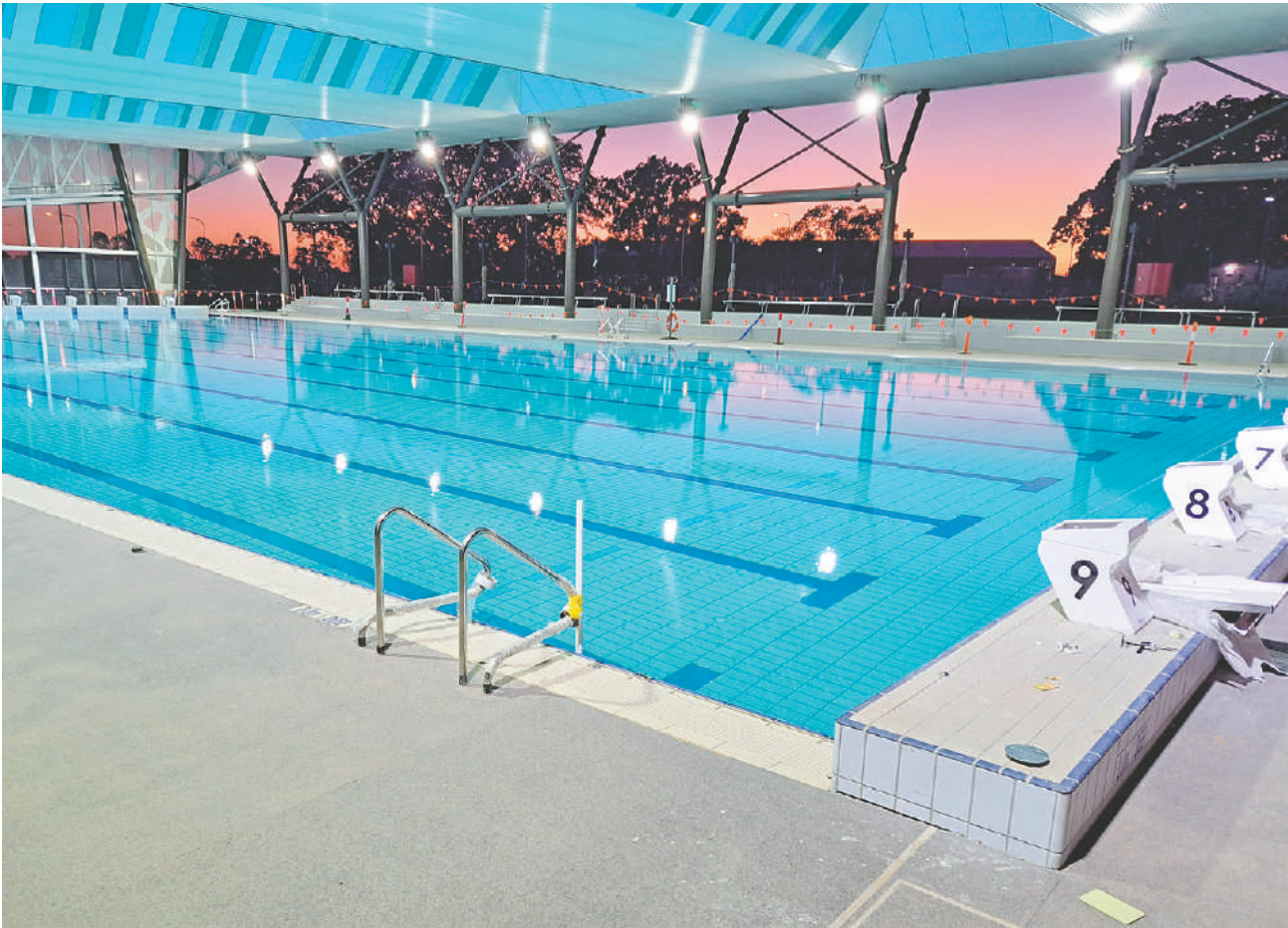
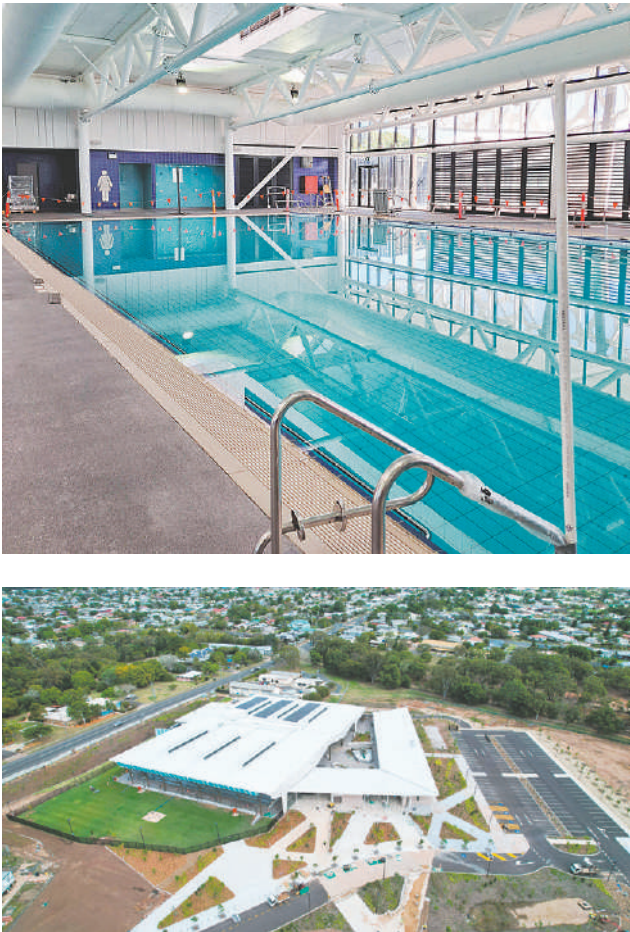


New aquatic centre nears opening



The Bundaberg Aquatic Centre has reached a major milestone, with all three pools at the state-of-the-art facility now filled with water.

The long-awaited facility includes a 50-metre World Aquatics compliant competition pool, a 25-metre heated indoor lap pool and warm water program pool. In addition to the pools, the facility will also feature a café, gym, reformer pilates studio and a children's play area.

Bundaberg Aquatic Centre has been designed with accessibility and inclusion in mind.

According to Bundaberg Regional

Council everyone will be able to enjoy the new centre, with ramp and lift access to all pools, hoists, aquatic wheelchairs and the regions first adult accessible changerooms. The centre will cater to a wide range of users.

“Whether you’d like to swim laps, have a splash or try an exercise class, Bundaberg Aquatic Centre will welcome all ages and abilities and support the health and wellbeing goals of the Bundaberg Community.”

Bundaberg Regional Council announced in June that Belgravia Leisure will be the Centre’s operating partner. The leading Australian leisure provider will oversee day to day operations, delivering programs and ser-

vices for swimmers, fitness enthusiasts and the wider community.

With a range of membership opportunities already available the Bundaberg Aquatic Centre is expected to be open to the public in Spring 2025. For more information go to bundabergaquaticcentre.com.au



INSIDE THIS EDITION

Will Bundaberg have Skyscrapers in the future? See page 8.

Who will perform at the next Agnes Blues, Roots & Rock Festival? Read all about it on page 14 .

Love is in the Air – Bundaberg Weddings. Go to page 22 .



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From the Editor.

Michael McRae
Editor / Publisher.



Coastline Newspaper Group

The Bundaberg Local Newspaper is Bundaberg's free newspaper covering Bundaberg, the coastal towns, Childers and Gin Gin and farming families receiving this edition through Australia Post mail service.

I HAVE just returned from a visit to Scotland to visit my son Robert, his wife Claire and their two year old son Cameron Donald McRae who is the great great grandchild of Donald McRae who came to Bundaberg from Scotland in 1860. He lived in Melvaig, Northern Scotland.

We spent some time in Edinburgh and also stayed in the town of Plockton near Melvaig.

The adventures of Hamish Macbeth will be familiar to many from the television series starring Robert Carlyle, produced from 1995 to 1997.

Hamish is a Police Constable in the Scottish Highlands. The Hamish Macbeth books are set in the fictional Scottish fishing village of Lochdubh (meaning black lake in Gaelic).

Plockton provided the perfect backdrop for bringing Lochdubh to life on TV. Its stunning coastal scenery, with views of Loch Carron and the surrounding hills, added to the charm of the series.

The producers of Hamish Macbeth took care to maintain the authenticity of the setting. Many scenes were shot in and around real buildings and locations in Plockton, contributing to the genuine feel of the series.



During my visit I had time to read some of the Scottish Newspapers and one of the stories that I found was that the Met. Office wants members of the public to honour their loved ones by naming a storm after them.

The weather service is compiling a list of names for the coming storm season. Will that happen here? We should ask all Tracys and Dinahs what they think of the idea.

In 1974 Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin and in 1967 Cyclone Dinah caused significant damage along the southern Queensland and New South Wales coasts.

Bargara local visits Nepal

Earlier this year, Kevin Hill travelled to Nepal to support a friend competing in the Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon. Having been before, Kevin acted as a guide, helping to navigate the high-altitude terrain while soaking in the breathtaking landscape. Held each year on 29 May, the marathon commemorates the historic first ascent of Mount Everest by Tensing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary.

What Bert Hinkler didn't see



This Qantas Airbus A380 is named after Herbert John Louis Hinkler AFC, DSM (8 December 1892 – 7 January 1933), better known as Bert Hinkler, born in Bundaberg and lived in Gavin Street North Bundaberg. He was a pioneer Australian aviator and inventor.

He designed and built early aircraft before being the first person to fly solo from England to Australia, completed on 22 February 1928, and the first person to fly solo across the Southern Atlantic Ocean.

He married in 1932 at the age of 39, and died less than a year later after crashing into remote countryside near Arezzo, Tuscany, Italy during a solo flight record attempt.

