology."

Peter Gerke and his sons, Seth, 18 and Zach aged 16 began Gerkes Storm Chasing in 2015 and now have 15,000 followers on social media. Although they still get a buzz from filming storms in action, these days the boys are also enjoying more commercial success.

"Between us we have 60 years of experience in photography, videography, editing and digital content creation,"

said Seth. "We are visual artists, graphic designers, musicians, jingle writers, drone pilots, animators and voice specialists.

"We enjoy a variety of work for clients across the Western Downs including weddings, special events, promotional videos and social media content especially time-lapse events.

"It's great that we can offer the same

level of creativity and professionalism you'd expect from a big city outfit. We have the skills and the gear so we can do it all locally," he said.

It's literally a winning combination. In fact Seth Gerke did win a Drone Scholarship from Western Downs Regional Council in 2018.

Domination 2 can now be seen at Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery.



PAYTON LEAHY PAYTON'S PANTRY MILES

Payton Leahy has earned an enviable reputation as a baker in the Western Downs. She is the local go-to-girl for beautifully decorated occasion cakes, biscuits and other treats.

Payton, who is currently in Year 12 at Miles State High School, was born and raised on a generation-owned property situated on the border of the Western Downs and Maranoa Regions. Her baking began as a fun side-hustle but it may well be part of her future career in hospitality.

"I bake orders on request, for example; cakes for most occasions, treat boxes, personalised biscuits and gourmet cupcakes," she said. "I also have market stalls and pop-up shops from time to time. Most of my customers are based between Jackson and Chinchilla."

Payton loves the community environment of the Western Downs and the local support for her small business. Her only challenges are travelling to her customers and allowing enough time for ordering ingredients, packaging and embellishments which have to come from large centres.



Play



Newcomers to the region quickly discover a connected community that thrives on recreational pursuits and social activities. Join a club, play a sport, attend a workshop and make sure you get along to our big event days. You're about to discover why life in the Western Downs is anything but dull!



MORE TIME FOR YOU

Parks and Gardens

Spend time in a garden and restore your spirit and your senses. From the formal gardens at Jimbour House to the fascinating narrative at Myall Park Botanic Gardens and the expansive Chinchilla Botanic Parklands It's time for you to explore.

Food

When it comes to local produce, the Western Downs is famous for beef, pork and lamb. But did you know that Chinchilla is the "melon capital" of Australia? Or that the region produces export quality fish through Condabilla Fish Farm? You'll also find great cafes and classic pubs in towns across the region. Some are destinations in their own right including Urban Paddock, Pips and Cherries and Creek Café.

Facilities

Community centres are where people come together for club meetings, workshops, arts and crafts, local theatre and special events. Some have coffee shops, some have art galleries and all are loved by the people who use them. Western Downs Regional Council also provides swimming pools, indoor sports centres and cinemas.

Arts

Dogwood Crossing at Miles is a cultural hub for the Western Downs offering workshops and exhibitions. There are also galleries at Bell, Chinchilla and Dalby. The Western Downs Region has a variety of artisans

who regularly get together for education, and inspiration.

Sports

Communities in the Western Downs tend to be active and social. You'll find all the bigger towns have competitions for kids and adults in footy, cricket, netball, tennis and bowls. Most communities have a golf course and there are seven race tracks each with big race day events.

