

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre Community Care News



February 2026 – March 2026

Highlights

Highlight one: GGNC Highlights from 2025 (pgs. 2 & 3)

Highlight two: C&F Create a Plate Activity (pg. 6)

Highlight three: Summer Reading Club Gallery (pg. 10)

Neighbourhood Centre staff

Branch Manager
Community Services
Kirstin Harrison

Community
Development Officer
Melissa Bayntun

Support Officers
Johanna Pearce

Community
Connect Worker
Fiona McLean

Child and Family
Support Officers
Jodie Goodwin
Kim McDonald

A Message from Mel.

Happy New Year community. Here we are 2026 the year of the Horse. We hope it all brings kindness and happiness to your life. We had a week off, but we are straight back into creating a safe space full of activities, workshops and events for you all to enjoy. Mrs Claus was very popular, and she made an appearance at a local coffee shop to read a Christmas Story, was taken to the Kindy in a Fire Truck to deliver gifts to the children. Then Grinch made an appearance at the Christmas Street parade. So much community engagement. Just before the holiday break the Gin Gin Neighbourhood centre was given a large donation of dignity bags. These bags and their contents were donated by people from all over the state. Certainly, was a privilege to receive such a donation for our vulnerable community members. The community BBQs are back up and running with the last Thursday of each month starting at 11.30am. The Community Hub entered the Go Christmasy Council competition. Our theme was Home Alone; lots of fun was had and the community really enjoyed the little scene we created in the centre. We didn't win but our other team members in Bundaberg did so we are still super proud. As usually 2026 is no different for our support to you and any difficult situations you may be experiencing; please just come in and have a chat. We are all here for you.



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Jointly funded by the
Australian Government and
Queensland Government in
association with Bundaberg
Regional Council.

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

December 2025 Photo Snaps



Mrs Claus and The Grinch 2025



2025 Photo Gallery



What's on Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre



All Ability Karaoke

End of each month (dates vary)

3pm – 5 pm

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

FREE

Sing your heart out at our All Ability Karaoke! Enjoy a couple of hours filled with laughter, music and unforgettable performances from your friends and neighbours whilst they sing karaoke to their favourite songs. **Contact us directly for dates.**



Community BBQ

Last Thursday each month

11:30am – 1pm

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

FREE

Free community BBQ to bring the community together. Come along for a bite to eat, meet new people and connect with other community members. *This initiative has been proudly funded by the department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety Via Neighbourhood Centres Qld.*



IWD Breakfast

Monday 9 March 2026

7am – 8:30am (seating from 6:45am)

Gin Gin Bowls Club –
37 Sommerset St, Gin Gin

\$15 per Person

Join us for this year's International Women's Day Breakfast. The day marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality and acknowledging how we can enhance and foster women's empowerment. **RSVP by 2 March 2026**



NESS Workshops

Each Thursday in February

9:30am–11:30am

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

FREE

NESS is a short series of conversational, low-pressure group workshops, providing a supportive environment for you to explore and enhance your understanding, skills and mental well-being. Working with you, wherever you are, in your employment, volunteering or study journey.

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

GGNC Word Search

Community	R N O P O R E E E M O C G B T G I A Y I R N
Gin Gin	L P N S E C G A F N D I E H E A C C T E I I
Collaborative	R C E I A F Y T T O A B O A A A I G I A S N
Library	N I R R A F M G C B N I D I A I E U N F N R
Neighbourhood	R E O O T O E U E L N R C G C I L B U P E S
Family	C E P E I E W S D L E G U R V I A E M L I E
Welcoming	C U A C N D E T P E O F S W E L C O M I N G
Creative	P S A M M E C U D A E V N O N A T L O R C D
Supportive	I I V P C O V I L Y C I N E P L T I C E O O
Diverse	H P E E M E V U I G W E E P C L R I P C D O
Dear Street	S I E W H E O R E T C E R C E C E V V E E H
Public	D E T U R B R S O E D M S T V I M V E E A R
Relaxing	N Y N S E D I S U P P O R T I V E A M O R U
Friendship	E E E E R G E V P V F C G N I X A L E R S O
Safe Space	I M F E V I T A R O B A L L O C I O M R T B
Centre	R W A C T N R E G B R M O V X R S F E U R H
	F E M T R G T S O I O N I E F V A A C L E G
	O A I I C I D U R Y R A R B I L A N C T E I
	G R L P T N M V B P L E E O I F A X H I T E
	I N Y B S I E R F I P R D T E R T N E C V N

Gin Gin Community Connect Program

About the program

The program supports the Centre with their vital role in supporting the Gin Gin Community. Neighbourhood and Community Centres provide a universal point of access for individuals and families to obtain support and advocacy services as well as referrals to formal service systems.

