

QUILPIE SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Newsletter



Christmas Wishes



The Mayor, Councillors and staff of Quilpie Shire Council wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

If you are travelling over the festive season, drive safely, and should the weather turn up the heat or give us wet feet, take care wherever you are.

We look forward to a successful and positive year ahead, in 2025.

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

CALENDAR SNEAK PEEK

AUSTRALIA DAY 2025

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WINNERS

COMMUNITY NEWS

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Council management and staff would like to thank residents and ratepayers for their support in 2024, and look forward to working with the community in 2025.

Council wishes everyone across the Shire a happy and safe festive season.

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2025
QUILPIE SHIRE COUNCIL BOARDROOM
50 BROLGA STREET, QUILPIE
COMMENCING 9:30AM



Council Meeting Catch Up

Corporate and Community Services

- Councillors supported a Community Assistance Application from Sandra Mocke on behalf of Quilpie Community Church Group to use the Quilpie Shire Hall Supper Room and kitchen at no cost on the third Sunday of each month from 17 January 2024 for a church service, on the proviso that both rooms are left clean and tidy after each use.

Infrastructure Services

- Pending final negotiations to conditions, Council will award RFQL 07 24-25 Flood Damage 2024 Ambathalla Road Package for the reconstruction of Essential Public Asset Works on Ambathalla Road, Boondoon Road and Cane Grass Road to S A Travers & S L Travers for the amount of \$1,109,572.72.
- Council approved the implementation of the Prioritisation Framework as a tool to evaluate and prioritise road improvement projects, with the caveat to report back to Council with details of the strategy to employ the framework.
- Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd was chosen as the recommended supplier for the Quilpie Airport Upgrade Design project for the amount of \$252,987.90.
- Council will apply for funding under the Active Transport Fund Program with the provision that Council budgets for \$129,000 in the next financial year FY25/26 if the application is successful.

Governance News

- Council endorsed the recommendation of the Local Government Remuneration Commission to apply from 1 July 2025. From that date the remuneration for the Mayor will be \$122,975 pa;

Deputy Mayor will be \$70,946; and Councillors will receive \$61,486 (a base payment of \$40,990.67 plus monthly meeting fees).

- Council issued a change decision notice approving a Minor Change to an existing Development Permit for "Commercial Stockyards" on land situated at Sommerfield Road, Quilpie, formally described as Lot 85 on SP153664. The amendment will increase the maximum amount of cattle on site at any time from 200 to 300.
- Airport landing fees will be considered when Council sets 2025-2026 Fees and Charges.
- The contract of Chief Executive Officer, Justin Hancock, was extended for a further four year period, effective 18 January 2025.
- 41 Pegler Street will be re-tendered to staff, along with other properties, as they become available.
- Council confirmed an amendment to the dates and times of February, March and August 2025 Ordinary meetings. The meeting dates for 2025 are as follows:
 - Thursday - 30 January
 - Wednesday - 12 February
 - Tuesday - 18 March
 - Tuesday - 29 April
 - Tuesday - 20 May
 - Tuesday - 17 June
 - Tuesday - 15 July
 - Tuesday - 26 August
 - Tuesday - 16 September
 - Tuesday - 28 October
 - Tuesday - 18 November
 - Tuesday - 16 December



CONGRATULATIONS

Winners of 2024 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

Christmas Wonderland

- **Geoff & Philippa Ware**

Outback Christmas Display

- **Coolbinga - Dale & Dannielle Stevenson**

Best Christmas Display Quilpie

- **Vallins Family**

Best Christmas Display Adavale

- **Narelle Mandusiak**

Simply Unique Christmas Display

- **Michael & Melanie Crack**

Spectacular Seniors Award

- **Ronnie Bartosch**

Festive Fence Award

- **Chris & Danielle Seng**

Best Decorated Business

- **All About Aquatics**



COUNCIL STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

Councillors, staff and their families recently celebrated their many achievements throughout the year at the annual Christmas Party.

Also making an appearance was a very special guest dressed in red, to the excited delight of all the children attending.

