

FREE

THE Bundy LOCAL

plus ... **THE Bundy Book** TOURIST GUIDE

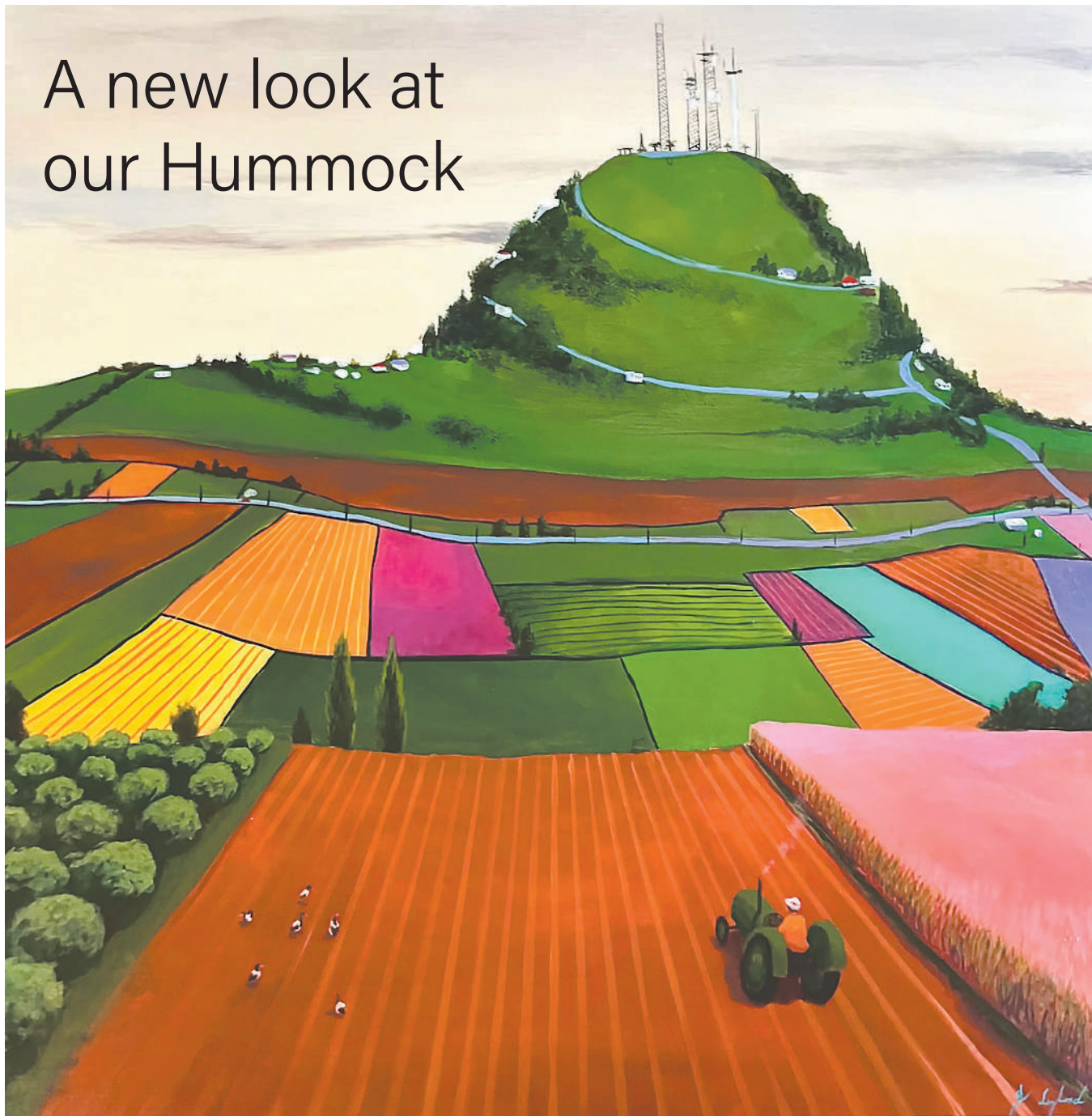
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Bundaberg's FREE Newspaper

Edition 3-2026.

A new look at our Hummock



THE HUMMOCK is one of Bundaberg's most recognisable landmarks offering panoramic views and a deep connection to the region's history, geology, and agriculture.

Matthew Flinders took bearings during his 1799 coastal survey, noting it as a prominent volcanic outcrop.

The RACQ purchased the summit in 1930 and opened it as a public lookout in

1931 making it one of Bundaberg's earliest tourist viewpoints.

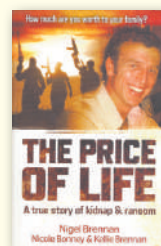
This painting was done by Bundaberg artist John Leyland and we have his story inside. **See page 3.**

YOUR SNEAK PEEK AT OUR NEW EDITION OF THE BUNDY LOCAL

Bundy Stories You'll Love



Childers locals welcomed by Pope Leo on special visit to the Vatican.



Bundaberg journalist Nigel Brennan was kidnapped and held in Somalia for over a year. Read about Nigel in our Time Machine. Also the opening of the Mater Hospital and the Mango Tree movie filmed in Bundaberg.

Win a family holiday on Stradbroke Island

ENTER NOW FOR FREE!

Homeowners in the Bundaberg region are being reminded to check their smoke alarms ahead of new Queensland laws coming into effect on 1 January 2027. We tell you more!



Who is this man?
He's on the RUN.
Go to page 8 to find out.



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BUNDABERG CENTRAL

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Bundaberg West
P: 07 **4335 1888**

CHILDERS

2 McIlwraith Street
Childers
P: 07 **4136 6411**

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From the Editor.

Michael McRae
Editor / Publisher.



Coastline Newspaper Group

Welcome to the Bundy Local Newspaper which is Bundaberg's longest established newspaper which first started in 1987.

We also welcome everyone visiting here for the 39th Rally of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia. It has been estimated at over 1300 people will attend the rally from 10 to 17 October.

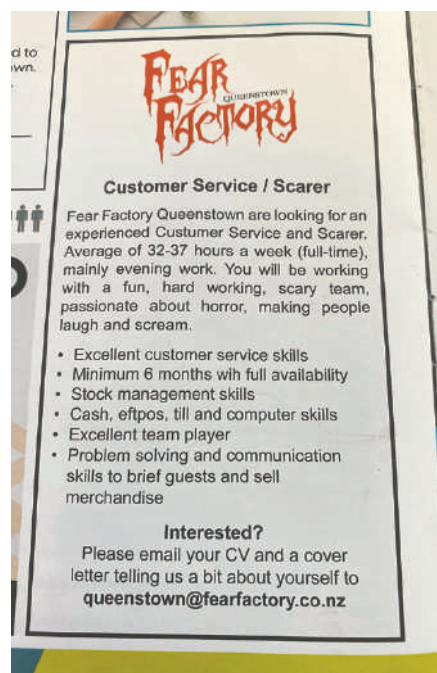
We have made copies of this newspaper available to our visitors. The rally was held here in 2017. It is one of the country's largest gatherings.

Odd and Interesting

PART of our message each edition are some stories that are Odd and Interesting.

At the Bundy Local we are always keeping an eye open for an interesting story.

We came across this advertisement from a Queenstown, NZ newspaper.



Have you ever said "He would get a job haunting houses"

Well now he or she have an opportunity to be a "Scarer" in the Fear Factory. Mainly evening work and you will be working with a fun, hardworking, scary team passionate about horror, making people laugh and scream. Just in case you know someone who wants to apply the contact email is queenstown@fearfactory.co.nz

It happens to us all!

DO YOU get frustrated when you have to give private information to get service at a big organisation? Your date of birth, your mother's maiden name, etc etc.

The Chicago Sun Times tells the story about Pope Leo XIV the former Robert Prevost of South Chicago who called his bank in Chicago to change his phone number and address. He answered all his security questions posed by the teller and there was still a problem. He was told he would have to show up in person.

"Well I am not going to be able to that," said Pope Leo. "I answered all your questions."

"Would it matter to you if I told you I'm Pope Leo?" the pope apparently asked.

Click.

She hung up on him.

'LET'S GO' winners

THANKS to all our younger readers who entered the competition to win a copy of Let's Go by best-selling author Andy Griffiths.

The judges have announced the three winners and they have been posted their books by the publishers Pan Macmillan Australia.

We asked our readers to tell us what they like about living in Bundaberg Region.

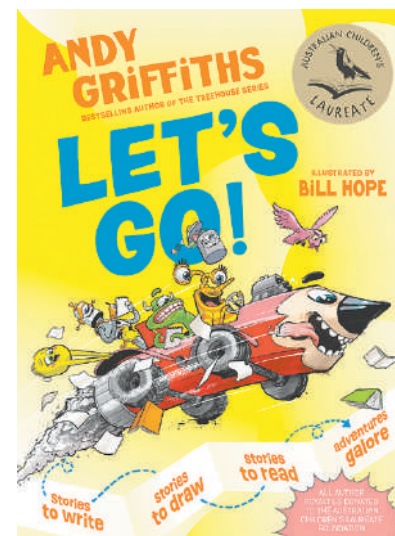
Bruno Hardwick of Moore Park Beach

wrote: "My favourite thing about living here is that I live near the beach."

Charlotte Udemans from Branyan said "I like Bundaberg – it's not too big and not too small. I like the beaches and all the fun things to do outside".

Alayah Hobson from Moore Park Beach had this to say, "All the different beaches, parks, playgrounds, and Botanical Gardens. All the seafood, yummy fruit and vegetables, like sweet potatoes. Our big Bunnings, Sugarland Plaza and the Reading Cinemas and all the great places you can eat, like RSL and Grunkses and of course the Great Barrier Reef."

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who entered.



Special visit to the Vatican for Childers locals



Pope Leo XIV with Keith Pitt, Jillian and Joe Russo and Father Jack Ho.

THREE representatives from Childers were granted a rare audience with Pope Leo during their recent visit to Rome, marking a moment of deep cultural and spiritual significance for the small community.

Their meeting, held inside the historic Vatican walls, offered an opportunity to share local stories, exchange blessings, and strengthen ties between Childers and the wider Catholic world.

