

GBNC Newsletter

What's happening at GBNC

Winter 2024



GBNC Updates

Staff farewells/welcomes

The Granite Belt sadly said farewell to Kate Haylock our Youth Support Service (YSS) Officer. We wish her well and thank her for her valuable work in both the YSS program and before that the Early Years Program.

We welcome to the GBNC team Kirstin Purcell who has taken over the Youth Support Service role.

Programs

Driving Work Life Opportunities has been extended to wind up at the end of July. During this phase DWLO's focus will move to implementing the driving simulator experience that was funded through this program. Stay tuned for more information.

The *Healthy Ageing* program which has really hit the ground running in Stanthorpe in particular, is awaiting to hear if it will be refunded for another year up to 30th June, 2025. Fingers crossed.

The *Community Transport Access* project which is only just beginning to get operational is likewise waiting to hear if it will be refunded for another year up to 30th June, 2025. Fingers crossed.

GBNC's *Multicultural drivers* short-term project is timetabled to commence work in August. Look to facebook posts for more information when launched.

Volunteers Wanted

GBNC's FoodSupport is seeking more volunteers to help with the program.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer for the FoodSupport program, please drop into the Granite Belt Neighbourhood Centre and complete an application form.

However, unfortunately, we are unable to offer volunteer roles to people who access the Food Support program.

FYI, the FoodSupport program is GBNC's once per week (Thursdays) food parcel program where people pre-booked pick up a box of food.



See page 2 for more information about the FoodSupport program.

(Author: Fiona Magnussen)

Braking the Cycle Stanthorpe is funded ongoing!

GBNC is very proud to see that this valuable program is now ongoing funded via Dpt Transport & Main Roads. Great community development work by GBNC!

Partner Agencies



CatholicCare
Social Services



Legal and Social
Justice Services

Donations

- ✓ Australian Vinegar
- ✓ Diggers Club
- ✓ Rotary Stanthorpe Satellite Club
- ✓ Zonta club of Stanthorpe
- ✓ Sam's Farm Fresh Fruit & Veg
- ✓ Local farmers
- ✓ The Nappy Collective
- ✓ Spano's IGA Stanthorpe

Supporters



A vibrant organisation growing, building and nurturing our community

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Program in focus

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FoodSupport

The FoodSupport Program operates each week from 15 Hilton Street providing food boxes to people identified through our Emergency Relief Program.

Each week a group of dedicated volunteers collect donated goods from local businesses and prepare the boxes for distribution.

Although the program has a small budget it relies mainly on donations.

To date this financial year the program has prepared approximately 1600 boxes to a value of approx \$121,000.00.

Some weeks we have seen over 50 boxes prepared for collection.



Through quality improvements over the last 18 months, we have been able to minimise the waste generated by the program.

A key strategy to minimise waste is that we now offer foods that are sometimes less than perfect for people to choose whether they take it or not.

Most weeks there is little to no items remaining.

FoodSupport

We now find that we are wasting only foods that are truly rotten or not fit for human consumption.

This is then distributed for compost or animal food to people within the community.



Unfortunately, this has resulted in us being unable to as frequently support local groups e.g. Satellite Rotary Club and Happy Chat with this imperfect fruit and vegetables as we once may have because we don't have spare product available to donate to them.

Rest assured wherever possible FoodSupport will be in contact if we have product available.

We appreciate all donations large or small and would like to sincerely thank those who have donated in any way.

(Author: Fiona Magnussen)

Note the item on page 1 calling for interest by anyone with a couple of hours each week to volunteer in the FoodSupport program.

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What's new

Winter 2024

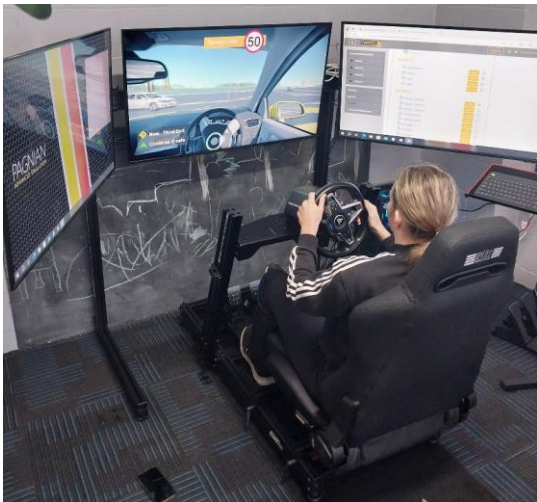


Driving simulator for youth: unique learner driver program launched in Stanthorpe

A groundbreaking initiative aimed at improving the driving skills of young people has been launched by GBNC, with the introduction of a state-of-the-art driving simulator.

This specialized Learner Driver program, the first of its kind in the area, promises to revolutionize the way new drivers gain experience and confidence on the road.