Recognition of Service Awards were announced during the event, with the following staff celebrating service milestones this year:

5 years:
Mark Whitehead, Nicola Tully & Richard Vallins

10 years:
Christine Houghton

15 years:
Maree Radnedge & Alisha Moody

20 years:
Raymond (John) Haupt

30 years: Lisa Hamlyn & John Thompson



COUNCIL STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

from previous page



EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Council employees also recognised the achievements of their co-workers through our annual Employee Award program.

Thank you to the record number of employees who were nominated for their contribution throughout the year, and a special congratulations go to the following award recipients:

Most Valued Player:

Daniel Luxford



Change Champion:

Kasey-lee Davie

WHS Warrior:

Brendan Horsten & Jarrod Lander

The A Team:

Road Construction Crew

Above & Beyond:

Tegan McDonald

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser:

Vicky Weeks

'Golden Girls':

Visitor Information Centre team





COUNCIL STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

from previous page

Every year, Council staff nominate a charity to raise money for over 12 months. The funds raised are matched dollar for dollar (to a maximum of \$10,000) by Council.

Since 2015, Council's Staff Fundraising Initiative has donated a total of \$228,844.10 to charities including Friends in Isolation, the Quilpie Hospital Auxiliary, Angel Flight, Heart Kids, Cancer Council Qld, Burrumbuttock Hay Runners and Rio's Legacy.

In 2024, the Charleville RFDS branch was the nominated recipient of the fundraising Initiative, which has donated the impressive figure of \$67,859.49 to the Charleville RFDS branch since 2015.

Council and staff were proud to present Base Support Manager of RFDS Charleville Liane Spencer, with a cheque for \$16,247.22 during the Christmas party.

Congratulations to all of the employees and the wider community for digging deep to support this much-needed and valuable service.



Thank you, Delma

Council would like to extend its sincere thanks to Delma Quinn for her continued unwavering support and commitment to the Quilpie Youth Centre Program.



Delma has been volunteering at the Youth Centre each week, offering her time, energy, and expertise to make a positive impact on the lives of the youth we serve.

Her kindness and enthusiasm truly enhance the experience for everyone involved. We are incredibly grateful for her continued support and look forward to Delma's continued involvement in 2025!



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

On 26 January 2025 Australians all around the country will celebrate what is great about Australia.

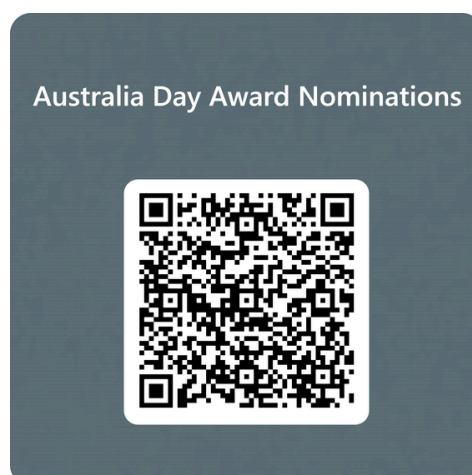
We would like you to help us celebrate what is great about our community by nominating a community champion for an Australia Day Award.

The Quilpie Shire Council Australia Day Awards will recognise members of our community who have made an outstanding contribution to the Shire we all call home.

The Award categories for nomination are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Quilpie Shire Business Award

To nominate a community champion for a Quilpie Shire Council Australia Day Award, scan the QR code below to complete your nomination form.



Nomination forms also available at the Quilpie Shire Council administration office or from the Quilpie Shire Council website - www.quilpie.qld.gov.au



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



2025 Australia Day Celebrations



Friday 24 January 5:30pm



Bulloo Park



**Australia Day
Award
Presentations**



Free Meal



Fireworks

**WELCOME
TO THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**Quilpie Singing Group
"OPEN MIC NIGHT"
With Special Guests
"Memphis Moovers"**

If you are new to the Shire please come on down. We'd love to welcome you to your new home and share some tips on what makes us unique



Bar



**Memphis Moovers
Children's Roving
Entertainment**

Get Ready Queensland / QSC Calendar

Quilpie Shire Council's annual Get Ready Queensland / QSC calendar features photos of local landscapes that showcase our shire.



Alisha Moody

Photographers include Donna Hodgson, Bee Rollason, Alisha Moody, Melanie Seebacher, Logan Drury, Heidi Mackenzie and Tahlia Derry. A selection of their photos feature in this newsletter.

To view all of the images in this year's calendar, grab your copy now.



