



CHINCHILLA
MELON
FESTIVAL

16 – 19 FEBRUARY 2023

www.melonfestival.com.au

Melon Shop

Pop into the Melon Shop and see the volunteers and get your official Chinchilla Melon Festival merchandise!



61 Heeney Street, Chinchilla
Opens Monday 6 February 2023
Enquiries - melonshop4413@gmail.com

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Mon - Fri | 6-10 Feb | 9.30-4.30 pm |
| Sat | 11 Feb | 9 am - 12noon |
| Mon - Fri | 13-17 Feb | 9.30-4.30 pm |
| Sat | 18 Feb | 7am - 5pm (Main Day) |
| Sun | 19 Feb | 9am - 12 noon |

How It All Started...

A celebration of all things melon and a tribute to our town's melon farming reputation, the Chinchilla Melon Festival has become renowned Queensland event. In 1994, with the Chinchilla community suffering from long-term drought, it was realized the spirit of the stricken district needed a boost of confidence. A small band of dedicated volunteers formed a committee to promote Chinchilla's dominant contribution to the Australian Melon Industry. In 2023 we celebrate our 15th festival.

The first festival attracted about 2500 visitors to the town and surrounding areas. By 2019 the crowd had swelled to around 15,000 with the fun and exciting events drawing revellers from far and wide.

In 2018 Chinchilla won Wotif "Big Thing" competition and the Big Melon Slice was gifted to Chinchilla. Weighing in at four tonnes, standing three-metres high and nine metres wide this iconic slice of watermelon hold pride of place on the Warrego Highway, situated between the Chinchilla Visitor Information Centre and the railway crossing.

In 2023 our committee are a small group of committed individuals who through hard yakka and dedication bring this festival together every two years. The event is an impressive family-fun festival around its famous watermelon. That's why it appeals to so many national and international travellers.

It has been four long years since the last festival in 2019 due to covid restrictions, and the committee & townspeople look forward to welcoming you to the Western Downs & showcasing our district and lots of sticky fun.

If you've never skied on watermelons or attempted melon bungee 2023 may be your time to shine!

Saturday 11th Feb

Wednesday 15th Feb

TRIVIA NIGHT

 **6 PM**
11 Feb

CHINCHILLA HIGH SCHOOL P & C EVENT

 Chinchilla High School Hall, Rennick Street

 <https://www.trybooking.com/CEUUR>

 Door open at 6pm. First round 6.30pm

**Cash prize to be won, multi draw raffle, bar operating
Tables to provide own nibbles**

Enquiries 0407 584 698

ORIGIN OF GAS TOUR

 **12.30 PM**
15 Feb

Festival sponsor Origin Energy, as Upstream Operator for Australia Pacific LNG, invites you to join a free educational bus tour, exploring one of their local gas production facilities.

Come along to find out more about the industry and the important contribution natural gas makes to the Western Downs.

Tour 1: Wednesday 15 February Registration 12.30pm for 1pm sharp departure (returns approx. 4.15pm)

Tour 2: Thursday 16 February Registration 8am for 8.30am sharp departure (returns approx. 11.45am)

Departure – Chinchilla Botanical Parklands, Canaga Street, Chinchilla
Bookings essential: Please book via www.melonfestival.com.au
For more information: Origin Community Line 1800 526 369

proudly sponsored by



AMAZING RACE

**NEW
EVENT**

 **5 PM**
15 Feb

 93 Chinchilla Street, Chinchilla  5pm - 5.30pm start proudly sponsored by

 <https://www.trybooking.com/CFKXA>

Team 4 / Rego \$50 per team

Start and finish at Max Fitness. Winning Team takes home \$300.

Work out the clues to get to your destination.

Crack the code to move onto the next station working as group.



