

FREE

Spring/Summer 2025-2026

# Environment MATTERS

Lifecycle of GO



Building bike confidence



A conservation first

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Image: Hibiscus harlequin bug by Judy Lucas





## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As our city grows, so does our responsibility to protect Ipswich's natural environment that supports our health and lifestyle.

Our green-lid GO (Garden Organic) bins are already helping households reduce landfill and turn green waste into nutrient-rich compost, just in time for a busy gardening season. Our free on-demand large kerbside skips also contribute to diverting household waste from landfill.

Sustainability remains a top priority with council investing heavily in resource recovery upgrades, new centres and solar and EV infrastructure, as well as climate resilience and renewable initiatives.

Together, we're building a cleaner, greener future for our city and the generations to come.

**Mayor Teresa Harding**  
City of Ipswich



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Ipswich Enviroplan initiative has been growing and maintaining conservation areas across our city for almost 30 years.

This year it achieved another milestone – the signing of Ipswich's first Voluntary Conservation Covenant to protect a high value area of private property.

Enviroplan is our 'plan for the future' and it continues to evolve to meet the conservation needs of our growing city. In 2025, council adopted a 10-year investment strategy to meet both current and emerging needs.

Enviroplan continues to achieve great things.

**Cr Jim Madden**  
Environment and Sustainability Chairperson

## It's breeding season I'M OUT & ABOUT LOOKING FOR LOVE

- Slow down when you see a wildlife or koala sign
- Report injured or dead koalas on the roadside
- Keep a wildlife rescue kit in your boot.

Find out more at  
**Wildlife Watcher**

Please watch out for  
koalas when driving



## WANT TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT MATTERS NEWS DIRECTLY TO YOUR INBOX?



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## CREATURE FEATURE

The bright metallic colours of *Tectocoris diopthalmus* commonly known as the hibiscus harlequin bug are telltale signs they are members of the jewel bug family. The females are mostly orange and the males mostly blue-red, with shell patterns that can be quite different between individuals.

Females have strong maternal instincts. They will stick their eggs around a plant stem then guard them from parasites and predators until they hatch. The nymphs also tend to cluster together in large numbers for safety.

They feed on many species of the hibiscus family, including cotton. They pierce the stems and suck the sugar-rich juices intended for shoot growth.



# Changing lives through *home design*

Sustainable design often requires challenging the 'status quo' but Esther James from 4305 Design said even a simple renovation can bring enormous benefit and efficiency to your home.



Esther James



Karalee project: Images courtesy Angus Martin Photography

Knowing where to start can often be a barrier, so Esther sees a huge part of her design role as "an education process" for clients making informed and ethical decisions for sustainability, on everything from room layout to floor tiles.

"It is very much a journey from start to finish and it's changing how you look at things and thinking of the long-term implications of every choice you're making in the design. Even a minor renovation has a lot of choices involved," she said.

A Karalee small home project that won state and national awards was built from conventional materials but used smart choices to create sustainability. It was super resource efficient – scoring

9.2 out of 10 stars – by doing things such as collecting rainwater and using the tank as shade from the western sun. It was also 'step free' and built with accessibility features designed for ageing-in-place.

"A huge part of sustainable house design is educating the client on how to live in a sustainable home. It's getting used to things like turning your ceiling fan on low when you have the air conditioning running as it increases efficiency by about 30 per cent. It's opening your windows at night so the hot air in the house can vent. It's often a very interactive lifestyle," Esther said.

One of the biggest changes Esther sees coming in the next 10 years is how EV

cars will change our homes. "If you're looking at putting in an EV charger, put in a bi-directional charger. That's because car batteries are so much bigger than house batteries and being able to use your car to power your house for a few hours at night – that's the way the grid is pointing," she said.

In a world of mass-produced homes, Esther sees sustainable design as an investment in building a lasting future, not just in the home but across our society.

"It keeps coming back to your perspective on your choices. And thinking not just the immediate result but the result for the next 30 years, the next 50 years," she said.

## Sustainable Ipswich 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

During October we celebrate actions our community is taking towards a more sustainable future. There are many ways you can be involved and lots of ideas you can take home!

