

Wh's On

HER COAST MAGAZINE

TAKE
ME HOME

97

SEPTEMBER
2025
MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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Williamson
— 55 Years

WHALE WATCHING
7 FUN FACTS

WESTERN DRESSAGE
WEEK

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Sounds of Rock Festival 2025

Get in Touch

If you have a local story to share, please contact us at whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com
We would love to hear from you.



Sounds of Rock Festival 2025

Regular Contributors

Christian Berechree
Andrew Sadler
Tania Comerford

Photography

Kim Parnell
Stock photography (Pixabay/Unsplash)
Contributed

Cover photo:
Estellar PR

What's On

FRASER COAST MAGAZINE

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t/a What's On Hervey Bay
ABN: 39 762 265 534

- ✉ whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com
- 🌐 whatsonfrasercoast.com.au
- ☎ 0467 303 171
- 📘 www.facebook.com/WhatsOnFraserCoast

"Whatever you are into, get into What's On Fraser Coast"

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What's On
FRASER COAST MAGAZINE



Note from the Editor

I've been involved with the Dunga Derby by Rally for a Cause since the very first Welcome Home in 2015. Held at Gataker's Landing Restaurant, Point Vernon, I attended as a photographer for the local newspaper.

That day, I heard the story of the Christensen family and their beautiful son, Cooper, who gained his angel wings at six years old after battling DIPG (Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma). Deeply moved, I became more involved over the years in various roles—media sponsor, photographer, fundraiser, and supporter.

Personally, I've known many people who've been touched by Rally for a Cause when they needed it most. The incredible work this charity does is only possible thanks to the funds raised through the Dunga Derby and the team fundraising events held throughout the year.

The Dunga Derby is a 4-day car rally adventure, with over 50 vehicles participating. It's a huge event, and I've been fortunate to attend the event several times over the years, in various capacities.

This year, I joined just the final night at Dusty Hill Winery at Moffatdale. Despite the rain, it was a night full of music, laughter, and heartfelt moments.

Dungarians are family—with huge hearts, and I'm proud to be one of them.

Turn to page 14 to read about this year's event.

Inside this issue!

Don't miss my article with Aussie music legend **John Williamson** as he hits the road for his tour, *'John Williamson – 55 Years – My Travellin' Days are Done.'* Catch him live at the Brolga Theatre on September 14.

A new Wearable Art category will take centre stage at this year's **Waste to Art Competition**, now in its eighth year. Entries are open now. Reimagine waste and turn discarded items into stunning, meaningful creations.

I chat with Jane and Damian Andrews about **Damian's journey and fight with MND**, as the couple speak out, raise awareness, and make some noise about the daily realities of living with MND and the support urgently needed.

Pop the kettle on, grab a bikkie, get comfy, and start reading!

Kim Parnell

Editor/Owner, What's On Fraser Coast



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Celebrating 55 Years of John Williamson

By Kim Parnell

Usually, when someone appears on the cover of *What's On Fraser Coast Magazine*, I'm lucky enough to have a proper chat. This time, however, proved a little trickier. When I began writing, my cover star—country music legend John Williamson—was off touring the nation on the Variety Bash, with barely a blip of phone service. I get it. After attending the final night of our own Dunga Derby by Rally for a Cause, I know that in some of our smaller towns, mobile reception is a tad sketchy. You practically need to climb the nearest hill, balance on tiptoe, and wave your phone around like a magic wand just to get a single bar.

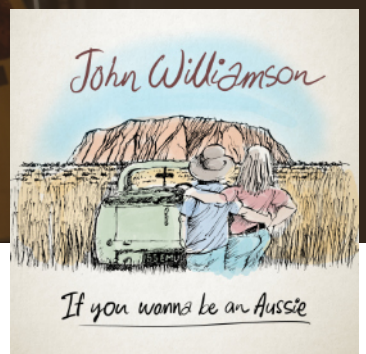
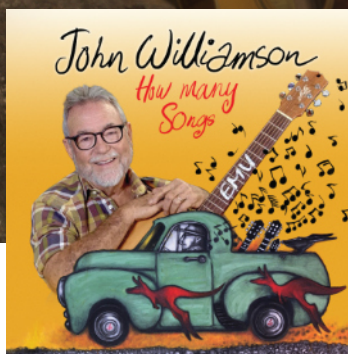
So, for this piece, we'll rely on press releases, a little history, and a whole lot of admiration to tell the story.

For more than five decades, the singer-songwriter has been the unmistakable voice of Australia. With his heartfelt lyrics, iconic melodies, and deep connection to the land, John has captured the soul of the nation like no other. From the cheeky charm of *Old Man Emu* to the stirring anthem *True Blue*, his music has become the soundtrack of the outback, the bush, and the Aussie spirit.

A passionate storyteller, environmental advocate, and cultural icon, John continues to inspire generations with songs that celebrate the beauty, resilience, and character of Australia.

This year marks a huge milestone for the artist as he celebrates his 55th year in the music industry and, in November, his 80th birthday. What better way to mark the occasion than with a national tour? The *55 Years – My Travellin' Days Done* tour kicked off at the Tamworth Country Music Festival earlier this year and will arrive at the Brolga Theatre and Convention Centre in Maryborough on September 14.

From humble beginnings as the son of a wheat farmer in the small Victorian Mallee town of Quambatook, it's an extraordinary achievement.