Thursday 16th Feb

Thursday 16th Feb

MELON FARM TOURS

 **From 8.30 AM**
16 Feb

Catch the bus to the local Melon Farm

 <https://www.trybooking.com/CEQOP>

 Thursday 16/02/2023 8.30am - 11am
Thursday 16/02/2023 1pm - 3.30pm

Departure – Chinchilla Botanical Parklands, Canaga Street, Chinchilla
\$35 includes morning tea. (*All tickets prepurchased.*)

proudly sponsored by



MELON LUNCHEON

 **11AM**
16th FEB

 Chinchilla RSL

 11am for pre-lunch drinks

 <https://www.trybooking.com/CFKWR>

\$65 per ticket. Guest Speaker Amelia Hodge

2 course sit down luncheon / bar operating
**All tickets prepurchased*

proudly sponsored by



proudly sponsored by



MELON BIG BASH 20/20 MATCH

 **6 PM**
16 Feb

CHINCHILLA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION EVENT

Qld Bull Masters VS Chinchilla & District Watermelons

 Gates Open 5pm, Game Starts 6pm

Entry – (Cash only)
18+ - \$5.00; Under 18 - FREE

**Bar and Canteen Open (Card Options available).
18+ must be wearing an armband*



Friday 17th Feb

Friday 17th Feb

GOLF DAY

12.30pm
17 Feb

CHINCHILLA GOLF CLUB EVENT

12.30pm tee off  Warrego Highway, Chinchilla

\$75 per team \$100 hire per buggy, 3 ball ambrose

Test your skills on the golf course

Enquiries Steve 0438 205 788, Nathan 0427 857 767



BIG MELON WEIGH IN KID'S COMPETITION

5 PM
17 Feb

 Chinchilla State Primary
School Oval, Middle Street

**COME ALONG & WATCH THE
KIDS PRESENT THEIR MELON
FOR THE KIDS WEIGH-IN**



proudly sponsored by

**KEITH
CRAWLEY'S**
Industrial and Rural Supplies

BIG MELON WEIGH-IN

5 PM
17 Feb

 5pm. Bar will be open

proudly sponsored by

 Chinchilla State Primary School Oval, Middle Street

CHECK OUT THE BIGGEST/HEAVIEST MELON.

Previous Big Melon Winners

- 1994 Dennis & Jan Dickman (Chinchilla) 66.2kg
- 1995 Roger & Cathy Madder (Chinchilla) 55kg
- 1997 Ross Olm (non melon grower) (Chinchilla) 57.5kg
- 1999 Dennis & Jan Dickman (Chinchilla) 82.2kg
- 2001 Gary Marsden (Bundaberg grower) 72.25kg
- 2003 Dennis & Jan Dickman (Chinchilla) 82.2kg
- 2005 DK & CK Reed (Kingaroy) 83.6kg
- 2007 Bernie & Matt Davies (Chinchilla) 87.5kg
- 2009 Bernie & Matt Davies (Chinchilla) 70.6kg
- 2011 Kyron Sturgess (Chinchilla) 56kg
- 2013 Kyron Sturgess (Chinchilla) 86kg
- 2015 Chris Davies (Chinchilla) 63.5kg
- 2017 Kyron & Bec Sturgess (Chinchilla) 75kg
- 2019 Geoff Frohloff (Minden) 100.5kg



Friday 17th Feb

Friday 17th Feb

MELON SKIING UNDER LIGHTS & BBQ DINNER

NEW
EVENT

5 PM
17 Feb

Chinchilla State Primary School Oval,
Middle Street, Chinchilla

proudly sponsored by



MELON SKIING UNDER LIGHTS & BURGERS BY THE BAR 6PM

Stay on after the melon weigh in for some melon skiing, and BBQ dinner

Melon Skiing first time under lights
– **WE CAN'T WAIT**

All enquiries 0488 737 060. <https://www.trybooking.com/CFJJY>

\$25 Burgers & dessert. Under 10 - \$15.



BEACH PARTY

5PM-2AM
17 Feb

Club Hotel Event

proudly sponsored by



5pm - 2 am Heeney Street Chinchilla

THE CLUB WILL BE BRINGING YOU THE JUICIEST BEACH PARTY EVER. THE EVENT WILL BE FILLED WITH PLENTY OF LIVE MUSIC, DRINK SPECIALS, FOOD VENDORS AND MUCH MORE.

