



# TIERI

*A TOP LITTLE TOWN*





# Don't need the big city now

## Small town life has big advantages

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EMMA Spillman has no regrets whatsoever moving from the hustle and bustle of the Gold Coast to Tieri.

In fact, since she and her family relocated in January this year, Emma has no intentions of moving back to the city any time soon.

"I went back to the Gold Coast in June to catch up with friends," Mrs Spillman said.

"It was great to see them but it's busy down there (Gold Coast) and I quite like the quieter lifestyle.

"I didn't think I would but I do. So I certainly won't be rushing back to the Gold Coast in a hurry."

Mrs Spillman, her husband and her two boys aged 11 and 6 made the move to Tieri due to the good job her husband had in town.

Mrs Spillman understandably had her reservations before making such a big change from city to country and fitting into a rural community.

"When we first made the decision, (to move) obviously being a small town I was a



**LOVING LIFE:** Emma Spillman and her family are relishing their time in Tieri after a move from the city. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

little uncertain about that," Mrs Spillman said.

"Coming here, it's definitely a real community,

everyone made me feel welcome when I got here and I had invites to things.

"It's been a very positive

experience.

"You can definitely keep yourself entertained."

Mrs Spillman is pleased

for her two boys who play in Tieri's rugby league team and live a contrasting lifestyle to what they did on

the Gold Coast.

"I came to visit the town in November last year and I could see it was a really good place for the kids," Mrs Spillman said.

"My kids have gone from a lifestyle on the Gold Coast where they weren't able to be themselves and I'm having to know where they are all the time.

"Now it's gone to them coming home from school and heading to the skate park or kids coming over for a play.

"They (the kids) were in swim club as soon as they arrived and my eldest boy plays touch in a competition that caters for kids and adults.

"They're (the kids) able to grow up the way I did where there's no worry as such which is really good."

Working as an administration assistant in human resources at Oak Creek North, Mrs Spillman is pleased to have such a supportive workplace.

"I love it here (at work)," she said. "I've got a really good team.

"The girls I work with are so supportive and I'm learning a lot from them.

"I'm very grateful and fortunate to get a job out here.

"Coming to work has been a positive thing, I've got the best of both worlds really."



**NO REGRETS:** Community and work roster a great fit for couple Linda and Paul Westbrook. PHOTO: AARON GOODWIN

## Warm welcome to their new life

THEY might be new to town, but Linda Westbrook and her husband Paul have already fallen in love with Tieri.

Mrs Westbrook has lived in town only six weeks but already thinks Tieri is "a lovely little town".

"The people are friendly – it's a very warm and welcoming community," she said.

"It's certainly been a change for us. We moved

over from Moranbah – moving from one mining town to another mining town, there are a lot of differences.

"However, I think the smaller number of people in town does make it that little bit more homely."

Mrs Westbrook said it was the roster offered by Glencore at their Oak Creek North mine which attracted her and her husband to town.

"I work Monday to Friday (at Oak Creek North) and my husband works Monday to Thursday," she said.

"He was working a seven and seven roster (in Moranbah) and transferred over to a four and three (roster in Tieri).

"So for us, it meant every weekend together. We can go home to Airlie Beach every weekend together."

While living in a smaller town has taken a bit of

adjusting, Mrs Westbrook – who lived in Moranbah for two years – said she and her husband now had things like grocery shopping worked out.

"It just means that on the weekend, you do your shopping for the week and then you're all set. You have no problems," she said.

"We're very keen to explore and find out what the town's really got to offer."

## Newfound freedom for the kids

THE four years that Michael Angel and his family have lived in Tieri have been a wonderful transition for them, particularly for his children.

Michael and his wife have three girls aged 11, 9 and 7 who are having a blast living in Tieri.

Michael loves the freedom that his girls can live with and have around the town.

"Small towns are perfect for kids, you can walk anywhere in the town area," Mr Angel said.

"The kids can pretty much own the streets when it

comes to riding bikes and scooters around.

"We have neighbours with similar-aged kids and at any given time our kids can disappear in someone else's house but the same goes for their kids.

"The amount of things that kids can go to, sports and after-school activities that are run is just crazy."

The high-class sporting facilities have also caught Michael's eye.

"When it comes to the facilities, the swimming club is second to none," Mr Angel said.

"Our golf club would have to be second to none in the district.

"It was always good but it's come on leaps and bounds in the last couple of years."

The locality of Tieri being an hour drive from the metropolis of Emerald is ideal for Mr Angel to have access to every service he needs.

"Where it's (Tieri) situated to Emerald is quite good," Mr Angel said.

"The town is well supported, you'd think coming to a smaller town the

services would be a lot less.

"You are a little more remote than places like Moranbah or Glenden but it doesn't worry me because there's nothing much you can't get in Emerald."

Karate is fast becoming the popular leisure activity in Tieri, with several classes a week in both Tieri and Capella, just a 25-minute drive away.

"Karate four nights a week either between Tieri or Capella," Mr Angel said.