"It's hard to believe it's 55 years since I released 'Old Man Emu'. So, it seems fitting to make a fuss about it after COVID messed up my 50th year celebrations and touring. So, here I go again, one more time around Australia. I'm excited to have released 'How Many Songs' and a new kids' picture book this year. That means I'll have some new songs to add to the show, plus the old favourites I can't leave out. It's hard to stop when I keep people smiling." – John Williamson

Born on November 1, 1945, into a musical family, John grew up as the eldest of five boys. His parents often performed in local productions, including Gilbert and Sullivan. Music was a constant in their home.

In 1965, the family moved to Croppa Creek near Moree, NSW, where John began performing at a local restaurant. The first song he ever wrote was *Old Man Emu*. The catchy tune was such a hit with diners that he was often asked to sing it two or three times a night.

Five years later, in 1970, he took *Old Man Emu* to the TV talent show *New Faces* – and won. Part of his prize was a recording contract with Fable Records, who released the song as a single. It shot to Number 1 nationally, achieved gold status, and remains a crowd favourite to this day.

By 1981, John had signed with Festival Records. His song *The Breaker* marked a turning point, showing audiences were eager to hear Indigenous stories told with a genuine Aussie voice. Then came *True Blue* – his first truly defining song, and now one of the nation's most instantly recognisable anthems.

In 1985, John's songwriting brilliance was recognised when he took home his first Golden Guitar – APRA Song of the Year for *Queen in the Sport of Kings*. It was just the beginning of a long list of awards.

The following year, the Federal Government approached him to use *True Blue* as the theme for its Australian Made campaign. He re-recorded the track for his next album, *Mallee Boy*.

In 1992, John joined EMI Music Australia, releasing *Australia Calling – All the Best, Vol. 2*. Always using his music for good, he directed royalties from the single *I'll Be Gone* to the Salvation Army to help homeless kids. That same year, he was awarded an AM (Order of Australia) for his services to Australian country music and conservation. Alongside Slim Dusty, he also became a founding member of the Country Music Association of Australia.

In 1995, his book *True Blue* was released. At the launch, the Nine Network surprised him with a *This is Your Life* tribute, celebrating his remarkable career.

In 1997, John was inducted into the Roll of Renown (Country Music Hall of Fame) at the Australian Country Music Awards in Tamworth — one of the industry's highest honours.

The following year saw the release of *For Aussie Kids*, an album and video recorded live in Nyngan during the Variety Club 'Bash'. His duet *Raining on the Rock* with Warren H. Williams won Best Single at the Deadly Sounds Indigenous Awards.

In 2022, a life-sized bronze statue of John was unveiled in the heart of Tamworth, NSW, as a lasting tribute to his extraordinary contribution to Australian country music.

Over more than half a century, John has crisscrossed the nation, performing to hundreds of thousands of Australians. Along the way, he has written and recorded more than 500 songs, earned six ARIA Awards, twenty-eight Golden Guitars, an Order of Australia, and been inducted into both the ARIA Hall of Fame and the Australian Roll of Renown. His achievements also include selling more than five million albums and clocking over a hundred million music streams.

His voice has carried him to some of Australia's and the world's most significant events — from Steve Irwin's and Sir Donald Bradman's memorials to the first and tenth Bali Bombing memorial services in Bali. His stirring rendition of *Waltzing Matilda* has inspired crowds and fired up the Wallabies at Rugby World Cups and Bledisloe Cups.



In a twist that defies industry trends, John's largest and fastest-growing streaming audience is younger men. Perhaps it's because, in uncertain times, his songs remind Australians to be proud of their land, their people, and their identity. His passion for the country's landscapes, wildlife, and colourful characters continues to fuel his songwriting. Never afraid to speak out, his conservation anthems have left a mark on the nation's history — and its conscience.

At his concerts, John takes audiences on a journey across Australia, balancing cheeky larrikin humour with moments of heartfelt emotion. From *Rip Rip Woodchip* and *Galleries of Pink Galahs* to *True Blue*, his music resonates deeply with audiences of all ages.

John is not only a music legend but also a gifted author, charming young readers with his children's picture books. His latest, *Koala Koala*, was released in April by Penguin Books, adding another touch of Aussie magic to story time.

Now, as he embarks on the *55 Years – My Travellin' Days Done* tour, there's a sense that we may be witnessing the final lap of an extraordinary touring career. He still plans to pop up at festivals or special events — the stage is in his blood, after all — but this could be the last chance to see him on the road.

His influence on Australian music and the imprint he has left on the nation's cultural identity will continue to resonate for generations to come.



Beautiful Words artwork by John Williamson

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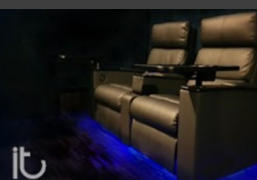
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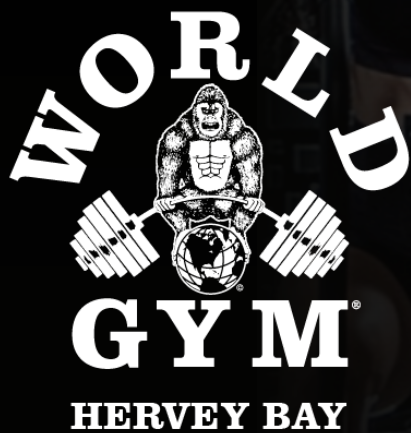
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Events for September 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm	2 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am	3 Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 6:45pm Pilates in Motion (Free) 5:30pm	4 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am	5 Trauma Informed Yoga (Free) 7-8am	6
7 Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 7:30am	8 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm	9 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am Riverbend Nature Workshop (\$5) 10am	10 Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 6:45pm Pilates in Motion (Free) 5:30pm	11 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am Lunch & Learn (\$10) 11:30-1pm	12	13
14 Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 7:30am	15 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm	16 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am Yoga with Vera (\$15) 12:30pm	17 Chat with Friends Morning Tea (\$5) 10:30am Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm Meditation (Free) 6:45pm Pilates (Free) 5:30pm	18 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am Rock Painting with Tash (Free) 10-12pm	19 Trauma Informed Yoga (Free) 7-8am	20
21 Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 7:30am	22 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm	23 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am Yoga with Vera (\$15) 12:30pm	24 Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 6:45pm Pilates in Motion (Free) 5:30pm	25 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am	26	27
28 Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 7:30am	29 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm	30 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am Yoga with Vera (\$15) 12:30pm	BOOKINGS FOR EVENTS REQUIRED Give us a call on 07 4194 3000 to book or visit the following link to book online https://www.hbnc.com.au/Pages/Events			SCAN ME! >>>