Mountain Biking

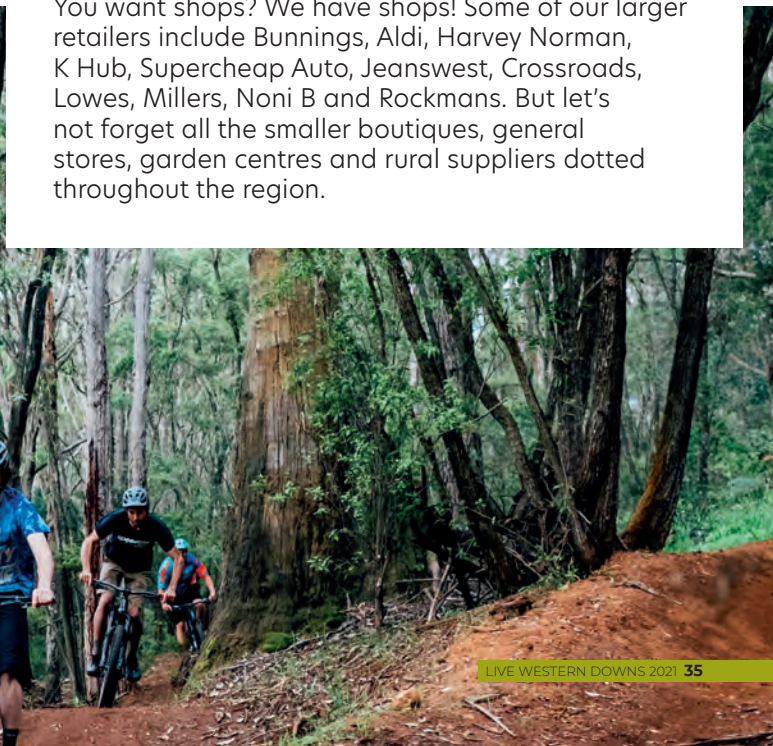
We are excited about the completion of 30km of new mountain bike trails in the Russell Park area of the Bunya Mountains. Featuring five dedicated one-way loops and dual direction link trails, including 1.7km link from Dandabah to Fishers Lookout, our specially designed trails offer fun for children and beginners through to experienced riders. Construction of the first trail is scheduled for April 2022 with four more trails earmarked for construction in future.

History

Understanding a region's past is important for building its future. You can learn about our history from the First Peoples through to early settlement and beyond at the Miles Historical Village Museum, Dalby Museum and the Chinchilla Museum including the Cactoblastis Memorial Hall at Boogarga.

Retail

You want shops? We have shops! Some of our larger retailers include Bunnings, Aldi, Harvey Norman, K Hub, Supercheap Auto, Jeanswest, Crossroads, Lowes, Millers, Noni B and Rockmans. But let's not forget all the smaller boutiques, general stores, garden centres and rural suppliers dotted throughout the region.



Events

We love an excuse to get the community together and celebrate our historical, cultural, agricultural and sporting success. You'll find there's an event on nearly every week which means you'll be busy, and you'll soon get to know people in your community.

TOWN SHOW SCHEDULE *ANNUALLY*

The local agricultural show season starts in February with the Bell Show, then there's Tara and Jandowae in March, and Wandoan in April. The Dalby Show is also in April; both Miles and Chinchilla Shows are in May.



CHINCHILLA MELON FESTIVAL

Chinchilla is the Melon Capital of Australia. The festival includes events like melon farm tours, lunch with local chefs and local produce.

Where: Chinchilla



BIG SKIES FESTIVAL

Enjoy some music greats on the grounds of Jimbour Station. Other activities include camp kitchen meals, local markets, and regional tours.

Where: Dalby and Jimbour





JANDOWAE TIMBERTOWN FESTIVAL

Enjoy local markets showcasing regional produce, country hospitality, live entertainment, and free family fun.

Where: Jandowae.

OPERA AT JIMBOUR

Enjoy a real country experience. A full day of fun for the whole family that includes unique and tasty finds of food and wine from the region.

Where: Jimbour



DALBY'S DELICIOUS AND DELIGHTFUL FESTIVAL

Dalby comes together to host a festival that embraces the many cultures in our nation and in the Western Downs.

Where: Dalby.



MILES BACK TO THE BUSH FESTIVAL

The festival includes activities such as the "Feedlot to Fork" a paddock-to-plate dinner experience featuring locally produced beef and condiments.

Where: Miles.



TARA FESTIVAL OF CULTURE & CAMEL RACES

Enjoy camping, camp oven demos, farm tours, bush dance, live concert and of course camel races.

Where: Tara.



