PRESS RELEASE

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Calliope Community Hub Celebrates a Successful First Year and Prepares for Exciting Transformation

As 2025 comes to a close, the Strong Communities team reflect on a remarkable first year of connecting, supporting, and empowering the local community at the Calliope Community Hub. Operating from the RSL Memorial Hall, **the Hub has become a central space for families, young people, seniors and the broader community** to come together for support, programs, and connection.

Over the past year, the Community Hub has:

- Operated a **community food pantry**, providing vital support to residents and receiving strong community participation.
- Hosted **school holiday programs** and community events such as **free yoga** and **Zumba classes** and creating safe, welcoming, and engaging experiences for all ages.
- **Welcomed Queensland Premier David Crisafulli and Bryson Head MP for Callide** who visited the Hub to witness the impact of Strong Communities' initiatives and show his support for the project.

To further enhance its role in the community, **the Community Hub has now temporarily closed for renovations**. These upgrades will transform the space into a modern, flexible, and fit-for-purpose facility. The Community Hub is **expected to reopen in April 2026**, offering an even stronger and more inclusive environment for the community in Calliope and surrounding suburbs.

These renovations have been made possible thanks to generous funding support from Acciona Energía, the Queensland Government, Central Queensland Power, and Bendigo Community Bank Calliope and Gladstone, securing both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Community Hub's development.

"The past year has highlighted just how essential the Calliope Community Hub is for this community," said Crystal Robson, Strong Communities CEO. "The success of our programs and initiatives, the generosity of local families, and the energy and engagement from the community have reinforced the Hub's role as a place of connection, support, and empowerment. While we have temporarily closed the Community Hub for renovations, we are excited to reopen in 2026 with an upgraded, fit-for-purpose space that will continue to support, inspire, and empower the community for many years to come."

"We are thrilled to see this vision come to life," Gus Stedman, Director of Strong Communities added. "This hub is not just a building, it will be a community-driven space designed to make a positive impact on the lives of everyone who walks through its doors."

While the Calliope Community Hub undergoes renovations, **Strong Brew Co. Coffee will remain on site and fully operational throughout the renovation period.** The coffee van will continue to provide a welcoming meeting point for locals, ensuring the space remains connected during the upgrade works. Strong Brew Co.'s ongoing presence reflects the Hub's commitment to maintaining community connection and supporting local business, even as the site transforms in preparation for its reopening in 2026.

The Community Hub **car park will remain open and accessible** throughout the renovation period. However, community members are **advised that there may be temporary disruptions or changes to access at times** due to construction activity and the presence of tradespeople on site. We appreciate the patience and understanding of the community, as these important upgrades are completed to create a safer, more functional space for everyone.

For more information about the Calliope Community Hub, visit the Calliope Community Hub facebook page, www.strongcommunities.org.au, or reach out to us at info@strongcommunities.org.au

Partnership Proposals
If you would like to be involved in the legacy of establishing the hub fit for purpose for community use, contact us for partnership opportunities on our website or at crystal.robson@strongcommunities.org.au or 0497 704 113.

The Calliope Community Hub
A LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACE
GATHER. GROW. THRIVE.