

# NEW EXPERIENCES 2023

## **1. OUTBACK RAIL ADVENTURE, LONGREACH**

Climb aboard a beautifully restored 1970's heritage Rail Motor for a ride through stunning landscapes, the flood plains of the Thomson River and Ilfracombe. Available from Outback Aussie Tours, May 2023 – experiences vary from 1 to 4 hours.

Nicole Kuttner - General Manager: (07) 4658 3000 / 0410 161 821 | gm@oat.net.au | www.outbackaussietours.com.au



## **2. HERITAGE ROOFTOP ROOMS, HOTEL CORONES, CHARLEVILLE**

Follow in the footsteps of legendary aviator Amy Johnson and revel in thirties style luxury with a stay in one of three new rooms with access to the Hotel's outdoor rooftop Champagne bath deck.

33 Wills St, Charleville. QLD | (07) 4654 1022 | Marion Branson – Manager: 0438 882 042 | info@hotelcorones.com.au | www.hotelcorones.com.au

## **3. HELI FLIGHTS, LONGREACH TO WINTON**

View the Channel Country from the air with a guided helicopter flight with Queensland Helicopters that touches down for a delicious, locally sourced picnic. Or visit the land of the dinosaurs in style – landing on the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum's helipad.

Chris Kirk: 0492 481254 | info@queenslandhelicopters.com.au | www.queenslandhelicopters.com.au



## **4. DESERT GATEWAY DIRT BIKE TOURS, THARGOMINDAH**

Explore the stunning Channel Country desert on a unique guided dirt bike tour. Choose a six-day Enduro Tour or three-day Experience visiting historic stations and landmarks, iconic pubs, red desert dunes, national parks and more along the way. BYO bike or hire option available.

Jo Emery: 0438 119148 | sales@desertgatewaydirtbiketours.com.au | www.desertgatewaydirtbiketours.com.au



## **5. LANARIUM RETREAT, THALLON**

Relax in the beautiful bush setting of this luxurious private retreat on a working cattle and grain farm. Your group of up to seven guests will enjoy an all-inclusive package of activities, breakfast hampers, a gourmet sunset hamper and a selection of beverages on arrival.

Sally Kennedy: 07 4620 7020 | dunroman@activ8.net.au | www.lanariumretreat.com.au

## **6. UNDERGROUND HOSPITAL & MUSEUM TOUR, MOUNT ISA**

Take an immersive guided tour of a real-life underground World War II hospital. Hear fascinating wartime stories, explore hidden passageways and wards, and perhaps meet some original staff and patients.

Erica Shaw: 07 4749 3087 / 0498 193 859 | info@undergroundhospital.com | www.undergroundhospital.com.au

## **7. MUNGINDI SCULPTURE TRAIL, MUNGINDI**

Featuring magnificent sculptures by award-winning artist, the late Tony 'Nicko' McMillan, this 2.5km free nature trail crosses the QLD and NSW border. Information about each piece is provided. Begin at the Barwon River Park campsite.

Kim Wildman – Manager Tourism, Balonne Shire Council | (07) 4620 8830 / 0427 755 056 | Kim.wildman@balonne.qld.gov.au | www.exploremungindi.com.au

## **8. OUTBACK CAR HIRE, REGIONAL QUEENSLAND**

Great news if you want to explore Outback Queensland by car! Outback Car Hire is planned to commence from June, with weekend and short-stay 4WD hire packages to be available. Pick-up and drop-off points will include Quilpie, St George, and Cunnamulla, with more to follow.

Wayne Clift – Director, The Tourism Group: 0408 228 041 | wayne@thetourismgroup.com.au | bookings@outbackcarhire.au | website still in construction



### 9. MITCHELL GRASS RETREAT – ‘LITTLE TIN SHED’ FUNCTION VENUE, LONGREACH

This fabulous new and fully accessible facility seats up to 50 guests and includes bar facilities and a commercial kitchen making it ideal for all kinds of events. Clients can be connected to local catering, bar and transport suppliers. Opens 1 April 2023.