Go to our website www.coastlinenews.com.au for photographs taken in an Airbus flying between Sydney and Tokyo. These photos show the Bundaberg coastline including Bargara, Mon Repos and Burnett Heads. They were taken at 36,000 feet. Bert never got that high!

Farewell Sherry Barnes



Sherry was a journalist here at Coastline Newspapers for over 25 years. She was always dedicated to her work and she never missed a good news story. She wrote many stories on well-known Bundaberg people and now it's her turn to have a story and we thank Trish Mears the Secretary of Bundaberg Players Inc. for this.

Michael McRae, Managing Director

ON 15TH JULY Bundaberg lost one of its true wordsmiths and actresses – Sherry Barnes.

Sherry always loved words – both writing them and performing them.

Sherry worked at the Bundaberg News Mail (along with her two sisters) and then at Coastline Newspapers publishers of this masthead *The Bundy Local* where she loved to talk to people and bring their unique and special stories vividly to life on the page.

At the Playhouse Theatre, she took playwrights' words and brought them to life on the stage.

Here are some fascinating insights in an interview the Playhouse Theatre's archivist Mary Dudman did with Sherry for Bundaberg Players Incorporated monthly member newsletter.

"Aged 10, she began speech and drama lessons with Mrs Millar. At High School her English teacher was Jeff Shepherd, a Players member who intended auditioning for 'The Miser', the first show presented at the Playhouse in 1968. Mrs Millar suggested she attend to see how auditions are conducted

and Mr Shepherd was happy to explain proceedings to his 15 year old student. To their surprise she ended up with the role of child bride Marianne playing opposite him as The Miser.

That was her first play and the Opening of the Playhouse Theatre. 50 years later she was in 'The Miser' again, though not as the bride.

Despite a 19 year absence from Players, she has been in the cast of 65 productions as well as involvement backstage, prompt, plus assistant to Youth Theatre Director when it began in 1970.

She has been Secretary, Committee Member and long time Publicity Officer, writing the regular 'In the Spotlight' entertainment column for the News Mail.

DID YOU KNOW? In 1975 in 'Annie Get your Gun' Sherry played an Indian Squaw with a baby and carried her six week old son on stage with her. He slept through the whole show and had his name in the program as a chorus member.

Her favourite shows?

Elvira, the ghost in Noel Coward's 'Blithe Spirit', 1978. Alan Ayckbourn's 'How the other half loves' in 1976 as she says her character was a painfully shy, socially inept mousy little housewife, totally unlike her. But taking first place is Lady Bracknell in 'The Importance of Being Earnest', 2017. "I loved every moment of that show," Sherry said.

We will miss Sherry's wonderful acting, her mentoring, but especially her friendship.

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

Bundy Local Christmas/New Year edition will be published December 12.

BOOK NOW!

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



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Bundaberg Sunrise Rotary Club volunteers make a difference in Kenya



Cathy Booth shares a happy image of the amazing volunteers from Rotary Bundaberg Sunrise on their final day of work at Umoja Orphanage, Kenya, with Kenyan Manager Patrick.

MEMBERS of the Bundaberg Sunrise Rotary Club, along with family and friends, have returned from a rewarding two-week volunteer trip to Umoja Orphanage in Kenya.

The group rolled up their sleeves to plough fields, repair flood damage, paint homes, build chicken roosts, and sew clothing, all while spending valuable time with the children who call Umoja home. They joined in games, tutoring, and shared meals, creating bonds that volunteers say will stay with them forever.

"While the jobs were important, the real impact was connecting with the children," one participant said. "We came to give, but we left with so much more."

Umoja Orphanage was founded in 2011 by Bundaberg teacher Cathy Booth and continues to grow through the support of volunteers and community fundraising.

Located near Ukunda, Kenya, it provides safe housing, education, and employment opportunities for local families.

The Bundaberg team also took part in a safari tour run by Surprise Tours & Safaris, which donates profits back to the orphanage.

With two more volunteer trips planned for 2026, Rotary Sunrise members say they are proud to see Bundaberg playing a part in changing lives on the other side of the world.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.umojahome.org.



Rotary Bundaberg Sunrise volunteers help to set-up sporting equipment.

CrimeLine
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Police prepare 150 exhibits against third accused in Pheobe Bishop case

POLICE are preparing a mammoth brief containing 150 exhibits and 90 statements — with a further 40 yet to come — in the case against the third person charged in relation to the murder of Gin Gin teen Pheobe Bishop.

The revelation came during a second court appearance for Kieren Daniel Mittelheuser, 30, before Bundaberg Magistrates Court. Mittelheuser faces multiple charges.

Police allege the unemployed Norville man helped co-accused Wood and Bromley escape punishment by attempting to use a Commonwealth Bank debit card belonging to the Gin Gin teen on the day she went missing.

Bikie boss charged with 47 offences after raids in Monto.

SUPPLYING, recruiting and trafficking drugs are just some of the more than 70 combined charges facing a high ranking bikie gang member and 30-year-old woman arrested during raids in Monto and Hatton Vale.

A major police operation involving a high-ranking member of a famed motorcycle gang, the Bandidos, has netted 73 charges against two people, among them 23 domestic violence offences.

A statement released by police on Friday said that on August 21, 2025, a seven-month long police investigation cul-

minated in the arrest of a high-ranking member of an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang. Dubbed Operation XRay Slight, the police operation allegedly uncovered the extent of the Monto man's crimes.

Former Bundaberg man missing in South Australia



SA Police are renewing their appeal for information from the public to help locate missing person Michael Curnow whose vehicle was found at Chain of Ponds on ANZAC Day.

Michael lived in Bundaberg and entertained diners at Ricks Restaurant at Barga-ra. (See picture).

Michael, 23, was last seen at Hillcrest South Australia about 9am on Thursday 24 April, 2025. Police are concerned for his welfare.

Michael is Caucasian, about 185cm tall, slim build with short brown hair. He was last seen wearing a light brown jumper and pants.

His black Hyundai station wagon was located on South Para Road, Chain of Ponds in the early hours of Friday 25 April.

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Silver memories brings music, memories, and meaning to aged care

As part of Seniors Week, one unique radio service is being celebrated for the joy and connection it brings to older Australians, especially those living with dementia.

Silver Memories, a 24-hour nostalgic radio station created by 4MBS Classic FM, has been broadcasting for over 18 years. But in recent years, it's gaining national recognition for its powerful use of Reminiscence Music Therapy, a method that uses music and images to help unlock memories and reduce social isolation in aged care facilities.

Founded and managed by Gary Thorpe OAM, Silver Memories has become a lifeline in more than 120 Queensland aged care centres, including facilities in Bundaberg such as BlueCare Riverlea, Palm Lake Care Bargarra, BlueCare Pioneer Lodge & Gardens, and Anglicare Meilene.

"The whole idea is based on remembering," said Mr Thorpe. "It's called reminiscence therapy; a therapy used around the world. Music from your younger days can trigger memories, and we're the only radio station in Australia, or possibly the world, to apply this therapy to broadcasting."

Silver Memories pairs its radio programming with a library of over 6,000 curated images, sent to aged care homes on a memory stick, to create a fully immersive memory experience.

The impact is profound. Three separate university studies have shown that even brief daily listening reduces depression, anxiety, and aggression in residents, while also improving overall well-being.

Beyond the therapeutic benefits, Silver Memories fosters meaningful conversation,



Gary Thorpe OAM, General Manager of 4MBS Classic FM and Silver Memories, has been awarded an Australian Mental Health Prize by the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

both between residents and among staff and family members. In some cases, it restores a sense of identity and agency, giving residents the chance to share stories and knowledge from their youth.

In 2022, Silver Memories was recognised with the Australian Mental Health Prize from UNSW and a Social Impact Award from Pro Bono Australia for its contribu-

tion to dementia care. Aged care facilities can subscribe at a low quarterly cost, which helps keep the service completely advertisement-free. Individuals can also access Silver Memories through a dedicated app for personal use.

For more information, visit www.silvermemories.com.au

What's Happening in Senior Month

QUEENSLAND Seniors Month will be running from 1-31 October, shining a spotlight on older Queenslanders and the vital roles they play in our communities as volunteers, workers, carers, grandparents, community leaders, advocates and more. Several events have already been confirmed to be taking place across the Bundaberg region this October.

Bundaberg:

In Bundaberg, movie lovers can enjoy a free seniors screening of Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy at the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre on Tuesday 8 October at 10:30am. Those interested in attending can purchase tickets online or by calling the box office on (07) 4130 4100. Get in quick as tickets are selling fast!

Childers:

At Childers Library, beginners can take part in a Mahjong for Beginners session on Thursday 16 October from 1:30pm – 4:30pm, with afternoon tea provided and demonstrations by the Childers Mahjong group.

Gin Gin:

Meanwhile, the Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre will hold From Tots to Treasures-Seniors Month Morning Tea on Tuesday 23 October from 10am-11:30am, a free event incorporating both Seniors Month and Families week. Bookings can be made on (07) 41304630 or via email ggnc@bundaberg.qld.gov.au

Improving service delivery to older Australians

THE Australian Government's new Aged Care Act will come into effect from 1 November. The new act will introduce reforms aimed at improving how services are delivered to older Australians, whether that be in their homes, community settings or in approved residential aged care homes.

Passed in Parliament in November 2024, the act sets out and clearly outlines the rights of older people seeking and accessing aged care in Australia. It will introduce a simplified, single-entry point with clear eligibility criteria. The new laws will also ensure fair and culturally safe assessments, enhance service delivery and establish stronger oversight and accountability measures.

A first of its kind, the Aged Care Act 2024 will have a key focus on increasing provider accountability through a new reg-

ulatory model and strengthening the role of the aged care regulator to ensure services are safe, respectful and responsive to the individual needs of older Australians

"These are once-in-a-generation reforms, which put older Australians at the centre of aged care," said Mark Butler, the Minister for Health, Ageing, Disability and the NDIS.