RACE DAYS

WE LOVE OUR BIG RACE DAYS! PEOPLE TRAVEL FROM THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT AND EVEN FROM BRISBANE TO JOIN US FOR A DAY AT THE RACES.

- Miles Picnic Races Feb
- Dalby Picnic Races April
- Jandowae Races May
- Wandoan Races March
- Warra Races August
- Tara Races October
- Chinchilla Cup December



Sport

Start Barracking!

Your favourite sports are the key to keeping fit while you make friends in a new town. The Western Downs offers a variety of sports clubs to suit all ages and abilities from beginners to masters. We've listed a few popular sports clubs to get you started but don't forget that schools and local PCYCs also host sports teams.

GOLF

Clubs and courses are located at Bell, Chinchilla, Condamine, Dalby, Dulacca, Inglestone, Jandowae, Miles, Meandarra, Tara, Wandoan.

EQUESTRIAN

With so much space to keep horses, it's no wonder equestrian events are popular across the Western Downs.

- Pony Clubs are located at Bell, Chinchilla, Dalby, Hannaford, Jandowae, Meandarra, Miles, Tara and Wandoan.
- Campdrafting Competitions are held at: Tara, Glenmorgan, Snake Gully, Westmar and Bell.
- Polocrosse Clubs are at Chinchilla, Tara and Wandoan.

CRICKET

Most towns have a district cricket club including Dalby, Chinchilla, Wandoan, Miles, Brigalow and Crossroads.

TENNIS

Local tennis clubs support an active competition and social network.

LAWN BOWLS

Bowls Queensland has clubs throughout the Condamine District which cover most of the Western Downs. There are Bowls Clubs at Bell, Chinchilla, Dalby, North Dalby, Jandowae, Meandarra, Miles, Tara and Wandoan.

SOCCER

There are football clubs in Chinchilla and Dalby.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Dalby Leagues Club is the home of the Dalby Devils (juniors) and the Dalby Diehards (seniors), other teams include Chinchilla Bulldogs, Jandowae Fishhooks, Miles Devils, Tara Panthers, Wandoan Wildcats.

RUGBY UNION

Darling Downs Rugby teams competing for the Risdon Cup include the Chinchilla River Rats, Condamine Cods and the Dalby Wheatmen.

AFL

The Chinchilla Suns and the Dalby Swans join teams from Toowoomba, South Burnett, Warwick and Goondiwindi in the Darling Downs competition.

NETBALL

Darling Downs Inter District Netball features 12 clubs including Chinchilla and Dalby Associations.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

From April 2022 you will be able to ride through 30km of the Russell Park area of the Bunya Mountains. Specially designed one way loops and dual direction link trails are suitable for beginners and experienced riders.

LITTLE ATHLETICS

There is a Little Athletics Centre at Chinchilla while Darling Downs Athletics runs out of Toowoomba.

GYMS AND FITNESS

- Max Fitness Gym at Tara
- Murilla Fitness Centre at Miles
- Physical Fix at Dalby
- Fit Tribe Chinchilla *includes pilates*
- Anytime Fitness Dalby
- Dalby 24/7 Fitness
- Dalby PCYC
- Crossfit Dalby

Sporting Calendar

Big sporting events in the region bring people from far and wide. Keep an eye out for the following:

- Terry Charles Shield - Rugby League (takes place in a different town each year around the region (this year it was in Tara). Generally, March - first game prior to season.
- Miles Rugby League Club holds an annual fundraiser for charity which includes teams from around the region.



It's the people that make it.

Changing Lives

A lot of ducks had to line up in order for Physical Fix in Dalby to open and start helping to transform lives.

Firstly, Brisbane girl and PT instructor - Hamey, had to meet the love of her life, second generation farmer, Dan Hayllor. Then she had to make the decision to marry and move to his cotton farm in Dalby. Finally, she had to decide how to meet more locals and get involved in the community.

