

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre Community Care News



June 2026 – July 2026

Highlights

Highlight one: Staff in the Spotlight – pg5

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Highlight three: School Holiday Activities – pg8

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.

I do not know about you guys, but this year is flying by. I'm not sure because we are super busy doing some amazing community events with other stakeholders or the days are just going fast. Either way we have had some great events come our way and there is many more planned. Some new events are the Mighty Mitts Boxing youth program. The Neighbourhood Centre was approached by a mother to get the program in Gin Gin. I made some contacts and Bendigo Bank sponsored the program and with the support of the Neighbourhood Centre, the program started last week with 28 participants attending. The first community BBQ happened under the new grant funding from Food Bank-Feeding Kids Queensland and we had a great turn out, with some community members donating soft drinks, fruit and cheesecake. Community connecting and sharing is what these BBQs are all about. May was Domestic and Family violence awareness month with Gin Gin, hosting a sausage sizzle, candle lighting vigil and an awareness walk. June has the neighbourhood centre hosting events for Men's Mental Health Awareness Day, World Environment Day and another Suicide Prevention Workshop. The Gin Gin RSL Subbranch placed a displayed in the centre for reflection and awareness of ANZAC DAY. Please be kind to yourself and others.



Australian Government



Queensland Government

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

What's on Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre



Watercolour Workshop

Every Tuesday

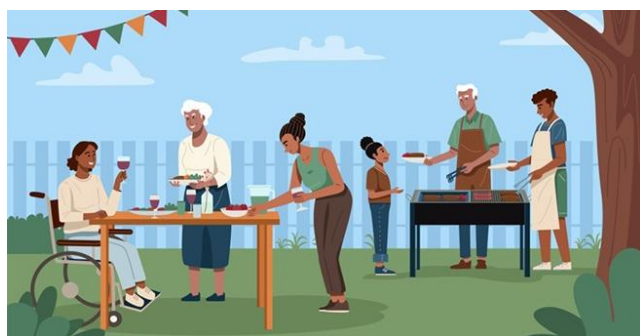
10am – 12pm

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

FREE! No Bookings required

Our adult Watercolour Workshops are for all levels of experience, with a volunteer or other members to assist with painting technique. All supplies are provided.

Light refreshments – tea, coffee & biscuits.



Community BBQ's

Last Thursday of each month

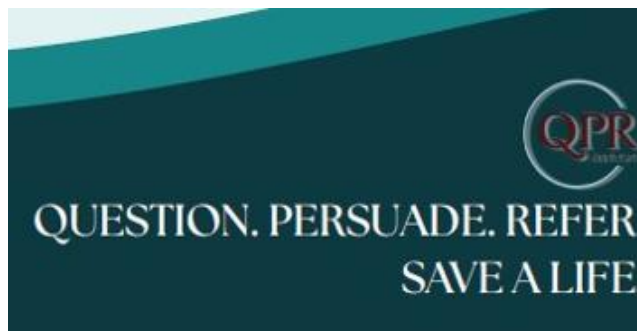
12pm – 1.30pm

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

FREE!

As a Neighbourhood Centre, we understand community and the current struggles that exist; so, we are giving back by providing a monthly BBQ. Come along, meet new people, connect and enjoy a meal on us.

This initiative is proudly funded by Food Bank through Feeding Queensland Kids grant.



QPR Gatekeeper Training

Thursday 4 June

10am – 2pm

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

Bookings Required – Call 0421 289 889

The QPR Institute's mission is to save lives and reduce suicidal behaviours through practical, evidence-based suicide prevention training. Register your interest and attend to learn how to recognise a suicide crisis and connect someone to help.



NESS Workshops

Thursday 25 June

9.30am – 11.30am

Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

FREE! Bookings Required.

NESS (Neami Employment Support Service) is a short series of conversational, low-pressure group workshops, providing a supportive environment for you to enhance your understanding, skills and mental wellbeing.

Register interest: ness@neaminational.org.au

April Album and May Memories



Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

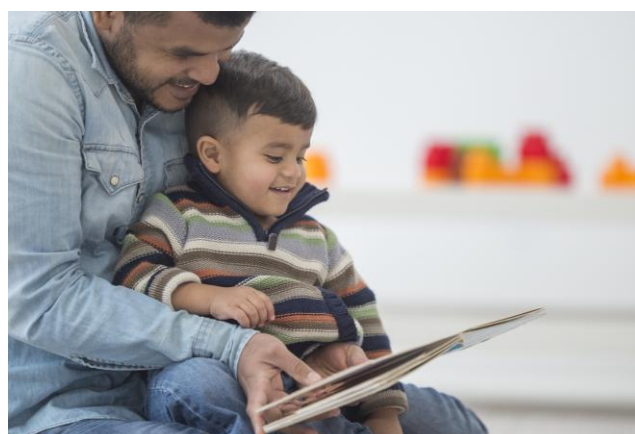
World Environment Day

Attend the information session with Bundaberg Regional Councils, Parks & Garden team. There will be an environmental day themed Storytime with the librarian and children will receive a fun and interactive plant collection activity. Education for the environments where share and reside in are important and the goal for this years session to discuss the ways we can take care of it and enjoy its beauty. More information for this event will be release later.