The Act aligns with the rollout of the Federal Government's Support at Home program which from 1 November 2025 will replace the existing Home Care Packages Program and Short-Term Restorative Care programs.

The new program is designed to better support older people to live independently at home for longer, offering a more flexible and needs based system.

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"What if ...?"

WHAT IF the impressionist painters were alive today? And what if, they visited us here in Bundaberg to paint iconic local scenes en plein air?

Local artist Cavin Staff, has tried to capture various localities using the styles and techniques of the Old Masters, such as

George Seurat paints Innes Park, Paul Signac paints Grunske's, and Vincent van Gogh paints the Hummock, and Sunflowers etc.

It promises to be colorful and educational, and thought provoking and will be held at the Moncrieff Theatre Foyer from 1 October to 31 December.



Water colour paintings of Kellys Beach and Bourbong Street by Cavin Staff

Friends of the Library deliver stories and smiles to housebound residents

FOR MORE than 40 years, Bundaberg Regional Friends of the Library has been bringing books, movies, and music directly to residents who can't make it to their local branch.

Launched in March 1984, the volunteer-run service selects and delivers library items to people living independently with significant mobility issues. Residents can choose from any genre or borrowable item available at the library, and volunteers work closely with them to discuss

favourite authors, preferred formats, or special needs like larger print books.

"Our volunteers are more than just delivery drivers, they're friendly faces who bring joy and connection to our housebound community members," a spokesperson said.

The service is available to residents across the Bundaberg Region. For more information, contact Friends of the Library at Bundaberg Library on 4130 4140.

Meet the first female tilt train driver

DID you know a local Bundaberg woman holds the title of being the first female driver of Queensland's fastest passenger train? At only 27 years of age Nicole Sempf made history in 2011 when she became the first female driver of the Tilt Train.

With a top service speed of 160km/hr, the Tilt Train is not only Queensland Rail's fastest passenger train, but it is also the fastest train in Australia with a recorded speed of 210km/hr.

Nicole comes from a family of train drivers. Following in the footsteps of her grandfather, father and uncle she began a career with Queensland Rail working on coal trains, transporting loads from regional mines to the port in Gladstone.

"We'd go out to the mine load outs, load them and then head them back towards the port and Gladstone," explained Nicole.

When given an opportunity to transfer to her hometown of Bundaberg she took it. Here she trained to drive the tilt train and soon became its first female driver.

In the 14 years since, Nicole has watched the industry slowly shift toward greater gender diversity.

Today, she is one of 101 female train drivers employed by Queensland Rail, three of whom are based in Bundaberg.

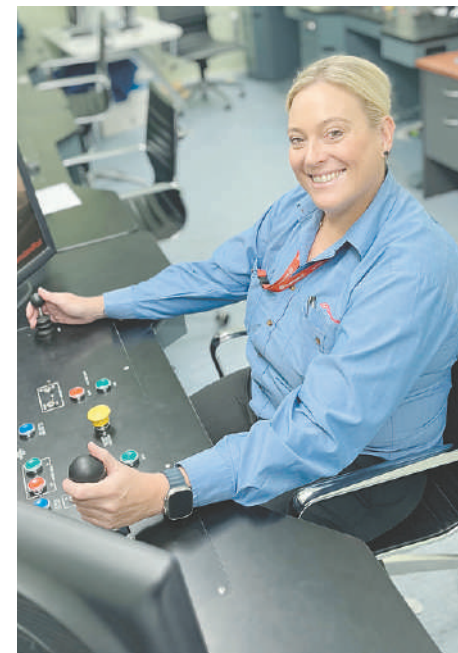
Across Queensland's rail network there are a total of 952 train drivers.

According to Queensland Rail the company continues to invest in creating a diverse and inclusive workforce with targeted programs to attract more women into rail roles. There are also programs and support in place for First Nations People, LGBTIQ+, Disability, youth and people of multicultural backgrounds to gain and maintain work at

Queensland Rail.

For Nicole, driving the Tilt Train is more than just a job, it's a thrill.

"I like the 'wow factor' that the Tilt Train has with its ability to travel at high speeds," explained Nicole.



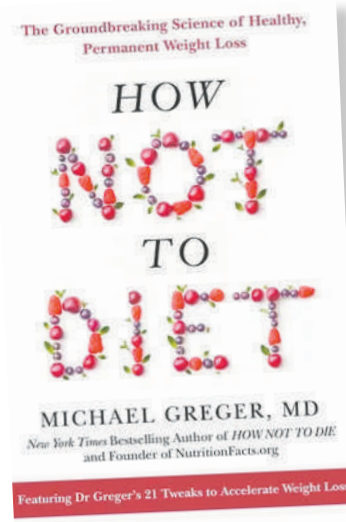
Nicole Sempf.

"The waves from people we get from the side of the track as we fly past is special and the smile when we add a little toot of the horn to say we appreciate the waves," she continued.

It was a proud moment for Nicole when her 8 year old niece told her that she wanted to be a train driver like her one day.

"As women, we can do anything we strive hard to achieve," said Nicole.

WIN! *How Not to Diet* by Dr Michael Greger – 3 copies to give-away



ARE you ready to kickstart your health journey or simply curious about what science says about sustainable weight loss?

The Bundy Local is giving away three copies of the bestselling book *How Not to Diet* by internationally renowned physician Dr Michael Greger, thanks to our friends at Pan Macmillan Australia.

Dr Greger, author of *How Not to Die* and founder of NutritionFacts.org, dives deep into the latest research behind what truly works when it comes to healthy weight loss.

Packed with evidence-based advice and practical tips, this book is a must-read for anyone looking to better understand nutrition and improve their long-term health.

Want more from Dr Greger? His latest release, *How Not to Age*, is now available at Dymocks Bundaberg for \$29.99, along with the companion *How Not to Age Cookbook* for \$45.

Can't find what you're looking for? Just ask the friendly team in store most titles can be ordered in, with stock usually arriving within a week.

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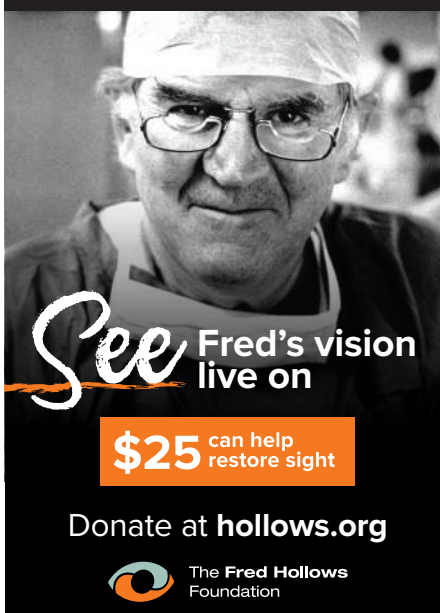
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Calling for Blood Bank donations – the life you save may be your own

Bundaberg residents are being called on to support the nation's blood supply as Australia continues to face ongoing shortages in both blood and plasma donations.

One in three Australians will need blood or blood products within their lifetime according to the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Aging. Blood donations are crucial for hospitals to maintain a steady supply of blood to treat patients. Just one donation could save up to three lives.

The Australian Red Cross Lifeblood's annual Emergency Services Blood Drive ran from June to August. The three-month drive saw police, paramedics and firefighters from across the country lift donate blood, promoting the importance of blood donors.

One of many donors to donate in this year's campaign was Senior Constable Karen Watson who has been donating blood since

she was 18 years old. This year she celebrated her 450th donation.

"Donating blood and plasma is now a regular activity for me and I plan to continue donating as long as I possibly can," Senior Constable Watson said. "I feel very blessed to have enjoyed good health and being able to share it."

Lifeblood spokesperson Liam Richardson has said that he hopes the Queensland community will follow their inspiring emergency services and book an appointment to donate.

Lifeblood issues close to 10,000 blood products and medications to hospitals around Australia every day to meet patient demand.

"We would love to see more people in Queensland support our emergency services and join our movement of donors," said Mr Richardson.

The Lifeblood campaign aligned with National Blood Donor Week 9-15 June and the national book tour for Kate Fisher's best-selling memoir, *Milkshakes for Marleigh: Extraordinary Tales of Survival Thanks to Australian Blood Donors*.

Kate Fisher (pictured right) is one of Australia's leading blood donations advocates and holds the title of 2025 Woman of the Year.

She founded the national blood donation movement Milkshakes for Marleigh with a mission to end persistent critical blood shortages in both Australia and around the world.

The book is based on Fisher's internationally award-winning podcast and shares extraordinary accounts of survival made possible by Australian blood donors.

Fisher's daughter Marleigh lives with a rare and incurable disease known as Sero-



negative Paediatric Autoimmune Encephalitis. Regular plasma infusions are critical for Marleigh's survival. These lifesaving infusions would not be achieved without generous Australian blood donors.

"Thousands and thousands of blood and plasma donors have kept my daughter alive," said Fisher.

"Every single donation is another day with Marleigh."

To find out how you can save lives by donating blood or to book a donation appointment go to lifeblood.com.au or call 13 14 95.

Bundaberg region's lucky streak in Lotto continues



The lucky township of Gin Gin.

THE Bundaberg Region's 2025 lucky streak has continued in with another first division lotto win. It follows three major first division lotto wins in the region earlier in the year including, a \$2.1 million Saturday Gold Lotto prize in January, a \$3.3 million in February and a staggering \$10 million Powerball jackpot in March.

A Gin Gin dad is the latest in the string of lucky winners after he won \$1 million in the Weekday Windfall draw. His ticket was the only winning division one ticket in the draw.

Overwhelmed and speechless upon hearing the news, the proud father said the prize would help him to be able to cut back his working hours and provide a secure future for his children.

"This will allow me to set up my kids for life. I can do something for them," he said.