Excitement was in the air as the first learner driver took the simulator for a spin.



The realistic simulation provided an immersive experience, allowing the young driver to navigate various driving scenarios safely. This hands-on approach is designed to build essential skills and knowledge without the risks associated with real-world driving.

This innovative program stands out as the only one of its kind locally, filling a crucial gap in driver education.

Driving simulator for youth (cont)

The simulator replicates a range of driving conditions covering all the basics of driving.

The specialized program running on the simulator is tailored to meet the needs of young drivers. It includes modules on defensive driving, hazard recognition, and emergency manoeuvres, ensuring that learners are well-prepared for the challenges they may face on the road.

The program also offers personalized feedback and progress tracking, helping learners and instructors identify areas for improvement.

The introduction of this driving simulator marks a new era in driver education in the area.

By providing a safe, controlled environment for young people to learn and practice driving, the program aims to reduce the number of accidents involving new drivers and promote safer driving habits.

The driving simulator program is now open for enrolment, inviting young aspiring drivers to take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn, practice, and excel in their driving skills.

This was all made possible due to funding from Commonwealth Government - Safer Communities Fund Round 6 - Early Intervention.

For more information contact Maritta.

(Author: Maritta Hutley)

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Granite Belt community directory and diary launched

GBNC celebrated a successful launch of the Stanthorpe Community Directory and Diary. The event, which saw a good turnout, highlighted the community's readiness to embrace this modern resource designed to connect community, businesses, clubs and organizations across the region.

Mayor Melissa Hamilton officially launched the directory, expressing her interest for its potential to enhance community engagement and accessibility to local services. Mayor Hamilton was joined by councillors Morwenna Harslett, Russell Wantling, and Sarah Deane, who all expressed interest in how the directory could align with their new portfolios focused on inspired, active, and healthy communities. Indicating that the directory represents a significant step forward in strengthening our community bonds and ensuring everyone has access to the resources they need.



Photo L-R

Brentyn Parkin – Executive Director, Community Information Support Services; Southern Downs Councillor's Cr Sarah Deana, Cr Morwenna Harslett, Mayor Melissa Hamilton; Jennifer Leigh – Manager GBNC, Benjamin Pearce -National Memberships Coordinator CISS; Cr Russell Wantling.

Attendees were given a brief outline on how to register or update their organizations details, access the Members Centre, to and add events into the Community Diary.

Granite Belt community directory and diary launched

This guidance meant that those present could immediately start utilizing the platform's features to maximize their engagement with the community.

The creation of this community resource is a collaborative effort between the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe and GBNC. Made possible with a grant from Queensland Gives. The project has been overseen by Jaqui Unold, with significant support from Shane Linton, GBNC's IT consultant, and Helen McWaters, a dedicated volunteer.



Photo L-R

Jennifer Leigh – Manager GBNC, Brentyn Parkin – Executive Director Community Information Support Services, Fran Hodgson President GBNC, Jim Baxter – Rotary Stanthorpe

The GBNC team extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined the launch event. Your participation and enthusiasm have laid a strong foundation for the directory's success. We believe this tool will become essential for connecting the Granite Belt community, and we encourage everyone to spread the word and make the most of this platform.

(Author: Jaqui Unold)

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Listing on, and accessing the directory and diary

The Granite Belt Community Directory and Diary is set to become an indispensable resource for fostering community connections and ensuring easy access to local services and events.

Accessing the Directory

To explore and utilize the directory or diary, visit: [Stanthorpe Community Directory](#).

Organizations and agencies can add their details to the directory now by clicking the "LIST FREE" button at the top right-hand side of the page.

Community members are encouraged to download the PDF version of the directory to check if their organization is already listed and to share it widely within their networks.

The PDF can be accessed here: [Download Directory PDF](#).

How to Get Listed

For those who do not yet have a listing, the process to create one is straightforward and free:

Create an Account: Start by visiting the website or clicking [Register](#) to create an account.

List for Free: Follow the simple steps to create your listing and showcase your services.