### 2025 Highlights:

- Sustainable Open Garden Trail
- Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival
- An exciting program of activities hosted by locals, for locals!

► For the full program go to [ipswich.qld.gov.au/sustainability](https://ipswich.qld.gov.au/sustainability)

EFFICIENT  
HOME



GETTING  
AROUND



CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY



BUYING  
BETTER



KITCHEN  
AND GARDEN





# Rediscovering the joy of *riding*



Many of us have fond childhood memories of riding our bikes around the neighbourhood, enjoying the freedom of being on two wheels.

Helping adults rediscover that joy of bicycle riding will be the focus of the Ride Ipswich program, including workshops for beginners and returning riders.

Michelle Snodgrass from Ipswich Cycle Club knows first-hand what it's like. For many years she cheered from the sidelines as her children and husband raced, but she felt uncomfortable being on a bicycle herself.

But then following some big life changes after the children had grown up, she took that next step on the pedals at the Ipswich Cycle Park at Raceview.

"I started off just doing the front straight at about 7km/h, just slow. But each time I got better and better, and now I'm up to 30km/h and just able to handle a bike better," she said.

Michelle said every time she got on the bike, it boosted her confidence.



Michelle Snodgrass

"Now being able to go for a ride with my husband and go on social rides and get on the bike paths, has just been freedom."

Michelle also supports others on their journey through coaching with Ipswich Cycle Club.

"The last Women on Wheels session, we had a lady who hadn't ridden a bike since she was a teenager and had forgotten how to ride a bike altogether. By the end of the session she rode a full lap of the track and then after the session she rode a few more laps," she said.

"As a coach, that is so inspiring and so gratifying, that you can see someone smiling from ear to ear because they have achieved a goal that they have always wanted to achieve."



## Special workshops during Sustainable Ipswich!

During September and October there will be a series of workshops for beginner and returning riders to help them feel safe and confident on a bicycle.

## RIDES TO TRY

**Ipswich Cycle Park, Raceview** – flat and easy loop suitable for beginners. Open 4am to 10pm and has lighting.

**Brassall Bikeway** – from Workshops Rail Museum to Wulkuraka train station (14km return) on wide shared bike/foot paths with some road crossings. Connects to the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail.

**Goodna Creek Bikeway** – north section follows Goodna Creek (2.1km), and south section travels through Redbank Plains Recreation Reserve (2.5km) on wide shared bike/footpaths.

Find more at [ipswich.qld.gov.au/ride](https://ipswich.qld.gov.au/ride)





# Connecting corridors

## at South Ripley

A 'missing link' for wildlife movement between Ipswich's largest conservation estates will be better connected after a recent Enviroplan purchase.

A 32-hectare cattle grazing property at South Ripley was voluntarily acquired through council's Enviroplan initiative.

It has a vital strategic position within the regionally significant

Flinders-Karawatha corridor and is nestled between council's Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate and White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation Estate.

Restoration of the South Ripley property will provide important habitat for rare and threatened species, from koalas to Ipswich's floral emblem the Swamp Tea-tree.

## Be a good sport when busting *cane toads*

Cane toad busting is part of life in Queensland – but it's important to euthanise and dispose of these pests responsibly.

Stepped hypothermia is the current best practice, in line with research and RSPCA guidelines.

### STEP 1

Put the toads in a **container with air holes**, ensuring they can breathe but not escape.

### STEP 2

Place in the **fridge for 24 hours**. This will put the toads in a 'torpor', a natural state similar to hibernation, which switches off pain receptors.

### STEP 3

Transfer toads to the **freezer for a further 24–48 hours** to euthanise them through freezing.

Cane toads are Australia's worst invasive species. They are toxic at every life stage, and can produce up to 35,000 eggs per reproduction cycle.

Cane toads remain toxic for some time after death, so to avoid hurting wildlife, you could either dispose of your euthanised toads in the household bin, bury at least 50cm deep or put them in a hot compost.

Enviro group Watergum runs cane toad drop off points and can use humanely euthanised toads in the production of Cane Toad Tadpole Lures. See [Watergum.org/cane-toad-challenge](http://Watergum.org/cane-toad-challenge)





# Now and forever

Ipswich's first Voluntary Conservation Covenant has been signed to protect not only existing forest, but also paddocks that are being transformed into forest again.