The winning ticket was purchased from Gin Gin Newsagency on Gin Gin's Musgrave Street.

Gin Gin Newsagency team member Kerry Newcombe said she was excited to hear the store had sold a million-dollar winning ticket.

"We're so happy! Its always so exciting selling a division one winning entry and even better knowing we made someone very happy," said Ms Newcombe.

The June 2 Weekday Windfall ticket is the second time a winning first division lotto entry was sold at the Gin Gin Newsagency in less than 12 months.

"It was only in August last year that we sold our last division one winning entry, and we're so pleased to have had another," said Ms Newcombe.

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FREE QUOTES

Will we have skyscrapers in Bundaberg?



THE LNP and Greens have united to oppose three mega towers that will rival the height of Mount Coot-tha in an upmarket Brisbane suburb.

If the Toowong Central project is approved they would be among the highest residential buildings in Brisbane.

Brisbane’s tallest building is the Brisbane Skytower in Margaret Street at 270 metres.

What would you like Bundaberg to look like in 2050?

So much changes, yet so much remains the same.

Preserving what went before is one thing but Bundaberg needs to have a future as well as a past.

When people do nothing market forces will always dominate. If we want the best possible outcome then we have to roll up our sleeves and help shape our own future.

Many people comment that they do not wish to see Bargara or Bundaberg evolve to look like The Gold Coast, and indeed oth-

ers have moved in this direction to escape the Gold Coast! Holding back commercial forces is incredibly difficult.

The streets are busier and the shops are very different but our famous aviator Bert Hinkler who lived in North Bundaberg would still be able to recognise his surroundings and the essential outline of the city he lived in 100 years ago.

Will Bundaberg have skyscrapers in 2050? The short answer: Unlikely.

A vacant seven-storey office building in the Bundaberg CBD will sit empty no more with the site set to be redeveloped for 229 student rooms, eateries and shops.

A development application, submitted by the SSS Dang Family, seeking redevelopment of the former SGIO building incorporating the City Centre Arcade has been approved by Bundaberg Regional Council.

Dubbed the SSS Tower, the approved development includes three stages which would see the existing building renovat-

ed for a mix of student accommodation and commercial use, a four-storey carpark constructed and a second tower built directly behind the existing building.

In Bargara, zoning allows for up to 5–6 storeys in limited areas, reflecting modest, coastal-friendly development rather than vertical growth.

So what might Bundaberg look like in 2050?

A city with expanded housing subdivisions, more amenities, and modernised infrastructure.

Some mid-rise (5–8 storey) buildings, particularly around Bargara or the CBD, like the SSS Tower.

A skyline shaped more by community buildings, civic precincts, and residential clusters, rather than soaring towers.

Bundaberg is growing – but skyscrapers by 2100? That’s a stretch, though not impossible.

Our thanks to local artist Cavin Staff for the artwork of what Bundaberg could look like with skyscrapers (pictured left).

A huge win for Bargara

BARGARA Police Station is set to receive a new look, with \$5.5 million allocated for upgrades in the 2025–2026 Queensland Budget and a further \$12 million earmarked for the future.

The funding is part of a broader \$209.3 million statewide investment aimed at building new and upgrading existing police stations, facilities, and beats. It is a huge win for the Bargara community.

While specific details of the upgrade are yet to be determined, Member for Burnett Stephen Bennett said the investment will help strengthen frontline policing and improve community safety.

“When the Crisafulli Government came to office, we listened to local police who made it clear that Bargara needed a modern police facility to meet the demands of our growing community,” said Bennett.

“This investment is about delivering the strong, visible policing the local community deserves and ensuring police have the infrastructure they need to do their job safely and effectively,” he added.

The Member for Burnett noted that early conversations with police will determine the size, scope and operation efficiency required for the new facility with a goal of completing the works as soon as possible.

In addition to station upgrades, the Queensland Government has committed \$147.9 million to critical police equipment across the state. This includes new body-worn cameras, Taser 10s, tactical first aid kits and tyre deflation devices.

“We are delivering for our frontline and giving them the vital equipment, infrastructure and resourcing they need to drive down crime,” said Queensland Minister for Police and Emergency Services Dan Purdie.



Member for Burnett, Stephen Bennett.

Bargara and Burnett Heads at 36,000 feet



This is the view for passengers on a day time flight from Sydney to Tokyo at 36,000 feet. Pictured above is south Bargara and surrounding farms from the air, note Palm Lakes Resort at top left. Pictured left is our beautiful coastline from Bargara to North of Burnett Heads.

“My first speech” competition for high school students

THE Federal Member for Hinkler David Batt has visited his former high school to launch the ‘My First Speech’ competition for the electorate of Hinkler.

Speaking at Bundaberg State High, Mr Batt reflected on the school motto ‘per ardua ad astra’, which means ‘through hard work, the stars.’

Mr Batt referenced the adage in his very own first speech in Federal Parliament in July and said the competition is a great opportunity for the leaders of tomorrow to shine.

“This is a chance for our local Hinkler students to put a national spotlight on the issues that matter most to them,” Mr Batt said.

This national competition challenges students in years 10, 11 and 12 to envision themselves as newly elected Mem-

bers of the House of Representatives and write a 90-second speech, focusing on a topic of their choosing.

The winning entrant from each year group, accompanied by a parent or guardian, will be flown to Canberra to deliver their speeches live at Parliament House and participate in an engaging program tailored to deepen their understanding of the legislative process.

The submission deadline for the competition is set for 11.59pm AEST on Monday 15th September 2025. An information letter has been sent from Mr Batt to local high schools.

To learn more about the competition and submit their entries, students can visit the dedicated competition website: mfs.houseofrepresentatives.gov.au



David Batt MP, Belinda Arnold Acting Principal Bundaberg State High School and students Shaurya Jain, Ruby Peall, Charlotte Baker and Lachlan Gatto.



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Win Double Passes to The Joe Cocker Express

GET READY Bundaberg, The Joe Cocker Express is coming to town, and we are giving readers the chance to win one of three double passes to this unforgettable tribute show on Friday 31 October at the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre.

Fresh from rave-reviewed performances across Australia, The Joe Cocker Express has been hailed as the nation's premier tribute to the legendary Joe Cocker, a music icon recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. This 9-piece powerhouse band captures the raw energy, heartfelt soul, and unmistakable sound that made Cocker one of the most distinctive voices in rock history.

Their 2024/25 tour, Mad Dog vs The Englishman, takes audiences on a powerful

journey through two defining eras of Cocker's career, from the gritty, electrifying performances of his early days ("Mad Dog") to the soulful, mature sounds of his later years ("The Englishman"). Expect all the classics you love, including With A Little Help From My Friends, You Can Leave Your Hat On, The Letter, Up Where We Belong, Unchain My Heart, and more.

Entry is free! Simply visit www.coastline-news.com.au and complete the online form for your chance to win one of three double passes. Winners will be advised.

Entries close: 27 September 2025
Winners announced: On our website and in the December edition of Bundy Local.



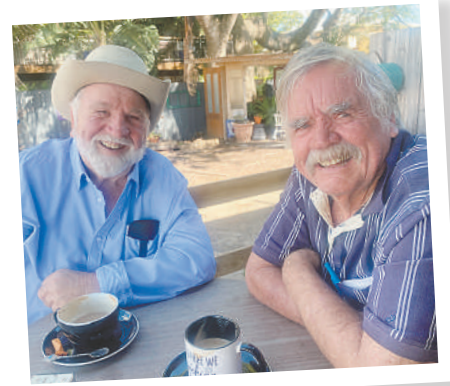
Spotted Dog launches new menu plus save 25% off your bill

YOU can save 25% off your bill (up to \$50) at the Spotted Dog by presenting the advertisement on this page – offer ends 30 November.

The café operates each morning from 8.30am, the bistro has lunch specials from 11.30am and the dinner menu is available until 8.30pm every night.

If you are a sports lover there are big screens with live sports action.

The Spotted Dog is at the Railway Hotel in Perry Street, North Bundaberg. Phone 4151 3247.



Enjoying a coffee at Oodies Cafe in North Bundaberg are former Mayor of Burnett Council Ray Duffy and owner of The Globe Hotel John Woodward.

Dine by the river at Bundy Social Club

IT'S NEW and it's proving very popular with locals and visitors to Bundaberg.

The Bundy Social Club at the Kennedy Bridge end of Quay Street has great specials every night.

Monday is a two for \$40 with six different dishes to choose from.

There is a BBQ share platter on Tuesday nights for \$35 with minimum of two.

Wednesday is Burger Night, two for \$30.

Thursday is free topper nights with any main size steak or schnitzel meal.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon enjoy a bar snack platter.

Bring the family Sunday nights when kids can enjoy a free meal from the kids

menu with every full price main purchased. Bring the family. Check out the website bundabergsocialclub.com.au



Sydney visitor Louise De La Harpe is ready to order lunch and enjoy the Burnett River view at the Social Club.

Thai Tulips closes after 25 years

DORREEN and Phinit started Thai Tulips in 1999 in Bourbong Street next to Pizza Hut.

They relocated their restaurant to Takalvan Street in 2004. Their two children Samuel and Isabella worked alongside their parents developing valuable skills in both the kitchen and front of house.

Many memories were made as they balanced school, sports, and play - Thai Tulips became their second home.

Dorreen and Phinit said "It is with a heavy heart that we announce the closure of Thai Tulips Restaurant.

To each and every one of you who has supported us over the years – thank you. Your loyalty, patience, and kindness have meant the world to us".



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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.

The Turtle Time Line

Each year from November to March, Mon Repos Beach near Bargara becomes an abstract painting of turtle tracks as Mother Turtle hauls herself up the beach for nesting, while a couple of months later the baby hatchlings take the first steps of their long journey as they scurry down to the sea.