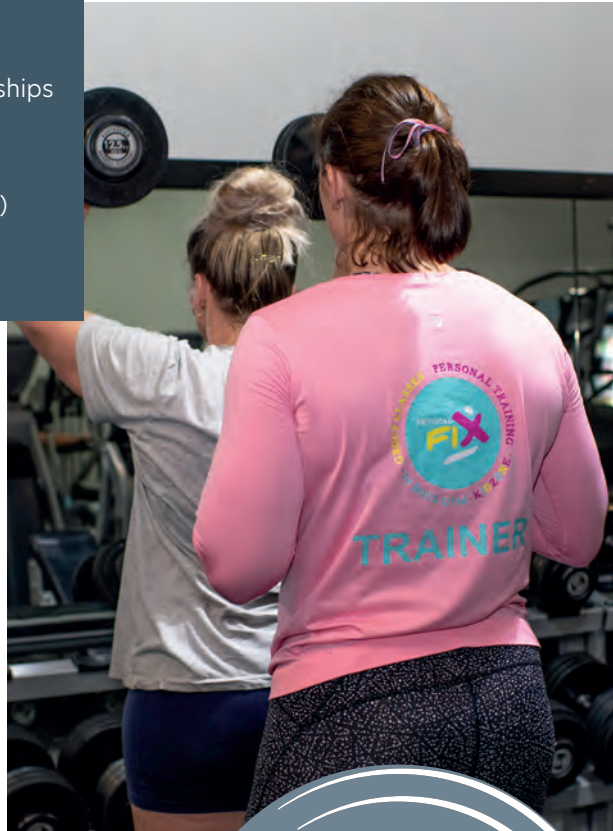
It sounds straightforward but each step was a milestone for Hamey.

"Clearly, I wasn't going to get the cotton farmer to move to Brisbane, so I had to make the move to Dalby - and I'm so glad I did. We live 20 minutes out of town, on one of the properties Dan runs. It's a great lifestyle and wonderful place for us to raise our family."

"With Dan and I both having very busy work lives, we are so lucky to have such a supportive network of family and friends, plus amazing staff to help us achieve what we do within both our businesses and at home," said Hamey.



- ABOUT PHYSICAL FIX**
- 24 hour gym
 - Group Classes
 - Personal Training
 - KidsFit Programs
 - Corporate & FIFO Memberships
 - SHRED Programs
 - BodyScans
 - KidsZone (Onsite Childcare)
 - Supplement Shop
 - Smoothie Bar



Beau Fermor

BEAU FERMOR
NRL PLAYER FOR
GOLD COAST TITANS

Beau Fermor grew up in Dalby and played for the Dalby Devils. He is currently an Australian Professional Rugby League footballer who plays second-row for the Gold Coast Titans in the NRL.

What did you like about growing up in regional Queensland?

It's obviously good living in a smaller town, Dalby is not the smallest town but it is a smaller town, and you know everybody and the community is close knit and I've got plenty of good friends out there. I like the quietness of it, in the city it can be quite busy and I like the quietness of a regional town.

How did you get started in footy?

I played for the Dalby Devils. I started when I was five and played there up until I was 17. I then moved to the Melbourne Storm and played two years of under-20s there and then I had two years of footy at Newcastle (Knights) and then I've moved up to the Gold Coast (Titans).

What advice would you give to kids living in the Western Downs Region who want a future in sport?

Enjoy playing footy and play as much footy as you can (or whatever your sport or choice is). Don't think that you're out of the way because you're not. There is plenty of great talent in regional towns. So keep playing and play hard.



It's the people that make it.

Breanna

BREANNA COLLINS
CHAMPION TRAP SHOOTER

Breanna Collins was just 12 years-old when she first fired a rifle at the Chinchilla Clay Target Club. She hit the target and was hooked from that moment on.

A few years later, aged 17, she won a bronze medal for trapshooting at the Oceania Championships (and set a junior record) but narrowly missed a spot on the Australian Olympic team, coming sixth in the qualifiers.

Although Breanna learned to shoot through the Chinchilla Gun Club, it wasn't her only sport.