The bulk of the Purga property's 9.16 hectare covenant area is a sea of long grass, with thousands of saplings poking through.

For many decades, this area along Purga Creek was overgrazed and barren, with a narrow strip of remnant vegetation along the waterway and one small patch of Gum-topped box forest all that remained.

In collaboration with Queensland Trust for Nature, the landholders planted 8,000 native trees and shrubs, 45 per cent of which were koala fodder species, alongside Healthy Land and Water projects.

This will greatly extend the riparian corridor and has significance on a regional scale, with Purga Creek vital for koala and wildlife movement across the landscape.



The Voluntary Conservation Covenant also protects endangered Queensland blue gum forest along the creekline, where trees hundreds of years old cling to the banks. Natural regeneration has started to emerge, supported by ongoing management such as weed control.

For landholder Sam, the covenant is a way to provide a natural succession for these long-lived trees that will ensure the next generation of eucalypts can reach the great age required for hollows.

One strip of land now protected by the covenant stands out – a narrow portion that at the time of the covenant signing was still being prepared for planting. This will be an important future corridor to connect



a small patch of remnant Gum-topped box forest back to the creek.

It's a striking reminder that Ipswich's first Voluntary Conservation Covenant is firmly about a vision for the future. In years and decades to come, the landscape will transform and its natural state will be protected.

Landholder Sam said it was seeing a koala high in a tree soon after they bought the property that inspired the incredible and long-term investment in restoring the natural environment, with the covenant through Ipswich City Council providing the reassurance that it could never go back to a cleared, overgrazed paddock.

"Because we are doing all this work for the wildlife, we can protect it for the future," she said.



## What is a Voluntary Conservation Covenant?

It is permanent protection mechanism through the *Land Titles Act* on a parcel of land.

There is a schedule that describes what can and can't be done and it is binding on that parcel of land, even when ownership changes. Each schedule is unique to that property.

Ipswich City Council offers Voluntary Conservation Covenant to landholders through the Enviroplan initiative, as one of a range of support programs for conservation on private land.



# Helping flying-foxes find their *happy place*

Flying-foxes are a very important native animal – a vital long-distance pollinator of native plants such as eucalypts.

But when they roost together in large numbers it can create noise, smell and other impacts so it's important to provide suitable habitat in areas where conflict with humans is reduced.

There are up to ten places in Ipswich where flying-foxes prefer to have roosts, mostly near creeks or waterbodies with a thick understorey of shrubs and grasses.

Ipswich City Council has been doing weed management and re-vegetation at several flying-fox roosts in Ipswich.

Increasing dense native under-storey vegetation at these sites can provide flying-foxes somewhere safe to go to keep cool in summer hot weather. It can also reduce the risk of flying-fox roosts spreading into people's backyards or impacting places such as schools.

Funding was provided through the Queensland Government's Flying-fox Roost Management Local Government Grants program to assist Council in completing these works.

## Pilny Reserve, Camira

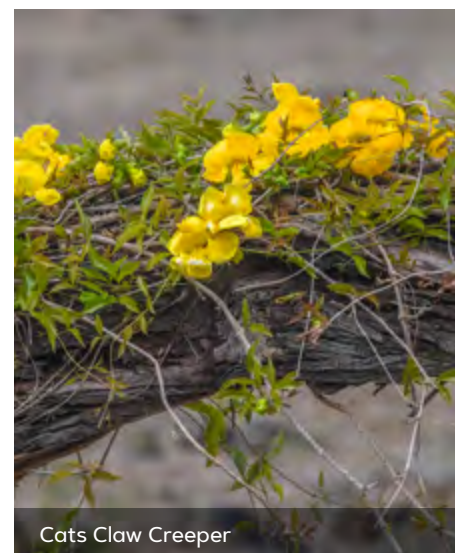
Several hundred Cocos palms have been removed and native vegetation planted in the local area. Cocos palms are a weed and the palm fruit causes rapid tooth wear in flying foxes. It also leads to tar-like faeces that can be a problem for people living near-by.