Joe and Jillian Russo and Parish Priest Father Jack are all part of Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, Childers and they realised they would be in Rome at the same time and decided to combine their separate pilgrimages into a shared celebration marking the 100-

year centenary of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

With help from Keith Pitt, Australia's Ambassador to the Holy See (and former Hinkler MP), a formal request was submitted to the Vatican – and approved just hours before they landed.

They attended the Pope's General Audience in St Peter's Square and were invited forward to meet Pope Leo XIV personally.

Father Ho described the meeting as an "incredible moment". "There was a sense of warmth and Pope Leo is a beautiful person and was able to really be attentive to our conversations, even though there were so many others waiting to see him."

FROM THE FRONT COVER ...

A passion for painting

By Clarissa Ward

FEW landmarks are as instantly recognisable to Bundaberg residents as The Hummock, and local artist John Leyland has captured its distinct character in a vibrant painting that celebrates both the landscape and the region's identity.

The acrylic painting entitled The Hummock Bundaberg (see our front cover), depicts the familiar hill rising above a patchwork of colourful farmland.

Rich reds, orange, pinks, greens and golds stretch across the foreground, while winding roads lead the viewers eye towards the hill's summit. Leyland's bold use of colour transforms an everyday local scene into something imaginative and striking.

Leyland's colourful interpretation is a fitting tribute to a place that continues to shape Bundaberg's history, identity and sense of home.

Originally from Southern England, Leyland moved to Queensland in the 1960's, discovering his passion for painting in his last year of school. A self-taught artist, he spent

many years living and exhibiting on the Gold Coast before relocating to Bundaberg in 2012. Since, then he has become a familiar name within the local arts community with his works featured in several exhibitions across the region.

Leyland is known for painting a wide variety of subjects, from Australian birdlife and marine scenes to classic cars, aircraft, still life works, streetscapes, portraits and local landscapes. His philosophy that "variety is the spice of life" is reflected in the diversity of his portfolio.

In recent years Leyland has received several accolades, including the People's Choice Award at both the 2021 Bundaberg Art Prize for his painting Koi Ponds, and the 2023 Lighthouse Art and Photography Festival, as well as an Honorary Mention at the 2024 Bundaberg Art Prize.

Leyland regularly exhibits a diverse collection of works through his profile on Australia's leading online art marketplace Bluethumb.

To view John Leyland's portfolio, visit www.bluethumb.com.au/john-leyland

THE Bundy LOCAL

To view this edition online go to www.coastlinenews.com.au

Some of our best news stories come from tip-offs, contact us...
phone 07 4153 1133 or
email: editorial@coastlinenews.com.au

Bookings for the Christmas / New Year edition of Bundy Local are now open.

BOOK NOW!

Some photos in this edition kindly supplied by Tourism and Events Queensland.



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Hinkler local selected for World Eight Ball Championships



Robbie Lewis (left) and David Batt MP.

THE Federal Member for Hinkler David Batt MP has congratulated Robbie Lewis on his selection to represent Australia at the 2026 World Eight Ball Pool Championships to be held in Morocco next month.

The Bundaberg pool player and former schoolmate of Mr Batt has wielded the cue since he was 18 years of age.

“Hinkler keeps on producing the world’s best and now I urge everyone to get behind Robbie in his bid for an eight-ball world title,” Mr Batt said.

“I have known Robbie since we were kids – we attended primary school and even played soccer together. I remember Robbie’s father was a champion pool shark too and it’s great to see the talent passed down the line.”

Mr Lewis said it’s a tremendous honour to represent Bundaberg on the world stage.

“I still can’t believe I’m representing Australia in eight ball. After much travel, practicing and playing at a high level this is the pinnacle of my career,” Mr Lewis explained.

Robbie is a local and regional champion representing the Bundaberg 8ball Association and has been in the Queensland team for the past five years, including three years as vice captain.

Robbie is searching for a major sponsor who can support with flights and accommodation costs.

The 2026 World Eight Ball Pool Championships – hosted by the Ultimate Pool Association of Morocco – will take place between September 17-27.

If you’d like to support Robbie, please contact the office of David Batt MP via email david.batt.mp@aph.gov.au or call 41 520 744.

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Murder Case of Teenager Enters Second Year

THE MURDER case of Bundaberg teenager Phoebe Bishop continues to face significant delays, with the latest court listings revealing that crucial forensic evidence remains outstanding more than a year after charges were laid against three accused.

Seventeen year old Bishop disappeared on 15 May 2025 after failing to board a flight from Bundaberg Airport. Her remains were discovered weeks later in bushland near Gin Gin, prompting a major police investigation and the eventual arrest of three people connected to her residence.

Three Accused Still Awaiting Progress

- Tanika Kristan Bromley, 34, remains in custody charged with murder, interfering with a corpse, and weapons offences.
- James Thomas Muir Wood faces a single count of murder.
- Kieran Daniel Mittelheuser is charged with accessory after the fact to murder and attempting to pervert justice.

All matters were last aligned in the Bundaberg Magistrates Court on 30 June 2026, where defence lawyers again raised concerns about incomplete disclosure.

Dog Squad 2027 Calendar Now Available



THE ANNUAL Dog Squad Calendar, celebrating the vital role of Police Dogs (PDs) in frontline operations and community safety is back.

Featuring highly skilled PDs and their handlers from across the state, the calendar highlights the operational capabilities and dedication of QPS Dog Squad, which has been serving the state since 1972.

Senior Sergeant Stu Ellison, Officer in Charge State Dog Squad Training and Development, said the calendar goes beyond showcasing the dogs’ personalities and offers a glimpse into the critical work they perform every day.

“Our police dogs are an integral part of frontline policing and are capable of tasks that surpass human ability, such as tracking offenders, locating evidence, and detecting

blood or explosives,” Senior Sergeant Ellison said.

All proceeds of the 2027 Dog Squad calendar will be donated to Queensland Police Legacy, SalTy Souls Legacy, and Juiced TV, three not-for-profit organisations dedicated to supporting officers, families and children across Queensland.

“We encourage everyone to purchase a calendar and show their support.”

The 2027 Dog Squad Calendar is available online while stocks last.

Police Check Dangerous Riding Behaviours

OPERATION Yankee Surety, a coordinated, state-wide policing operation focused on enforcing e-mobility laws and addressing unsafe rider behaviours has been launched.

Running to 30 June 2027, Operation Yankee Surety operationalises new legislative changes to e-mobility devices, with a focus on deterring unsafe behaviours on electrically power assisted cycles (EPACs), e-scooters and other personal mobility devices (PMDs) and removing illegal devices from Queensland roads.

The growing popularity of e-mobility devices has made them an increasingly common mode of transport but has also led to a concerning rise in dangerous riding behaviours such as speeding, impaired riding, riding without a helmet, and the use of illegal devices.

Maintaining this focus on e-mobility safety, from 1 January to 19 June 2026, police issued more than 2,600 TINs related to e-mobility usage, including 1,824 for not wearing a helmet, 358 for riding on a prohibited road and 69 for speeding.

Police Seize Cocaine and Cash at Hervey Bay

POLICE from the Wide Bay Criminal Investigative Branch (CIB) have successfully concluded an investigation targeting the trafficking of dangerous drugs in the district, with support from the State Drug Squad.

A total of 34 people have been charged on 148 offences, with 2.87kgs of cocaine, more than \$75,000 cash, five vehicles and multiple firearms also seized.

Officer in Charge of Wide Bay CIB Detective Senior Sergeant Mick Polit said the success of Xray Colugo demonstrates officers’ commitment to targeting the supply of dangerous drugs in the community and those who seek to profit from them.

“The supply and use of cocaine has no place in our community and most certainly within our licenced premises,” he said.

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A proud history, a bright future

Since 1897, Bundaberg's Friendlies has been owned by the community it serves. Almost 130 years on, that model is still driving investment, growth and rising patient satisfaction.

The Friendly Society Private Hospital's story starts in 1897 at a meeting hall, when local mutual aid lodges pooled their resources to improve medical care for the Bundaberg community. It was a decision made by the community, for the community and that founding spirit has shaped every decision since.

Care That Keeps Patients Close to Home

Behind the history is a hospital doing a substantial amount of acute clinical work. Across 2025 The Friendlies' Emergency Department, open 8am to 8pm seven days a week, walk-in and with no referral required, recorded 10,315 consultations. Surgical teams ran 9,103 sessions across day surgery, inpatient and endoscopy lists, and the Day Oncology Unit supported 5,525 admissions for cancer and blood disorder treatment.

The Cardiac Investigations Unit, home to the region's only Cardiac Catheter Laboratory, recorded 1,870 admissions across public and private patients in 2025, up from 1,459 two years earlier. That growth follows a \$2.2 million upgrade to the Cath Lab, commis-

sioned in August last year through a tripartite agreement between Queensland Health, Advara HeartCare and The Friendlies. The upgrade brought the Philips Azurion image-guided therapy system to Bundaberg, giving interventional cardiologists and vascular specialists the same real-time imaging capability used in major Brisbane hospitals, without patients needing to travel.

The hospital has also run a sub-acute partnership with Queensland Health, providing step-down care for public patients under a specific service agreement throughout 2024-25. That program returned a 98 per cent patient satisfaction rating for the service it covered and helped ease bed pressure on the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service during periods of high demand.

The Patient Journey

Statistics only tell part of the story because the rest comes from the families who write in afterwards. One Bundaberg family recently thanked Ward 1 staff for the care shown to their father during his final hospital admission, singling out one nurse for her communication and support to the family through a difficult time.



Another family described five hospital admissions for their 99-year-old mother across 2025 and into this year.

Despite her hearing and vision impairment, they said she was treated with respect, skill and patience by every level of staff, from catering, cleaning and administration staff through to nurses, allied health workers and doctors.

Staff consistently addressed her by name, checked she understood what was happening and made time for small acts of kindness, including warming a blanket for her when she was cold and sitting with her during difficult moments overnight.

The family said it was this combination of clinical skill and genuine care that led them to recommend the hospital to anyone needing acute care in the region.

The Friendlies does not compromise on quality and safety.