Have an up close Turtle Encounter on a ranger-guided tour, whether watching Mother lay her clutches from November, or in January to March, form a tunnel of lights to show babies the way to the ocean (only one in 1000 will survive to maturity).

Mon Repos Turtle Encounter is the only ranger-guided tour available on the East Coast and is instrumental to research and conservation.

The 2024/2025 nesting season was record breaking – 519 turtles were recorded nesting at Mon Repos including loggerheads, flatbacks and green turtles which are the highest numbers in 50 years.

Hatchlings rely on natural moonlight to find the sea and are often disoriented by artificial lights.

Tickets go on sale from September and advance bookings are strongly recommended.

Further information

bundabergregion.org/turtles

<https://book.parks.qld.gov.au/>

[mon-repos-nightly-turtle-encounter](#)



Mon Repos Turtle Centre is open all year round to share insights into the unique journey turtles and people have taken at this special beach in Bundaberg.



The waters off Lady Musgrave and Lady Elliot Islands are home to turtles year round including the endangered loggerhead turtle, green sea and flatback, which all nest and hatch on Mon Repos Beach.

Bundaberg Tourism has a new garden home

BUNDABERG'S Visitor Information Centre has now moved. Previously located behind the Bundaberg Rum Distillery, the centre was officially relocated in June and can now be found within the Hinkler Hall of Aviation.

Situated in the Bundaberg Botanical Gardens, the new location provides greater convenience for travellers, placing visitor services alongside key attractions such as the Fairymead House Sugar Museum, Bundaberg Museum, the Japanese Gardens and the Hinkler Hall of Aviation.

Bundaberg Tourism CEO, Katherine Reid said that visitor services remain a vital part of the tourism landscape.

"Combining the Visitor Information Centre with Hinkler Hall of Aviation allows us to reallocate funds from bricks and mortar operations into high-impact destination marketing, targeting potential travellers while they're still dreaming and planning, not just after they've arrived," said Ms Reid.

Volunteers who remain central to the centre's operations, were instrumental in the transition to the new location, assisting with the set up and preparation of the space ahead of the opening.

Bundaberg's Visitor Information Centre is open seven days from 9am-3pm for expert advice, maps and recommendations ensuring visitors make the most of their time in the Bundaberg Region.



Brenda May from Bundaberg Tourism in the new centre which features a modern layout with improved accessibility.

Interactive workshops inspire young minds

CQUNIVERSITY Bundaberg will once again open its Makerspace these school holidays, offering a series of interactive workshops designed to inspire young minds through creativity and technology.

Running from 29 September to 3 October 2025, the program is open to children aged 4 to 16 years and features a variety of fun, hands on sessions that are both fun and educational. Activities include introductions to robotics, drone challenges, coding, creative construction and more.

Each workshop is just \$20 per child and provides an exciting opportunity to build valuable problem-solving skills while fuelling imagination and innovation.

Spots are limited, organisers recommend

booking early to avoid disappointment.

Bookings can be made via CQUniversity's event portal at <https://payments.cqu.edu.au/Events/menu>

SESSION TIMES:

Monday, 29th September

10-11:30am: *Robot Mania!* (8-16 years)

12:30-2pm: *LEGO® Robotics: Dragster Dash!* (8-16 years)

Wednesday, 1st October

10-11:30am: *Coding Adventures* (4-10 years)

12:30-2pm: *Drones (Basics) | Level 1* (8-16 years)

Friday, 3rd October

10-11:30am: *Drones (Advanced) | Level 2* (8-16 years)

12:30-2pm: *LEGO® Robotics: Amusement Park* (8-16 years)



New developments at Bargara Golf Club

Bargara Golf Club has been given the greenlight to move ahead with plans for two major beachside developments after a two-year pause. At a General Meeting held in July, club members voted in support of authorising the board to proceed with the next stage of planning for the first of two centenary developments.

The first plan is to develop a 7000m² site on the northern tip of the golf course into a 5-level residential complex- housing 48 senior living apartments, a tropical style club house and buggy sheds.

Greg Wilson, a director of Club Property Solutions, the Club's advisor and transaction partner said the project would have a unique resort environment

"Residents will be living literally on the golf course with all the club's leisure and hospitality facilities easily accessible on foot or by a short buggy ride," said Wilson.

The seniors living apartments will be developed into two boutique buildings of 24 apartments in each. Made up of 2 and 3-bedroom apartments with mostly ocean or golf course views the buildings will be separated by a landscaped recreational and pool deck. The buildings will also include undercover parking at ground level.

The Club's General Manager Ian Witt highlighted that the Club's existing buggy sheds have been an important aspect of deliberation in planning the project.

"The buggy sheds are a separate project in itself," said Witt, "This is a particularly important matter for our members, so we've wanted to ensure we get it right."

The second project would see the club's existing licensed club site located opposite the course at 120 Miller Street, redeveloped into a 6-level mixed use facility. Upon completion the redevelopment would include



Bargara Golf Club's Northern Tower (above) and Southern Tower (right).

extensive new hospitality and function facilities, as well as 100 resorts style rooms for short stay accommodation.

The two developments were approved by Bundaberg Regional Council in 2023 and together are expected to cost more than \$100 million bringing a major economic boost to the region. These projects are not only a win for local tourism and the community but will position the Bargara Golf Club for a long-term future.

Construction will likely begin early next year with completion targeted for 2027.



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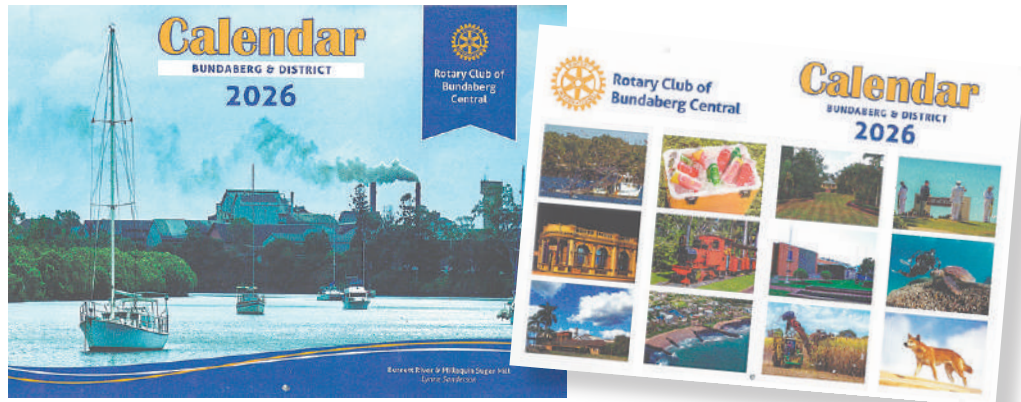
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Rotary's new calendar is a beauty!



Yes, it's out now! Bundaberg Central Rotary Club's 2026 calendar is on sale, from a club member outside Chemist Warehouse or one of these venues: Dymocks, Northside Produce, Kepnock Butchery, Oodies, Coles Kensington and others. The photographs are stunning and supplied by members of the Bundaberg Photographic Group. (Check out Tracey Olive's superb marine photographs.)

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Stellar line-up for this year's festival

ORGANISERS of Town of Seventeen Seventy's Agnes Blues, Roots & Rock Festival have proudly announced that crowd favourite 8 Ball Aitken will return to the festival's Marquee Stage in 2026. A cornerstone event for the region, the festival will run from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 February at the SES Grounds.

8 Ball is internationally recognised for his signature blend of swamp blues, soul rock and groovy slide guitar. He has built a loyal fanbase and recently topped the AM-RAP Regional Charts with Nightbird, the title track of his new collaboration album, written and recorded with soul singer Taya Chani.

"I first saw 8 Ball when he was young, hairy and straight outa Brisbane. Now he's all grown up and going global. Unstoppa-

ble!" said Agnes Blues Fest 2025 headliner Ross Wilson.

8 Ball will be joined by a stellar line-up of performers including multi-award nominated singer-songwriter Kissing The Flint, ambassador artist Minnie Marks, Mitch King and Craig Atkins.

Since its launch in 2008, the annual festival has become a beloved fixture in Queensland's music scene, while also making a lasting positive impact on the local community and environment.

Proceeds from the event will go directly to local organisations including the Agnes Water SES, Discovery Coast Environment Group, the local Lions Club and the annual 1770 Festival.

Tickets are on sale now at www.agnesbluesandroots.com.au/tickets

Dive Spear and Sport 1770 joins Project ReCon to tackle ghost fishing gear



On the water and on a mission, the Dive Spear and Sport 1770 crew are helping track and tackle ghost fishing gear as part of Project ReCon. (Image supplied.)

DIVE Spear and Sport 1770 has joined the fight against ghost fishing gear, becoming an official host vessel for a Project ReCon GPS buoy.

The initiative, run by Tangaroa Blue Foundation in partnership with Satlink, repurposes donated commercial fishing GPS buoys to track abandoned fishing equipment, often too large or heavy to remove immediately, that poses a major threat to marine life.

Earlier this year, the local team hauled a Fish Aggregating Device from Lamont Reef containing 500 metres of rope, nets, buoys, and a GPS unit that had drifted from overseas waters. That GPS unit was refurbished

and put back into use through Project ReCon.

With the new buoy on board, Dive Spear and Sport 1770 can now mark ghost gear during reef trips so recovery crews can return later to safely remove it.

"We see firsthand the impact ghost gear has on the Southern Great Barrier Reef, so being able to play a direct role in locating and removing it is an incredible step forward," said Director Carmen Bolton.

More information on Project ReCon can be found at www.tangaroablue.org or by following Dive Spear and Sport 1770 at www.dss1770.com.au



A festival favourite, 8 Ball Aitken, will return to the Marquee Stage in 2026.



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8 Ball Aitken
Minnie Marks
Kissing The Flint
Mitch King
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WWW.AGNESBLUESANDROOTS.COM.AU

No rest on the way to Everest

Mount Everest is Earth's highest mountain above sea level. It lies in the Himalayas and marks part of the China – Nepal border at its summit.