Tanya Neal 0418 758 014 | reception@mitchellgrassretreat.com.au | www.mitchellgrassretreat.com.au

### 10. THE LAKE, QUILPIE

A newly renovated one-bedroom cottage is the latest addition to The Lake at Quilpie. Relax with a soak in artesian water in your own private bathhouse and delight in the 180-degree views of this stunning lakeside property.

Louise: 0418 947955 | dandlhoch@hotmail.com / thelakequilpie@gmail.com | www.thelakequilpie.com

### 11. BLACKALL SALEYARD TOURS

Experience the unique history, heritage and atmosphere of Outback Queensland’s iconic saleyards – look out for new tours coming in 2023!

Scott Lusby: 0498 642 115 | www.bushiesblackalltours.com.au/blackall-saleyards-tours/

### 12. EXPLORER’S SMOKO CRUISE, LONGREACH

New 3-hour tour departs Longreach every Tuesday and Thursday morning (April-September) with Outback Aussie Tours. Cruise the Thomson River, onboard commentary, interpretive walk, and enjoy a classic Outback Queensland smoko with tea, coffee, homemade slice, and freshly baked ANZAC Biscuits.

Nicole Kuttner - General Manager: (07) 4658 3000 / 0410 161 821 | gm@oat.net.au | www.outbackaussietours.com.au



### 13. CHINAMAN CREEK DAM, CLONCURRY

The perfect spot for picnics, water sports and fishing for BIG Barra, this Outback oasis now features newly upgraded facilities including a playground, boat ramp, amenities, swimming and picnic areas.

Melissa Doyle - Economic Development and Tourism Manager, Cloncurry Shire Council | (07) 4742 4100 | melissa.doyle@cloncurry.qld.gov.au | www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au



### 14. CUNNAMULLA HOT SPRINGS, CUNNAMULLA

Scheduled to open in June 2023, this sensational new experience beside the Warrego River will feature a precinct of seven pools filled with mineral and vitamin rich artesian water, naturally warmed from the Artesian Basin. The ultimate Outback chill-out! NOTE: image/s must include caption ‘image is an artist render only’

Charles Davidson – CEO: 0409 889 920 | Charles.davidson@peninsulahotsprings.com | www.peninsulahotsprings.com



### 15. ININGAI NATURE RESERVE, LONGREACH

Named in honour of the Iningai Traditional Owners, this beautiful nature reserve will be enhanced with a brand new walking trail and new information boards along its three existing trails. Due for completion in April 2023.

Tanya Johnson - Executive Officer, Tourism, Longreach Regional Council | (07) 4658 4141 / (07) 4658 4142 | tourism@longreach.qld.gov.au | www.experiencelongreach.com.au/bird-watching-nature

### 16. ROMA BUTTER FACTORY MUSEUM TOUR, ROMA

Have a cuppa and take a self-guided tour to learn about the factory’s history. Open Wednesdays between 9.30am and 12pm. Gold coin entry fee.

0429 649 150 | romahistoricalpi@gmail.com | www.facebook.com/romahistoricalprecinctsinc/

### 17. AYRSHIRE DOWNS CARAVAN & CAMPING, NEAR WINTON

Get a real taste of the Outback on this working cattle and sheep property 58km from Winton and accessible by all-weather roads. The dog-friendly campsite sits alongside picturesque Wokingham Creek. Facilities include cold showers and toilets, covered picnic area, fire pits and the option of a historic property tour.

William Ogg: 0447 764 979 | ayrshiredowns@outlook.com  
www.hipcamp.com/queensland/ayrshire-downs-near-winton/ayrshire-downs-caravan-camping-unfurled



### 18. WWII SECRET AIRBASE STAGE 2, CHARLEVILLE

Take a journey through wartime Charleville with new immersive and interactive exhibitions opened in early 2023.