A community of carers

Approximately 500 people work at The Friendlies, the majority in permanent rather than casual roles. Over the past year, the hospital has renegotiated enterprise agreements covering nursing, support and clerical staff, alongside new appointments in clinical leadership, pharmacy and perioperative services.

Staff retention and training are central to the hospital's ability to keep specialist acute care local, particularly given the workforce pressures affecting regional health services more broadly.

OUR OTHER SERVICES

Emergency DEPARTMENT

The Friendlies Emergency Department
Walk-in care for everyone; no insurance needed (gap fee applies).



Friendly Society Pharmacy
Bundaberg's community-owned, non-profit pharmacy.



Friendlies Physiotherapy & Allied Health
Expert in/outpatient care in a modern, fully equipped rehabilitation clinic.



The Atrium Café
Ground-floor dining offering coffee, snacks, and full meals for visitors.



The Friendlies Foundation
Our hospital charity raising funds for equipment, facilities, and specialist services.



Friendly Society Private Hospital

Leading Healthcare for the Wide Bay

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PHONE 07 4331 1000

www.thefriendlies.org.au



Vale Phil Previte: A life devoted to hospitality, family and community



Phil and Ellen Previte.

ONE of Bundaberg's best known hoteliers, Phil Previte died in Brisbane at the age of 92 – closing a remarkable chapter in local hospitality history and a life shaped by hard work, family devotion and the immigrant spirit.

Born to Sicilian immigrants, Phil spent his childhood in North Queensland, growing up in a household where resilience, loyalty and the value of community were everyday lessons.

In 1952, he completed his National Service, an experience that strengthened his discipline and sense of responsibility – qualities that would later define his career.

Eight years later, Phil married Ellen, beginning a partnership that lasted an extraordinary 62 years. Together they raised four children – Michael, Phillip, Josephine and John – all born in Cairns.

Phil – The Eastender

In 1969, Phil and Ellen took over the East End Hotel, a move that would cement Phil's reputation as one of Bundaberg's most respected hoteliers.

For almost 35 years, the Prevites ran the East End as a true family business – a place known for its warm welcome, steady leadership and Phil's unmistakable presence

behind the bar or in the public bar chatting with locals. Under Phil's stewardship, the hotel became more than a business; it was a community hub, a gathering place, and a landmark of Bundaberg's social life.

After decades of service to the Bundaberg community, Phil and Ellen moved to Brisbane, where they enjoyed their later years surrounded by family.

Even in retirement, Phil remained deeply proud of his Sicilian heritage, his Queensland upbringing, and the hotel that had defined so much of his life.

Tributes to Phil and Ellen

We asked two friends of the Prevites for these small tributes. Dave Porter a former Bundaberg councilor and builder said, "I was involved with Phil at our local church, fundraising for our local school and being a member of Bundaberg East Rotary and we met at the East End Hotel for over four years.

"Phil and Ellen's contribution to East Rotary and their service to the community was amazing with both receiving Paul Harris Fellowships which is the highest award most people can receive.

"Lake Ellen in Baldwin Swamp was named in Ellen's honour."

Joe Chapman was a former neighbour and his parents had a newsagency in close proximity to the East End Hotel.

"The Previte family were very good for the East Bundaberg community. Phil Previte had a charismatic personality and he thrived engaging with his customers, learning about their lives and keeping them honest about continued patronage of his business. He



Phil in his National Service uniform.



Ellen and Phil – East End Hoteliers.

loved nothing more than a full hotel of people enjoying a beer after a day's work.

"Phil was entrepreneurial in expanding his business at a time when East Bundaberg was ready for expansion so we all went along for the ride and what a ride it turned out to be!"

Help for people with Lymphoedema

THE Bundaberg Lymphoedema Support Group is inviting people living with lymphoedema to attend its final meeting of the year on Wednesday 21 October 2026.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 am in the CatholicCare meeting room at 79 Woongarra Street, Bundaberg and will feature an accredited lymphoedema therapist.

For more than 30 years, the Bundaberg Lymphoedema Support Group has helped people with lymphoedema to access resources, learn more about the condition and connect with others.

At the Group's October meeting, an accredited lymphoedema therapist will

discuss both primary and secondary lymphoedema, offering expert insight and practical guidance and support.

Attendees will also be able to access details on various types of compression garments used for managing the condition.

The Bundaberg Lymphoedema Support Group exists to provide a friendly and supportive environment for members to share experiences, ask questions and meet with others who are coping with the daily challenges of living with lymphoedema.

**For more information, contact
Convenor Olga Beath on 0498 009 332
or Diane Moller on 0402 669 303**

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Park Run Around the World – Bundaberg

By Clarissa Ward

EVERY Saturday morning at 7am, hundreds of people across the Bundaberg region lace up their shoes to take part in parkrun, joining millions of participants around the world.

This free, weekly 5km event welcomes people of all ages and abilities to walk, jog, run or volunteer, fostering healthier, happier communities by bringing people together to be active, connect and enjoy the outdoors.

Founded by Paul Sinton-Hewitt, parkrun began in 2004 with just 13 runners at Bushy Park in West London. More than two decades later, the volunteer-led movement has expanded to more than 2,500 locations across 23 countries, with over 10 million registered participants. On 13 June 2026, parkrun marked its one millionth event globally.



Paul Hewitt

Australia joined the initiative in 2011, hosting its first parkrun at Main Beach on the Gold Coast. Today, there are more than 550 events nationwide, with locals able to take part at three Bundaberg region locations - Queens Park in Bundaberg, Neilson Park in Bargara and Elliot Heads Beach.

Bargara is among the region's most popular parkrun events, attracting an average of 250-350 participants each weekend. The course begins at Neilson Park, winds through Barolin Nature Reserve towards Mon Repos and returns along the coastal foreshore. Recently, Bargara parkrun celebrated its 80,000th course finisher.

For many, parkrun offers more than a weekly 5km challenge. Themed events such as State of Origin and Cops and Robbers dress up days, Tutu Day when parkrun falls on the 22nd of the month and milestone celebrations add extra fun and excitement throughout the year.

Bargara Event Director Phil Dunkley said the Saturday gatherings deliver far more than exercise.

"Not only is parkrun good for your health, mind and body, it's a great place to socialise and catch up and make new friends," Mr Dunkley said.

That sense of community is made possible by dedicated local volunteers, who generously give their time for each weekend. Volunteers fill a range of roles including event directing, marshalling, timekeeping, barcode scanning, course setup and tail walking.

Despite the name, participants do not need to be able to run to join in on the fun, as parkrun welcomes everyone, including those who prefer to walk, families with prams, dog walkers and people of all ages and fitness levels. Registration is free at parkrun.com.au and only needs to be completed once, allowing participants to take part at any parkrun event worldwide.

"If anyone has been sitting on the fence about coming along to parkrun, 'just do it,'" Mr Dunkley said. "Go online and join up, only once, print or save your barcode and just come along and say hello and listen to the first timers briefing, it's that easy."

Medical MATTERS

with Dr Catherine Lehmann

A registered medical practitioner working in general practice.



Is your diet killing you?

I AM a working GP and I considered what I see in the clinic presentation on a regular basis. The most concerning and developing (growing) presentation is the rising level of obesity – even seen with children under 10 years old.

This is turning into an issue of epidemic proportions with patients commonly just want a prescribed medication (e.g. Ozempic) instead of diet and lifestyle changes (exercise).

Weight gain is not just an image issue; it can be one of the primary causes of serious chronic diseases such as Cardiovascular disease (Primary risk), Type 2 diabetes, Osteoarthritis, Stroke and cognitive decline.

There is a Solution

Let's start with a lifestyle change and adopting eating habits that have been around for more than 5000 years.

The MEDITERRANEAN DIET has strong validation of its value and health benefits and still leads the way with a balanced fresh food diet that excludes additives and other artificial ingredients with olive oil replacing trans fats and other bad fats.

- Improved cholesterol profiles
- Better blood sugar control
- Reduced inflammation
- Lower risk of stroke
- Improved cognitive function and reduced dementia risk

These benefits come from the combination of whole foods, healthy fats, and the absence of heavily processed ingredients that place stress on the body.

The Hidden Problem: Food Additives and Ultra Processed Foods

Modern diets are increasingly dominated by ultra processed foods – products high in additives, preservatives, artificial colours, emulsifiers, and stabilisers. While these ingredients are approved for use, frequent consumption of ultra processed foods is associated with:

- Higher rates of obesity
- Increased cardiovascular risk
- Poorer metabolic health
- Higher levels of inflammation

Many additives are used to improve shelf life or texture, but they often come packaged with excess salt, sugar, and unhealthy fats. These foods are designed to be hyper palatable, making it easy to overeat without realising.

Why Cooking at Home Matters

Cooking at home is one of the most powerful health tools available. It allows you to:

- Control ingredients
- Reduce additives
- Choose healthier fats
- Increase vegetables and whole grains
- Avoid hidden sugars and salts
- Build a positive relationship with food

Home cooked meals don't need to be complicated. A simple plate of grilled fish, olive oil dressed salad, and wholegrain bread is a perfect example of Mediterranean eating.

This is the diet of 5000 years that has kept us alive. Make it your own. It's a lifestyle 'change' (to improve your life and prolong it). Old saying "Don't dig your grave with your teeth."

You need only 20 minutes walking a day, it's worth it, feel better, look better and live better

Have a medical question? Dr Catherine is here to help.

Our Medical Matters GP, Dr Catherine, will be answering reader questions in each edition of Bundy Local.

If there's a health issue you've always wondered about – big or small – she'd love to hear from you.

Send your question to editorial@coastlinenews.com.au and Dr Catherine may feature it in an upcoming column.

Please include your name and suburb so we can acknowledge your first name and question in print.



The Mediterranean Diet: What It Actually Looks Like

The Mediterranean diet is not a strict meal plan. It's a way of eating built around simple, whole foods:

- Plenty of vegetables, leafy greens, tomatoes, capsicum, onions, and legumes
- Whole grains such as barley, oats, brown rice, and wholemeal bread
- Olive oil as the main source of fat
- Regular fish and seafood
- Moderate amounts of nuts, seeds, yoghurt, and cheese
- Minimal red meat and processed foods

This pattern is naturally rich in fibre, antioxidants, vitamins, minerals, and healthy fats – especially monounsaturated fats from olive oil and omega 3s from fish.