Tickets available:

theclubhotelchinchilla.com.au/whats-on/melonfest-beach-party-2023/
P: 4669 1100



MELON RODEO

5PM - Midnight
17 Feb

Chinchilla A & P Association Event

5pm - midnight

Chinchilla Showgrounds

Bar licenced to midnight, yummy food vans
Tickets at the gate. All enquiries 0437 688 011



Friday 17th Feb

Saturday 18th Feb

KIDS MOVIE NIGHT

7 - 9.45PM
17 Feb

Western Downs Regional Council Event

proudly sponsored by



FREE EVENT – 7- 9.45pm

Chinchilla Botanic Parkland, Event Lawn

GRAB A PICNIC RUG AND YOUR FRIENDS FOR A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENING IN THE BEAUTIFUL CHINCHILLA PARKLANDS. PLAY IN THE PARK, THEN SIT DOWN TO ENJOY 'TOM & JERRY' ON THE BIG SCREEN UNDER THE STARS. SAUSAGE SIZZLE, DRINKS AND POPCORN WILL BE ON SALE AT THE EVENT BY THE CHINCHILLA MUSEUM FROM 6PM WITH THE MOVIE TO COMMENCE FROM APPROX. 7PM. THE WATER PARK WILL BE OPEN UNTIL THE MOVIE STARTS.



**All children must have a parent or guardian's supervision for the duration of the evening.*

POETS BREAKFAST

7 - 9AM
18 Feb

Chinchilla Cancer Fund Event

7am – 9am

Chinchilla Museum – Villiers Street

ENJOY A HEARTY BREAKFAST WHILE HAVING A LAUGH WITH THREE OF AUSTRALIA'S TOP PERFORMING BUSH POETS – BILL KEAMS, GARY FOGARTY, MICK MARTIN.

Please bring a chair.



Saturday 18th Feb

Saturday 18th Feb

CHARLEYS CREEK PARKRUN

 7 AM
18 Feb

 7am  Starts from Rotary Park (near Commercial Hotel)

Charley Creek Parkrun Event

MARKET STALLS

 7.30AM - 3.30PM
18 Feb

 7.30am – 3.30pm  Heeney Street

**CHECK OUT ALL THE MARKET STALLS -
MORE THAN 150 QUALITY CRAFTS,
FASHION & FOOD MARKET!**



STREET ENTERTAINMENT

 10 AM
18 Feb

MEMPHIS MOOVERS – MUSIC ON THE MOVE!

 10am- 3 pm  Roving around Chinchilla CBD
Moovin' Music! That's what the Memphis Movers do!
The Memphis Moovers will surprise you when they
appear, roving in one of their cute novelty cars.



MELON FACE PAINTER

 9AM - 3PM
18 Feb

 9am- 3pm  Oval in the Arrow Energy tent

FREE KIDS FACE PAINTING

proudly sponsored by



MELON PROCESSION

 10 AM
18 Feb

 Marshalling in Railway Street from 9AM.
Parade starts at 10am

 Starting at the top of Heeney Street

THEME – CELEBRATE OUR BIG MELON

Bookings- <https://www.trybooking.com/CETMS>

proudly sponsored by



Saturday 18th Feb

Saturday 18th Feb

THE CAGE

 **11 AM**
18 Feb

 Serving cold beverages from 11am to midnight

proudly sponsored by

ENTRY: \$10 per person (over 18's only)

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE BAR BY RUSTY PICKUPS BAND AFTER THE CONCERT.



BIG SCREEN

 **12 PM**
18 Feb

WATCH ALL THE ACTION ON THE WDC BIG SCREEN

proudly sponsored by



Saturday 18th Feb

Saturday 18th Feb

MELON DASH FOR CASH

 11 AM
18 Feb

Will start at the conclusion of the Parade

-  Register from 9 am
Shell's QGC registration tent
on the school oval

-  Heeney Street

proudly sponsored by
 **Cameby Downs Mine**
MANAGED BY THE YANCOAL AUSTRALIA GROUP



Test your fitness in a mad dash for cash while carrying a whole melon. Melon must be intact when you finish the event. You must wear enclosed footwear and have a registration band to enter. Dash for Cash starts on conclusion of the procession.