Example of a Cocos Palm

## Poplar Street Reserve, Walloon

Weeds such as Asparagus fern, Lantana and Cats claw creeper have been removed to prevent roost trees being smothered, which would prevent flying foxes from using this site as a roost. Ongoing intensive weed management will be needed due to the large seed bank of weeds in the soil.



Cats Claw Creeper

**BE ON  
THE LOOK  
OUT FOR  
PARALYSIS  
SYNDROME**

Cases of flying-foxes and lorikeets being affected by paralysis syndrome tend spike in summer across South-East Queensland. If you find a sick flying fox – do not touch it, call 1800 ANIMAL (1300 264 625).

**NO TOUCH NO RISK**





# Bushcare's growing *legacy* in Rosewood

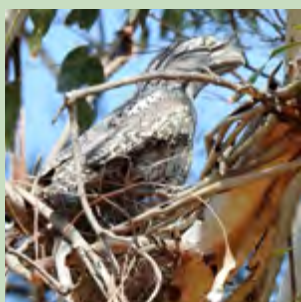


## Peace Park Bushcare



This Bushcare group has been run by Native Plants Queensland for 30 years – an incredible commitment by these volunteers to caring for this special site! Peace Park is home to the Rosewood Scrub Arboretum, a sanctuary for the rare and endangered plants of the dry vine forest known as the Rosewood Scrub. About 3 per cent of the original scrub remains today and is a highly fragmented habitat.

Peace Park Bushcare group meets every first and third Sunday of the month. Summer hours are 8.30 am – 10.30 am, winter hours are 9.00 am – 11.00 am.



## Masons Gully Regenerative Project



Masons Gully started as a vacant street corner, and since the first plantings 25 years ago the change is unbelievable. The Bushcare group is under the stewardship of West Moreton Landcare, who continue to plant and care for rare and threatened species of the Rosewood Scrub.

The late Arnold Rieck, a true champion of the Rosewood Scrub was instrumental in creating Masons Gully and volunteers continue his legacy with passion and pride. A special community planting day to celebrate 25 years included a Three-veined laurel (*Cryptocarya triplinervis*) that had originated in Arnold Rieck's garden.

Masons Gully Bushcare meets on the second Saturday of the month between 8.00 am and 10.00 am.

## FIND A BUSHCARE GROUP NEAR YOU

There's about a dozen Bushcare groups across Ipswich, from Springfield to Rosewood, with regular working bees the volunteers would love you to join! Just pop down to meet the team and try it out.

Find out more at [ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering](https://ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering)





# TURNING GREEN INTO GOLD

Now that households across Ipswich have a green-lid GO (garden organics) bin as a core service, our city can divert valuable material from landfill and turn it into an environmentally-friendly product.



The composted material is used in parks, gardens and fields to return nutrients back to the soil.



When you put your garden clippings into your green-lid GO bin, you are the first link in an important chain!

## LIFECYCLE OF GO



Each fortnight, Ipswich City Council collects green waste from about 90,000 GO bins from households across the city.



The completed material can be used as compost, soil improver or mulch.



The material is taken to a composting facility where it takes about 2-3 months to break down.

## What goes in GO



Grass clippings



Prunings, cuttings, trimmings



Twigs and sticks



Palm fronds



Weeds

The final composted product ends up in our soil, so it's really important that we make sure we don't put things in our green-lid GO bin that will cause contamination.

Got a lot of garden waste? Getting prepped for storm season? Take advantage of the upcoming Free Green Waste Weekends at Riverview and Rosewood Resource Recovery Centres more information at [ipswich.qld.gov.au/recyclingcentres](https://ipswich.qld.gov.au/recyclingcentres)



# Inside an *evacuation centre*

In the midst of an emergency or natural disaster, an evacuation centre may be activated for those in urgent need of a place to stay.

Ipswich City Council practices setting up an evacuation centre



When you arrive, you will find a makeshift space set up in a community facility such as a hall or showgrounds building. After signing in, you enter a big open space where areas for sleeping, dining and other uses are marked out simply with masking tape or bordered by chairs.

Red Cross is a leading organisation in evacuation centre management and Ipswich liaison Vanessa West said one of the first things you may notice walking in is the noise.

Up to 100 people, from babies to the elderly, are gathered in one place. Everyone's tired, uncomfortable, there's little privacy or quiet. Everyone's worried and wanting information about their homes and loved ones.