Why It Works:

The Evidence Based Benefits

Research consistently links the Mediterranean diet with:

- Reduced risk of heart disease
- Lower blood pressure

David

BATT

MP

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Weddings WITH BUNDABERG CONNECTIONS



The Bundaberg Botanical Gardens was the setting for the wedding of Tilu Chhantyal and Thomas Hall in May. The bride is the daughter of Sauni Garbuja and the groom's parents are Lance and Susanne Hall.

The happy couple were pronounced "Man and wife" by Bundaberg Marriage Celebrant Trish Meares. Guests gathered at the Brothers Club for the reception and then off to K'Gari (Fraser Island) for their honeymoon. *Photographer: Jithin Mathew.*



The 1770 Golf Course was the setting for the wedding of Hanna Hansen the daughter of Kellie and Michael Hansen who married Joel Haack the son of Tracey and Steve Haack. They were married

by Emma Jansen. The wedding reception was also held at the 1770 Golf Course. Hanna and Joel chose New Zealand for their honeymoon. *Photographer: Maddelyn Grace.*

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The Bundy Book was first published 30 years ago and since then over one million copies have been printed and read by visitors to this region.

Welcome to Bundaberg

Welcome to the place the turtles call home, where beach meets reef, your plates are always filled with abundant local produce and the rum is always world-class.

Here are must-see attractions and experiences for visitors to the Bundaberg Region a perfect mix of nature, history, and local flavour.

Bundaberg Rum Distillery – Tour the working distillery, museum, and sample the iconic Aussie spirit.

Head to the Rum Distillery in East Bundaberg and learn secrets of our Australian Tourism Award winner for Best Distilleries and Breweries. See behind the scenes processes that make this iconic beverage. The first batch of Bundy Rum was produced in 1889 and the distillery has survived two devastating fires. Situated in East Bundaberg.

Bundaberg Barrel (Bundaberg Brewed Drinks) – Discover how Bundaberg Ginger Beer is made and taste test the full range.

Ginger Beer: Your chance to learn about this world famous drink

Bundaberg Brewed Drinks at The Barrel, the eye-catching landmark on Bargara Road is where to learn how it's made, its origins, ingredients, bottling and packaging. To book a tasting call the team on 41545480 or book online at bundabergbarrel.com

Bundaberg Botanic Gardens

The Hinkler Hall of Fame is a fascinating tribute to pioneer aviator Bert Hinkler, born in Bundy.

This amazing visitor experience operated by Bundaberg Regional Council is an outstanding example of communities working together to celebrate and honour the life and pioneering efforts of Bundaberg's own aviation pioneer, Bert Hinkler.

See his favourite "Avro Baby" returned to its right home from the Queensland Muse-

um, original documents, photos, memorabilia and multi-media exhibits.

Hinkler House

Your entry ticket to Hinkler Hall of Aviation includes admission to the magnificently restored Hinkler House which Bert named Mon Repos after the beach where he practised flying.

In 1983 Bert's house was brought brick by brick from Southampton in England to stand proudly in the Botanic Gardens.

Fairymead House Sugar Museum

This was a bicentennial gift from the Bundaberg Sugar Company and now overlooks the Botanic Gardens in its role of sugar industry museum, housing photographs and memorabilia exploring the technology, development and history of milling.

Bundaberg Historical Museum - Step back in time

Beautifully maintained in the Botanic Gardens, this quaint haven of nostalgia has the famous Lucke Quads' pram here, the only one of its kind made in Australia. Also re-created is an old schoolroom, butcher shop, general store, bank office, hospital (with iron lung) milk cart with horse, even a jail.

Open 10am to 4pm. Phone 4152 0101.

Have a steam train ride in Bundaberg

The Little Train chuffs happily along its track through the Botanic Gardens, taking delighted children and the young at heart on a steam-powered journey.

Operated by a dedicated group of volunteers from the Bundaberg Steam Tramway Preservation Society, the steam train runs Wednesdays and Sundays all year and in the Queensland school holidays the diesel on Tuesday and Friday as well.

www.bundabergcanetrains.org.au



Bundaberg Rum Distillery.

Mystery Craters

Can you solve the mystery?

See a vast expanse of mysterious craters their origins unknown, dotting the landscape like lunar terrain. Tours reveal fascinating insights and ancient myths that leave experts astounded.

Mystery Craters are at South Kolan, phone 4157 7291.

Nature & Wildlife

Mon Repos Turtle Centre (Mon Repos Beach) – See endangered loggerhead turtles nesting and hatching (Nov-Mar). The turtles timelines are November through to when the hatchlings emerge up to March.

Mon Repos Turtle Centre is open all year round for daytime experiences for you to learn about the special journey turtles and people have taken at Mon Repos, The whole family will enjoy a visit. For information phone 1300 722 099.

Visit the Great Barrier Reef

Lady Musgrave Island & Lagoon – Snorkel the southern Great Barrier Reef, teeming with coral and marine life.

Lady Elliot Island – A coral cay known for crystal-clear water, manta rays, and eco-resort stays.

Continued on page 13.

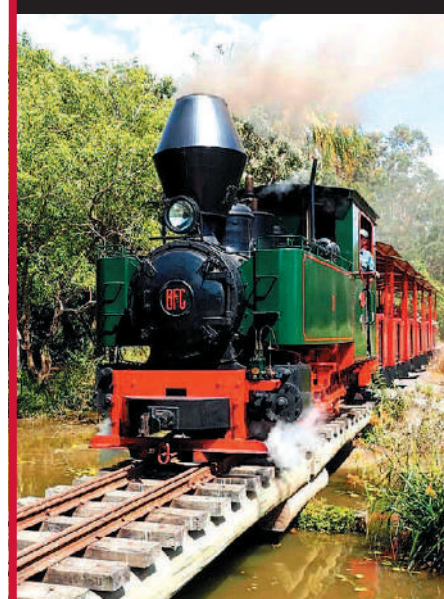


Mon Repos Turtle Centre.



Hinkler House.

RIDE THE STEAM TRAIN IN BUNDABERG!



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AustralianSugarCaneRailway

New chapter for a growing seaside town



IN 1986, long before Bargara’s modern commercial precincts took shape, a modest but ambitious development quietly opened its doors and helped define the town’s early identity.

The Centrepoint Shopping Centre, developed by Solomon Services and officially opened by Mr Claude Wharton, MLA for Burnett, marked one of the first attempts to create a dedicated retail hub for the fast growing coastal town

The Solomons: From Nowra to Bargara

Centrepoint was the creation of Leon and Betty Solomon husband and wife business team who had previously operated the Toyota dealership in Nowra, NSW.

After leaving Nowra they travelled along the coast to Cairns and the Solomons recognised an opportunity in Bargara.

When Centrepoint was nearing completion a competition was held to “Name the Centre” and many entries were received. An unusual one was Kanaka Korner in honour of the Islanders who worked on nearby canefields but after careful consideration the name Centrepoint was selected.

Bauer Street in front of the centre was closed on Saturday 11 October 1986 for the celebration which was compered by Michael McRae and included a Miss Bargara Beach Girl Quest and a guest appearance by TV star Pat McDonald.

Pat had a long and varied television career, but she is best remembered for two iconic Australian TV roles — *Dorrie Evans* in Number 96 and *Aunty Fiona Thompson* in Sons and Daughters.

The official opening was performed by Mr Claude Wharton.

What Centrepoint offered Bargara

- A convenience store/supermarket
- Butcher
- A hairdresser
- A real estate office
- A café
- National Bank
- Chinese Restaurant The Peacock Gardens
- Ice Cream Shop
- Chemist
- Doctors surgery
- Surfshop

These were the standard tenants and they formed the backbone of early suburban retail life.



Betty and Leon Solomon.



The turtles are coming

MON REPOS is home to an ancient breeding cycle, dating back 220 million years to the Triassic Period.

Witness the majestic sea turtle swim to shore to lay her precious eggs. Two months later, her blinking hatchlings emerge from their shells to make the perilous journey out to sea.

Mon Repos not only supports the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the eastern Australian mainland – it also has the largest nesting population of endangered loggerhead turtles in the South Pacific. QPWS rangers are critical to their ongoing survival.

Mon Repos Turtle Encounters operates

guided, nightly tours to witness these nestings (November to January) and hatchings (January to March).

Turtle Encounters is very popular so bookings are essential.

Tickets should be pre-booked and pre-paid online at the Bundaberg, Childers or Gin Gin Visitor Information Centres, go to www.bundabergregion.org or phone 1300 722 099

Remember to call first to check for availability if you are travelling to Bundaberg on a day trip.

For ticket prices and visiting times, go to Book Turtle Encounter Tour www.parks.qld.gov.au

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The Great Barrier Reef.

From on page 11.

Adventures

Taribelang Bunda Cultural Tours

For more than 60,000 years the Taribelang people have lived on country in this region.

You can immerse yourself in a journey, guided by Elders past and present, with Taribelang Tours and discover this region's rich aboriginal culture and history.

Explore significant sites and experience a genuine connection between the land we live on today and true stories of the Taribelang Bunda. Half day tours available on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

www.bundaculturaltours.com.au Phone 0407 907 137

Monsoon Aquatics Coral Farm

Explore Australia's largest coral farm on a captivating one-hour tour that unveils the secrets of coral cultivation and the vibrant beauty of the reef. This immersive experience allows you to learn from experts. Phone 0424 368 635

Splitters Farm

A working cattle farm and animal sanctuary, explored paddock to paddock at your own pace or guided tours; just a short drive from Bundy at Splitters Creek.

Make friends with the beautiful rescue animals of Spliters Farm, taste honey and macadamias fresh from the farm, collect eggs, learn the history of Spliters Farm and feed your new furry friends with a friendly farm guide.

Information and bookings at www.splittersfarm.com.au

The Hummock Lookout – A volcanic remnant offering panoramic views of Bundaberg's farms and coastline.

