

GROW Rural Southwest Queensland – Community Bio's

Name	Bio
Roma Community	<p>Roma, Queensland, is a thriving rural town located in the Maranoa region of South West Queensland, about 480 km west of Brisbane. With a population of around 6,000 people, Roma serves as a major hub for agriculture, particularly cattle, grain, and cotton farming, and is known for its strong connection to Australia's outback heritage.</p> <p>Roma is also famous for hosting the Roma Saleyards, the largest cattle-selling facility in the Southern Hemisphere, drawing visitors and buyers from across Australia. The town celebrates this agricultural legacy with events like the Roma Show and the Easter in the Country festival.</p> <p>In addition to agriculture, Roma is rich in history, with the discovery of oil and gas in the region being a significant part of its past. Visitors can explore attractions such as the Big Rig, which tells the story of the oil and gas industry, and the heritage-listed St Paul's Anglican Church.</p> <p>Surrounded by natural beauty, Roma offers a mix of modern amenities and a true outback experience. Its welcoming community and rural charm make it a key destination for both locals and visitors in the region.</p>
Roma Hospital	<p>Roma Hospital, located in Roma, Queensland, is a key healthcare facility serving the Maranoa region. It provides a wide range of medical services, including emergency care, general medical and surgical services, maternity care, and outpatient services. The hospital plays a vital role in supporting the health needs of both the local population and surrounding rural communities.</p> <p>A new state-of-the-art facility opened in 2020, enhancing its capacity to deliver modern healthcare. The hospital also works closely with visiting specialists and allied health professionals to ensure patients have access to comprehensive care. Additionally, Roma Hospital contributes to rural health education by offering clinical placements and training for medical, nursing, and allied health students, helping to grow the healthcare workforce in regional Queensland.</p>
Maranoa Medical Centre Di Stone, Practice Manager	<p>Maranoa Medical Centre in Roma, Queensland, is a key healthcare facility offering a wide range of medical services to the local community and surrounding areas. The centre is staffed by a team of healthcare professionals, including general practitioners (GPs), nurses, and allied health workers. They provide comprehensive care, such as general consultations, chronic disease management, preventative health screenings, mental health support, and vaccinations.</p> <p>The centre is an essential part of the community's healthcare system, ensuring that residents have access to high-quality medical care in a rural setting. Maranoa Medical Centre also collaborates closely with Roma Hospital and other local specialists to ensure seamless care for patients with more complex medical needs.</p>

GROW Rural Southwest Queensland – Community Bio's

Name	Bio
<p>Roma Family Dental Dr Ryan Saldanha</p>	<p>Roma Family Dental is a friendly practice located in Roma, Queensland, offering a range of services for all ages, including general dentistry, preventive care, cosmetic treatments, and restorative work.</p> <p>The team includes dentists, dental hygienists, and support staff. They focus on creating a comfortable environment for families and emphasise preventive care through regular check-ups and education on oral hygiene.</p> <p>Utilising modern dental technology, Roma Family Dental delivers high-quality care tailored to each patient's needs, playing an essential role in the community by making dental services accessible and promoting good oral health.</p>
<p>Vital Health Roma Jean Benham, Director</p>	<p>Vital Health is an allied health practice serving rural and remote communities in Queensland and New South Wales for over ten years. Our team of qualified professionals provides accessible health services to all Australians, focusing on high-quality, affordable, and culturally appropriate care tailored to individual needs.</p> <p>We offer a range of allied health services, including physiotherapy, exercise physiology, nutrition and dietetics, podiatry, speech pathology, occupational therapy, diabetes education, chronic disease management, workplace health programs (Workfit), paediatric services (Vital Paediatrics), sleep study and CPAP services, and stress testing. With offices in Roma, Chinchilla, Dalby, St George, Goondiwindi, Kingaroy, Charleville, Inverell, and Glen Innes, we also provide outreach services to smaller towns in the region. Our partnerships with local and state health organisations help us deliver quality, affordable services.</p> <p>Our team's hands-on approach and extensive postgraduate training ensure expert treatment and advice for all patients. If you have questions or wish to book an appointment, please contact your local office.</p>
<p>Roma Show Grounds Muster Dogs in Roma, with Rohan Ballon</p>	<p>The Roma Showgrounds, located in Roma, Queensland, serve as a versatile venue for various community events, including the annual Roma Show, which showcases the agricultural and cultural heritage of the region. This facility features ample space for exhibitions, livestock displays, and entertainment activities, making it a central hub for local gatherings.</p> <p>The grounds are equipped with various amenities, including grandstands, pavilions, and camping facilities, allowing for a wide range of events such as rodeos, markets, and sporting competitions. The showgrounds play an important role in promoting community spirit and supporting local businesses and agricultural initiatives.</p> <p>The Roma Show is particularly significant, featuring competitions, live entertainment, and opportunities for local producers to showcase their goods. This event attracts visitors from both rural and urban areas, highlighting the town's agricultural prowess and fostering a sense of community.</p>