Its height was most recently measured in 2020 by Chinese and Nepali authorities as 8,848.86 m (29,031 ft 8+1/2 in).

Mount Everest attracts many climbers, including highly experienced mountaineers. There are two main climbing routes, one approaching the summit from the southeast in Nepal (known as the standard route) and the other from the north in Tibet.

As of May 2024, 340 people have died on Everest. Over 200 bodies remain on the mountain and have not been removed due to the dangerous conditions.

Kevin Hill is a well-known photographer in Bargara. Known online under the pseudonyms James and Jimmy Scaboo (a nod to his father's nickname), Kevin shares surf shots, wildlife photography and sunrise landscapes.

His work can be found in several places including local community pages where he documents everything from birds in flight to the whales that regularly grace Bargara's shores.

Earlier this year Kevin travelled to Nepal to support a friend, Tim Linner, who was competing in the Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon. Having been before, Kevin acted as a guide, helping to navigate the high-altitude terrain while soaking in the breathtaking landscape. Held each year on 29 May, the marathon commemorates the historic first ascent of Mount Everest by Tensing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary.

"It was absolutely amazing," said Kevin, "We had the most wonderful three weeks. We planned it properly, did a lot of research



Kevin takes in the scenery near the base camp at Mount Everest.

before we went to make the most of every minute."

It was the trip of a lifetime for Kevin and his friend.

"The scale of the mountains blows your mind. You look up and you see the top of the mountain, you think, wow, that's high. Then you look above it, and it just keeps going up to 8000 metres. It was amazing!" he exclaimed.

Among his most unforgettable experiences was standing on a Himalayan peak watching an eagle soar past.

"It took us two hours to climb up there,

and that eagle just floated up in minutes. My friend caught the perfect photo of it. It's a memory I'll never forget, and I have it forever," said Kevin.

"That's why I take photos, because the photo is the memory, the split second of something that is just amazing," he continued.

After visiting many places across Australia and the world, it is Bargara that has always remained Kevin's favourite place for photography.

"I hit the beach every single morning to do the sunrise. Bargara it's the best place I've

seen, and I have been all around the world. Of all the places we've got the best sunrises," said Kevin.

For Kevin, photography isn't just about capturing beautiful images, it's about living with intention. "You welcome each day, you make the most of each day, and if you've got good memories. Well, that's what life's all about," said Kevin.

He's already planning a return trip to Nepal next year. This time, he is hoping to compete in the marathon himself.

"I want to be the oldest person to do it" explained Kevin.



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Bundaberg families will soon benefit from a state-of-the-art childcare facility, with Green Leaves Early Learning opening a new centre on Bourbong Street, built by Hutchinson Builders

The project brings together national childcare provider Green Leaves Early Learning and construction company Hutchinson Builders, with both organisations highlighting the importance of the new centre to Bundaberg's future.

Green Leaves, which has 67 centres operating across Australia, will make its Bundaberg debut with the Bourbong Street

“Our purpose is to provide early education and care that exceeds traditional standards, and we’re delighted to bring our passionate and professional team to Bundaberg,” he said.

The new centre will be open from 6:30am to 6:30pm, Monday to Friday, and will feature a range of programs designed to enrich children's learning and development. These include culinary classes with an in-house chef and a suite of extracurricular activities such as languages, music, dance, sport, STEM, yoga, and movement.

Parents will also be able to enjoy a dedicated lounge space within the centre. Complete with barista-made coffee and chef-pre-

Green Leaves' decision to establish in Bundaberg reflects the organisation's commitment to expanding its footprint in regional communities. "We're committed to opening Green Leaves centres in more and more communities across Australia to give families choice," Phil Hay, Head of Marketing, said.

Construction of the facility is being led by Hutchinson Builders, known locally as Hutchies. Founded in Brisbane in 1912, the family-owned company has a long history in Bundaberg, delivering landmark projects such as the Bundaberg Brewed Drinks facility, Knauf Plasterboard Factory, the Bundaberg Aeromedical Base, and multiple emergency service stations.

Hutchies said the Bundaberg Green Leaves project is designed to create “inter-

“We’re determined to create long-term value by supporting local jobs, industry, and training opportunities, and the Green Leaves project is no exception,” Richard Boyes, Hutchies Project Manager, said.

Bundaberg families can already register their interest in the centre, with tours set to be offered in the lead-up to the December 2025 opening.

The arrival of Green Leaves adds to the region's growing education and childcare offerings, while also bringing new life to a site that carries deep significance in Bundaberg's collective memory.



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The image is a promotional graphic for Hutchinson Builders. It features a blue background with a black laurel wreath in the top left corner containing the year '1912'. The main text reads 'Building the next century' in large white letters, followed by 'The Hutchies way' in smaller white letters. At the bottom, there is a black horizontal band containing the 'HUTCHINSON BUILDERS' logo in white, with 'Established 1912' written below it. In the bottom right corner, there is a search bar with the text 'Search Hutchies' and a magnifying glass icon.

Queensland farmers navigate a shifting agricultural landscape

By Mellissa Harney

FROM the inland red soils of Coalstoun Lakes to the cane fields of Mossman and the orchards of Bundaberg, Queensland's farmers are rethinking the future of their land.

Market shifts, climate pressures, and changes in processing infrastructure are prompting growers to experiment with new crops, diversify income streams, and, in some cases, return to crops not seen in their districts for generations.

In Coalstoun Lakes, fourth-generation peanut and grain grower Ben Rackemann is among the first in the region to trial sugarcane. According to ABC Rural, the \$500 per hectare incentive from Isis Central Sugar Mill is designed to expand cane production further inland, where it has not traditionally been grown.

Rackemann sees the move as a calculated risk. "We've got the water, and it's about finding out if sugarcane can be another income stream," he told the ABC.

The first harvest is expected in 2026, marking a departure from the area's long-held focus on peanuts and cereals.

Mossman changes from cane to small crops

In far north Queensland, farmers in Mossman are facing the opposite challenge. As reported by ABC News, the closure of the Mossman sugar mill in 2024, after more than 125 years of operation, has forced growers to truck cane more than 100 kilometres to the Mulgrave Mill.

The Queensland Government has offered a \$12.5 million support package, split between freight subsidies and transition

assistance, but many growers remain uncertain about the future. Some have turned to alternative crops, trialling coffee, ginger, tropical fruits, and even bana grass, a tall, fast-growing plant with potential for biofuel production. Deputy chair of Queensland Cane, Agriculture and Renewables, Don Murday, told the ABC that bana grass is still a year or two away from being a commercially viable option.

Bundaberg, once known as the sugar capital of Australia

Bundaberg, once known as the sugar capital of Australia, offers another perspective on change. While cane still grows in the district, large areas of farmland have been converted to macadamia orchards and avocado farms.

The region now produces nearly 70 per cent of Australia's macadamia crop, much of it destined for export markets in Asia. Government investment in new processing facilities has supported this shift, and many growers welcome the stability and returns tree crops can offer compared to the volatile sugar market.



Macadamia nut harvesting.



Isis Central Sugar Mill

Innovation in Bundaberg is not limited to horticulture. The region has also been identified in a federal government announcement as a potential hub for producing sustainable aviation fuel from agricultural waste, including sugarcane by-products.

This emerging industry could add another layer of value to the region's agricultural output, while supporting broader renewable energy goals.

Queensland's sugarcane industry has long been central to the state's economy, culture, and identity. According to the Queensland Farmers' Federation, sugarcane is grown on around 360,000 hectares across the state, with uses ranging from sugar and ethanol production to bioplastics and renewable energy.

But as the contrasting stories from Coalstoun Lakes, Mossman, and Bundaberg show, the sector is not static. In some regions, cane is being rediscovered; in others, it is giving way to new crops or industries entirely.

What unites them is a willingness among farmers to adapt, a trait that will shape not only the future of Queensland's agricultural economy but also the communities built around it.

QUEENSLAND SUGARCANE - FAST FACTS

(Source: Queensland Farmers' Federation)

- **Area under cultivation:** 95% of the 378,000 hectares of sugarcane grown in Australia is in Queensland
- **Production regions:** Coastal strip from Mossman in the north to the New South Wales border
- **Annual harvest:** Around 30–35 million tonnes of cane
- **Uses:** Raw sugar, molasses, ethanol, bioplastics, renewable energy, and animal feed
- **Processing:** About 19 sugar mills operate in Queensland, most near cane fields to reduce transport costs
- **Economic impact:** Sugarcane is the second largest agricultural export in Queensland, and Sugar is worth \$2.5 billion to the Australian economy each year
- **By-products:** Bagasse (used for electricity generation), filter mud (used as fertiliser)

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Pat Smith History Room

A heartfelt tribute was paid to late historian Patricia (Pat) Smith of Mount Perry on Saturday June 14, with the official dedication and naming of the Pat Smith History Room at the Pat Augustine Cultural Centre.

The event recognised Pat's extraordinary work, of more than 53 years, establishing and maintaining Mount Perry's History Room, home to an extensive collection of maps, records, photos, family histories and historical data that persevere the region's rich heritage.

Friends, family, and community members gathered for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in Pat's honour. The day was described by those who attended as a fitting celebration of a woman remembered as both a "local legend" and a tireless custodian of Mount Perry's past.

Pat has been described by those who knew her as a woman who was down to earth. She was kind, caring, thoughtful and practical. In 2023 Pat was awarded Mt Perry's Local Legend Australia Day Award in recognition of her services to the community of Mount Perry.

"She was a very confident person. She could immediately engage in conversation with someone she'd never met before and whatever she put her mind to she gave it everything she could," said Pat's husband Lewis.

Lewis is proud to know that Pat's many years of work have been recognised, and her memory will live on through the Pat Smith History Room.