The Burnett River Sunset Cruise is a 2 hour luxury catamaran experience in Bundaberg, featuring live music, grazing platters, and stunning river views.

This is a relaxing evening outing where guests enjoy the golden glow of sunset while learning about the river's history. On the way you will see Bundaberg Rum Distillery, Bulk Sugar Terminal, and tranquil upper reaches of the Burnett River.

Your ideal 'wind down' haven

AGNES WATER & Town of 1770 is just an hour and a half north of Bundaberg but seems a wonderful world away. It's a hidden piece of paradise so relax...you're on Agnes Time now.

The brilliant 1770 Festival is on each year in May, commemorating Captain Cook's landing at Round Hill.

Agnes is the most northern surf beach on Australia's east coast, a dream for board riders and behold those two big pink boats! It's the LARCS (lighter amphibious resupply cargo) make sure you book a tour onboard.

Accommodation for all tastes and budgets, luxury resorts to backpackers...ride the LARC, drop in a line, take in the gorgeous views, relax by or in the ocean,

Uncover history at Agnes Water Museum with Indigenous and Islander artefacts and memorabilia about the early days of the Discovery Coast.



New home for old tree



VISITORS to the Bundaberg Botanic Gardens can now see a rare piece of Queensland's natural history after an endangered cycad was relocated from a site north of Gin Gin.

The Cycas megacarpa, believed to be more than 100 years old, was moved to the gardens after being discovered during planned road widening works. The plant was carefully transported and replanted in October last year.

Known as "living fossils", cycads have existed on Earth for more than 200 million years, predating the appearance of dinosaurs.

Discover beauty on wildflower walk

LOCAL nature lovers are invited to discover the colourful world of wildflowers during a special guided walk at Vera Scarth-Johnson Wildflower Reserve this September, with only a few spots left for the popular free event.

Bundaberg Regional Council's Natural Areas team is inviting the community to join local botanist and conservationist Maureen Schmitt for an informative guided tour through the reserve on Thursday, 3 September from 8.30 to 10.30 am

The easy, flat walk is approximately 1.2 km return, with tracks featuring a sandy but firm surface.

Participants will be provided with Council's Wallum Wildflower Guide and

learn how to identify the variety of plants encountered along the way. The reserve is located on Coonarr Road, Coonarr.

To register, email parksadministration@bundaberg.qld.gov.au or ph 1300 883 699.



PARK THE VAN

Only 1.5 hours away to unwind by the sea

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SCAN ME

Having fun is a way of life on the Gold Coast



Family fun on Surfers Paradise beach.

A WORLD famous holiday destination that still delivers the thrill of discovery with each visit. Sunny days and the brilliant blue sea wash over the many beaches and light up the urban landscapes, bringing the hinterland to life.

Create holiday memories that last forever and where better to reinvent the fun of childhood than right here in Australia's favourite playground?

Retail therapy – boutique lined streets and secret shopping hotspots for any shopaholic. Pick up the latest pieces by Cartier, Prada, Gucci or Louis Vuitton.

Head for the hills – Day spas and one of a kind retreats lie hidden in the valleys and hills of the hinterland. Try O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat or Binna Burra Mountain Lodge – and you're not far from gorgeous Mt Tamborine – you have to go there.

Family Fun – Of course this is theme-park heaven with Dreamworld, Wet'n'Wild, Movie World, Seaworld; plus the Tourism Award winning Australian Outback Spectacular.

Eat, drink and be very, very merry – Award-winning chefs, rich soils and plentiful seas deliver the finest modern Australian

feasts, authentic flavours of more than 100 countries and the passion to share it all with you.



Warner Bros. Movie World.

Win a double guest invitation to the Blues Fest

AFTER a record-breaking event in 2026, Southern Great Barrier Reef's biggest summer music party is back!

Rocking out from 19-21 February 2027 at the SES Grounds, Town of 1770, the Agnes Blues Roots & Rock Festival will feature nearly 40 live acts across two stages plus free workshops, food and beverage trucks, markets and a full weekend of coastal rhythm.

Entertainment from a great lineup including: Bondi Cigars, Darren Griffis and Jukejoint and Burger Joint.

A shuttle bus service for \$2 per person per ride will be available on a circular

route around the local area to and from the festival grounds all weekend.

Tickets: 3-day passes for \$179 pp - discount ends at 11.59pm Sunday 1 November 2026. Full price will be \$249 pp. Book now: www.agnesbluesandroots.com.au/tickets

Win a double guest invitation to The Blues in February valued at \$249 pp go to www.coastlinenews.com.au. Entries close 9 October. Winners will be advised and announced on our website and in our next edition. And remember you can save \$70 pp by buying your early bird tickets by Sunday 1 November.

Sun, sea & country – discover your Sunshine Coast escape

STRETCHING from Caloundra in the south along 60kms of coastline that includes some of Queensland's best beaches, the Sunshine Coast is an ideal escape for families, couples or anyone wanting to steal a few days in the sun.

There are so many beaches to choose from but the favourite destinations are the popular family beaches of Caloundra, the vivacious resort town of Mooloolaba, beachside haunts such as Alexandra Headland, Maroochydore, Coolum, Peregian and Sunshine Beach and of course the stylish enclaves of Noosa.

Nearby Noosaville offers a picturesque alternative on the banks of the river.

Sunshine Country

The Sunshine Coast Hinterland is the

ideal place for a few days of relaxation, soaking up the tranquility countryside.

Go country touring through the rolling green hills of the Blackall Range, Buderim and the Noosa Valley.

Visit the colourful Eumundi markets held each Saturday and Wednesday.

Explore the art galleries and antique shops through the villages of Montville and Maleny, the wineries sprinkled through the region and the national parks with their rainforest and waterfalls.

Best of all, soak up the peace of the countryside in some of the most stylish boutique accommodation in Queensland in the cottages, retreats and bed and breakfast establishments of the hinterland.



Retail therapy in Montville – shop till you drop here among the myriad of specialty shops where you are sure to find that perfect gift.

Perfectly Positioned Beachfront Apartments at Broadbeach

Superbly designed, La Grande offers the ultimate holiday escape, an oasis of indulgence and relaxation in every respect.

La Grande's location is second to none, standing pride of place on prime beach frontage, overlooking the famous sands of Kurrawa beach.

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Australia's largest RV Club returns to Bundaberg for 39th National Rally

THE Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) will return to Bundaberg this October to host its 39th National Rally, bringing together hundreds of recreational vehicle enthusiasts from across Australia for one of the country's largest RV gatherings.

The week-long event will be held from 10–17 October 2026, with more than 700 recreational vehicles (1300 people) expected to converge on Bundaberg. The event will once again deliver a significant economic and tourism boost to the Bundaberg community.

CMCA Chief Executive Officer Richard Barwick said the National Rally is the Club's premier annual event and showcases the strong sense of community enjoyed by Australia's RV travellers.

"Our National Rally is far more than a gathering of recreational vehicles. It is a celebration of the RV lifestyle, bringing together members from every corner of Australia to reconnect with friends, learn new skills, discover the latest products and services, and enjoy a week of outstanding entertainment."

A comprehensive program has been developed featuring live entertainment, educational seminars, informative presentations, workshops, social activities and a variety of unique events designed to cater for all interests throughout the week.

The Rally has also attracted strong sup-

port from exhibitors representing a broad range of industries associated with the RV lifestyle. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the latest products, technology, accessories, travel services and innovations available to Australian travellers.

Open Day for all to enjoy

While the National Rally is exclusively for CMCA members, the Club will once again welcome the wider Bundaberg community during its Open Day on Saturday, 17 October, from 9.00am.

The Open Day provides members of the public with a unique opportunity to visit the Rally site, meet Australia's travelling community, browse the extensive exhibitor displays and gain an insight into the many benefits of the RV lifestyle.

During the Rally, CMCA will also conduct its 26th Annual General Meeting, where members will receive reports on the Club's performance and consider an important constitutional motion aimed at strengthening the organisation and helping future proof the Club for generations of members to come.

With thousands of visitors expected throughout the week, the National Rally will provide a welcome boost to local businesses, tourism operators and the wider Bundaberg economy.



Winners of the Explore Australia 2027 Book Competition

Congratulations to the winners of our Explore Australia 2027 competition.

A draw was conducted from all entries received, with Helena Chandler of Bargara, Hazel Broadfoot of Innes Park and David Devine of Bargara each winning a copy of the popular Explore Australia 2027 travel guide. Thanks to everyone who entered.



Pro-Am 1770 delivers record year for Discovery Coast

THE Australian PGA Legends 9 Hole Championship Pro-Am in 1770 wrapped up in spectacular fashion, marking a milestone year for the region as the tournament completely sold out for the first time weeks in advance in its five-year history, leaving a long waitlist of eager players.

Over 150 touring PGA Professionals and passionate amateur golfers descended on the towns of Agnes Water and 1770 for two days of world-class competition.

Together, pros and amateurs putted side-by-side on pristine greens in what players and spectators alike described as a resounding triumph for regional golf and tourism.

The event was delivered through a new partnership between the Town of 1770 Golf Course and Discovery Coast Tourism and Commerce (DCTC) — the first time the two organisations have collaborated on the tournament.

Touring Veteran Takes Top Honours

Taking out top honours in the professional division was touring veteran Jason Norris. Norris is a DP World Tour winner, claiming the 2017 Fiji International – a tournament co-sanctioned by the European, Asian and Australasian tours – and went on to win the 2023 Australian Senior PGA

In the Amateur Division, local Agnes Water golfer Di Wolfe dominated Division 1 across both days to take back-to-back victories.

Division 2 honours went to local Mick McConnell (Agnes Water) on Day 1, and Lexi Robinson (Gladstone) on Day 2.

Returning in 2027

Planning is already underway to bring the PGA Legends Tour back to 1770 in 2027, with priority player registrations now open.



Taking out top honours in the professional division was touring veteran Jason Norris. Photo: H and M Productions.



Left to Right: Rick Niven, Mark Tickle, Curtis Hune, Craig Bishop, Richie Hyne, Craig Christensen. Photo: H and M Productions.