KID'S ENTERTAINMENT

 10am
18 Feb

-  11am- 5pm

-  Chinchilla State School Hall

proudly sponsored by

 **Cameby Downs Mine**
MANAGED BY THE YANCOAL AUSTRALIA GROUP

MELON ARTS, CRAFTS & DANCE WORKSHOPS

CLASSIC CAR DISPLAY

 12pm
18 Feb

-  12 noon to 4pm

-  Middle Street outside
Anglican church



BIKE N BLEND

 12 - 4 PM
18 Feb

-  12 noon to 4pm

-  School oval

proudly sponsored by



*Create your own peddle, powered s
moothies – fun & delicious exercise.*



Saturday 18th Feb

Saturday 18th Feb

SHELL'S QGC ARENA OF MELON EVENTS

 **12.30 - 5 PM**
18 Feb

proudly sponsored by

 12.30pm to 5pm  School Oval



WATCH ALL THE MELON EVENTS IN THE SHELL QGC ARENA

REGISTRATION FORMS FOR ARENA

Registration Forms are required to be completed before you can participate in any ARENA events. Shell's QGC Registration Tent is located at top north-east corner of the Arena. Once registration forms have been completed and signed, an armband will be placed on your arm to allow you to participate. If under 18, your parent/guardian must sign form.



MELON SKIING

 **12.30 - 4PM**
18 Feb

proudly sponsored by

 Arena

 12.30pm to 4pm



REQUIRES ONE PERSON SKIING ON MELON SKINS. SQUISH YOUR FEET INTO A PAIR OF WATERMELONS AND SKI ALL THE WAY DOWN THE COURSE.



MELON BUNGY

 **12.30 - 4 PM**
18 Feb

proudly sponsored by

 12.30pm to 4pm Heats: 12.30pm to 3pm,
Champion of Champions at 3pm

 Arena



REQUIRES FOUR PEOPLE — ALL ATTACHED TO A BUNGY ROPE ON A SLIPPERY MAT COVERED WITH MELON. THE AIM IS TO REACH AND RETRIEVE YOUR MELON!



Saturday 18th Feb

Saturday 18th Feb

SLIP DIP & PULL

📅 12.30 PM
18 Feb

proudly sponsored by



🕒 12.30pm – 4pm 📍 Arena

SEE WHO THE STRONGEST TEAM IS IN THE SLIPPERY TUG-A-WAR.



FREE MELON FEAST

📅 3 PM
18 Feb

proudly sponsored by



🕒 3pm 📍 Under the Big Tree

TRY A REFRESHING SLICE OF DELICIOUS MELON UNDER THE BIG TREE NEAR THE ARENA.



MISS MELONS PIN UP

📅 1 PM
18 Feb

🕒 1pm

Skip the daily grind and come and be One in a Melon with us. Watch the stunning pinups take the stage to celebrate the festival.

Open to all genders 18+ this one round watermelon themed pageant will be fruity and delicious.



CELEBRITY MELON EATING

📅 3 PM
18 Feb

🕒 3pm 📍 Arena

proudly sponsored by



THE FESTIVAL WOULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SPONSORS – WATCH OUR SPONSOR EAT AS MUCH MELON AS THEY CAN WITHOUT USING THEIR HANDS.



Saturday 18th Feb

Saturday 18th Feb

BIKE SHOW

 **1PM & 5PM**
18 Feb

proudly sponsored by



 2 events – 1pm & 5pm

 Middle Street

**RIDER PHOTOS, AUTOGRAPH SESSION
& INTERACTIVE BIKE DISPLAYS.**

MELON CHARIOT RACE

 **4pm**
18 Feb

proudly sponsored by



 Assemble at 4pm / 4.30pm start
Register team of 3 at Shell's QGC
registration tent from 11am.