"I have always loved to dance and I play as much netball and volleyball as I can," she said.

"Growing up in Chinchilla has given me lots of opportunities and I feel really fortunate to live in such a warm, welcoming and friendly community.

"For example, whatever sport we wanted to play at school, the teachers at Chinchilla State High School would find a way to put a team together and take us to Brisbane or out west to play. They put so much extra effort in for the students."

Breanna is currently a business trainee with CS Energy at the Kogan Creek Power Station.

"Chinchilla is my forever place to call 'home' and I'm not ready to leave yet - I have a great job, my family is here and Chinchilla has the most beautiful parks, the best steaks and I swear the best Indian restaurant in Queensland."

Wednesday nights are "Come and Try" nights for all ages and abilities at the Chinchilla Clay Target Club.



FOOD & DINING


We couldn't possibly squeeze in all the fabulous cafes, restaurants and pubs that bring our community together! But we can assure you that nearly every town has at least one classic pub and that great coffee is never far away! Most of our restaurants serve local produce and you'll find that our diverse community means we enjoy cuisine from around the world. Here's a few recommendations from the locals:


DALBY

The Australian Hotel Motel
38 Cunningham Street
Luxury accommodation in the heart of Dalby with great atmosphere for meals and bar

Criterion Hotel - 77 Drayton Street
Renowned for its seriously good locally sourced steaks and parrmis the Criterion is the last pub as you head out of town towards Toowoomba.

O'Shea's Windsor Hotel
32 Patrick Street
Featuring Dalby's biggest bottle shop, the Windsor's extensive bistro menu features local produce including lamb.

 Kobber's Motor Inn, Squire's Restaurant

 Urban Paddock, Coffee Club, Butchers Pantry

DULACCA

Dulacca Hotel - Warrego Highway
The Pink Pub on the hill is famous for great steaks by Rangeland Quality Meats.

MEANDARRA

Royal Hotel - 3 Sara Street
For great meals and a place to stop and refresh the senses.


TARA

The Commercial Hotel -
35 Day Street
Always a great atmosphere at this classic old Queenslander.

MILES

Windsor Hotel - 39 Murilla Street
For the most extensive range of craft beers in the Western Downs.

The Queensland Hotel - 29 Murilla Street
Extensive menu with locally sourced meats and a terrific wine list.



  The Creek Café and The Swagsman Restaurant

CHINCHILLA

The Club Hotel - 131 Heeney Street
A classic historic pub with great food and a big side of fun including footy tipping, pool and events.

Chinchilla RSL - 61 Heeney Street
Open for lunch every day and dinner Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Fabulous bistro with lots of specials including buffet, parmi nights, steaks and seafood specials. There's also a regular pool competition.

The Commercial Hotel - 17 Chinchilla Street
Join the locals in a bit of karaoke or sit back and enjoy some live tunes.

 Masala Hut for great Indian  Downtown Cafe





CONDAMINE

The Condamine Hotel -
1 Wambo Street
For good times with great people
head to the Condamine Hotel,
home of the Condamine Rugby
Union Club.

KAIMILLENBUN

The Bun Pub - 72 Moffatt Street
Great coffee, pub meals and
terrific range of beer, cider
and wine.

JANDOWAE

Exchange Hotel - 41 High Street
It's a massive pub offering
fabulous food including pizza and
pasta nights, schnitzels and more.

WARRA

Warra Hotel - corner Robinson
and Talbot Streets
There's just one pub in Warra
and what a pub it is! The historic
and picturesque Warra Hotel is
renowned for its variety of rums,
pies, Saturday night BBQs and
frivolity on race day in August.

WANDOAN

Juandah Hotel - 17 Lawton Street
From Friday night fun to Sunday
sessions, this is clearly the best
pub in town! Famous for schnitties
and cocktails.

 Wandoan
Café



Great Meals



Great Coffee

CELEBRATING Arts + Culture

Our region hosts a thriving contemporary arts community and is home to three major galleries, Dogwood Crossing in Miles, Lapunyah Art Gallery in Chinchilla, Myall and Gallery 107 @ Dalby.