The staff and volunteers working in the centre do exhausting 12-hour shifts and often come from the same disaster-affected community.

Vanessa said it can be a challenging environment that requires "compassion, patience and understanding" from everyone involved. "In particular, we are always so appreciative of the volunteers. They always show up to help other people and we can never underestimate what they do," she said.

Evacuation centres provide shelter from the elements and basic amenities such as drinking water and toilets. Depending on the situation, people may also be provided a small roll-up mattress, light blanket, towel, basic toiletries and access to service providers.

The big open area will have separate designated sleeping zones for single

men, single women and families. People may have a small space about 1.5–5m for sleeping and their belongings.

The toilets and showers will be shared with everyone using the evacuation centre and hot water cannot be guaranteed. Pets will need to be kept outside the centre.

Vanessa said generally an evacuation shelter would be open for two to five days, until people were able to return home or had found somewhere to stay.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO TAKE?

Your emergency kit with essential items such as prescription medication, charging devices, important documents such as birth certificate. Additional comfort items can include personal hygiene products, change of clothes, pillow and sleeping bag, plus a book or boardgame.

## IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE HOME:

### Stay with friends/family:

The best option is to stay with people you know.

**Evacuation centre:** These provide basic emergency accommodation during a disaster.

**Place of refuge:** These provide short-term shelter, toilets and power to charge mobile devices.



# What's On

Want to get outdoors and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of our environment? Here's a selection of ideas...



## AT HOME

### Get Ready Week

6–12 October 2025

Prepare your home and have your 'what if' plan in place ahead of high-risk weather season.

Find the info you need at [Getready.qld.gov.au](https://getready.qld.gov.au)



## COMMUNITY



## World Rivers Day

28 September 2025

Be a part of habitat improvements along the biodiverse Woogaroo Creek at Kippen Park, Goodna. This project is funded by the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program with the support of Ipswich City Council.

Register at [ipswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com](https://ipswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com)

## OUTDOORS

## OUTDOORS

### Great Cane Toad Bust

January 2026

Challenge yourself to catch and remove as many cane toads as you can – and submit your data to Watergum as part of annual efforts!

Find more info about how to be involved at [Watergum.org/cane-toad-challenge](https://Watergum.org/cane-toad-challenge)





## Sustainable Ipswich

October 2025

Join this celebration of everyday actions we can take to create a more liveable city. Includes practical workshops, hands-on activities and Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival!

[Ipswich.qld.gov.au/sustainability](http://Ipswich.qld.gov.au/sustainability)



## VOLUNTEERING

### Bushcare

With 12 Bushcare sites in action every weekend, there's a working bee you can join somewhere in Ipswich. See the volunteering portal at [Ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering](http://Ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering)

## FUNDING

### Project support

The latest round of Enviroplan Levy Community Funding closes on 30 September for those needing support with environmental projects. See [Ipswich.qld.gov.au/funding](http://Ipswich.qld.gov.au/funding)

## AT HOME

### Backyard Bird Count

From 20–26 October, simply spend 20 minutes counting the birds you encounter. Submit your findings at [Aussiebirdcount.org.au](http://Aussiebirdcount.org.au) to contribute to citizen science.

## THERE'S A DAY FOR THAT ?!



**World Car Free Day**  
22 September 2025



**World Migratory Bird Day**  
12 October 2025



**World Fisheries Day**  
21 November 2025



**World Soils Day**  
5 December 2025

## VOLUNTEERING



## Clean Up Australia Day

1 March 2026

Make sure to register your site in the lead-up to Australia's biggest environmental event. You can also find nearby sites that would love you to join.

[Cleanup.org.au](http://Cleanup.org.au)



## Garage Sale Trail

8–9 & 15–16 November 2025

Australia's biggest second-hand treasure hunt is on again. You can take part either by hosting a garage sale or by checking out all the great local garage sales where you can bag a bargain!

[Garagesaletrail.com.au](http://Garagesaletrail.com.au)



## COMMUNITY



# Kids Corner

## YOUR MISSION

# Explore with **AGENTS OF DISCOVERY**



Play and connect with nature using the free mobile gaming app, Agents of Discovery!