Creating Connected Communities

Planning events with impact

By Christian Berechree

Operations Manager

Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre

What would our events look like if we stopped worrying so much about the numbers?

I know this might feel counterintuitive and uncomfortable for event organisers out there, but attendance numbers and costs aren't everything.

Think about the best events you have attended.

Maybe they have gone from strength-to-strength for years or even decades on end.

Perhaps they have seemingly come out of nowhere, but immediately became iconic.

I would wager they have one thing in common – a clear and unwavering sense of identity.

There is no mistaking what they are, why they exist and the impact they have.

Long-lasting impact doesn't just happen.

It is carefully and deliberately achieved through bold decisions, calculated risks and powerful partnerships.



Christian Berechree

If you are organising a community event, here are some simple tips I can offer to help take it to a new level of impact.

Start with why – who, what, when, where and how will follow

Have a clear answer to the question of why you're running this event.

Think short, medium and long-term – what do you want to see happen in the community as a result?

This way of thinking should flow through to your marketing.

Don't just hit people over the head with dates and prices.

Sell them on the idea of why they should be there, and they'll move heaven and earth to make it.

Know who it's for

If you find yourself saying your audience is "everyone!", it's time to start from scratch.

Be as specific as you can – this will help your message cut through to the people you really want to connect with.

Do your research

There are plenty of simple tools you can use to gather feedback on your idea.

Look into online surveys and social media polls and use this data to shape your event planning.

It may even help secure the all-important funding you need.

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DUNGA DERBY by RALLY FOR A CAUSE



WETTEST EVENT ON RECORD FAILS TO DAMPEN TEAM SPIRIT AND FUN

By Scott Rowe
General Manager, Rally for a Cause

The love and generosity of the Fraser Coast community was on full display during the 11th annual Dunga Derby car rally, which raised \$591,000 to help locals during their time of need.

More than 260 participants hit the road from July 31 to August 3 for the four-day mystery tour to celebrate their fundraising efforts, which will allow award-winning charity Rally for a Cause to continue to help eligible recipients facing life-limiting medical diagnoses and other tragic circumstances beyond their control.

Despite being the wettest event on record, the weather couldn't dampen the fun and enthusiasm of the teams as they traversed 1400km of muddy track, state forests and national parks in pursuit of fun and fundraising.

Rally for a Cause general manager Scott Rowe said the event lived up to expectations with the Dungas reaching the second highest fundraising total in the event's history.



"Our Dungas are simply amazing. Despite tough economic times and the floods that impacted many Hervey Bay businesses in March, the teams still managed to raise \$591,000.

"This money will be used to sustain the charity's purpose for the next 12 months and will include support to eligible recipients to ease their burden during some of the most difficult times of their lives."

The event started for the first time in Maryborough and followed overnight stays in Coominya, Drake and Moffatdale before returning home with the Hervey Bay Esplanade parade and community celebration at Seafront Oval.

"We got wet, it was cold, many cars had to be towed out of a boggy camping ground in Drake, but it did nothing to dampen the spirits of this beautiful group with big hearts.

"We were also able to sprinkle some Dunga magic during our visits to these smaller communities by raising more than \$30,000 on track to help those in need.

"Our Dungas and the Fraser Coast community continue to be an inspiration through their heart and generosity in helping others less fortunate.

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to our Dungas, sponsors, those that donate time and effort and the community for their ongoing and loyal support of the event and the charity".

We're Celebrating - and You're Invited!

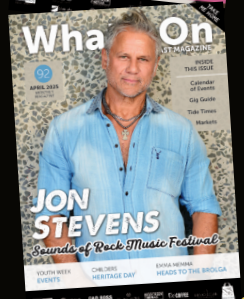
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Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2025

Tue, Sep 2

Free Tuesday Trivia

(Every Tuesday)

6pm

Team Size: 2-6 brainiacs per squad

Hervey Bay Boat Club

Tue, Sep 2

**Seed Library in the Garden:
Intro to Permaculture**

Presented by Fraser Coast Libraries

10am – 11am

Halcro Street Community Garden

Point Vernon

Wed, Sep 3

Cosentino

'Tricked – An Evening of Wonder'

7.30pm – 9.20pm

Brolga Theatre & Convention
Centre

Maryborough

www.brolgatheatre.org

Thu, Sep 4

The Simon and Garfunkel Story

7pm – 9pm

Brolga Theatre & Convention
Centre

Maryborough

www.brolgatheatre.org

Fri, Sep 5

**Fundraiser: 2025 Maryborough
Annual Golf Day**

Fraser Coast Mates

9am – 3pm

Ticketed event

www.eventshumanitix.com

Maryborough Golf Club

Fri, Sep 5

**The Bloom High Tea
By Fraser Coast Mates**

11.15am – 2pm

Ticketed event

Maryborough Golf Club

events.humanitix.com

Fri, Sep 5

**The Ultimate Morgan Wallen
Tribute Show**

18+ Show

Ticketed event

Doors open 8pm

Bay Central Tavern, Hervey Bay

Tickets – www.tickets.oztix.com.au

Sat, Sep 6

Hervey Bay Parkrun

(Every Saturday)