Who can use the program?

Community Connect services support vulnerable individuals and families. The services can connect you to social programs and support services, including counselling, parenting help, financial literacy or crisis supports and much more.

Our Community Connect Worker has a focus on the participant's needs and wishes, are solution-focussed and work towards resolving issues and removing barriers. Fiona can assist by finding the right support for you at the right time.

To get started, contact the Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre to make a time to meet privately with our Community Connect Worker, Fiona and talk about your circumstances. During this time, Fiona will work together with you to connect you to relevant support services. In some circumstances, we may also be able to provide assistance in meeting costs associated with accessing these services.

Reach out to Fiona in the centre or via phone on 07 4130 4630



Gin Gin Child and Family Support

Early Years Christmas Playgroup

To end a year of wonderful playgroups, we held our annual Christmas Playgroup on December 10. Children enjoyed some Christmas craft and a delicious morning tea. The highlight of the morning was a visit from Mrs Claus. And even better, families were able to have their photo taken with Mrs Claus as well.



Create a Plate Holiday Activity

To give the kids a fun reason to get out of the house during the holidays, we hosted a “Create a Plate” activity. Children designed their own plates with bright, imaginative artwork, each one turning into a little masterpiece. They walked away proud of what they’d made and now have a special keepsake for the mantel at home — something they can show off to family and friends.



What is Child and Family Support?

For Children

Supporting children to grow, learn, and explore with confidence as they build their developmental foundations during their early years of life.

For Parents:

Supporting parents to feel confident, connected, and equipped with the knowledge and tools to nurture their child's early growth and development.

Gin Gin Child and Family Support

Kids Australia Day Activity

To get into the spirit of Australia Day, Child and Family hosted a morning of fun activities for the kids. They joined in on Australian-themed crafts and enjoyed creating pieces that celebrated our unique culture. The goal was simple – to help children connect with and appreciate what makes Australia special. We ended the morning with a sausage on bread and a great Aussie favourite story.



What's on Gin Gin Child and Family Support



Playgroup

Each Wednesday (during school term)

9.30 – 11.30 AM

Gin Gin HUB

FREE – morning tea provided

A relaxed, welcoming morning designed for families with children aged 0–5 years – a chance to explore new activities together and build fresh connections for both parents and little ones. Guest speakers and facilitators are brought in depending on needs.



Let's Play Together

Second Thursday of each month

9.30 – 11.30 AM

Gin Gin HUB

FREE – morning tea provided

A gentle and welcoming way to ease little ones into playgroup life. Suitable for children from birth to 18 months, the activities encourage early development and meaningful connection. Parents can relax with a coffee and enjoy a chat while their babies explore and engage.

Gin Gin Library

First 5 Forever giveaway

Talk, read, sing and play with your children every day.

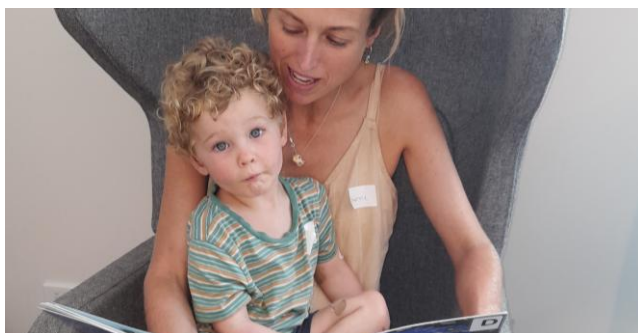
Hop into your local library and collect a free book and toy for children aged five years and under.

Singing songs and rhymes as you go about your day is great for early literacy development. You can make up your own words to familiar tunes.



What's on Gin Gin Library

For more information or to RSVP visit artsbundaberg.com.au or contact the Gin Gin Library on 4130 4620 or at 4 Dear Street, Gin Gin.