GROW Rural Southwest Queensland – Community Bio's

Name	Bio
<p>St George Community</p>	<p>St George, Queensland, is a rural town known for its picturesque streetscape and thriving agricultural industry, especially in cotton, sorghum, and cattle farming. With a population of around 3,000 people, it serves as the heart of the Balonne Shire, offering a welcoming community, historical sites, and plenty of riverside activities.</p> <p>Sitting on the banks of the mighty Balonne River, St George is proudly known as the Inland Fishing Capital of Queensland, making it a popular destination for fishing and boating enthusiasts. The town is also rich in Indigenous history, with the Kamilaroi people having a deep connection to the land, which continues to be respected and acknowledged.</p> <p>Combining a strong rural economy, natural beauty, and cultural heritage, St George offers a true outback experience with a warm, community-focused spirit.</p>
<p>Southern Queensland Rural Health Steve Woodruffe: Accredited Exercise Physiologist : Clinical Educator – Exercise Physiology</p>	<p>Steve is responsible for overseeing the integration of health students into clinical settings, ensuring they receive practical experience in rural healthcare environments. Steve is committed to enhancing clinical education through strong partnerships with health professionals and local communities, fostering effective training opportunities for nursing, midwifery, and allied health students.</p> <p>SQRH is dedicated to increasing the number of health professionals in rural and remote areas of Queensland, focusing on the development and retention of the rural health workforce. Through collaborations with educational and health service institutions, Steve plays a vital role in advancing SQRH's mission to improve health outcomes in these communities.</p>
<p>St George Medical Centre Alex & Dr Karen Benn, Directors</p>	<p>St George Medical Centre is a key healthcare provider in St George, Queensland, offering comprehensive medical services to the local community. The practice is led by directors Alex Benn and Dr. Karen Benn, who are dedicated to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.</p> <p>The centre provides various services, including general practice, chronic disease management, and allied health support. With a focus on accessibility and community well-being, St George Medical Centre aims to address the unique health needs of its patients.</p>

GROW Rural North Queensland – Facilitator Bio's

Name	Bio
<p>Goondir Health Services Kelvin Duiker, Clinic Manager</p>	<p>Goondir Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health Service, known as Goondir, is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) located in southwestern Queensland. Established on April 19, 1994, with support from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), Goondir delivers culturally sensitive primary healthcare services to Indigenous communities across a vast area of approximately 72,000 square kilometers, serving over 4,500 clients.</p> <p>In St George, the clinic is managed by Kelvin Duiker, who plays a vital role in ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare and the implementation of various health programs. His commitment to addressing health disparities has significantly contributed to the community's wellbeing.</p> <p>Goondir operates clinics in Dalby, Chinchilla, Oakey, and St George, along with a mobile medical clinic that extends services to more remote communities such as Jandowae, Surat, and Tara. Their healthcare offerings include chronic disease management, mental health support, and initiatives aimed at addressing social determinants of health. The organisation also incorporates innovative approaches like telehealth and has recently opened the St George Community Wellbeing Centre.</p> <p>As Goondir celebrates its 30th anniversary, it highlights its achievements through community events, including the Big Buddy Youth Program and a mobile barber/counselling service.</p>
<p>Riversands Wines</p>	<p>Riversands Vineyards, situated along the Balonne River in St George, Queensland, holds the title of the state's westernmost winery, encompassing 20 hectares dedicated to both wine and table grapes. The winery has been a Blacket family venture since 1996, focusing on expanding their expertise in the table grape and wine sectors. The region's ideal conditions, supported by water from the Beardmore Dam and rich sandy loam soils, create an attractive environment for grape growing. Over the years, substantial investments in irrigation and vineyard management have significantly improved grape quality and yield.</p> <p>Riversands is particularly celebrated for its fortified wines, such as the renowned Golden Liqueur Muscat and St George Vintage Port, in addition to a variety of red and white table wines. The winery also produces premium table grapes that are supplied to supermarkets across the eastern states. Today, Riversands generates around 60 to 80 tonnes of wine grapes each year, translating to approximately 3,000 to 4,000 dozen bottles.</p> <p>Visitors can enjoy complimentary wine tastings and light meals at the garden café, with around 10,000 guests welcomed annually. Riversands caters to group functions, including weddings, and offers wines through more than 50 retail outlets as well as their online store.</p>

GROW Rural North Queensland – Facilitator Bio's

Name	Bio
<p>The Anchorage Homestead Co-Owner Robyn Cross</p>	<p>The Anchorage Homestead is a significant historic homestead in the Balonne Shire. Built in 1903 by the Nixon family it is considered a grand homestead for its era. Andrew was a blacksmith before coming to St George, a sawmiller in St George and all the cypress pine used to build The Anchorage was milled on the property. Andrew went on to own sheep stations stretching from St George to Bollon. He was a great benefactor for his St George community – he started community initiatives, donated money, served on committees, built the first bridge over the Balonne River, and was able to give an off the cuff rousing speeches into his late 90s. I share this with you so you can appreciate that it is his legacy that we enjoy at The Anchorage.</p> <p>The Homestead has been a place of people gathering for 120 years so I hope you enjoy your visit there. I have two dogs – Matilda is the Maremma and Mr Wilson is the dachshund. They are great friends, love company and both not yet 18months old.</p>
<p>Country Universities Centre, St George Elspeth Hurse, Centre Manager</p>	<p>CUC stands for Country Universities Centre, a network of regional study hubs in Australia that provide university students in rural and remote areas with access to study spaces, high-speed internet, technology, and academic support. These centers aim to improve higher education access and success for students who may face barriers due to geographical isolation.</p> <p>As of recent data, there are over 25 CUC centers spread across regional Australia. They support students from multiple universities, offering resources to help them study locally while staying connected to their university programs remotely.</p>