 Arena

**CHARIOTS TO BE MADE FROM MELON
PACKING CARTONS, PALLETS AND READY
MADE AXLES. RACE IS HELD IN THE ARENA.**
*Participants must wear enclosed footwear. Aim is to race
the entire lap and not fall off!*

MELON IRON MAN / WOMAN

 **4 PM**
18 Feb

proudly sponsored by



 Assemble 4pm / Start 4.30pm  Arena

Register team at Shell's QGC registration tent from 11am.
Require two participants per team. Maximum of 20 male
teams & 20 female teams. Ironman circuit containing
obstacles, challenges and task to showcase the physicality
of the Melon Industry. Aim to complete the circuit with an
intact melon in the fastest time.

MARQUEES

 **18 Feb**

proudly sponsored by



QUBE ENERGY ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 2023
CHINCHILLA MELON FESTIVAL MARQUEES FOR
SHADE. SLIP, SLOP & SLAP!



Saturday 18th Feb

Saturday 18th Feb

FREE FAMILY CONCERT

6 PM
18 Feb

6pm – late Primary School Oval

SIT BACK & RELAX & ENJOY THE FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY ENTERTAINMENT. MAIN ACT – JAMES BLUNDELL RUSTY PICKUPS & WOODSHED BAND

proudly sponsored by



LASER LIGHT SHOW

18 Feb

During the Free Family Concert

proudly sponsored by

Primary School Oval

LOOK TO THE SKIES AS THE LASER SHOW LIGHTS UP CHINCHILLA!



Sunday 19th Feb

Sunday 19th Feb

SUNDAY MARKETS

 **7 AM - 12PM**
19 Feb

Chinchilla Polocrosse Club Event

 7am - 12pm  Chinchilla Polocrosse Grounds, Racecourse Road

**ENJOY A RELAXED SUNDAY MORNING
BROWSING THROUGH THE MARKETS,
BREAKFAST & COFFEE.**

Enquires: 0429 309 909



POLOCROSSE DEMONSTRATION

 **8AM - 10 AM**
19 Feb

Chinchilla Polocrosse Club Event

 8 am - 10 am

**WATCH ALL THE ACTION OF THE
POLOCROSSE GAME.**



POETS BREAKFAST

 **7 AM - 9AM**
19 Feb

Chinchilla Cancer Fund Event

 7am - 9am  Chinchilla Museum – Villiers Street

**ENJOY A HEARTY BREAKFAST WHILE HAVING A LAUGH WITH THREE
OF AUSTRALIA'S TOP PERFORMING BUSH POETS**

Limited seating - please bring a chair

Bill Keams

Gary Fogarty

Mick Martin



Sunday 19th Feb

QGC Sponsor's message

MELON FEST COMBINED
CHURCH SERVICE

10.30 AM
19 Feb

10.30am Country Hope Church 3 Burbank Street, Chinchilla

COMBINED CHURCH EVENT.
OFFERING TO SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY,
SAUSAGE SIZZLE TO FOLLOW.



MELON BOWL DAY

12 PM
19 Feb

Chinchilla Bowls Club Event

Names in by 12pm, 1pm start

Park Street, Chinchilla



**ENJOY A RELAXED AFTERNOON
OF SOCIAL BOWLS**

Enquiries 0477 019 682 / 0416 120 122



QGC sponsor's message

Shell's QGC business is proud to once again be a major supporter of the Chinchilla Melon Festival in 2023.



We recognise the significant benefits which this event provides to Chinchilla and the Western Downs region, particularly given the impact of COVID over the past couple of years.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this iconic community festival and are looking forward to seeing thousands of visitors come to the region.

Shell QGC acknowledges the support that the Western Downs region has provided us. We continue to support the local social, civic and sporting clubs that vitalise regional communities.

Our staff are delighted to again support the renowned Melon Games Arena, so come by and say hello. We'll be keen to help out, give you directions or just hear how you are enjoying the day.

We are sure this year's festival will once again be a huge success and showcase what makes Chinchilla and the Western Downs Region such a great place to live.

From the whole team at Shell's QGC business

Thank You

Map

Thank you!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, CHINCHILLA COMMUNITY AND OUR MELON GROWERS WHO HAVE BEEN AS MUCH A PART OF THIS FESTIVAL AND THE PREVIOUS 14 FESTIVALS.