"When my girls aren't doing karate, they're doing soccer."



**FAMILY LIFESTYLE:** Michael and Megan Angel and daughters Emma, Eva and Kelly happy in Tieri. PHOTO: AARON GOODWIN





HERE TO STAY: Mat Lines, his wife Rebecca and their children, Julia, Hillary, Mackenzie and Bill. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

## Business owner is all in for Tieri

MAT LINES is a man who is passionate about the town he calls home. In his 12 years living in Tieri, Mr Lines has owned the bakery, the cafe, the licensed restaurant, the medical centre and the town's grocery store, Foodworks.

At one point he owned and ran them all as a one-man band. He was the baker at the bakery, the chef at the restaurant, the practice manager for the medical centre, which includes a physiotherapy practice, and the store manager for the grocery store.

Though he has scaled back in recent years, he still does "pretty much everything" at both Tieri Medical Practice and Foodworks.

"I'm the practice manager (at the medical centre), I cut all the meats, I make the sausages (and) I do all the ordering (for Foodworks)," Mr Lines said.

He said his move to Tieri was "just one of those things".

"I was going to all the different mining towns as a consultant occupational therapist and I'd stay in

hotels and what not," he said.

"I come from a small town in New Zealand and I remember being at the Tieri Broiga Hotel and I rang the wife and I said, 'It actually feels like home. I know most of the people in the bar'.

"It was a friendly atmosphere and it actually felt similar to where we (he and his wife) grew up. I said, 'I could live here' and sure enough, we did and we do."

Mr Lines and his wife have had four children since living in Tieri and he said it was "definitely home".

"We've had opportunities to move away and definitely, the kids don't want to move away and we don't want to move away," Mr Lines said.

Part of Tieri's appeal for Mr Lines was its "really friendly, safe environment".

"The kids are very safe - they've got the ability to go and play at their friend's house and you don't have to worry about them getting on their bike and biking around town.

"It's just that safe, small town, low crime community aspect that creates that vibe that we enjoy."

**Taylor Battersby**

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WHEN it comes to supporting the communities of Tieri, Capella and Middlemount, CTM Links is there.

A not-for-profit organisation, CTM Links provides a vital service in the small towns in the Central Highlands which are often isolated from support networks.

"We aim to help support the community, whether that's providing information, helping with local events, sourcing funding and referrals as well," community engagement officer for Tieri Shaunte Francis said.

"We also help with emergency relief at times, too, when there's a need for it.

"The larger communities have neighbourhood centres and a lot of other services and I felt that maybe there was a void that needed to be filled.

"So CTM Links was created to make sure those smaller communities were really being supported, a



COMMUNITY SPIRIT: Shaunte Francis from CTM Links loves living in Tieri.

PHOTO: AARON GOODWIN

way to bring services and information and just someone they can go to to help with things."

Mrs Francis, who has lived in Tieri for more than eight years, said the town had "a community spirit like no other".

"It has a strong sense of

community safety and anyone that moves here is always incredibly welcomed," she said.

"I've had a great experience living here so far. Everyone is quite warm.

"It's a very rare community - something you don't seem to get

anywhere else."

Mrs Francis said she wished people knew Tieri was more than just a mining town.

"We do seem to help each other in the good times and the bad. Everyone's there to help and also celebrate in positive times," she said.

## Mines offer family orientated workplaces

GLENCORE'S Oaky Creek Coal mines are family-focused. The company is passionate about its people and knows they are what make the mines a possibility.

Oaky Creek Coal HR superintendent Michelle Cody said the mines and the town of Tieri worked on a "life cycle".

"The town feeds the mine and the mine feeds the town," Mrs Cody said.

"There's an opportunity for your employees to be able to work in the mine but to be able to have their families at home with them.

"It's a fantastic opportunity in an industry

that's reliant on fly in, fly out."

As part of that opportunity, Glencore employees are offered company accommodation in Tieri at a "heavily reduced rate".

"We're a very family orientated workplace because we're so heavily focused on the community side of things," Mrs Cody said. "It feeds into sporting and things like that and, in turn, makes Tieri a great place for people to bring up their families."

Both Mrs Cody and her husband work at Oaky and have two children they are raising in Tieri.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT: Glencore is passionate about its people.

PHOTO: AARON GOODWIN

"Both of our kids are able to grow up in an environment that's like a

country town. It's a great little town and I certainly feel privileged to live here."



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# Long and rich town heritage

THE town of Tieri has a long history of human occupation due to the abundance of natural resources in the area.

The township and surrounds were originally home to the Western Kangoulu people who remain proud custodians of these lands.

Settlement by European pastoralists began in the mid-1850s.

These early settlers brought sheep to graze the pastures of the open downs country first travelled by the explorer Ludwig Leichhardt in 1845.

Following decades of wool growing, sheep were replaced by cattle.

Large-scale broadacre farming commenced in the 1950s, producing grain crops such as wheat, sorghum and sunflowers.

Huge changes occurred when coal mining began in the early 1980s at the Oaky Creek North Mine.