Brief 6.50 am

FREE 5km timed event

Urangan Pier

(Don't forget your barcode)

Sat, Sep 6

Maryborough Parkrun

(Every Saturday)

Brief 6.50 am

FREE 5km timed event

Cheapside St

(Don't forget your barcode)

Sat, Sep 6

**Sounds of Rock Music Festival
Hervey Bay**

From 1pm

Ticketed event

Tickets via www.tickets.oztix.com.au

Seafront Oval, Hervey Bay



Sat, Sep 6

Bauple Nut Bash

12noon – 9pm

Bauple Recreation Ground

18 Forestry Rd, Bauple

Find the event on Facebook

Sat, Sep 6

ABBA Show - Bjorn Again

From 8pm

Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre & Convention
Centre

Maryborough

www.brolgatheatre.org

Sat, Sep 6

**ONAM Celebration
Fraser Coast Malayalee
Association**

9am – 4.30pm

Ticketed event via trybooking.com

Yarilee State School, Urraween

Mon, Sep 8 - Tue, Sep 9

**Queensland Bulls coming
to the Fraser Coast**

(Presented by Queensland Cricket)

Newtown Oval, Maryborough

Entry: Free

www.qldcricket.com.au

Wed, Sep 10

Out of the Shadows Walk

5.45am

Lifeline Maryborough

Walk to remember those lost to
suicide

Gather at the Brolga Theatre,
Maryborough

Thu, Sep 11 - Sat, Sept 13

Orchid Show

Thur & Fri 8.30am to 4.00pm

Sat 8.30am to 1.00pm

Entry \$2.00, children free

St Paul's Memorial Hall

Cnr Adelaide and Ellena Sts

Maryborough



Thu, Sep 11

Normie Rowe – The Story So Far

2pm

Brolga Theatre & Convention
Centre

Maryborough

www.brolgatheatre.org

Fri, Sep 12 - Sun, Sep 14

Lassu Cosmic Cabaret

18+

Ticketed event

www.lassutheshow.com.au

Hervey Bay

Sat, Sep 13

**Trivia for Charity Night
Aussie Bogan Theme**

Fundraiser for Maryborough Animal

Refuge & Pet Boarding

6pm – 9pm

The Services Club Maryborough

Sat, Sep 13

**Hyne Timber Bridge 2 Bridge
& New Pontoon Opening**

(Wide Bay Rowing Club)

From 10.30am

1 Walker St, Maryborough

Find the event on Facebook

Sat, Sep 13

**2025 Mobility Scooter and
Wheelchair Convoy**

9am – 12pm - Pirate Theme

Scarness Park, Hervey Bay

Registrations from 9am

Sat, Sep 13 - Sun, Sep 14

Bonsai Show 2025

(Hosted by: Fraser Coast Bonsai
Group)

Cost involved

St Mary's Parish Hall

Bazaar St, Maryborough

Find the event on Facebook

Brought to you by What's On Fraser Coast

Gig Guide on page 18 | Full market list on page 31

Sun, Sep 14

**John Williamson – 55 Years
My Travellin' Days are Done**

3pm – 5.30pm
Brolga Theatre & Convention
Centre
Maryborough
www.brolgatheatre.org



Sat, Sep 20 - Mon, Sep 22

Pacific Coast Arabian Show

Presented by
Mackay & District Arabian Horse
Club
Maryborough Showgrounds &
Equestrian Park
Find the event on Facebook

Sat, Sep 20 - Sun, Nov 2

**Art Exhibition:
Spice of Life 2: John Leyland**
Gatakers Artspace – Free
311 Kent St, Maryborough
For times, head to:
www.gatakersartspace.com.au

Sat, Sep 20 - Sun, Nov 2

**Art Exhibition:
Antarctic, Going, Going, Gone**

By Mick Brennan
Gatakers Artspace – Free
311 Kent St, Maryborough
For times, head to:
www.gatakersartspace.com.au

Sat, Sep 20 - Sun, Nov 2

**Art Exhibition:
Twenty25 – St Mary's College**

Gatakers Artspace – Free
311 Kent St, Maryborough
For times, head to:
www.gatakersartspace.com.au

Sun, Sep 21

**Broadway Comes to the Fraser
Coast**

(Play it Forward)
Conducted by Jonathon Welch
3pm – 5pm – Cost involved
Maryborough City Hall Auditorium
Kent St, Maryborough
Find the event on Facebook

Sat, Sep 21

Dementia Walk Hervey Bay
(By Torbay Lifestyles & Care)

7am to 12 noon
2km or 5km walk
Pier Park, Urangan
www.memorywalk.com.au

Mon, Sep 22

Spring in the Gardens

Free family fun day
10am – 2pm
Hervey Bay Botanic Gardens

Fri, Sep 26 - Sun, Sep 28

**Toogoom Family Fishing
Competition**

9am – 5pm
Toogoom Community Hall
Head to
www.toogoomfishingclub.com.au

Fri, Sep 26

Fraser Coast Festable 2025

11am – 5pm
Celebrating diversity & inclusivity
in our community
City Park, Charles St, Pialba

Sat, Sep 27

Fraser Coast Music Workshops

Session 7: Performance
4pm – 8 pm
\$5 per person – Limited tickets
Kondari Hotel, Hervey Bay

Sat, Sep 27

2025 "One Day at a Time" Gala

Shining Bright for Kids
Ticketed event
Maryborough City Hall
Trybooking.com

Sat, Sep 27

Monster Trucks War on Wheels

Pre-program from 4pm –
Showtime 5pm
Ticketed event
Tickets from Eventbrite
Maryborough Speedway

Sat, Sep 27

**Junior Whiting Fishing
Competition**

8am – 12pm
Lower Dayman Park, Urangan
Take: Fishing equipment & water
bottle,
All kids register by calling
0493 065 729

Sun, Sep 28

Mary Poppins Festival

Free Family Event
9am – 3pm
Portside Precinct & Queens Park
Maryborough

If you have an event to add for future editions, please send details to whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com.