All three galleries host scheduled travelling exhibitions from across Australia, showcase the works of local artists and offer workshops throughout the year.

There is never a dull moment at Dogwood Crossing with the Dabble at Dogwood and Mini Makers art programs offering regular workshops directed by exhibiting artists who encourage you to explore and create.

Great local artists are also represented at the Bell Bunya Community Centre and the Myall Park Botanic Garden Gallery at Glenmorgan.

A highlight of the local art scene is the annual Western Downs Regional Artists' Exhibition.



CINDY GRIMES ACRYLICS AND WATER COLOUR HANNAFORD DISTRICT

Cindy Grimes captures the very essence of the Western Downs in her distinctive, colourful paintings. They are created from the heart and from many years of living and working in the region.

A retired teacher, Cindy lives with her husband on a cattle property that is a constant source of inspiration. She is also an active member of the Glenmorgan Art Group (GAG) which recently celebrated its 50th birthday with a big exhibition 'Celebration' at Dogwood Crossing in Miles.

"There's always something happening with GAG whether it's workshops or exhibitions," she said. "We are currently preparing another exhibition titled 'Still Celebrating' to be held in Meandarra.

"And I'm working on a 'paint and sip' class concept with the first to be held in Inglestone.

"We always welcome new members and encourage and support each other in any way we can."

Cindy has some great advice for creative folks moving to the region:

"Seek out people who are interested in similar things to you. Council is a good starting point, their Community Cultural Officers will steer you in the right direction. You'll also find local artists on social media.

"When it comes to buying art supplies, get to know the team at Gallery 107 @ Dalby because they can order supplies in for you."



Tourism

Every region has something that makes it truly unique and in the Western Downs we are proud to invite friends and family to experience a few special places on our doorstep:

DALBY - Jimbour House and Lake Broadwater

CHINCHILLA - Big Watermelon and Chinchilla Botanic Parkland

GLENMORGAN - Myall Park Botanic Gardens

JANDOWAE - Dingo Fence and Athlone Cottage

MILES - Miles Historical Village Museum, Dogwood Crossing and Dogwood Creek

BELL - Bunya Mountains

TARA - Lagoon Parklands and Sunset Way

WANDOAN - Wandoan Waterloo Plains and Juandah Heritage Site

Visitors always enjoy exploring our towns, meeting the locals and learning about the history of the area.



Farmers Markets

- Dalby Markets
Dalby Showgrounds
Every 3rd Saturday of the month
- Bunya Mountains Markets
National Park
Last Sunday of the month
- Chinchilla Farmers Market
It's a store in Edward Street
Open daily except Sunday

Note: You'll find market stalls at many local events such as Delicious and Delightful in Dalby; Back to the Bush in Miles; Watermelon Festival in Chinchilla.



Outdoor Adventures



TARA LAGOON PARKLANDS

Where: Located 700m from the centre of town down the Showground Road.

Who: Suits travellers and locals who enjoy camping, fishing, bird watching, photography, walking

Cost: Fees apply for camping

Permits: No fishing permit required

Facilities: Recently upgraded with powered sites, street lighting, toilets, hot showers, camp kitchen, rainwater tanks, electric BBQ, campfires, children's playground, walking track along the banks and will soon boast a 150m boardwalk over the water with a viewing platform to capture the sunrise or sunset.

Highlights: Known as the home of the Sunset Way, Tara delivers on its promise of "magic hour" every afternoon.



CALIGUEL LAGOON, CONDAMINE

Where: A short drive (7km) from Condamine. Head south on the Leichhardt Highway (A5) for 3.1km and turn onto Condamine-Meandarra Road. You'll find the campground 4.1km on the left.

Who: Travellers and locals who enjoy camping, fishing, bird watching, swimming, water skiing and boating

Cost: It's free with no bookings needed

Permits: No fishing permit required

Facilities: Recently upgraded with powered sites, street lighting, toilets, hot showers, camp kitchen, rainwater tanks, electric BBQ, campfires, children's playground, mobile service, dogs allowed.