Join Agent Sugar Glider on missions where you discover Ipswich's natural environment and solve fun challenges along the way.

### HOW TO PLAY

- 1 Download the free Agents of Discovery app from your app store.
- 2 Open the app to find your nearest mission, then visit the location to play.
- 3 Start your mission by following the map to find and uncover nature challenges!



### FOLLOW THE CLUES TO YOUR NEXT MISSION

Mission locations change regularly – so make sure to check in the app often! *Here are some hints...*



#### QUEENS PARK

Fresh new Missions are released regularly, highlighting the flora and fauna of this historic park.

Some places you might find the Mission include the Ipswich Nature Centre, around the playground, or near the Environmental Education Centre.

#### NATURE EXPLORER

Special Missions celebrating Ipswich's Enviroplan conservation areas will launch regularly with new challenges.

Uncover hidden secrets while taking an easy stroll through these valuable nature reserves!



# A tasty way to support *conservation*

Here are  
some creations  
for your inspiration  
– lovingly baked by  
people working at  
Ipswich City  
Council.

Heat the oven and bring out the beaters...  
it's Threatened Species Bake Off time!

Each September, amateur bakers across Australia bring out their weird and wonderful creations in celebration of Threatened Species Day.

Just by entering the annual Bake Off, you can help raise the profile of our threatened species and contribute to efforts to prevent new extinctions of plants and animals.

Each year there is a new theme, often designed to highlight the lesser-known threatened creatures who are just as deserving of our conservation efforts.

Scan the QR code for information on how to enter. Or just make and enjoy your cake with friends or family!



Corroboree frog



Button wrinklewort



Mary River Cod



Derwent River sea star



Honey blue eye



Southern pink underwing moths



Collared delma



Koala



Richmond birdwing butterfly



Spotted Tail Quoll

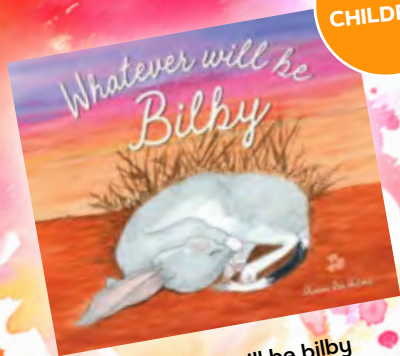


Brigalow leaf litter

## DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2018, Queenslanders have returned 10 billion drink containers through Containers for Change. This is roughly 600,000 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill – and has put \$1 billion back in people's pockets through the 10c refunds. But there's still more to do, as about 1 billion containers are still going unreturned each year. So get collecting!





**Whatever will be bilby**  
Sharon Rae Hulme, 2025

FOR  
CHILDREN

# At your *library*



Something for everyone...



**The end of capitalism:**  
Why growth and climate  
protection are incompatible –  
and how we will live in the future  
Ulrike Herrmann, 2025



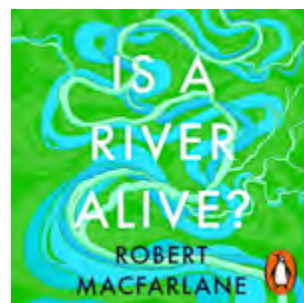
**Everyday permaculture:**  
Sustainable living for  
every space  
Anna Matilda, 2025



**365+ ways to save the  
planet and your money  
at the same time**  
Lottie Dalziel, 2025



**Beyond green:**  
The social life of  
Australian nature  
Lesley Head, 2025



**Is a river alive?**  
Robert Macfarlane, 2025

## IPSWICH LIBRARIES

### Have you visited your local library?

There's something for everyone at Ipswich Libraries.

Check out the line-up of events and activities at [ipswichlibraries.com.au](http://ipswichlibraries.com.au)

#### Ipswich Central Library

Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich

#### Ipswich Children's Library

Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich

#### Redbank Plains Library

Moreton Avenue, Redbank Plains

#### Redbank Plaza Library

Redbank Plaza Shopping Centre, 1 Collingwood Drive, Redbank

#### Rosewood Library

Corner John and Railway streets, Rosewood

#### Springfield Central Library

Cnr Main Street and Sirius Drive, Orion Springfield Central



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