Disclaimer - All event details are correct at the time of print. Events can be cancelled, change location, have time changes, or be rescheduled without our knowledge. What's On Fraser Coast takes no responsibility for the cancellation of events. We also take no part in organising any event listed. We offer this calendar as a free community service and in good faith.



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GIG GUIDE

LIVE MUSIC ON THE FRASER COAST

September
2025

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What's On Fraser Coast

HERVEY BAY

Hervey Bay Boat Club

Fri 5, 6.00 pm, William Ramage
Sat 6, 6.00 pm, Brian Speirs
Sun 7, 2.00 pm, Darren Marlow

Fri 12, 6.00 pm, Joel Spence
Sat 13, 6.00 pm, Foreign Currency
Sun 14, 2.00 pm, Shaun Beckett

Fri 19, 6.00 pm, Shane Allsop
Sat 20, 6.00 pm, Frank Benn
Sun 21, 2.00 pm, Aaron Westlake

Fri 26, 6.00 pm, Derek F. Smith
Sat 27, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray
Sun 28, 2.00 pm, William Ramage

Hervey Bay RSL

Fri 5, 11.30am, Don Costa
Fri 5, 6pm, Sam Maddison
Sat 6, 8pm, Trainwrecks

Fri 12, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 12, 6pm, Shannon Young
Sat 13, 8pm, Kick Arse Country



Frank Benn

Fri 19, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 19, 6pm, Foreign Currency
Sat 20, 8pm, Red Betty

Fri 26, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 26, 6pm, Will Ramage
Sat 27, 8pm, The Lowdown
Sun 28, 12pm, Doug Edwards

Beach House Hotel

Fri 5, 9pm, Tash & Tones
Sat 6, 9pm, DJ Crooksy

Sun 7, 2pm, Aaron Westlake

Fri 12, 9pm, Dogwood Duo
Sat 13, 9pm, Dogwood Crossing
Sun 14, 2pm, Kevin Carroll

Fri 19, 9pm, Rhubarb Tarts
Sat 20, 9pm, DJ Nixon
Sun 21, 2pm, Franky Busta

Fri 26, 9pm, The Lowdown
Sat 27, 9pm, Dirt N Diesel
Sun 28, 2pm, Darren Marlow

The Clubhouse Hervey Bay

Fri 5, 6pm, TBA
Sat 6, 6pm, Don Costa

Fri 12, 6pm, Doug Edwards
Sat 13, 6pm, Shannon Young

Fri 19, 6pm, Will Ramage
Sat 20, 6pm, Mia Hinsch

Fri 26, 6pm, Kev Carroll
Sat 27, 8pm, Nick Rolfe

MARYBOROUGH

Carriers Arms Hotel

Sat 6, 8pm, Red Betty
Sun 7, 2pm, Open Mic with Dave & Dizzy

Sat 13, 8pm, Rhubarb Tarts
Sun 14, 2pm, Open Mic with Dave & Dizzy

Sat 20, 8pm, Trainwreck

Sun 21, 2pm, Open Mic with Dave & Dizzy

Sat 27, 8pm, TBC
Sun 28, 2pm, Open Mic with Dave & Dizzy

Maryborough Services Club

Fri 5, 9.00 pm, DJ Night
Sat 6, 8.00pm, Bad Attitude
Sun 7, 2.00pm, Maria Whittaker

Fri 12, 9.00pm, DJ Nixon
Sat 13, 8.00pm, Saltwater Cartel
Sun 14, 2.00pm, Derek Smith

Fri 19, 9.00pm, DJ Crooksy
Sat 20, 8.00pm, Lowdown
Sun 21, 2.00pm, Emma Newman

Fri 26, 9.00pm, DJ Nixon
Sat 27, 8.00pm, Dogwood Crossing
Sun 28, 2.00pm, Frank Benn
Sun 28, 2.00pm, Girl Friday

Maryborough Sports Club

Fri 5, 7.30 pm, Brad Sorensen
Sat 6, 7.00 pm, Kick Arse Country
Sun 7, 1.00 pm, Father's Day Lunch
Ryan Hurricane

Fri 12, 7.30 pm, Red Betty
Sat 13, 7.00 pm, Derek Smith

Fri 19, 7.30 pm, Neil Wenck
Sat 20, 7.00 pm, United Hockey
Banquet

Fri 26, 7.30 pm, Billy Guy
Sat 27, 7.00 pm, Wallaroo Banquet
Sun 28, 12.00 pm, End Of Month
Draws Maria Whittaker

*Entertainment is
subject to change
at any time

Where good food meets great views

Perched on the scenic Esplanade in Urangan, Bayswater Bar and Grill blends classic coastal charm with a vibrant modern dining experience. It's the perfect spot for locals and visitors alike to unwind over great food, good company, and arguably the best views in Hervey Bay.

