



August 2025

Banana Shire Support Centre

(Banana Shire Emergency Accommodation and Support Centre)

Shop 2B/58 Kariboe St

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What's happening?

- Quarterly Board Meeting & AGM — Wednesday 5 November 2025
- OzHarvest— Thursday and Friday from 1:30pm

In this issue—

- Grant for new vehicle
- Board profiles
- Congratulations Pam!
- BSSC Strategic Plan

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Our Website ...

bssc.org.au

BSSC client and family transport service

Near the end of last year, BSSC applied for a \$35 000 grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. This was for the purchase of a new Kia Carnival 8-seater people mover, to replace our current vehicle. In early May, we were informed that our grant application was successful!! BSSC funds of around \$20 000—donations from our community—will be used with the grant money, to purchase this vehicle. We have placed an order for this new vehicle, with delivery expected in December this year.

So why a vehicle like this?

Banana Shire Support Centre currently delivers a range of support programs and services to the community across the Banana Shire. Services include homelessness prevention and emergency relief. A new, 8-seater people mover to replace our current 2006 model SUV, will provide us with a safe and reliable vehicle that will greatly enhance the support we are able to offer our clients/families.

Homelessness/housing

Due to the alarmingly limited access to emergency housing in our shire, clients at times need to be accommodated in other locations such as Gladstone. This is very challenging because many of our clients do not have their own transport. Emergency accommodation, particularly for those experiencing domestic and family violence, often needs to be organised out-of-business hours when public transport is not available and public transport options in our rural location are extremely limited, irregular and expensive.

Health/emergency/other support

Clients regularly require our support and assistance to access health and other services both locally and within the greater region. This vehicle will allow us to better support clients to access such services. For example, a family who has no personal transport and needs to use public transport to travel to Rockhampton for a medical appointment, also requires two nights' accommodation in Rockhampton, because the bus travels only three times/week. The financial burden and disruptions to family routines and responsibilities caused (including disruptions to schooling), can impact greatly on the ability of families to access essential medical care.

Disability/Improved accessibility

A people mover provides improved accessibility for those clients/families with physical disabilities/mobility issues.



What now?

This is a new venture for BSSC, and with that comes unknowns! We recently received a grant of \$5000 from the CS Energy Community Sponsorship Program...**THANKYOU CS Energy**...to assist us to fund this service for 6 months. During this time, we will be better able to assess the demand for and costs associated with providing this service to our clients. We plan to ask clients to make a financial contribution to assist with vehicle running costs. BSSC is looking forward to partnering with other local community organisations, to also make this vehicle available for their use to assist clients.

Board Member Profile

DAN GORDON,

Board Member

Dan has lived in Biloela for 6½ years. He is married to Laura and they have two young children. Dan is an Associate Pastor at Biloela Baptist Church, and he works one day/week as School Chaplain, at Biloela State School. Dan enjoys spending time with his family doing anything adventurous, running and refereeing touch football. Dan is a big advocate of the work of BSSC, seeing people provided with support in times of need, with dignity and care.



Board Member Profile

BRONWYN DENDLE, Board Member

Bronwyn is a Social Worker with over 25 years of front-line experience supporting rural communities in Central Queensland. She has worked in both the government and non-government sectors in Health, Mental Health, Disability and Education. Bronwyn has previously served as Board Director for Anglicare CQ and Biloela Enterprise. She is also a co-founder of the 'Home To Bilo' campaign which was a finalist in the 2022 Australian Human Rights Awards.



Bronwyn has worked alongside BSSC through her various roles in the community since moving to Biloela with her husband and 5 children in 2016. She is excited to now have the opportunity to serve on the Board of BSSC, because she believes it is an organisation that plays a vital role in supporting those most vulnerable in our community.

BSSC is a not-for-profit incorporated association

Board

President—Pam Semple

Vice President—Marion Meissner

Secretary—Cathie Dendle

Treasurer—Dan McMillan

Board Members—Dan Gordon, Bronwyn Dendle

Association Member—Luke Siegmeier

Staff

Office Manager—Mark Warnick

Housing Officer—Nathan Capuano

Immediate Homelessness Response Fund Case Manager—
Peta Ricketts-Mol

Admin Officer, NILS—Stacey Peterson

CONGRATULATIONS

to Pam Semple

who was presented with a

Paul Harris Fellow Recipient Award by the
Rotary Club of Biloela



(L→R Denise Scoltock, Adele Hughes, Pam Semple)

This award is a recognition of the wonderful work Pam has done in our community. Pam recently retired from her position as Senior Program Advisor at the Banana Shire Council Community Resource Centre (CRC), after 15 years in this role. We are grateful for the knowledge, insight and care that Pam brings to the role of BSSC President.

Banana Shire Emergency Accommodation and Support Centre

Strategic Plan 2018 – 2025

Our Vision—To be the most trusted provider of services to our clients

Our Mission—Banana Shire Support Centre enables clients to make informed life choices to meet identified needs through quality intervention

Our Values—

We are: Professional and proactive
Respectful of our clients and each other
Inclusive
Trustworthy

We: Deliver on our commitments
Ensure a safe, supportive and enjoyable workplace

Objective 1 - The supply of help, aid, education, relief or support to any persons in distress

Objective 2 - Facilitate clients' capacity to manage their independence

Objective 3 - Increasing awareness through community education

Objective 4 - Engage in strategic partnerships with external stakeholders

Objective 5 - Manage and promote ongoing organisational viability and quality service delivery

The BSSC Board is currently reviewing our Strategic Plan