Highlights: Hooking a Yellowbelly and cooking it on the BBQ's. Marvel in the summer or autumn as the purple lilies put on a magnificent show. BYOB (boat) and head out on the water via the boat ramp for a fun-filled day of exploring, before settling around the communal firepit to swap stories with fellow campers.

LAKE BROADWATER

Where: 20km south west of Dalby on Moonie Highway, turn into Broadwater Road the campground is 10km on the left.

Who: Birdwatching haven, walking enthusiasts, swimming, boating and skiing when conditions are suitable. No dogs allowed.

Cost: Fees apply

Permit: No fishing permitted

Facilities: Recently upgraded with powered sites, street lighting, toilets, hot showers, camp kitchen, rainwater tanks, electric BBQ, campfires, children's playground, walking tracks.

Highlights: One little 'r' separates camp from cramp, so if you're looking for camping minus the crowds, you'll be happy to know Lake Broadwater offers oodles of space within its 250 hectares of natural beauty. Lake Broadwater is the only naturally occurring freshwater lake in the Western Downs.



CHINCHILLA WEIR

Where: 10kms south of Chinchilla on the Condamine River on the Chinchilla Tara Road.

Who: Travellers and locals who enjoy camping, fishing, bird watching, nature lovers, skiing and boating enthusiasts.

Cost: Free campsites, donations to help with costs of providing power can be left at Chinchilla Visitors Centre.

Permits: Fishing permit required.

Facilities: Recently upgraded with powered sites, street lighting, toilets, hot showers, camp kitchen, rainwater tanks, electric BBQ, campfires, children's playground, mobile service.

Highlights: If you are keen on fishing, try your luck reeling in dinner with local favourites Silver Perch and Murray Cod - then cook your catch on one of two new electric BBQs.

It's the people that make it.

Love Horses? Head to Rubern Lodge

Shelley Callaghan (nee Washington) is a true Chinchilla local having lived in the town all her life. She is well known as a local equestrian coach, mentor, expert and generally the go-to person when it comes to horses in the region. Shelley has taught hundreds of children how to ride over the past 39 years and she is rightly proud of some of her high achievers.

Shelley is the manager of the Washington family's 300-acre property "Rubern Lodge" which looks like a set from the popular TV series "Saddle Club".

"Rubern Lodge is an equestrian centre offering agistment and riding lessons for absolute beginners to advanced competition riders," she said. "We teach

horsemanship to all our students and additional skills including dressage.

"Our Rubern Riders are a strong, connected group, a family really, who often travel throughout the country competing at equestrian events.

SHELLEY BELIEVES THAT RUBERN LODGE'S NATURAL BEAUTY NEEDS TO BE SHARED.

"For a long time we have been the first stop for anyone moving to town with horses because they often need somewhere handy to agist while they settle into their new properties. So we sometimes get to know the new horses in town before the people! We currently have 40 horses on agistment."

Shelley believes that Rubern Lodge's natural beauty needs to be shared.

"It's a beautiful spot close to Chinchilla town centre," she said. "Tourists and locals like to visit and enjoy water sports on the lagoon including paddleboats and kayaks.

Shelley recently added another string to her bow by acquiring qualifications as a marriage celebrant.

"Two years ago we converted an old church on the property into a B-and-B. That sparked an interest in weddings so we created pretty areas for ceremonies and receptions which are proving very popular."

If you're moving to Chinchilla with horses, or if you are interested in taking up horse-riding (no matter what your age) get in touch with Shelley first and make it happen!



Parks

Myall Park Botanic Gardens

Gordon Grevilleas are famous around Australia but did you know their provenance is centred around Myall Park at Glenmorgan? We owe a lot to local sheep farmer David Gordon who devoted his life to growing and cultivating Grevilleas for commercial nurseries in an era that favoured English plants. It really is worth learning about the Gordon Grevillea story.