Bee Rollason



Alisha Moody



Heidi Mackenzie



Bee Rollason

Your Health - Why Do People Smoke?

WHY DO PEOPLE SMOKE

Smoking usually starts as a symbolic act of rebellion or maturity.

Smoking can be a way to moderate negative feelings such as stress, nervousness and anxiety. Using cigarettes as a form of self-medication to overcome these emotions strengthens a smoker's relationship with tobacco and slowly builds up psychological dependency.

Nicotine releases a chemical called dopamine in the same regions of the brain as other addictive drugs. It causes mood-altering changes that make the person temporarily feel good.

Inhaled smoke delivers nicotine to the brain within 20 seconds, which makes it very addictive - comparable to opioids, alcohol and cocaine. If it were not for the nicotine in tobacco smoke, people would be little more inclined to smoke than they are to blow bubbles.

A smoker's body needs a constant level of nicotine throughout the day. When these levels dip, it experiences mini withdrawal symptoms. Smoking a cigarette, especially the first of the day, feels good mainly because it reverses the symptoms of nicotine withdrawal.

Smokers often use tobacco as both reward and motivator - for example, before a boring task or at the end of a hard day. In many situations, smoking fills in breaks and passes the time, especially 'dull' time such as waiting for a bus.

Smoking can make you feel part of a group, especially at work, and your partner and best friends might be smokers. After a while, smoking becomes a habit, where certain situations trigger the urge to smoke.



WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO GIVE UP SMOKING

1. Your metabolism returns to normal

Smoking reduces your body's ability to absorb important vitamins and minerals, including calcium and vitamins C and D. These are essential to maintaining healthy blood vessels, muscles and the body's healing processes.

Smoking can also impair your sense of smell and taste through irritation and inflammation of the nasal passage. By quitting smoking, you can taste and enjoy a wide variety of foods again.

2. Your ability to exercise improves

Smoking reduces the amount of oxygen in the bloodstream and the body's organs. Smoking also reduces people's lung fitness, making it harder to exercise and increasing the chances of injury.

Exercise can also be a powerful tool to help you quit smoking as it aids in stress management, provides a distraction, reduces your cravings and withdrawal symptoms, and helps to limit weight gain.

3. You'll be in a better mood and feel less stressed

Quitting smoking improves your mental health. Six months after quitting, you'll feel less stressed, anxious and depressed.

Your mood and quality of life will also improve.

4. You'll protect your loved ones from second-hand smoke

Quitting smoking protects your loved ones and pets from breathing second-hand smoke. Second-hand smoke contains more than 7000 chemicals, with 69 known to cause cancer.

There's no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke. It causes immediate and long-term adverse health problems to people around you, especially children, and your pets.

5. Your financial wellbeing improves

Quitting smoking isn't only good for your health, but also for your wallet.

The cost of tobacco can be a strong motivator for people to quit. For example, for the price of a pack of 25 cigarettes, you can feed a family of six a healthy breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

You can keep track of the money you save from quitting with the My Quit Buddy app.

What to expect when you stop

Many studies have shown that withdrawal symptoms are attributable to nicotine, and nicotine replacement (by gum, patch, spray, or lozenge) reliably decreases the severity of withdrawal symptoms.

Allen Carr likens the smoker to someone who wears tight shoes just for the pleasure of taking them off, and it is a good analogy. Smokers smoke for the pleasure of relieving nicotine withdrawal symptoms - symptoms that only smoking gives them.

In other words, we spend a fortune, and take terrible health risks, just to achieve the state that non-smokers maintain effortlessly.

Can you see yourself as a non-smoker?

It's an important first step to think about.

If you can we would love you to consider joining the Quilpie Quitters this March. Contact the Quilpie Medical Practice to reserve a place on the team.

Table 1

Effects of nicotine withdrawal

Symptom	Duration	Incidence (%)
Lightheadedness	< 48 hours	10
Sleep disturbance	< 1 week	25
Poor concentration	< 2 weeks	60
Craving for nicotine	< 2 weeks	70
Irritability or aggression	< 4 weeks	50
Depression	< 4 weeks	60
Restlessness	< 4 weeks	60
Increased appetite	< 10 weeks	70



South West Hospital and Health Service

Building better health in the bush

Quilpie Community – Medical Services

Dear Community Member

I hope this message finds you well. With the countdown to the festive season well underway I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and all the very best for a wonderful 2025.