Sam Cunningham - WWII Coordinator, Murweh Shire Council | 0437 269 278 | Sam\_Cunningham@murweh.qld.gov.au | www.experiencecharleville.com.au



### 19. CRACKUP SISTERS HOUSE, WINTON

Celebrate Outback art, book a sleepover, try a workshop or watch a show – check out what’s happening at this quirky new icon when you’re in town.

0407 152 172 | info@crackupsisters.com | www.crackupsisters.com.au



### 20. WESTERN QUEENSLAND SPIRIT CELLAR DOOR, ROMA

This former grape and citrus farm is now a craft distillery producing gin and vodka. The Cellar Door is on track to open at Easter 2023 so pop by for a delicious blend infused with the natural flavours of Outback Queensland.

Will Fellowes: 0422 441 750 | will@westernqldspirit.com | www.westernqldspirit.com



### 21. OUTBACK AT ISA BUSHTUCKER EXPERIENCE, MOUNT ISA

Learn about the myriad of ways native plants have been used for everything from food and medicine to crafts, clothing and shelter, on a walk with an Indigenous heritage bush guide through Outback at Isa’s beautiful native botanical garden.

Maddi Evans – Tourism & Marketing Officer, Mount Isa City Council | 07 4747 3255 | maddie@mountisa.qld.gov.au | www.discovermountisa.com.au/attractions/outback-at-isa

### 22. BLACKALL WOOLSCOUR DROVER’S CAMP & NEW EXHIBITS, BLACKALL

Gain an insight of how drovers lived and worked at the Woolscour in the 1900s through the new Drover’s Dining & Shearer’s exhibit and outdoor Drover’s Camp – with camp oven dinners. Opens March 2023.

Scott Lusby: 0498 642 115 | lusby.scott1@gmail.com |



### 23. NEW WATER FUN PARK, MOUNT ISA

The new Fun Park is open! Free entry, open 7 days. Includes a toddler play area, shaded water play, free bbqs, park tables, older kids playground suitable for ages 8-14 and a flying fox. Also connected to the upgraded and shaded skate park.

Maddi Evans – Tourism & Marketing Officer, Mount Isa City Council | 07 4747 3255 | 0422 215 579 | maddie@mountisa.qld.gov.au | www.discovermountisa.com.au/attractions/outback-at-isa



### 24. PRE-FLIGHT BREAKFAST TOUR, LONGREACH

The Pre-Flight Breakfast Tour (PFBT) is a daily experience at Qantas Founders Museum at 7:30am. The PFBT is an experience which takes you behind the scenes of the National Heritage Listed Qantas Hangar, and concludes with a gourmet breakfast in the museum’s restaurant.

Carissa Jesberg or Alleyne Johnson – Qantas Founders Museum | 07 4658 3737 | 0428 583 787 | ajohnson@qfom.com.au | www.qfom.com.au



## NEW EVENTS IN 2023

Art, music, rodeo, sports, shows and festivals... we’ve got them all in Outback Queensland. Grab your diary and make a note of our new events launching in 2023.

### 25. OUTBACK RIVER LIGHTS FESTIVAL, CUNNAMULLA - 13 – 15 April 2023

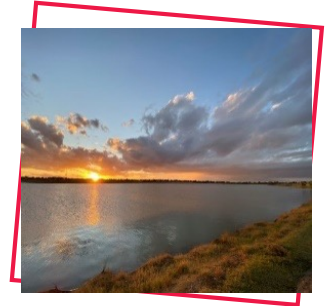
Immerse yourself in the rich culture and art of the Paroo Shire through light, storytelling and the strong connection to water. Featuring free and ticketed events, join the locals in exploring through art, music, storytelling and light, and what connection to place means in the Outback.

Bethany Jones – Tourism & Events Officer, Paroo Shire Council | +61 (0) 7 4655 8477 | bethany.jones@paroo.qld.gov.au | www.cunnamullatourism.com.au/outback-river-lights-festival/

### **26. FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK SKIES, HUGHENDEN - 28-30 April 2023**

Inspired by the Outback skies, this event celebrates the people of the North West region and the things they love to do. Featuring arts, water sports, bull riding, tours, dancing, food, stargazing and a lantern parade.