"I'm extremely proud, this is something she really deserved, she put so much into it,

for so many years," said Lewis.

Alongside the dedication, visitors also enjoyed the opening of an exhibition of stunning works by the MP Quilters, adding to the occasion's atmosphere.

"It was a touching day," said Helen Downs of the Shelly Kelly Gallery, located in the same building as the Pat Augustine Cultural Centre.

"There were lots of old friends and new connecting and catching up again after a time. It was a happy event for all," she continued.

Pat Smith passed away in September 2024 leaving behind a remarkable contribution to the community of Mount Perry that will continue to inspire for generations. The Pat Smith History Room now proudly bears her name, ensuring her legacy lives on.

Copies of this Bundy Local Newspaper have been made available in Mount Perry courtesy of McKays Fire and Rural Delivery Service
PHONE DAVID 041968 7408

MOUNT PERRY CAR AND BIKE SHOW

THE Mount Perry Car and Bike Club will return to Maynard Park on 11 October, for their annual Car and Bike Show.

Beginning at 8am, those attending can expect to see a wide range of cars, bikes and early motor engines on display. With a number of prizes on offer for participants entering vehicles in the show the club has been proudly making their own trophies for their shows for several years.

AXEMEN AND SAWYER WOOD CHOP



ALSO, on 11 October the Axmen and Sawyer Wood Chop will take place outside Mount Perry's Grand Hotel across the road from the Car and Bike Show.

A local favourite, the annual pub chop will begin from 10am. Each year axemen, women and children from all over Queensland travel to compete in the one-day event, usually followed by a BBQ Lunch and a night of entertainment at the Grand Hotel.

The Shelly Kelly Gallery will also open on 11 October and is a good time for visitors to check out the Pawtraiture exhibition.

Go to www.coastlinenews.com.au for more events in Mount Perry

FROM GOLD MINE TO ENERGY HUB

Mount Rawdon Pumped Hydro

A BOLD new chapter is on the horizon for Evolution Mining's Mt Rawdon gold mine near the town of Mount Perry, with plans underway to transform the site into a major renewable energy hub.

The Mount Rawdon Pumped Hydro Project (MRPH), a joint initiative between Evolution Mining and ICA Partners, proposes converting the open-pit gold mine into a pumped hydro renewable energy storage facility capable of generating up to 2,000 MW of power and storing more than 20,000 MWh of energy. That's enough electricity to supply approximately two million Australian homes. In addition to its energy potential, the Project is expected to deliver significant economic benefits to the region. Around 1,000 jobs would be created during

construction, with 30-50 long-term roles once operational.

In April, the Queensland Government invested \$50 million to progress feasibility works for the project through its publicly owned, low-emission energy company, CleanCo Queensland. Since then, CleanCo has been working with Evolution Mining and ICA Partners on the development of the project.

Pumped hydro works by using excess renewable energy to pump water uphill into a reservoir during periods of low demand. When demand increases, the water is released downhill through turbines to generate electricity. Mt Rawdon's existing open-cut pit will serve as the lower reservoir while a new upper reservoir will be constructed on



The pit void left behind from Mt Rawdon's Gold Mine that will be repurposed for the project.

a plateau west of the site.

If approved, construction is expected to begin in mid-2028.

Go to www.coastlinenews.com.au for more on this exciting project for Mount Perry.

Hello Sunshine – Mount Perry Races Coming Soon



THE 2025 Mount Perry Races will take place on Saturday 15 November, at the Mount Perry Racetrack with gates opening from 11:30am.

Mount Perry Race Club Inc have announced this year's theme for Fashions on the Field will be 'Hello Sunshine'.

Those attending can expect an action-packed day with five races taking place.

There will be a live performance from

Bundaberg singer song writer Mark Laverder. Food vendors will be available onsite, and the licenced bar will be open until late. Bush camping is also an option for those travelling to attend the event.

Tickets go on sale from 1 October and can be purchased online through <https://www.trybooking.com/DEBFM>

Be sure to follow the Mt Perry Race Club Inc on Facebook for updates.

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New Club House for Moore Park Lifesavers

After more than a decade of determination, planning and resilience, Moore Park Surf Life Saving Club is celebrating the completion of a brand-new clubhouse.

The new building has replaced the old clubhouse that had battled years of king tides, cyclones, torrential rain and dune erosion. The need for a new facility was first identified in 2010 in the wake of a king tide event that caused severe damage to the old building's structure. Fifteen years, countless proposals and several setbacks later, the new purpose-built facility now stands 50 metres behind the old site at 1 Surf Club Drive, Moore Park Beach. It is the same spot which housed the Club's first club house built in 1954.

Construction began in mid-2024 following close collaboration between the Club, government stakeholders, Surf Life Saving Queensland and Bundaberg Regional Council. Despite weather related delays, the project was remarkably finished in under 12 months.

The new beachfront facility boasts a patrol operations room, first aid areas, secure storage for rescue equipment, meeting and training spaces and modern amenities. The building also houses a canteen, and a light filled multi-purpose room ideal for community training sessions, workshops and events.

Moore Park Surf Life Saving Club President Vita Nakrosa described the new facility as being more than just a building.

"It's a symbol of what can be achieved through perseverance and spirit. It will allow us to deliver stronger emergency services, train more lifesavers and volunteers and of-

fer a welcoming space for every generation – from our youngest Nippers to our Silver Salties," said Ms Nakrosa.

The old clubhouse, which once was known to locals as a vibrant beachside restaurant was demolished earlier this year after large swells and a king tide further undermined its structure. The 2024/2025 patrol season was finished out of shipping container just as the club's founding members once did.

Completion of the new building was officially celebrated on Saturday, 30 August 2025, just in time for this year's patrol season starting 20 September. A ceremonial Grand Opening and official plaque unveiling is being planned for early 2026.

The new building will secure the Club's future.

"Not just structurally, but socially and financially – and will help us grow, connect and serve Moore Park Beach for decades to come," said Ms Nakrosa.



Moore Park Surf Life Saving Club President Vita Nakrosa.



The newly complete Moore Park Surf Life Saving Club building and the old clubhouse (insert).

Have you thought about becoming a lifesaver?

MOORE PARK Surf Life Saving Club are calling for new members ahead of the 2025/2026 patrol season. The club is currently taking expressions of interest across a range of roles, with opportunities available for children and adults alike.

For younger participants, the Nippers program offers surf safety skills and water confidence for children aged 5 – 13, while fostering teamwork in a supportive environment.

The club offers training opportunities and pathways for adults and teenagers over the age of 13 interested in becoming patrolling members.

There is also the Silver Salties program that offers a fun and inclusive way for people over 65 to stay active, make new friends and engage with the community.

For those interested in non-patrolling roles the club is also seeking volunteers to assist in support positions such as fundraising, training and event coordination.

To showcase what Moore Park Life Saving Club has to offer, Sign-On and Open Day, events will be held on 7, 14 and 20 September in their brand-new club house.

"These days are designed to welcome new members into the club, but we understand that many in the community will simply want to come and have a look around and we warmly encourage that," said Moore Park Surf Life Saving Club President Vita Nakrosa.

For membership information go to mooreparkslsc.com.au or visit Moore Park Surf Lifesaving Club page on Facebook to stay up to date.



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Past President delighted with new building

AFTER 17 years in the role, Leigh Schuch, stepped down as Moore Park Surf Life Saving Club's President in June 2024. After moving to Bundaberg in the early 1980's for work, she joined the Club in 1982 as an active patrolling member completing various surf lifesaving awards.

In July 2007 Leigh was awarded the position of Club President. Over nearly two decades of leadership, she guided the Club through some of its most challenging and defining moments. From the devastating damage to the beachfront clubhouse in 2010 to the challenges of Cyclone Oswald in 2013 and the sweeping changes of Covid-19, Leigh remained a steady and resilient force.

Her leadership during the 2013 Australia Day Bundaberg Floods was especially notable. The club's response- coordinated night rescues on the Kolan River, evacuations of residents using inflatable rescue boats, helicopter evacuations from Oakwood State School, first aid stations at North Bundaberg IGA and post-flood clean up, highlighting the club's vital role in the wider community.

Leigh helped steer members through

tough but necessary decisions to ensure the club's future, including the closing of the Club's bar and restaurant to secure financial stability. Under her direction, the club constructed a new gear shed in 2015, fostered community support through annual Christmas gift wrapping at Sugarland Shopping Centre and after years of advocacy and planning, laid the groundwork for the long-awaited new clubhouse, which opened in late August 2025.

"I would like to sincerely thank those members who have persevered and supported myself and the Club over the past 15 years," said Leigh. "It has certainly had its challenges to get this new clubhouse facility, but good things come to those who wait."

Leigh is proud of the Club's volunteers, athletes and lifesavers – their resilience, dedication, and commitment to patrols, nippers, surf sports, and proudly representing Moore Park Surf Life Saving Club at Branch, State, National and even World level championships and events.

"The people make the Club," said Leigh. Her favourite thing about being a part of the

Club is the shared outlook and common interests in both the beach and helping others and the satisfaction that brings.

"Learning new skills and the capacity to share this knowledge with others who are keen and eager to learn."



Past President, Leigh Schuch.

Federal Member for Flynn congratulates Lifesavers on opening of new Clubhouse

FEDERAL Member for Flynn, Colin Boyce, has congratulated the Moore Park Beach Surf Lifesaving Club on the opening of their new building. "This new clubhouse will be a terrific addition to the Moore Park Beach community," said Mr Boyce.

"I'm pleased the previous Coalition Government provided \$400,000 in funding for the this new facility.

"Well done to the Moore Park Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, I look forward to visiting soon," he said.



Colin Boyce.

Undercover market is a win for Moore Park

MOORE Park Beach's Undercover Market for Health and Happiness is a win for the local community. Held monthly inside the Moore Park Beach Community Centre the market features 30-40 indoor stalls and has quickly gained popularity.