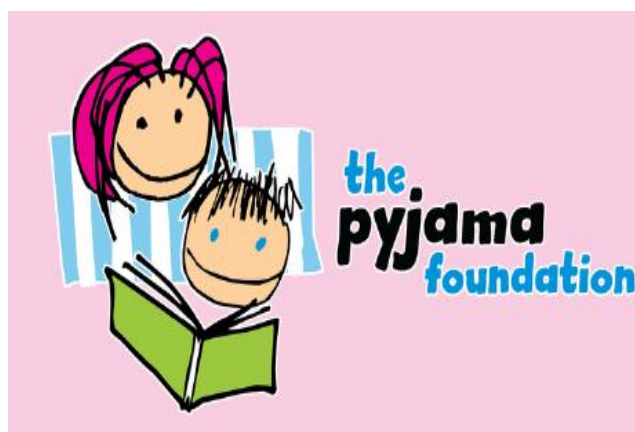
Men's Mental Health Awareness Day

To acknowledge the men within Gin Gin and surrounding communities the Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre, we will be hosting a BBQ Friday 12 June. This year we are collaborating with Gin Gin Mens Shed and hosting in Kolan Community Park. Resources and support will be provided on this day to encourage outreach and healthy motivation to get support when needed. More information regarding this event will be released see, ensure to attend the hub and check in.



National Pyjama Day

Winter is an invite for cozy PJ's and hot chocolate. We plan on enjoying those two things while also giving back to an amazing organisation. We plan on celebrating National Pyjama Day by spending our workday in our best flannelette and hosting a hot chocolate stand. All proceeds from our hot chocolate stand will be donated to The Pyjama Foundation which I an organisation that raises funds and awareness for children in foster care.



Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre

Community BBQ's

Great news for the community of Gin Gin!

Our community development officer Mel recently reached out to Bunnings Warehouse Bundaberg for a donation of a BBQ, to use for the free community BBQ days. And guess what? They were more than happy to supply one. Thank you Bunnings for supporting our great community.

To see it in action, come join us for the next Community BBQ Thursday 25 June.



Staff in the Spotlight

The newest member of Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre is our casual Community Development Officer, Kristy. Her role involves community engagement, program management, collaboration for community groups, assisting individuals with Emergency Relief and coordinating our SPER Debt Recovery Program.

The SPER Debt Reduction Program encourages community members who have SPER debt to attend sessions at the HUB designed to encourage growth within themselves while reducing their SPER debt, attending the education sessions and events we host every Thursday.

Within this program, individuals can connect and participate in:

- Educational courses.
- Strengthen mental health with mindful activities.
- Assist in community events and activities.
- Receive and offer peer support
- Receive support with accessing and completing applications/forms.
- Support in developing connection and communication.

Kristy states that the SPER clients have demonstrated a range of positive outcomes since engaging in the program. Many are developing stronger financial literacy skills and understanding of their debts, we are also seeing increased engagement with support services and community, proactive communication and a stronger sense of accountability, a greater sense of control over their circumstances, which often translates into improvements in other areas of life, such as Housing stability, family relationships and overall wellbeing. This is a space where you can learn, ask questions, and explore options at your own pace. This program is designed to be supportive, non-judgemental, and practical. We encourage you to come in and experience these session of SPER Debt reduction is something that can support you.



Gin Gin Child and Family Support

Easter Bunny Visits Playgroup

It was a busy and exciting end to Term 1 for the Early Years Playgroups, highlighted by a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny. Children were thrilled by the unexpected guest and eagerly gathered for some extra attention before the Easter Bunny went hopping away. Children also enjoyed a range of Easter themed craft activities, shared plenty of smiles and overall enjoyed the environment. To top the morning off, each children received a little chocolate treat from the Easter Bunny to enjoy.



Smile Care Dental Visit

We were very grateful for the team at Smile Care Dental for coming out to the Neighbourhood Centre and providing free dental checks for eligible children. This was a valuable opportunity for the Early Years Playgroup Community to support children's oral health. Children were introduced to positive care dental practices in a warm and friendly relaxed setting. This will help children to build their confidence and encourage healthy dental habits from a young age. Participants also got a free toothbrush and dental care information to take home.