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A Bundaberg story of land, labour and legacy

ACROSS 3079 hectares (7610 acres) at Kensington, where the Bundaberg breeze moves through long rows of cane, sits one of the region's most enduring agricultural landmarks — Des Loeskow Plantation.

For generations, the Loeskow family has developed various Bundaberg Lands, adapting with the times while preserving the quiet determination that defines Bundaberg's farming heritage.

Des' first introduction to the Sugar Industry was when his parents lived and

farmed at Avoca, (now the Avoca Housing Estate established in 1974).

This was a small 30 acre cane farm, and there he cut cane by hand which was whole-stick and hand loaded onto trucks and taken to Millaquin Mill.

The rise of cane to Isis

Long before the familiar green walls of sugar cane rose across 'TAKALVAN' Kensington, the land was a cattle property.

As markets shifted and Bundaberg's sugar industry surged, Des Loeskow Senior transitioned the property into cane farming and was the first farmer to grow cane to be sent from North of the Elliott River to the Isis Mill.

A bridge to the future

One of the plantation's most enduring contributions sits quietly over the Elliott River: a rail bridge built under the direction of Des Loeskow himself.

The bridge allowed cane trains to cross the river and reach the Isis Mill, where the plantation's cane is still crushed and processed today. It's a piece of infrastructure that strengthened the region's sugar network, and stands as a testament to Des Loeskow's prac-

tical vision. A legacy rooted in Bundaberg.

With the assistance and knowledge of Kevin Avis, Des' son Desmond-John has been operating the farm for 26 years.

Desmond-John, wife Emily, son Des-

mond junior and mother Thea-Dawn having faith in the agricultural future have recently purchased the adjoining property, known as Walkers which will service the family's farming needs for generations.



Desmond-John with wife, Emily and their son, Desmond, at the family's cane farm.



Isis Central Mill.

Many hands make quality cane country

CONVERTING challenging land into highly productive cane country has become a team effort for the Des Loeskow family near Bundaberg.

The family has invested heavily into land levelling, water storage and irrigation infrastructure to develop the operation and more recently has been focusing on improving the property's difficult sandy loam soils.

Annual soil testing, water quality testing and nitrogen and phosphorus budgeting in accordance with regulations to support the Great Barrier Reef are all undertaken, and Desmond-John and his team have been working closely with the local Lindsay Rural team on nutrition, placement and application systems to address nutrient deficiencies and improve soils.

The Haifa Multicote controlled release fertiliser is applied prior to planting, complemented by an additional product designed to help unlock nutrients in the soil's high phosphorus buffering index (PBI). Urea is then side dressed approximately 90 days after planting.

Receiving average annual rainfall of around 600 millimetres and using flood

and lateral irrigators to apply water every 10 days, Desmond-John targets a cane yield of 100-120 tonnes/ha with CCS above 13 per cent on the challenging ground.

The family is also trialling a number of new cane varieties, with a Sugar Research Australia (SRA) FAT trial planted last year to assess their performance on the property.

"Our new input program is high cost, but we are looking at less fertiliser passes," Desmond-John said.



Lindsay Rural Agronomist Marija Tromp inspects the rejuvenated soils at the Des Loeskow family's cane property near Bundaberg with Desmond-John Loeskow and experienced farmhand Kevin Avis.

Hydraulink
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BUNDY TIME MACHINE

A look at Bundaberg through the years



1946

Mater Hospital opens

BUNDABERG'S new hospital was blessed and opened on July 28 by the Catholic Bishop of Rockhampton the Reverend Dr. Andrew Tynan and his Grace Bishop Dr. James Duhig also attended.

The building in charming grounds in West Bundaberg has been remodelled under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy and will accommodate 25 patients.



1976

Film to be made in district

A MAJOR feature film would be made in the district it was announced on December 2.

The film based on Ronald McKies book *The Mango Tree* would be jointly financed by the Bundaberg Sugar Company, the Austra-

lian Film Commission and Greater Union.

Filming was scheduled to start on April 18, 1977 and expected to take seven weeks.

Producer and script writer Michael Pate well-known for his roles in the television dramas *Matlock*, *Police* and *Power Without Glory* said the film would be one of the most expensive ever made in Australia.

Bundaberg Sugar Company Managing Director Roy Deicke said the film would generate significant interest in Bundaberg and he was sure the project would be one in which the community could take pride.

Mr. Pate spent most of the week scouting locations and said he planned to use locals as most of the 150 extras. He also appealed for help with costumes sets and historical background.

The *Mango Tree* is a story of a teenage boy growing up in a small coastal Queensland town around the end of World War I.

Shooting at Hotel

DRINKERS at the East End Hotel took live cover in a nearby residence when a volley-ball of shots was fired from a passing four-wheel-drive vehicle at East Bundaberg on May 15, 1976.

As a result of police investigations Terence Richard Jamison age 29 carpenter of Dr. Mays Road was charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol, wilfull damage to property and discharging a firearm on a roadway.

On May 24 Jamison was fined \$450.

2008

Kidnapping of Bundaberg Photographer

A PROFESSIONAL first to become a top overseas photographer could've landed for Nigel Brennan of Moore Park Beach in big trouble.

He left the *News-Mail* paper in January keen to capture stories in rural travel spots but it may have come closer to the action that he could ever have imagined after he was abducted at gunpoint by unidentified rebels in Somalia.

His family said "We are deeply concerned that our son Nigel Brennan may have gone missing in Mogadishu in Somalia."

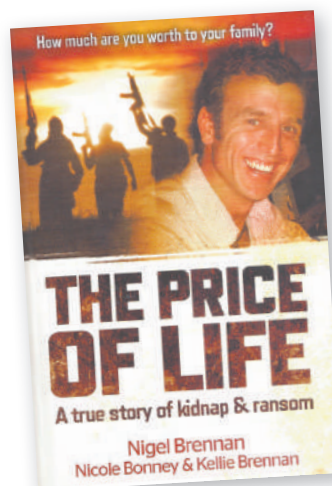
Mr. Brennan was known to have been traveling with a Canadian journalist Amanda Lindhout.

Brennan and his Canadian journalist companion, Amanda were released from captivity, 462 days after they were seized on their way to a refugee camp just outside the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

It is unclear how much money changed hands to secure the pair's release, but a kidnapper claims a ransom of \$1 million was paid.

The family was forced to hold fundraisers and approach prominent Australian philanthropists for cash.

They managed to scrape together enough money to continue funding the rescue operation and Nigel Brennan's sister, Nicky, flew to Kenya for the final stages of negotiations with the hostage takers.

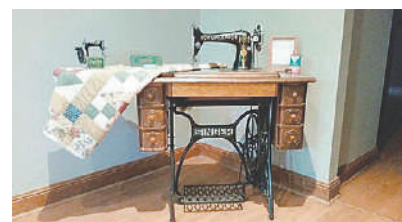


Nigel Brennan pictured on the front of the *Price of Life* book by Nigel Brennan, Nicole Bonney and Kellie Brennan from Penguin Books.

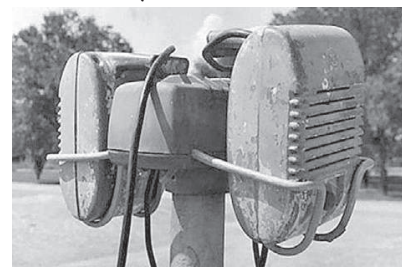
Flashback photos: Remember these?



AUSTRALIA used pounds, shillings and pence (£/s/d) before decimal currency arrived on 14 February 1966. These were the everyday coins Australians used from 1910-1966: Halfpenny, Penny, Threepence, Sixpence, Shilling, Florin and Crown (only 1937-38).



A PEDAL sewing machine (often called a treadle sewing machine) was a manually powered sewing machine operated by a foot pedal, allowing sewing without electricity.



THE DRIVE-IN theatre in Bundaberg was called the Skyway Drive In, located on the corner of Maynard Street and Fitzgerald Street. It operated for three decades and closed in 1989. Its final program included *Three Men and a Baby*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Big Business*, *Cocktail*, and *Good Morning Vietnam*.

You heard the sound at drive-in theatres either through small wired speakers hung on your car window in the early days, or later by tuning your car radio to a special FM frequency broadcast by the theatre.

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BUNDY'S NEW OLD FASHIONED FAVOURITE

St Josephs celebrates 150th Birthday

ST JOSEPH'S Bundaberg celebrated its 150th anniversary with a series of events and honoring its history as Bundaberg's first Catholic school and the first in the Rockhampton Diocese to reach 150 years.

Community Open Day was held on August 8 and a 150th Celebration Dinner at the Brother's Club that night with live music by past students.

The open day at the school started with Mass for the Feast Day of Mary Mackillop, followed by classroom visits, memorabilia visits, student artwork and the opening of the 150th Paver Pathway.

St Joseph's opened in 1876, originally run by the Sisters of St Joseph and in 1897, the Sisters of Mercy took over.

The Sisters of St Joseph were working in a frontier town with rough roads, long distances, and no motor vehicles.

Transport for clergy and religious at the time was priests travelling by horse and cart across the district in the 1870s and 1880s.

The sisters lived at the convent and taught at the school, and given the area's transport realities, it is entirely consistent that the nuns travelled by horse drawn carriage to the school, especially in the earliest years before the school moved sites.



Bundaberg has a well remembered local tradition of the Sisters of St Joseph travelling to St Joseph's School in a horse drawn carriage from the convent in Bourbong Street.



Talking about "the good old days" at school at St Josephs were Les Kelly, Clem Soppa, John Mackey and Paul Tramacchi.



Jim Thorne, beside the renovated horse drawn carriage, said that he once had a ride in the carriage as he was walking along the street and the nuns offered him a lift. Jim as the oldest living ex-student cut the Anniversary Cake at the Celebrations.

Bundaberg's new hospital takes next big step

BUNDABERG'S new hospital just got a lot closer to reality.

CPB Contractors has been appointed as the major contractor for the new Bundaberg Hospital, marking a major milestone for one of Queensland's biggest health infrastructure projects. Early works are already under way, with the region now on the countdown to Stage 1 construction.