The Oaky Creek coal reserve, considered to be the richest seam in the coal underlying most of the eastern half of Peak Downs



**TIERI HISTORY:** Tieri has a proud history starting back with Indigenous occupation through to today's top little mining town. PHOTO: AARON GOODWIN

Shire, was developed by a joint venture comprising Mt Isa Mines and three European steel companies.

In 1981, the government began construction on the town of Tieri, which was named after a nearby cattle

station. It was built from the ground up to house an initial workforce of 400 people and their families on 'Crinum'

cattle property in 1983.

A purpose built town, Tieri has since evolved into a strong country community

with lots of character and charm.

Since the completion of Tieri's first home in 1982, the township has grown to about 2000 residents.

The town centre is a humble reminder of Tieri's heritage, with streets named after the cattle stations which originally surrounded it.

Tieri is a well-equipped town with a local shopping centre, health care, day care, kindergarten and school and a hotel-motel.

There are also a number of recreational clubs and sporting facilities.

These include a bowls club, a golf club, a swimming pool and a sports and recreation centre.

Tieri is situated four hours west of the major city of Rockhampton and an hour north of the Central Highlands' hub of Emerald.

The beautiful Whitsundays are also just a four hour drive from Tieri, providing a convenient and affordable holiday destination for many of the town's residents.

## You will be spoilt for choice when it comes to family-friendly fun

TAKE the time to explore Tieri and its surrounds and find an area rich with history.

Here's our Top 5 things to do:

### 1. Boating, camping and fishing

THE man-made Bundoora Dam is an ideal spot for water skiing and swimming and has areas of sandy shoreline.

For keen fishers, the dam is full of saratoga, golden perch, eel-tail catfish, sleepy cod, spangled perch and red claw crayfish.

If you're looking for a spot to stop overnight, this is a perfect place to camp and

the area is well-equipped with tables and public amenities.

### 2. Local wildlife

TIERI is home to a variety of Australian wildlife, so why not take the family on an adventure and see if you can spot some?

The whiptail wallaby and kangaroos are very common in Tieri.

They are most active at dusk and dawn, so be sure to exercise caution if you are driving at these times.

The local lorikeets are very friendly and will happily let you feed them fresh fruit such as apples, pears, strawberries, grapes,



**KICK BACK:** The first class pool is another thing to soak up in Tieri. PHOTO: AARON GOODWIN

melon, peaches and cherry. Avoid acidic fruits.

The nearby Epping National Forest is home to the northern hairy-nosed

wombat, one of the rarest land mammals in the world.

### 3. Dining out

LOCATED on the south west

corner of Malvern Avenue, the iconic Tieri Brolga Hotel offers everything from all day pizza, indoor/outdoor dining, gaming, beers on tap and even an old-school jukebox.

The Highlander Cafe is also a local favourite to meet up and unwind with friends over delicious food and drinks.

The cafe is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and is fully licenced and child friendly.

There are vegan and vegetarian options available.

### 4. Round of golf

TIERI Golf Club has expansive practice facilities

to provide members of the community, surrounding areas and visitors with the ideal environment to enjoy a great game of golf.

With 24/7 access and the popular weekly Chook Run event on Fridays, it's the sporting destination of choice for many locals.

### 5. On the green

WALK through the doors of Tieri Bowls Club and you'll find yourself welcomed by many local friendly characters.

It's the town's number one destination to enjoy a beer, weekly meal special, live entertainment or casual game of cricket on the lawn.

## Plenty of events to cross off the yearly calendar

FOR a small town Tieri packs a punch when it comes to the events that fill up the calendar.

Lily McKelvie started working for Glencore in Tieri last August and has since taken over the running and organising of town events

A hallmark event for Tieri is fast approaching, the annual Tieri black tie ball.

"At the moment we are planning and selling tickets to the Tieri 200 Club Ball," Ms McKelvie said.

"This year's theme is a masquerade ball. It's something we're just doing for the community and it was such a success last year that we won't miss it moving

forward." Events in Tieri often draw a crowd with the community banding together to show out, have a good time and help where they can.

"I think because the whole community gets behind the events," Ms McKelvie said.

"As a mining town there isn't a whole lot to do, so when these events are on the whole community gets behind them. There's often out of towners that come to our events.

"Around Mothers day we had the Tieri tiler ladies afternoon with live entertainment and Middlemount also sent out 16 women to our event."

Events aren't just run for the sake of it in Tieri, they are very often for a good cause.

"Throughout the year we often do fundraising for local families," Ms McKelvie said.

"We often try to do charity golf days for breast and prostate cancer."

Looking ahead to the reminder of 2019, there are some cracker-jack events still to come.

"There's the town Christmas party in December we're organising," Ms McKelvie said.

"Last year we had a wine and cheese event in November and this year we're thinking doing something similar like a beer and beef festival."



**EVENTS PLANNER:** Lily McKelvie from Oaky Creek North Mine is responsible for putting on the great community events in Tieri. PHOTO: AARON GOODWIN