Listing on, and accessing the directory and diary

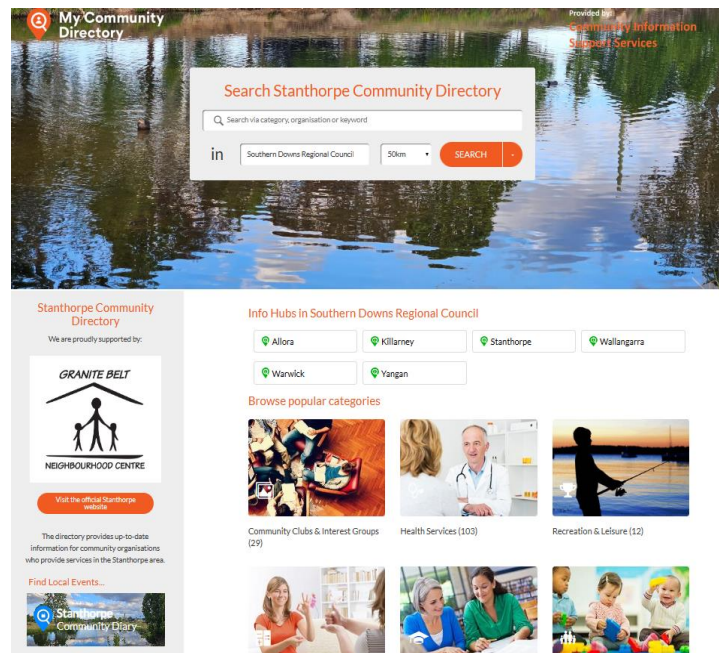
Dedicated Support

My Community Directory's dedicated support team is available from 8 am to 7 pm to assist with any inquiries.

They can be reached via email at support@mycommunitydirectory.com.au or by calling 1300 762 515.

The Granite Belt Community Directory and Diary is set to become an indispensable resource for fostering community connections and ensuring easy access to local services and events.

Author: Jaqui Unold)



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WarwickStanthorpeToday.com.au **NEWS**



Happy to launch the directory and diary, along side the team from Granite Belt Neighbourhood Centre were Mayor Melissa Hamilton together with Cr Sarah Deane, Cr Morwenna Hanslett and Cr Russell Wantling. Pictures: SAMANTHA WANTLING



Tracy Gunton, Ambalika Krishna and Hugh Strong were excited to explore the directory's benefits for their groups.

New directory launched

An online platform with a mission to connect everything that is important to the people in the community has been officially introduced in Stanthorpe.

On Thursday 30 May, about 40 people attended the launch of the Stanthorpe Community Directory and Diary at the Stanthorpe RSL Services Club.

The new directory was created as part of a bigger program servicing many parts of Australia through the MyCommunity platform. The provider, a health promotion charity called Community Information Support Services, was represented by its CEO Brentyn Parkin.

Granite Belt Neighbourhood Centre (GBNC) services manager Jennifer Leigh said the project was made possible by a grant given to the GBNC along with a partnership with the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe. The initial project funding would last until next June and they would be working to find partners for ongoing funding, she said.

Mr Parkin said the directory was designed to include service providers, community organisations and even listings that defied where volunteering opportunities existed.

"This is about providing what people are searching for. There are 295 services available at your fingertips," he said.

"We're covering the service delivery sector - but if we're going to live our best lives, this needs to connect back to the clubs and groups in the community. So you can find everything from aged care or disability services to a foot-ball club or a church."

Southern Downs Mayor Melissa Hamilton was flanked by councillors Russell Wantling, Morwenna Hanslett and Sarah Deane at the launch and all praised the area's new platform.

Cr Hamilton said one of the challenges of the modern world was around the different platforms used for community engagement and how to make the information available to all.

"I'd like to thank the Granite Belt Neighbourhood Centre and Rotary Stanthorpe who have been the driving forces behind this," she said.

She said the community directory's layout was very much in line with the recently introduced council portfolios, clearly identifying what the community was interested in.

"I can already see just from the introduction that this is something that will help the council to reach out," she said.

Ms Leigh encouraged people involved in clubs, organisations, agencies and support services to put their information up on the site.

"It's about connecting people - giving them access so they don't need others to help them get the information they need," she said.

The website is accessible from mycommunitydirectory.com.au (Queensland/Southern Downs, and listings are free.



Partners in the Granite Belt Community Directory are Granite Belt Neighbour Centre and Stanthorpe Rotary.



Donna Neale from Lifeline thanked Jacqui Unold from Granite Belt Neighbourhood Centre for all the hard work in putting the event together.



Ernie Jones, Peter Beacroft and Terry Acroman discussed potential collaborations using the directory.



Lynda Dunn and James Wong discussed the positive impact on community groups.



Ben White and Cath Gillespie shared their enthusiasm for the new directory.



Lisa Lewis from Services Australia discussed with benefits of the directory with Southern Downs Regional Council Community Development Officer Gwen Murphy.



Flying the flag for Granite Belt Support Services, Theresie Crisp and Sily Burgess were thrilled with the new Stanthorpe Community Directory.



Bush Kids representatives Susan Surch and Adeal Caruso were keen to learn more about the directory's features to now user.