Stage 1 alone will deliver more than 200 new hospital beds and treatment areas by 2031. When the whole project is finished, the hospital will offer more than 410 beds and treatment spaces — including at least 139 additional overnight beds.

Patients can also expect a bigger emergency department, more outpatient, diagnostic and surgical services, extra operating theatres, and a rooftop helipad for emergency retrievals.

Main construction is set to begin later this year, with lift cores and the first ground slab planned before 2026 is out.

Medical intern Christi is part of a broader expansion of Queensland's health workforce, with more than 10,000 additional workers joining the system over the past 20 months, including 398 new frontline staff across Wide Bay. That includes 195 nurses and midwives, 34 doctors and 69 allied



An artist impression of the new hospital.

health workers.

For Christi, who grew up in Bundaberg, the project is personal. "I'm very excited to be coming back to the place where I grew up and have that sense of community," she said.



Medical intern, Christi.

Christi is part of the 10,000 new health workers in Queensland.

The new Bundaberg Hospital is the largest health infrastructure investment ever delivered in the Wide Bay region - and it's set to shape the future of healthcare across the area for decades to come.



CPB Contractors at work on new hospital.

Festival's funniest are hitting the road!

The Sydney Comedy Festival Showcase Tour is coming back and bigger and better than ever, tearing up the free-ways of Australia to bring the best of the 2026 Festival to Bundaberg!

Expertly curated and lovingly presented, this year's Showcase takes over Moncrieff Entertainment Centre and will feature some of the Sydney Comedy Festival's hottest acts live on stage for an incredible two hours of hard-hitting laughter.

Boasting a line-up of veteran favourites and some of the freshest emerging talents, this jam-packed night of pure entertainment will leave you sore from belly laughs! We're excited to announce the first two comedians joining the 2026 Bundaberg lineup!

Josh Khoury, one of Australia's most exciting up-and-coming comedians and winner of RAW Comedy 2026, will hit the stage alongside comedy veteran Al Del Bene, bringing decades of experience and plenty of laughs to the Showcase.

With four more comedians still to be announced, audiences can expect a jam-packed night featuring a mix of veteran favourites and some of the freshest emerging talents in Australian comedy. It's two hours of pure entertainment that will leave you sore from belly laughs!

"The comedians all knew what they had to do to get a laugh, and had the crowd in constant stitches... the talent on show definitely left the crowd wanting more..."

- AU REVIEW

Moncrieff Entertainment Centre
Saturday, 10 October - 7:30pm
Full line-up announcement coming soon!



Al Del Bene.



Joshua Khoury.



Mount Perry Hydro not going ahead

THE Queensland government will not progress a project that would turn a gold mine into a renewable electricity project.

The Mt Rawdon pumped hydro project was part of the government's Energy Roadmap.

Mine operator Evolution Mining will seek interest from private investors and assess the site's ongoing viability as a mine.

The rehabilitation of a gold mine into a renewable project that could power up to 2 million homes will not be progressed by the Queensland government.

The Mt Rawdon pumped hydro project at Mt Perry, 75 kilometres south-west of Bundaberg, was flagged under the government's Energy Roadmap, with \$50 million allocated in last year's budget towards acquisition of the project.

Mine operator Evolution Mining chairman Jake Klein said the Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) did an extensive review over the past six months.

"Unfortunately, with the release of the budget, we were advised the Mount Rawdon project is not a priority project for the Queensland government, and they have priorities investing in Borumba as a pumped hydro project," Mr Klein said.

"We were a little surprised, and certainly disappointed."

In comparison, the 2,000-megawatt Mt Rawdon project would require a \$6 billion investment in an already-established environmental footprint, 27km from the energy grid.

The project would use the mine's steep topography to move water between two dams at the top and bottom of a hill, generating a lot of power over a short distance.

The budget also said following the first stage of a review of hydro projects by the Queensland Investment Corporation, investigations would progress into the 750-megawatt Capricornia pumped hydro project near Mackay.

Mr Klein said Evolution Mining was now assessing its options for what would come next.

"We are assessing whether there are private capital opportunities for progressing that," he said.

"As an alternative, we are still processing very low-grade stockpiles at the site, which is due to finish in September as planned, and then we will assess its options, if any, as to the future of the project as a gold mine."

An important message for homeowners



IN THE PAST 12 months there were 137 fire-related deaths in Australia with around 40-50 of those estimated to be from house/structure fires.

This comes from the latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) mortality data for 2023-24, which is the most recent full-year dataset published.

Homeowners in the Bundaberg region are being reminded to check their smoke alarms ahead of new Queensland laws coming into effect on 1 January 2027.

Under the updated regulations, all existing owner-occupied homes including houses, townhouses, units, manufactured homes, registered caravans and motorhomes must be equipped with interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms.

The new requirements mark the final stage of Queensland's smoke alarm reforms, that were

introduced in 2017 as part of a staged approach to enhancing fire safety across the state.

The changes are designed to offer residents earlier warning in the event of a house fire. Interconnected smoke alarms work so that if one alarm detects smoke, all alarms in the home will sound, alerting occupants wherever they are and giving them more warning to escape.

Queensland Fire Department Commissioner Steve Smith said having compliant smoke alarms, along with a well-practised home fire escape plan are essential to reduce the risk of tragedy in the event of a fire in the home.

"It's important that you have compliant smoke alarms and that you know what to do if a fire starts," Commissioner Smith said.

Homeowners are encouraged to check their current smoke alarms now to ensure they meet

the new requirements before the deadline arrives.

To meet the new requirements, smoke alarms must be under 10 years old, interconnected and photoelectric, comply with Australian Standard AS 3786:2014 and be installed in all bedrooms, hallways and areas connecting bedrooms to the rest of the home and on each level of the property.

Smoke alarms are powered by either a non-removable 10 year battery or connected to the home's main power supply.

Hardwired alarms must be installed by a qualified electrician and any replacement for existing hardwired alarms must also be hardwired.

Residents are also reminded to test alarms monthly, keep them free from dust and insects and ensure they remain clear of any coverings or paint that could prevent them from operating properly.



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What's on at the Playhouse Theatre



Come from Away is a 2017 musical, with book, music and lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein. It's based on the events in the Newfoundland town of Gander during the week following the September 11 attacks, when 38 planes, carrying approximately 7,000 passengers, were ordered to land unexpectedly at Gander International Airport.

The characters in the musical are based on actual Gander residents and the stranded travellers they housed and fed.

After a successful pre-Broadway run, it opened on Broadway at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre on March 12, 2017,

and became a critical and box office success.

It has had successful runs in several countries its on stage at the Playhouse Theatre from October 9 to 24.



The Vicar of Dibley Christmas – The Second Coming will be showing on December 4 until December 12.

"A Vicar of Dibley Christmas: The Second Coming" is a festive adaptation of the beloved TV series, bringing the charming village of Dibley to life on stage. The play, which follows the vicar's efforts to bring order to the parish council and the unexpected Nativity play idea, is filled with humour or and heart.

The Playhouse Theatre is proudly owned and operated by the Bundaberg Players Incorporated, a not-for profit, volunteer organisation established in 1951 and performing in their own theatre since 1968.

Bundaberg Players Inc., 2B Steffensen Street, Bundaberg.

Book tickets online www.theplayhousetheatre.org.au or phone 4153 1904.

Australia's premier tribute to the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber

Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon of music and be swept away by the timeless genius of Andrew Lloyd Webber with iconic hits from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*.

Plus, enjoy a spectacular tribute to the best of the West End with classics from *Les Misérables*, *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, *Mary Poppins*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Miss Saigon*, *Chess*, *Jersey Boys* and many more.

Starring Australia's own award-winning maestro Joey Fimmano, alongside the powerhouse Dexter Villahermosa (*Miss Saigon*), and Opera Australia's Michaela Hodgson (*The Phantom of the Opera*, on Sydney Harbour 2026).

Audience response has been overwhelmingly positive, with attendees describing the show as "brilliant," "breathtaking," and "simply the best."

Many have praised its combination of stunning vocals, elegant staging, and emotionally powerful performances.

Acclaimed Australian performers Paula Duncan AM and Tony Bonner AM have also lauded the production, highlighting its

memorable artistry, seamless cast connection, and the powerful impact of its musical storytelling.

With its blend of iconic music, exceptional talent and theatrical flair, '*Music of the Night*' promises an extraordinary live experience with tickets expected to sell quickly.

Sunday 18th October 2026 at 2pm

musicofthenight.com.au



Joey Fimmano and Michaela Hodgson.

Something new at 'Taste Bundaberg Festival'



FRESH local flavours, ocean views and live music are on the menu this Father's Day with Bundaberg Regional Council inviting the community to the inaugural *Flavours by the Foreshore* at Elliott Heads.

The brand-new, free event will make its debut as part of the 2026 Taste Bundaberg

Festival, transforming Elliott Heads into a relaxed seaside celebration.

Running from 2pm to 5.30pm on Sunday, 6 September, *Flavours by the Foreshore* will feature live music, boutique food vendors, artisan treats and plenty of space for families and friends to unwind by the ocean.

Visitors are encouraged to pack a picnic rug and settle in while exploring the boutique food marquee or pre-ordering a delicious grazing platter from local favourites Grunski's by the River or Grazin4670 to enjoy throughout the afternoon.

Flavours by the Foreshore is one of many events featured in this year's *Taste Bundaberg Festival*, which runs from Friday 4 September to Sunday 13 September.

The festival celebrates Bundaberg's rich agricultural heritage and vibrant food scene through a diverse program of long lunches, cooking classes, family experiences and unique dining events hosted across the region.

Along with pre-order platter, guests will also enjoy Dion Taylor from HSG cooking with the Yagoona BBQ, Bargara Berries strawberries and dessert boxes, Tasty Street Food, Rozies Coffee, Bundaberg Ferments (Kombucha), 384 Brewery and more.

Entry is free.

ON THE BIG SCREEN

HOW TO ROB A BANK

A action-comedy heist film
Screening from September 3

PRACTICAL MAGIC 2

Starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman.
Continues the story of the Owens family, a multi-generational line of witches struggling under a centuries-old curse that dooms their love lives.
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With *Forgotten Island* and *Resident Evil*

DIGGER

A darkly comic satire starring Tom Cruise as the world's most powerful man.
From October 1

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FROM SELLOUT SHOWS ACROSS AUSTRALIA!