Jennifer Tasker - Tourism and Economic Development Advisor, Flinders Shire Council |  
+61 (0)7 4741 2933 / +61 (0) 417 094 501 | tdo@flinders.qld.gov.au | www.visitughenden.com.au



### **27. STARS OF CHARLOTTE PLAINS, CUNNAMULLA - 23 - 26 June 2023**

This working sheep station and hugely popular camping ground presents an extra special camping weekend to mark 100 years of family ownership. Family friendly activities include live music, a themed fun run, movie night, talent show, yabby delve, artesian baths and lots more.

Robert Russell: 0427 835 228 | Robyn Russell: 0429 835 228 | Landline: +61 (0) 7 4588 8804 |  
stay@charlotteplains.com.au | www.charlotteplains.com.au/

### **28. LADY SINGS THE MAROONS, OPERA QUEENSLAND REGIONAL TOUR - 15 May - 3 June 2023**

Dive into the Queensland songbook and celebrate some of Australia's most loved artists - from The Saints and Gladys Moncrieff, to Savage Garden - with songs performed by the phenomenal Jess Hitchcock, Irena Lysiuk and Marcus Corowa.

Simone Doczkal - Producer, Learning, Regional and Community, Opera Queensland | +61 (0) 7 3735 3043 |  
sdoczkal@oq.com.au | www.oq.com.au



### **29. ROAD TO RODEO MOUNT ISA - RODEO AND ROCK CONCERT, MOUNT ISA 7th May 2023**

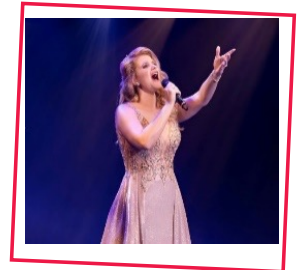
An action-packed day of fun with thrills, spills, live entertainment and all your rodeo favourites.

Karen Hanna Miller - Executive Manager - Partnerships, Marketing and Content, Isa Rodeo Limited +61 (0) 417 605 289 | partnerships@isarodeo.com.au |  
www.isarodeo.com.au

### **30. MIRUSIA UNDER THE STARS, BALDY TOP, QUILPIE - 26 August 2023**

World-renowned Australian Soprano Mirusia performs her Songbird show under the canopy of a million-star sky at this famous elevated lookout. The show will feature inspiring songs that are sure to create wonderful memories. Bus transfers to Baldy Top will be available.

Karen Grimm - Manager Tourism & Economic Development, Quilpie Shire Council | +61 (0)7 4656 0540 |  
kareng@quilpie.qld.gov.au | www.visitquilpieshire.com



### **31. KIRRENDERRI, HEART OF THE CHANNEL COUNTRY EXHIBITIONS, BILOELA AND BIRDSVILLE - Until 24 March (Biloela) | 15 April - 16 July 2023 (Birdsville)**

Through recent archaeological discoveries and 130 years of First Nations and settler stories, explore the resilience of relationships forged on the Channel Country and their continuing ties to Country, the cattle and supporting industries.

Mandana Mapar - Curator, School of Social Science, Anthropology Museum, The University of Queensland |  
+61 (0)7 3365 1215 | m.mapar@uq.edu.au

www.anthropologymuseum.uq.edu.au/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/kirrenderri-heart-channel-country



For the full list of Outback Queensland events online visit:

[www.outbackqueensland.com.au/events/](http://www.outbackqueensland.com.au/events/)

To download the new Outback Queensland Traveller's Guide:

[www.outbackqueensland.com.au/outback-travellers-guide](http://www.outbackqueensland.com.au/outback-travellers-guide)

#### **IMAGES**

Images for the above can be downloaded directly from Dropbox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/awjjurptwh5kfo8tm0g15/h?dl=0&rlkey=n8qwvpb0ica6rw2p17i9p54gz>

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For media enquiries please contact:

Melanie Grevis-James

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