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Community Development

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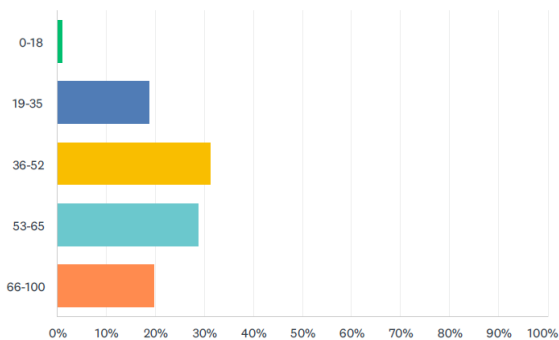


Wellbeing in the Granite Belt survey – an update

The Granite Belt community came good in their participation in GBNC's community wellbeing survey when extended for 2 weeks. In this time the number of responses doubled.

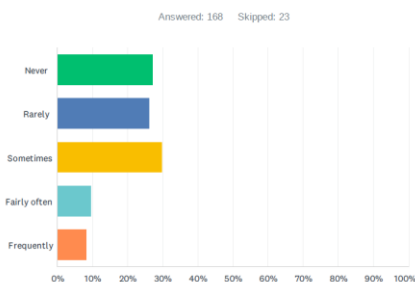
No deep analysis has yet commenced but a snapshot of some data indicates:

- 252 people completed the survey which represents approximately 2% of the resident population according to the latest census
- the age spread was representative of the lifespan



- 7.96% of respondents are in unstable housing or are homeless
- Feelings of social isolation

Q9 How often do you feel lonely or isolated from those around you?



Stay tuned in coming months for the final report.

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Community Transport project update

As you might remember, GBNC was funded by the Primary Health Network (PHN) for a 1 year project to improve access within the Granite Belt via community transport – that is local transport.

GBNC's contracted agency to implement this project, STAR Community Services, has recruited a new worker, Sarah Hasse.

She has commenced work and 1 day per week will be working from an office at GBNC.

You will no doubt soon see her around the Granite Belt.

Her initial focus will be to establish as a priority a pool of volunteer drivers (who are reimbursed for their mileage) plus any other transport solutions for both transport within the Granite Belt and transport to Warwick, Toowoomba etc.

Should you wish to contact Sarah her email is SHasse@starct.org.au

GBNC is VERY keen to see this project finally kicking off.

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What's on at GBNC

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Mondays

- Playgroup at The Summit State School – term2 - only
- Kids Korner Childcare
- GBNC Client appointments
- Emergency Relief 9am–12noon
- Youth Get-together every Monday
- Youth Pride group 12-21yrs mthly
- Music time - fortnightly - 0-3yrs 9.30-10.00am and 4-6years 10.15-10.45am for term 2
- Early Years The Summit SS Lego Therapy term 2

Tuesdays

- Playgroup for kids aged 0-5
- Hippy (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters) for kids aged 4-5 years

Wednesdays

- Kids Korner childcare
- Baby & Me 9:30–11:00 – 5 sessions during school terms
- Music time - fortnightly - 0-3yrs 9.30-10.00am & 4-6years 10.15-10.45am term 3

Thursdays

- Foodsupport 10 -11am
- Sensory playgroup for babies aged 0–5 months
- Catholic Care currently client phone appointment support fortnightly

Fridays

- Early Years Ballandean SS Lego Therapy term 1 and 2
- Kids Korner childcare
- GBNC Counselling
- D & D for youth every Friday

Monthly

- Rotary Stanthorpe Ageing Well morning tea at Hilton Street every 3rd Friday each month
- Free technology assistance for personal devices 9:00–11:30 Tuesdays. Check with reception for next available date

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Our services

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Early Years

Activities for parents and their children (prenatal to 8 years) aimed at assisting effective parenting skills.

Youth

Activities aimed at working with youth who are at risk of disengaging from school, family and/or the community 12 – 21yrs.

Mental Wellbeing (PHN)

Focused on initiatives to improve families and children's mental health transitioning to high school.

Family Support Services

Assists vulnerable families to develop family/household management skills, improve life skills and provide information, advice and referral.

Healthy Ageing Support

Supports senior Southern Downs residents to live at home through enhanced social connections.

Sustaining Tenancies

Available through GBNC for clients who need a helping hand. A realistic payment plan is set up to come out of your Centrelink payments

Food Support

Available weekly on a Thursday morning via a referral from GBNC staff. Clients are to attend our Food Support 15 Hilton St 10—11am only.

Emergency Relief

Available to assist on a time-limited basis with basic life needs and is available to any person/resident in the area including backpackers

Community Support Services

Works in a diverse range of ways including community development aimed at increasing sense of connectedness and build community capacity.

Kids Korner

Limited hours childcare for children aged 15 months to 5 years. Days of operation are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Casual use is encouraged.

Driving Work/Life Opportunities

Aims to expand life options & employment through addressing the barriers that prevent persons aged 16-25 years from obtaining a driver's licence. This program works with the PCYC's Braking the Cycle Stanthorpe program.

If you would like to be notified of GBNC's upcoming events follow us on Facebook or Instagram