'Sunflare Sentinel' by Oana Rosca – 2025 Trashion Winner.

Gala event to celebrate art, fashion and food

DIRECT from a national fashion runway to Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, see innovative 'A Wearable Canvas' designs up close during an exclusive gala event.

The special evening of art, fashion, music and culinary delights at the A Wearable Canvas Gala is part of this year's *Taste Bundaberg Festival*.

Set in the inspiring surrounds of Bundaberg Regional Galleries 'A Wearable Canvas' exhibition, the event will include a parade of

acclaimed wearable artworks, brought together for the first time at A Wearable Canvas Gala.

Guests will also enjoy a curated culinary experience, featuring canapes and bespoke cocktails crafted exclusively for the event by local suppliers.

A Wearable Canvas Gala

When: Saturday 5 Sept., 6.30-9.30pm

Where: Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery

Cost: \$80. Tickets on sale now.

OUR RUN OF LUCK CONTINUES

BUNDABERG'S run of lottery luck has continued, with a local woman winning \$1 million after purchasing her first ever Weekday Windfall ticket. The lucky Bundaberg resident held the sole division one winning entry nationally in Weekday Windfall draw 4706 becoming an overnight millionaire.

Having never heard of Weekday Windfall before, the woman bought the ticket after hearing about the draw from a friend who had been gifted a ticket by her grandchildren.

Speaking with The Lott, the delighted winner said she couldn't believe it when she checked her ticket.

"I had to ring my daughter and get her to check the ticket to make sure I was right."

She said the prize money would help ease financial pressures and could go towards replacing her 25 year old car and

buying a new washing machine.

The winning entry was purchased from Sugarland Newsagency at Sugarland Plaza in Avoca.

Sugarland Newsagency manager Donna Heaps revealed her outlet had now sold five division one winning entries in the past 25 years.

"It's so exciting! We just helped someone become a millionaire," said Donna.

The million dollar windfall is the latest in a growing list of major lottery wins for Bundaberg in 2026. In February, a Barga woman scored almost \$2.5 million in Keno, while two Avoca friends shared a Saturday Gold Lotto prize worth more than \$2.3 million in March.

With a combined total of more than \$5.7 million already won across the region this year, Bundaberg's reputation as one of Queensland's lottery hotspots doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon.

Movies on the 'Big Screen' at the Moncrieff Theatre

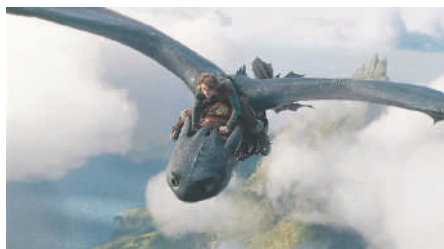


Sully

2 September, 10.30am

Sully is a 2016 biographical drama directed by Clint Eastwood, starring Tom Hanks as Captain Chesley 'Sully' Sullenberger, depicting the miraculous Hudson River emergency landing.

Shortly after takeoff, a flock of geese strikes the plane, disabling both engines. With no viable options to return to nearby airports, Sully makes a split-second decision to land the Airbus A320 on the Hudson River.



How to Train Your Dragon

23 September, 10.30am

This is based on the book series of the same name by British author Cressida Cowell. The movie follows a young Viking named Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, generally known as Hiccup son of Stoick the Vast, leader of the Viking island of Berk.

Although Hiccup was initially dismissed as a clumsy and underweight misfit, he soon becomes renowned as a courageous dragons expert.



The War with Grandpa

7 October, 10.30am

The War with Grandpa is a family comedy where a boy starts a prank war with his grandfather after losing his bedroom to him.

Light-hearted slapstick drives their escalating battle, backed by a star cast including Robert De Niro and Uma Thurman.



A Big Bold Beautiful Journey

18 November, 10.30am

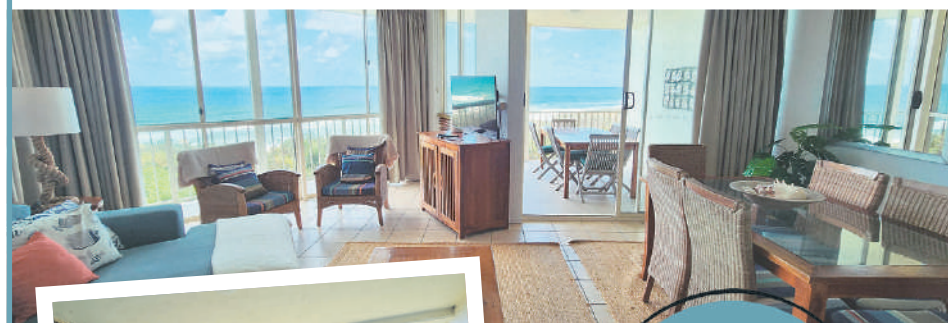
A Big Bold Beautiful Journey is a 2025 American romantic fantasy film and stars Margot Robbie, Colin Farrell and follows two strangers, Sarah and David, who meet at a wedding and embark on a whimsical adventure through magical doorways that lets them revisit defining moments from their pasts, offering a chance to reshape their futures.

Win a fabulous break on Stradbroke Island!



Win a 3 night stay at Whale Watch Ocean Resort on Stradbroke Island in a 3 bedroom Premium Oceanfront Apartment accommodating up to 6 people.

Go to page 23 to enter – it's easy and it's FREE!



Bundaberg Railway Station Upgrade

DT Infrastructure (DTI) has been awarded the design and construct contracts to deliver major accessibility and station improvement works at Rockhampton and Bundaberg stations for Queensland Rail.

The regional station upgrades will significantly enhance the accessibility, safety and customer experience at two of Queensland's key regional rail hubs, providing inclusive and improved access to rail services for daily commuters and visitors.

John Anderson, DTI Chief Executive Officer, said the contract award reinforces DTI's position as a trusted delivery partner for complex rail infrastructure projects across Australia.

"We are proud to partner with Queensland Rail to deliver these important regional station upgrades for Queensland communities.

"These upgrades will improve accessibility and the passenger experience while preserving the critical role these regional hubs play in connecting people and communities across the state.

Paul Hawthorne, Executive General Manager Rail, emphasised that the project builds upon DTI's extensive footprint across metropolitan and regional rail networks, including key freight corridors.

"Rail is at the heart of DTI's operations and these regional station upgrades strongly align with our commitment to delivering safe, reliable and accessible transport infrastructure.

Comprehensive design works for both Rockhampton and Bundaberg stations will commence immediately, with site works scheduled for 2027.



The Bundaberg Railway Station was built in 1891 the same year that the Burnett River Railway Bridge was completed. The bridge connected the earlier North Bundaberg- Mount Perry Line to the main Bundaberg township.

Moore Park Beach boardwalk work begins



PROGRESS on the rehabilitation of the Moore Park Beach Wetlands Boardwalk will soon get underway, with Bundaberg Regional Council preparing to commence the first stage of works to restore the much-loved community asset.

The boardwalk, which links Egret Lane and Orchid Drive and circles the Moore Park Beach lagoon, has remained closed since February 2025 after inspections iden-

tified significant structural concerns due to its deteriorated condition. Work will involve the removal of sections of the boardwalk to allow engineers to undertake detailed investigations into the extent of repairs required.

These investigations will identify which components need to be replaced before materials are ordered and the necessary permits and approvals are secured for the final rehabilitation works.

When insults were works of art

THESE glorious insults are from an era "before" the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words .

A member of Parliament to Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."
"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."



"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."
Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."
Clarence Darrow

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."
Moses Hadas

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."
Mark Twain

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one."
George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one."
Winston Churchill, in response

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."
Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."
John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."
Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others."
Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."
Paul Keating

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him."
Forrest Tucker



"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."
Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."
Oscar Wilde

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it."
Groucho Marx

Win a long weekend break on North Stradbroke Island



YOU could win a North Stradbroke Island escape, including a three night stay for up to six guests in a Premium Oceanfront Apartment at Whalewatch Ocean Beach Resort during the low season (excludes public and school holidays), plus a return Sealink Ferry voucher for vehicle and passengers, and a wine and cheese platter from the local Island Deli and Grocer.

Recently awarded the title of 2026 Best Queensland Experience, Whalewatch Ocean Beach Resort is perfectly positioned at Point Lookout.

The resort offers stunning views of surrounding beaches and national park, and is within easy walking distance of cafés, restaurants, specialty shops and local grocery stores.

It's the perfect place to relax and

enjoy North Stradbroke Island's beaches, coastal walks, wildlife, marine life and cultural heritage.

How to Enter

Entry is free. To enter visit: coastlinenews.com.au and complete the online entry form.

Entries close 30 September, 2026.

The winner will be drawn from all valid entries and announced on the Coastline News website and in the next edition of The Bundy Local.

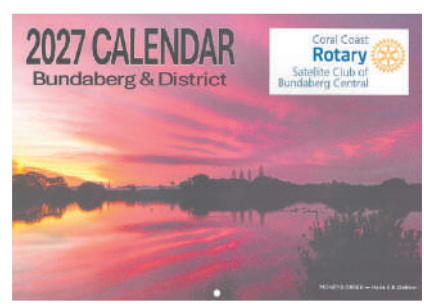
Good luck!

A beautiful souvenir of Bundaberg to keep

WOULD you like a souvenir of your Bundaberg visit? The Coral Coast Rotary based in Bargara has produced their 2027 Bundaberg District Calendar.

The calendar is purchased by locals to post to relatives and friends and by many visitors to the area.

Photos in the latest one include photos by Marie Harvey, Paul Perry, Infinity



Flights Photography, Charles Blanshard, Bundaberg Sugar, Hans E R DeBoer, Lynne Sanderson with sponsorship from leading Bundaberg businesses.

Buy your calendar at Dymocks, The Windmill, Canelands Auto, Northside Produce, Kens Butchery, and Bundaberg Library. Cost is only \$10. Get in early before they are all gone!

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