Since the first event in April, attendees have seen the addition of new features included each month, keeping it fresh. May's event saw the addition of accomplished musicians and buskers and in June five outdoor stores were added.

Massage and relaxation treatments were also on offer by local practitioners. The July market featured published illustrator and painting teacher, Jane Moran as well as multiple store holders visiting from outside the region.

Amanda Glenn, Market organiser, local frequency healer and stone medicine practitioner whose business hosts the market explained, the idea for an undercover market was born out of a desire to support local businesses impacted by frequent weather cancellations.

"I felt sorry for the stall holders who would work hard to have stock ready and then be out of pocket, some with goods that would not keep," said Ms Glenn.

According to Ms Glenn once the idea was out for a weatherproof market it took on a life of its own.

"The community and our Community Committee have really supported me from the get go," said Ms Glenn.



Amanda Glenn, Market organiser

So far there has been no shortage of store holders or shoppers attending the market each month.



Jess from Soulful Textures

"Every community needs events it can rely on, and I'm pleased the undercover market is working out so well," said Ms Glenn.

The next Undercover Market for Health and Happiness will be held on 27 September at the Moore Park Beach Community Centre. For more information and updates check out the market's Facebook page.



Ash from Crafted by Ash

Moore Park Beach Art Festival 2025 Winners

THE Moore Park Beach Art Awards are a drawcard for all artists, young and young at heart and a highlight of the Moore Park Beach Arts Festival took place Saturday, August, 16. This year's festival winners are listed below.

ACRYLIC PAINTINGS

Sponsored by Moore Park Beach IGA

WINNER: Christine Wheatland (Flying Fox Swamp NT)

SECOND: Gabrielle Winten (1 fish 2 fish ...)

OIL PAINTINGS

Sponsored by Moore Park Beach IGA

WINNER: Sandy Scarborough (Blue Colander with lemons)

SECOND: Susan Feay (Sticks, I love sticks)

WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS

Sponsored by Brad Barth – McGrath Estate Agents

WINNER: Deb Travers (Just Thinking)

SECOND: Maxine Harwood (Its Time)

MIXED MEDIA PAINTINGS

Sponsored by Brad Barth – McGrath Estate Agents

WINNER: Tammy Ward (Sage meeting)

SECOND: Annette Blair (Sunset Calm)

DRAWING

Sponsored by MPB Community Association

WINNER: Steven Van Lierop (Cafe en Rouge)

SECOND: Stephanie Haak (Self Portrait)

ABSTRACT

Sponsored by MPB Community Association

WINNER: John Andersen (Between the Termite Mounds)

SECOND: Monya Grisini (Electric Dream)

SCULPTURE

Sponsored by Sapphire Realty

WINNER: Kathleen Valks (Threads)

SECOND: Warren Cole (Steampunk Lamp)

FIBRE ARTS

Sponsored by Moore Park Beach Tavern

WINNER: Kathleen Valks (Vessel)

SECOND: Kate Niblett (Forest Floorz)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Sponsored by The Pink House

WINNER: Andrea Deeley (Butterfly Dreamers)

SECOND: Izabella Ward (Sleepy Otter)

FIRST TIME EXHIBITORS

Sponsored by Bundaberg Rotary City Daybreak

WINNER: Phil Hall (Time and Tide)

SECOND: Monya Grisini (Mystical Night)

OPEN ACQUISITION

Sponsored by Moore Park Beach Arts Inc

WINNER: Edwina Rowan (Geisha)



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

As voted by people attending the art festival exhibition

Sponsored by Cr Jason Bartels

WINNER: Kelly Hazzard (Prince Billy)



MAJOR PRIZE

WINNER: Kathleen E Valks (pictured above).

Weddings

WITH BUNDABERG CONNECTIONS



On the other side of the lens for this wedding photograph is Maddelyn Batt known as Maddelyn Grace Photography. Maddelyn, the daughter of David and Sharyn Batt, married Zane, the son of Nathan and Tracy Trigg. The couple were married by Emma Jansen at Maleny Manor. Maddelyn and Zane enjoyed a two week honeymoon at Queenstown in New Zealand.

Photo by Morgan Parremore.



Hayley Keirnan became Hayley Todd at her wedding to Daniel conducted by Diane Donnarumma. Hayley is the daughter of Kym Gear and Wayne Keirnan and Daniel is the son of Kylie Todd. A reception was held at the Brothers Club.

Photo by DTM Photography.



Danielle Limpus and Brad Gill were married on 2 May by Trish Mears at Bargara. Danielle is the daughter of Jon and Gaye Limpus of Coral Cove and Brad's parents are David Gill and Kim Kempthorne from Brisbane. The happy couple left a few days later for a honeymoon at Hamilton Island.

Photo by Cassandra Kirk Photography.

Eleven Acres in Bundaberg was the venue for the wedding of Emma English and Jack Larter. Emma is the daughter of Michael and Lisa English and Jack is the son of Mark and Jasmyne Larter. The marriage celebrant was Emma Jansen. Emma and Jack selected O'Riellys Rainforest Retreat for a long weekend honeymoon.

Photo by Maddelyn Grace Photography.



The Hervey Bay Historical Village was the setting for the wedding of Karen Boulton and Eden Gorry. Karen is the daughter of Catherine and Peter Boulton and Eden's parents are Michelle and Peter Gorry with Rod Cook (father). Bundaberg marriage celebrant Trish Meares, travelled to the Bay for the wedding. The guests were invited to a reception at the Pialba Bowls Club. Mr and Mrs Boulton-Gorry celebrated their honeymoon at Hamilton Island.

Photographer: Jason Moore from Shockya Films & Photographics.

There's plenty of places to roll, ride and relax in the Bundaberg region

By Mellissa Harney

FAMILIES seeking free outdoor fun have no shortage of options in the Bundaberg Region, with a wide network of skate parks and pump tracks to explore.

From Innes Park and Burnett Heads to Childers and Gin Gin, locals of all ages can grab their boards, scooters or bikes and enjoy purpose-built spaces designed for active play.

Recent upgrades at Walla Street Skate Park in Bundaberg and Elliott Heads have made them standout attractions. Walla Street now features three connected skate zones with ramps, stairs and shaded seating, while Elliott Heads offers a street-style plaza complete with rails, ledges, banks and even a loading dock.

With facilities also at Moore Park Beach, Bargara, Woodgate and across suburban parks in Bundaberg, every community has a place to get moving.

Whether you're a seasoned skater or just looking for some fresh-air fun, the region's skate parks and pump tracks are ready to ride.

Where to skate in the Bundaberg region

Skate Parks

BARGARA
Nielson Park, 2 Fred Courtice Avenue

BUNDABERG
Walla Street, Central Park

BURNETT HEADS
Jack Strathdee Memorial Park, Neill Street

CHILDERS
Tennis Complex and Skate Park, Lord Street



ELLIOTT HEADS
River Esplanade, Lihs Street

GIN GIN
Gin Gin Recreational Reserve, May Street

INNES PARK
Innes Park Reserve, 5 Innes Park Road

MOORE PARK BEACH
Bob Nielsen Park, Park Drive

WOODGATE
Woodgate Community Park, Seventh Avenue
Pump Tracks

AVENELL HEIGHTS
Boreham Park, 43 Avenell Street
Jaycees Park, 141A Barolin Street

AVOCA
Houston Drive Park, 313 Branyan Drive

BRANYAN
Parklands Estate Park, Parklands Drive

BUNDABERG CENTRAL
Central Park, Walla Street

KALKIE
Nareen Estate Park, 2 Pettigrew Drive

THABEBAN
George Campbell Park, Dawn Parade

Bundaberg Technology Solutions relocates to new premises after 20 years

AFTER almost 20 years of service, Bundaberg Technology Solutions is moving from its long-time Bourbong Street premises to a new location at 3a Takalvan Street, next to Bundaberg Radiology.

The locally owned business has been a trusted name since 2005, providing computer repairs, sales, and support.

As an Authorised Service Provider for Apple, HP, and Acer, Bundaberg Technology Solutions has built a reputation for quality repairs, upgrades, and support for homes and businesses across the entire Wide Bay-Burnett region.

Business hours will remain the same at the new site, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am to 12 pm.

The owners say they are excited to welcome both loyal and new customers to the Takalvan Street store from September 1. For more information on products and services, visit www.bts.com.au.



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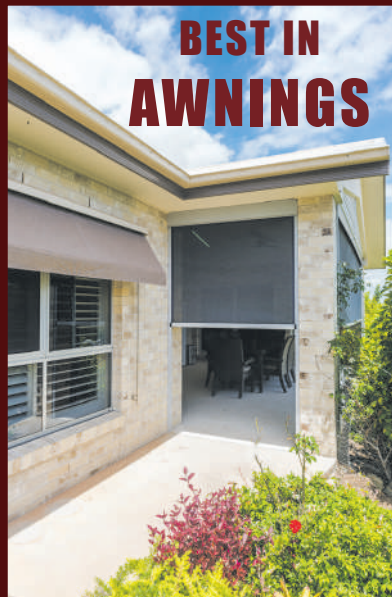


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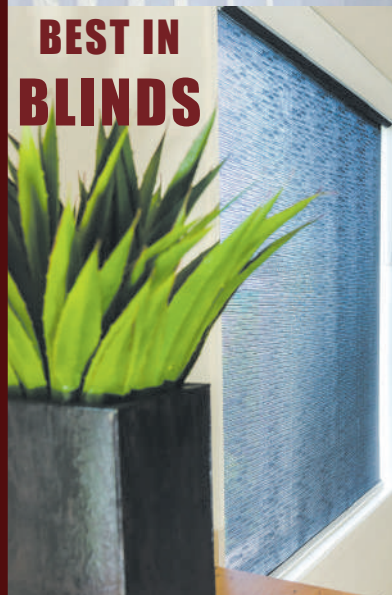
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