The venue offers a relaxed, spacious setting with a menu that covers all bases - from fresh, locally sourced seafood and crowd-pleasing pub classics to wood-fired pizzas and house-made gelato. The drinks list is just as well-considered, with icy cold beers on tap, easy-drinking wines, and classic cocktails. Whether you're after a long lunch in the sun or drinks at golden hour, it's the kind of place you'll want to linger.

Weekly specials and events keep the vibe fresh: Trivia Tuesdays, Fish and Chip Wednesdays, Steak Night Thursdays, Lunch Specials, live music on weekends and family trivia on Sundays ensure there's always something happening. The venue also offers a dedicated gaming room along with TAB and Keno facilities for those after a bit of extra entertainment.

Bayswater has an easy-going charm – the staff are welcoming, the service is smooth, and the atmosphere strikes just the right balance between casual and refined. Dine indoors in comfort or take a seat on the verandah for uninterrupted views of the bay.



Whether you're a Fraser Coast local looking for your go-to spot or visiting town and chasing a great first impression, Bayswater Bar and Grill delivers. With some of the best views in the bay and a menu that keeps locals coming back, it's more than just a meal; it's a place to slow down and enjoy the best of the coast.

www.thebayswater.com.au

(07) 4194 6444

571 Esplanade,
Urangan QLD 4655

Instagram:

@bayswater_herveybay

Facebook:

@bayswaterhotel



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Have a whale watching adventure

Every year, Hervey Bay transforms into one of the world's most magical marine theatres, welcoming thousands of humpback whales to its calm, protected waters.

Between July and October, these gentle giants use the bay as a rest stop during their annual migration, offering locals and visitors a front-row seat to the ultimate whale watching experience.

Hervey Bay is often referred to as the whale watching capital of the world, and for good reason. Unlike other locations where whales pass by, here they linger, sometimes for days, nurturing calves, playing, and showing off their acrobatic skills. It's an awe-inspiring experience that never gets old, no matter how many times you've seen a whale breach right before your eyes.



Photo credit - Kim Parnell



Photo credit - Kim Parnell

Here are 7 fun facts about the whales of Hervey Bay:

1. Humpback whales can grow up to 19 metres long and weigh over 30,000 kilograms!
2. Whales sing! Their haunting, melodic songs can travel for kilometres underwater.
3. Calves are born in warmer northern waters, and Hervey Bay is a safe nursery zone.
4. Humpbacks don't eat during migration; they live off stored body fat.
5. They can launch their entire body out of the water in a behaviour called breaching.
6. Whales have individual tail patterns, much like human fingerprints.
7. Hervey Bay was declared the world's first Whale Heritage Site in October 2019 by the World Cetacean Alliance.

Whether it's your first time or your fiftieth, spotting a whale in Hervey Bay is always a thrill. It's nature, it's magic, and it's right here on the Fraser Coast.

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OF
HERVEY BAY

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We Got This -

Damian & Jane Andrews' Fight Against MND

Motor neurone disease (MND) was once considered rare. Many Australians had never even heard of it — until it struck their own lives or someone they knew. Today, MND Australia reports that every day in our country, two people are diagnosed, and two people die from the disease. At any given time, around 2,752 Australians are living with MND.

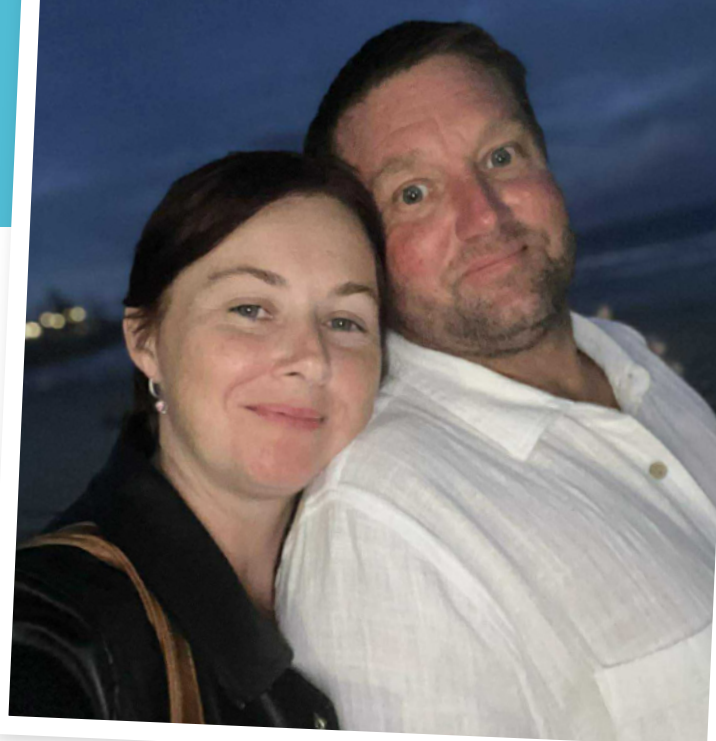
The lifetime risk of developing MND is approximately one in 300 by the age of 85, and this risk increases with age. Around half of all cases are diagnosed before the age of 60. Despite this, public awareness remains limited.

MND is not one single illness but a group of diseases affecting nerve cells called motor neurons — the messengers that carry signals from the brain to the muscles via the spinal cord, allowing us to walk, talk, swallow, and breathe. In MND, these neurons degenerate and die, causing muscles to weaken and waste away. The disease progresses at different speeds in different people, but on average, life expectancy after diagnosis is just two to three years. There is currently no cure.

The main medication prescribed is Riluzole, which may slightly slow progression, extending survival by a few months.

For Hervey Bay couple Jane and Damian Andrews, the statistics became personal in the cruellest way. Damian was only 42 when diagnosed.