THANK YOU TO ALL BUSINESSES WHO ADVERTISED VIA NEWSPAPER, RADIO & TELEVISION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHINCHILLA MELON FESTIVAL.

MEDIA SPONSORS



INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERS

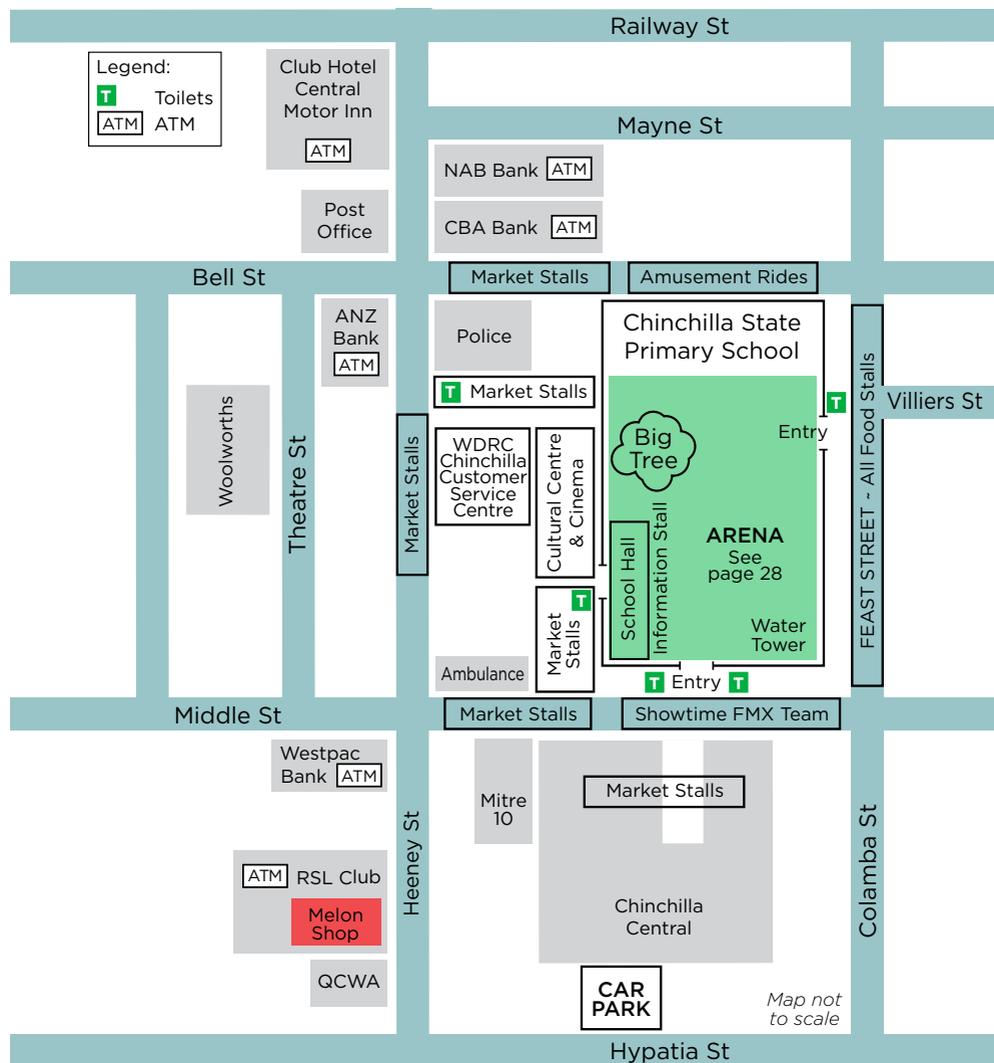


ANNOUNCER

Aaron Ryan & Darryl O'Leary



Map



CHINCHILLA
MELON
FESTIVAL

16 – 19 FEBRUARY 2023

Next Festival 13-16 FEBRUARY 2025

www.melonfestival.com.au