Parenting Support

Feeling defeated, overwhelmed or lacking confidence in your parenting? You are not alone. Child and Family Support is here and offers a safe, supportive and welcoming space for families to reach out, connect, share and access guidance to help build confidence and strengthen parenting

skills. Jodie is a trained Circle of Security Parent Facilitator and is here to walk alongside parents and families, providing encouragement and practical support every step of the way. For more information or for a chat, give the HUB a call on 4130 3630.

Gin Gin Child and Family Support

School Holiday Fun in the Park

Families and children enjoyed a fun filled morning in the park using their larger muscles to run, jump, skip, balance and explore a variety of active play experiences. The event encouraged team building, movement, coordination and confidence among the children who attended. It was a fantastic morning that brought many families together to enjoy the great outdoors while in a relaxed and engaging environment with their children.



What's on Gin Gin Child and Family Support



Under 8's Day

Wednesday 27 May

10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Gin Gin Primary School

FREE

A child focused event that promotes the importance of early childhood development in the early stages of a child's life. An outdoor event brought to you by Child and Family Support and the Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre.



GIN GIN Welcome Baby

Wednesday 1 July

10.00 am

Gin Gin HUB

FREE

Registrations are now open for Welcome Baby Celebrations. To register your child, please contact Jodie at the HUB. Babies aged 18 months and under on the day of the event are invited to register.

Gin Gin Library

Kids' Book Club

Kids' Book Club is held each month to promote reading and writing. In each session children hear about recently published books and can share their own book experiences. They are also invited to work on a fun creative activity which explores different aspects of story writing.

Kids' Book Club is held at 3.15pm on the first Thursday of the month. The next session is on 4 June. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No bookings are required.



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 & 4th Wednesday

Arrive 1.15pm for 1.30pm start

Next sessions: 10 & 24 June; 8 & 22 July

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.

School holidays

Bookings are open 2 weeks prior.

Mystery craft: 29 June 10am All ages

Digital drawing: 2 July 10am 8yrs+

Clay creation: 6 July 10am 4yrs+

Mini lighthouse: 9 July 10am 7yrs +

The Reading Hunt (no booking needed) – pick up a map at the library.

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.



Chess Club

Every Tuesday
1 – 3pm
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
Free

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



Story Play

Mondays (term-time only)
9.30am
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
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

Dinosaur Exploration Experience

Younger visitors to Gin Gin Library thoroughly enjoyed the interactive dinosaur exhibition during April and May. This exhibition was funded by First 5 Forever to encourage children to talk, read, sing and play.



June 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	2 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	3 C&F – Early Years Playgroup GGNC – Pilates	4 Lib – Kids’ Book Club GGNC – Suicide Prevention Workshop	5 GGNC – The Artistic Corner GGNC – World Environment Day
8 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	9 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	10 C&F – Early Years Playgroup Lib – Trivia GGNC – Pilates	11 C&F – Early Years Let’s Play Together (birth – 18 m) Lib – Lego	12 GGNC – The Artistic Corner GGNC – Mens Mental Health Awareness Day
15 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	16 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	17 C&F – Early Years Playgroup GGNC – Pilates	18 Lib – Games Group	19 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
22 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	23 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	24 C&F – Early Years Playgroup Lib – Trivia GGNC – Pilates	25 GGNC – NESS Workshop GGNC – Community BBQ	26 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
29 Lib – Mystery craft Lib – Book Club GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	30 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All			

July 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 C&F – Welcome Baby Ceremony GGNC – Pilates	2 Lib – Digital Drawing	3 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
6 Lib – Clay Creation GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	7 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All GGNC – Solomon Islands Independence Day	8 C&F – NAIDOC Activity Lib – Trivia GGNC – Pilates	9 C&F – Early Years Let's Play Together (birth – 18 m) Lib – Mini lighthouse	10 GGNC – The Artistic Corner GGNC – All Abilities Disco
13 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	14 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	15 C&F – Early Years Playgroup GGNC – Pilates	16 Lib – Games Group	17 GGNC – The Artistic Corner
20 Lib – Story Play Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	21 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	22 C&F – Early Years Playgroup Lib – Trivia GGNC – Pilates	23	24 GGNC – The Artistic Corner GGNC – National Pyjama Day
27 Lib – Story Play Lib – Book Club Lib – Story Squad GGNC – Craft & Chat GGNC – Cards N All	28 Lib – Chess GGNC – Watercolour Workshop GGNC – Cards N All	29 C&F – Early Years Playgroup GGNC – Pilates	30 GGNC – Community BBQ	31 GGNC – The Artistic Corner