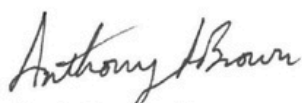
As you know South West Hospital and Health Service has been working hard to ensure all rosters are filled with medical locums. Quilpie has experienced minimal gaps in medical services and this will continue over the Christmas / New Year period with Dr Tim Rooke rostered on from 17 December 2024 to 6 January 2025 and Dr Geoff Cox working from 7 to 20 January 2025. The dedication and commitment of both these locum doctors are ensure continuous medical support to the community.

For after-hours or emergency presentations, our nurses at Quilpie Multipurpose Health Service (MPHS) are trained to assess your needs. They can consult with a doctor when necessary and also collaborate with the Telehealth Emergency Management Support Unit (TEMSU) and Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ). These expert services offer videoconference support to rural and remote areas, along with aeromedical retrievals, ensuring access to specialized medical care.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Acting Director of Nursing Teneille de Jong at the Quilpie Multipurpose Health Service if you would like to provide any feedback or please feel free to send any feedback through to our SWHHS-Consumer_Feedback@health.qld.gov.au.

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout 2024. As the year draws to a close I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the community, your support means a lot to us here at the South West Hospital and Health Service. Together, as we work in partnership our communities are much healthier and more vibrant.

Have a safe, happy and healthy festive season.



Dr Anthony Brown
Health Service Chief Executive
17 December 2024

PEST PLANT- MESQUITE *Prosopis pallida* plant

Honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), mesquite or algarroba (*Prosopis pallida*) and Quilpie mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) are category 3 restricted invasive plants under the Biosecurity Act 2014. They must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO).

DESCRIPTION

Species vary in growth characteristics. Mesquite can occur as a multi-stemmed shrub with branches drooping to the ground, around 3-5 m high, or as a single-stemmed tree with a spreading canopy growing to 15m. Leaves are fern-like in appearance. Each leaf has 1-4 pairs of leaf branches (pinnae), with each 'branch' having 6-18 pairs of individual leaflets. Leaflets vary from oval-shaped to long and narrow depending on the species

LIFE CYCLE

Mesquite plants generally produce their first flowers and seeds when they are between two and five years old, although pod production within one year has been observed under ideal conditions. Mesquite flowers predominantly in spring and early summer, with pods taking two to three months to mature.

METHODS OF SPREAD

The major method of spread of mesquite is by dispersal of seeds in the faeces of stock. Mesquite pods are relished by stock, particularly horses and cattle, some feral animals such as pigs, and native animals such as emus.

CONTROL - MANAGING MESQUITE

The GBO requires reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks posed by mesquite. Any mesquite control program should incorporate strategies that limit the spread of seeds. Suggested strategies include:

- incorporate strategic fencing to contain mesquite
 - quarantine stock when moving them from infested paddocks with pods to clean areas
 - reduce feral pig numbers where possible. Do not let stock graze where mature pods are available.
- Various mechanical methods have been used effectively for the control of mesquite. These include:
- stick raking
 - pushing
 - pulling
 - blade ploughing
 - grubbing
 - fire.



PUBLIC NOTICE



Quilpie Shire Council Invites

Expressions of Interest

For **CATERING** at Bulloo Park during 2025 Australia Day Celebrations

Expressions of interest are invited for the provision of a Community Dinner/BBQ to be held during the Australia Day Celebrations at Bulloo Park, Friday 24 January 2025

Expressions of Interest should include options similar to below:

- BBQ Steak/Steakettes/Sausages, Onions, Salads & Bread rolls
or
- Cold Meats, Salads & Bread rolls

Catering is for approximately 150 - 180 people. (These are approximate numbers and may be subject to change)

The successful organisation will be paid accordingly.

Expressions of Interest should be in writing marked

"2025 Australia Day Catering"

and returned to Quilpie Shire Council Office by

COB Thursday 9 January 2025.

Email admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au or Post to PO Box 57, Quilpie 4480

For further information please contact Council's Customer on 4656 0500.