"When you get diagnosed with this horrific disease, which doesn't affect your mind but slowly shuts your whole body down — and you're aware of it all — it's devastating," Jane says.



A fight for funding and research

Damian was put on a trial called The Lighthouse Trial, which was created in the UK but adopted in Australia. After nearly a year, the trial was scrapped. Funding ran out, and there wasn't considered to be enough evidence to justify continuing. "Three weeks after it ended, Damian's symptoms went downhill," Jane recalls. "But all he could think about was how he could help others."

The couple are now speaking out for greater government funding for MND research. "We need to figure out what's causing it, stop it, and find a cure," Jane says. Australian scientists are working on a promising new medication. Phase one trials had amazing results, but they can't go to phase 2 until they get government funding.

Without further funding, phase two can't happen. "Most money goes to Fight MND, which does incredible work with the Big Freeze, but it often falls to people living with MND to raise funds themselves," Jane says.

The MND and Me Foundation also supports families to improve quality of life, but Jane is adamant: "Let's find a cure. We need to back our scientists and put Australia on the map. It could be a game-changer."

Damian's diagnosis

Damian's first symptom was slurred speech. An MRI revealed scarring on his brain, thought at first to be from migraines. Jane pushed for more investigation. After four months waiting to see a visiting specialist at St Stephen's Hospital, Damian was referred to Brisbane for nerve testing.

Then came the call to return urgently. On 18 January 2024, at 5:30 p.m., they received the news no one wants to hear: "I'm going to give you the worst diagnosis I can — you have MND."

Damian, a carpenter by trade, was told he had to stop working immediately. His son had been his apprentice for six months. "Telling them I had to quit was one of the hardest things I've ever done," Damian says.

For Jane, the hardest moment was telling their children. Their youngest son, Charlie, is fully autistic. "He knows Daddy is sick but doesn't understand he's dying. We can't find a child psychologist who deals with both grief and autism."



Community strength

Damian was transferred to a Sunshine Coast neurologist passionate about MND, who got him onto the trial. But the couple were also facing financial stress. Jane's sister started a GoFundMe page, and then the Hervey Bay community rallied. Fuel vouchers, food vouchers, handmade gifts, and Dunga Derby by Rally for a Cause helped out by paying their bills for a year, which helped lift the burden a little.

"The generosity was overwhelming," Jane says. "Damian didn't think saying thank you was enough. We wanted people to see how they were helping, so we started a Facebook page, *Damian's Journey and Fight with MND*. We share the good, bad, and ugly — no sugar-coating. Other MND families follow it, and Damian's attitude inspires them. We call our supporters our MND Army."

They even created merchandise — including t-shirts featuring Damian's pride and joy, his Can-Am Ryker three-wheeler motorbike in MND colours called Bug — with profits going to Fight MND. "The bigger the army, the more awareness we raise," Jane says.

Damian adds, "I have two choices: sit on the couch and wait to die or make every day count. I've chosen the second."

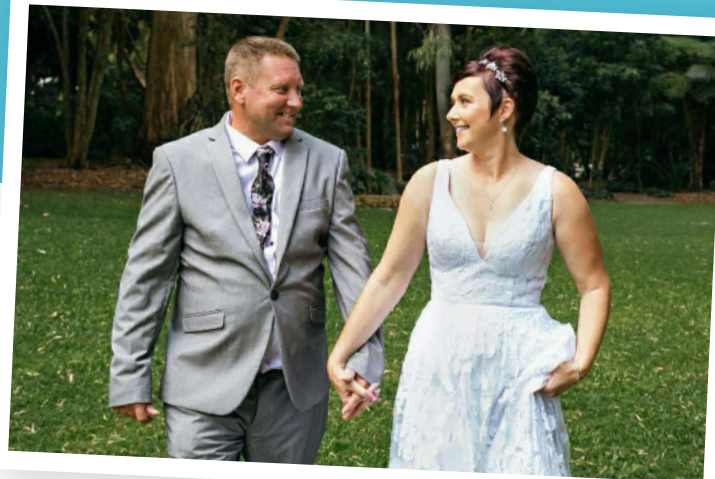
Living with Bulbar Onset ALS

Damian has Bulbar Onset Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis — meaning the disease began in his throat and vocal cords. This form has a shorter life expectancy, and doctors have given him 18 months to two and a half years.

His tongue muscles have weakened, making speech harder. Facial twitches, spasms, and painful neck cramps add to the challenges. Swallowing is increasingly difficult, and choking is common.

"It's a very heartbreaking disease," Jane says. "Damian is suffering physically, and to watch him suffer is horrific to watch."

The couple have three children with special needs and now receive NDIS support. They've had to tackle wills, life insurance, and superannuation to ensure they can remain in their home.



A love built on fate

Jane and Damian's love story spans 25 years. It began with a series of chance encounters — at a petrol station, a movie counter, and later a car event — before they finally exchanged numbers and never looked back.

Last month, they celebrated 20 years of marriage. "Damian is the most selfless person," Jane says. "He puts us first, always. He's an amazing dad. The kids idolise him, and so do I. He is so inspirational and just doesn't give up."

They share a motto: *We Got This*, and they each have the saying tattooed on their bodies. "Life's thrown us obstacles, but we've always faced them together," Jane says.

Making everyday matter

For Damian, life is about connection, purpose, and leaving something meaningful behind. Whether through charity rides, awareness events, or simply sharing his journey online, he's determined to make his time count.

And for Jane, it's about love, advocacy, and the hope that future families might hear a different story — one where MND is no longer a death sentence.

"We've got this," she says, "because we have each other, our family, our community, and our MND Army."