Story Play

Mondays (term-time only)

9.30am

First date 2026: 2 February

Free

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



Story Squad

Mondays (term-time only)

3pm

First date 2026: 2 February

Free

Join the Story Squad! Listen to a story, read a story, bring your school reader or read one from the library. Become a reading hero member and earn rewards.

Gin Gin Library staff

Gin Gin Library
Coordinator
Sharon Millett

Library Assistant
Szilvia Aranyi

Library and
Community Assistant
Maya Sylvan

Library Volunteers
Jordan Levin
Ben Hicks
Tamara Kelly



What's on Gin Gin Library

For more information or to RSVP visit artsbundaberg.com.au or contact the Gin Gin Library on 4130 4620 or at 4 Dear Street, Gin Gin.



Every 2nd Wednesday

Arrive 1.15pm for 1.30pm start

Next sessions: 11 & 25 February; 11 & 25 March

Free

A fun-filled afternoon of brain teasers and friendly competition. Test your knowledge on a variety of topics. Get ready to put your thinking caps on! Light refreshments & prizes included.



Book Club

Last Monday of the month

12.30pm

Next meeting: 23 February

Free

We read the same book and then discuss it. The current book is *The Drowning* by Bryan Brown. Pop into the library to join the club and collect a book.



Chess

Every Tuesday

1 – 3pm

First date 2026: 6 January

Free

Come into the library to play some Chess. Open to all ages and beginners are welcome!



After School Fun

Thursdays (term-time only)

3.15 pm

First date 2026: 5 February

Free

Heaps of fun every Thursday after school: Kids' Book Club, Lego Club, Games, Art.

Gin Gin Library staff

Gin Gin Library
Coordinator
Sharon Millett

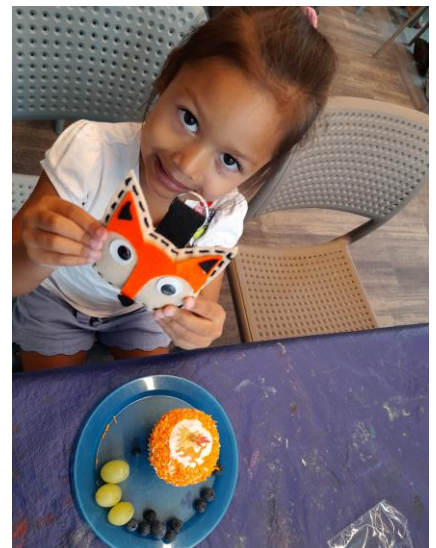
Library Assistant
Szilvia Aranyi

Library and
Community Assistant
Maya Sylvan

Library Volunteers
Jordan Levin
Ben Hicks
Tamara Kelly



Summer Reading Club



February 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	3 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	4 GGNC – Pilates C&F – Early Years Playgroup	5 Lib – Kids’ Book Club GGNC – NESS Workshop	6 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
9 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	10 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	11 Lib – Trivia GGNC – Pilates C&F – Early Years Playgroup	12 Lib – Lego GGNC – NESS Workshop C&F – Lets Play Together Playgroup	13 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
16 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All GGNC – National Tim Tam Day	17 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	18 GGNC – Pilates C&F – Early Years Playgroup	19 Lib – Games GGNC – NESS Workshop	20 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
23 Lib – Story Play Lib – Book Club Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	24 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	25 Lib – Trivia GGNC – Pilates GGNC – Disaster Workshop C&F – Early Years Playgroup	26 GGNC – Community BBQ GGNC – NESS Workshop	27 GGNC – The Artistic Corner GGNC – All Abilities Karaoke

March 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	3 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	4 GGNC – Pilates C&F – Early Years Playgroup	5 Lib – Kids’ Book Club	6 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
9 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All GGNC – International Women’s Day Breakfast	10 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	11 Lib – Trivia GGNC – Pilates C&F – Early Years Playgroup	12 Lib – Lego C&F – Lets Play Together Playgroup	13 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
16 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	17 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	18 GGNC – Pilates C&F – Early Years Playgroup	19 Lib – Games	20 GGNC – The Artistic Corner GGNC – Harmony Day
23 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	24 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	25 Lib – Trivia GGNC – Pilates C&F – Early Years Playgroup	26 GGNC – Community BBQ	27 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
30 Lib – Story Play Lib – Book Club Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	31 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All			