26/11/2024

Justin Hancock

(07) 4656 0500

Chief Executive Officer

www.quilpie.qld.gov.au

PUBLIC NOTICE



Quilpie Shire Council Invites

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of Interest are invited for the provision of a

Community Bar

to be held during the Australia Day Celebrations at Bulloo Park on **Friday 24 January 2025**.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the purchase and service of liquor and the set up and clean-up of the bar area.

This event will operate from

5.00pm – 11.00pm

Expressions of Interest should be in writing marked:

"2025 Australia Day Bar"

and returned to Quilpie Shire Council by

5.00pm Thursday 9 January 2025

For further information please contact Council's Customer Service Centre on (07) 4656 0500.

dd Month yyyy

Justin Hancock

(07) 4656 0500

Chief Executive Officer

www.quilpie.qld.gov.au

WE ARE HIRING

- Multi-Skilled Plant Operator**
 Permanent Full-Time
 \$66,850 per year + super & other benefits
- Water & Sewerage Supervisor**
 Permanent Full-Time
 \$81,396 to \$90,652 per year + super & other benefits

For further information visit <https://quilpie.qld.gov.au/quilpie-shire-job-vacancies/> or contact 07 4656 0500
Closing Date: Tuesday 7 January 2025

RESPECT | COMMUNICATION | FUN & HUMOUR | PRIDE | TRUST | TEAMWORK

'Tis the *season* to be *asking* RUOK?™

The holiday season can be a difficult time for some people. You can make a difference at this time of year by checking in and having a meaningful conversation with the people in your world who:

- Are grieving
- Are missing friends or family
- Have had a tough year
- Are struggling financially
- Are affected by natural disasters
- Are working over the holidays
- Have challenging family relationships
- Are spending the holidays alone
- Feel excluded at this time
- Are feeling overwhelmed by world events



Here's some tips to help you connect and support your colleagues, friends and family:



- Think about who in your world might be finding this time difficult and ask them, 'are you OK?' or 'how are you doing?'
- Meet up for a chat over a cup or tea or coffee.
- If someone is grieving, ask them how they'd like to honour the memory of their loved one.



- Extend an invitation to someone who will be alone during the holiday period.
- Organise a picnic or activity to bring people together.
- Have a virtual catch up with someone you can't see in person or send a text message to let someone know you're thinking of them.



- Suggest a 'walk and talk' with someone you know who finds the holidays tough.
- Drop off a meal to someone to show them you care.
- Remind your friends that telephone support service Lifeline (13 11 14) are operating 24/7 over the holidays if they need extra support.

For more conversation tips visit ruok.org.au



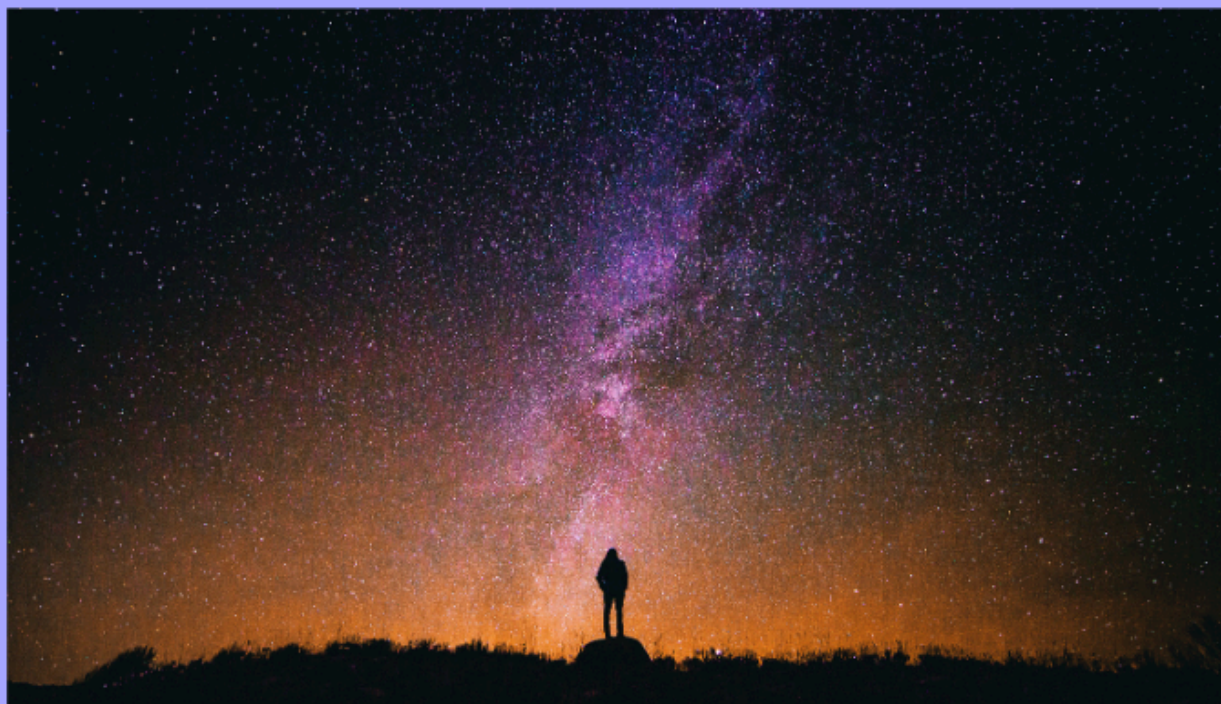
Lots of festive fun at the Shire Hall Supper Room on Tuesday 3rd December at Quilpie Library's First 5 Forever Christmas Party! Thanks to all who attended and to Santa for his special visit!