You can visit Myall Park today and wander through the park-like Grevillea gardens that feature extraordinary varieties of every colour, including many Gordon Grevilleas.

David Gordon's original potting sheds, seed storage cabinets and catalogues are still on the premises showcasing his achievements. There is also a gallery with beautiful Grevillea inspired works on display and for sale.



Chinchilla Botanic Parkland

At the very heart of Chinchilla is the award-winning Botanic Parkland. Featuring four hectares of landscaped native gardens, meandering walkways, billabong, Indigenous cultural areas, botanic stage and megafauna discovery zone, this is where locals and visitors gravitate. The picnic and BBQ areas have become the place for relaxed gatherings and the water playground is where children create happy memories.

The Chinchilla Botanic Parkland is a long-term vision, with total site development taking place over multiple stages in the next five to ten years.

Time to Relax

POOLSIDE

The Western Downs boasts a large variety of sport and recreation facilities including modern, state-of-the-art aquatic centres. Residents and visitors can enjoy these SwimFit managed public facilities in six different locations across the region.

Check www.wdrc.qld.gov.au for opening times.

Chinchilla Aquatic and Fitness Centre

Features a newly renovated, heated indoor 25-metre pool, open daily. Outdoor pools are open during the summer months only including a 50-metre pool and a shaded children's play pool. Enjoy the poolside cafe after doing your laps.

Dalby Aquatic Centre

Includes a heated indoor 25-metre pool which is open most days. Outside you will find a lovely 50-metre, pool with eight lanes that is open during summer months only. There's also a shaded play pool for children.

Jandowae

The Jandowae Pool is the place to be over the summer months. Cool off or do some laps in our 25-metre, six-lane pool. There are also lovely shade areas for relaxing with family and friends.

Miles

Miles' glorious 50-metre, six-lane outdoor pool is open during the summer months and a great place to build fitness or relax in the shade.

Tara

Western Downs Regional Council is revitalising the Tara Memorial Pool to deliver vibrant and modern facilities for the community. This exciting project is anticipated to be completed in time for summer 2022/23

Wandoan

Come along and enjoy the wonderful five-lane 33-metre pool at Wandoan. You can cool off, relax in the shade or do a few laps to stay in shape.



Contacts

Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise TSBE

Tel: 61 07 4639 4600
6 Ann Street, Toowoomba 4350
PO Box 658 Toowoomba 4350
www.tsbe.com.au

Chinchilla Community, Commerce & Industry

www.chinchilla.com.au

Dalby Chamber of Commerce & Industry

www.dalbychamber.com.au

Jandowae Business & Community Group

Head to their Facebook page

Miles & District Chamber of Commerce

www.planttheseedmiles.com.au

Tara Futures Group

www.taradistrict.com.au

Wandoan Community, Commerce & Industry

www.wandoansurfclub.com.au

Contributors:

LIVE Western Downs Magazine has been produced with the help of our region's residents, schools, businesses and staff at Western Downs Regional Council.

With special thanks to Ange Stirling Photography

Thanks also to Southern Queensland Country Tourism

Disclaimer:

Information in this magazine is correct at time of printing. For updates on data, projects and blogs go to the website:

www.wdrc.qld.gov.au

Produced by TSBE:

Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE) is the go-to organisation linking business with opportunity to create sustainable growth and diversity for the region.

TSBE is an independent, member-driven economic development organisation actively linking our business community to opportunities across the Toowoomba, Western Downs, Maranoa and surrounding areas.

We're committed to ensuring that our local business community will innovate, adapt and prosper and we take pride in encouraging major investment and promoting the vital need for new and upgraded infrastructure in our region.



Experience Western Downs

It's the people that make it.

WESTERN
DOWNS
REGIONAL COUNCIL



The Western Downs is a fantastic place to call home with an active and inclusive community and strong, diverse economy. Be a part of a vibrant region built on the people that make it.

Call in to a visitor information centre or visit westerndownsqueensland.com.au