Merry Christmas!



UNDER THE SOUTHERN SKY

WWW.EMPIRETHEATRE.COM.AU



Call for Photographs

We're on the lookout for stunning photographs that capture the essence of arts and culture in the Southern Queensland region! If you have a picture that showcases the vibrant creativity, unique heritage, or cultural events of this beautiful area, we want to see it!

How to participate:

- Submit a photo that you have already taken in Southern Qld via email to michelle@empiretheatre.com.au
- Include a brief description of the artwork or cultural moment depicted.

Our team will be in touch in January 2025, if your image has been selected to use in the upcoming Under the Southern Sky magazine being created by the SQ RASN team.

Southern Queensland Regions include:

City of Gold Coast
Redland City Council
Ipswich City Council
Logan City Council

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Southern Downs Regional Council

Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Toowoomba Regional Council
Western Downs Regional Council
Goondiwindi Regional Council

Maranoa Regional Council
Balonne Shire Council
Murweh Shire Council
Paroo Shire Council
Quilpie Shire Council
Bulloo Shire Council

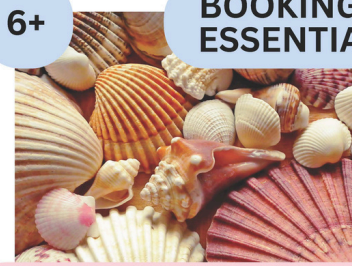
January 7 - 23, 2025

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

ACTIVITIES @ Quilpie Library

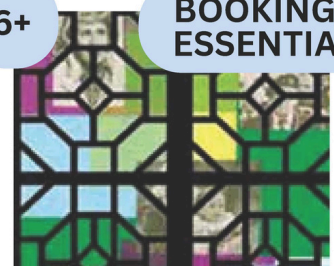


Egg Carton Creations
Tues 07/01 @ 10:30



6+ **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Shell Picture Frames
Wed 08/01 @ 10:30

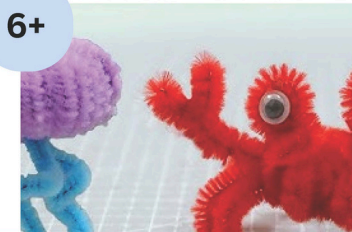


6+ **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Stained Glass Art
Thurs 09/01 @ 10:30



VR Gaming (10+) & Lego
Fri 10/01 @ 2:30 &
Thurs 23/01 @ 2:30



6+

Pipe Cleaner Animals
Tues 14/01 @ 10:30



8+ **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Sew a Scrunchie
Wed 15/01 & Thurs 16/01
@ 10:30



Cards & Board Games
Fri 17/01 ALL DAY



6+ **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Design A Badge
Tues 21/01 @ 10:30



6+

Marbled Art
Wed 22/01 @ 2:30



For more information or to make a booking, please call 4656 0550.
Please note children aged 8 & under must be accompanied by an adult when visiting the library.