You can follow the couple's story on Facebook at *Damian's Journey and Fight with MND*.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with MND or would like to know more, check out these organisations:

MND Australia — www.mndaustralia.org.au

MND and ME Foundation — www.mndandme.com.au

Fight MND — www.fightmnd.org.au





OPINION PIECE: CULTURE

By Andrew Sadler

When growing up, I had this firm belief that I was the centre of the universe and nothing else mattered. As I got older, the world opened up and I discovered new, or in this case, old cultures.

When I travelled, I immersed myself in these cultures, it was almost like a door being unlocked within my psyche, and all this knowledge suddenly became clearer. I understand why historians are on a continuous knowledge hunt; it must be like the quickening to them.

When you work through the language barrier, you begin to find things in common with people from other cultures, and the world doesn't seem so scary anymore. Perhaps because of our European descent and probably more British, we have become ignorant of other cultures, countries and religions. We travel but expect everyone to speak English because we're only capable of speaking our own language. We want the overseas experience, but only as long as it's like home or a perfectly imagined world. The big flash swimming pool, luxurious hotel room with a flushing toilet, nice restaurant serving European style food that we can recognise, and the list goes on.

Some of my most memorable experiences are laughing around an open fire where food and warmth was created, sleeping under the stars in the frozen temperatures, and I'm not talking Hervey Bay cold. Eating food like camel, rabbit and some I couldn't identify, with nary a restaurant in sight.

What I may or may not be alluding to is bottom line, we are all part of this Human Race. The differences in land, culture and religion are really just subcategories in a subnote of history. Currently, we have a minority of people, supposed World Leaders, acting like little children in a playpen, fighting over a toy; they have become



hell bent on bringing their idea of dominance and subservience to the world, based on their own hate culture.

World domination might happen, but only for a short time. Eventually, people find what they have in common, and rebel and Empires will always crumble into the annals of history. Some through the force that was rendered upon them, and others through peaceful rebellion.

May we recognise first and foremost we are all Human Beings before anything else, because showing indiscriminate force against someone else creates hate and rebellion, which then creates the endless cycle that feeds these bullies and gives them the right they believe to beat up on another group that doesn't want to be submissive and give away their toys.

History tells us we are just Guardians of this world, perhaps we should act like we deserve it.

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Dancing in the sand at Western Dressage Week

Riders across the state are getting ready to pull out their best boots and prettiest saddle pads and saddle up for a week of "dancing in the sand" during Western Dressage week at the Maryborough Showgrounds this October.

The Fraser Coast is lucky to be one of the major hubs in Australia of the rapidly growing sport of Western Dressage, where horse and rider come together to display their connection and showmanship. Western Dressage takes the foundations of classical dressage and uses them to highlight the willingness, grace and versatility of the western horse and rider.

Though a young sport when compared to some more established equestrian events, Western Dressage has already proven itself to be a popular option for riders of all ages and skill levels. Catering to both youth and adult riders, and horses of all breeds, it is a sport where community and connection are just as important as skill and athleticism. The bond between horse and rider is the heart of the sport; every movement in every test is designed to highlight a horse's willingness and a rider's effectiveness. This focus on connection and versatility means the sport appeals to a diverse range of riders, bringing both competition and community for those involved.

The Fraser Coast Western Dressage association runs a variety of shows and clinics throughout the year, culminating in their Championship Show at the Maryborough Showgrounds & Equestrian Park. This year's event will be held from Tuesday, 14th through Thursday,



Photo credit - Van Der Stoep Photography



Photo credit - Van Der Stoep Photography

16th October, followed by the Western Dressage Association of Qld's State Show from Friday, 17th through Sunday, 19th October. The event is free for spectators, and the days normally run from approximately 8am to 4pm, depending on the number of entries.

Last year's event saw horses and riders from all around Queensland, and even interstate, come together to showcase their skills. The week was filled with a sense of community and camaraderie, of shared learning and growth, with riders supporting each other through the whole event, the arena filling with cheers and congratulations after every single test. The 2025 event promises to be more of the same - a chance for those who love the sport to not just perform at their best, but also share the joy of Western Dressage with each other and welcome new faces to the community.



Photo credit - Jim Whittaker

HERVEY BAY WOODCRAFTS CLUB

INVITES THOSE INTERESTED IN WOODWORK TO INSPECT THE CLUB'S UP TO DATE WORKSHOP AND SHOWROOM.

THE CLUB IS OPEN
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AND MOST PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FROM
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For those wanting to learn more about the sport, Western Dressage Week provides a wonderful opportunity to see horse and rider pairs compete in a variety of levels, with around 200 tests to be ridden over the course of the week.

To learn more about the Fraser Coast Western Dressage Association and Western Dressage Week, visit our Facebook page. To find out more about the sport of Western Dressage in Australia, see the WDA-AUS website: www.westerndressage.com.au.

Arise+Shine

with Tania Comerford

Wisdom BEFORE compassion

I encourage my clients to pause and step back and use wisdom before compassion. To not let emotion overrule logic (as it often does). Emotion always fires first, and then logic turns up in second place, when it's often too late.

I'm not suggesting wisdom instead of compassion. I encourage both in balance.

By proactively allowing the time to choose wisdom first - we bring in a balance to choose a healthy, compassionate response. So, we can respond logically rather than just reacting emotionally.

When we're emotional and we feel sorry for someone - this is sympathy and it's a red flag that we have tipped the scales to an unhealthy place. When we're emotional - we no longer see them as capable, responsible, empowered human beings - we can see them as not being able to solve their situation on their own. Or we're fearful they won't survive yet another crisis.



Tania Comerford

When we feel sorry for someone, we become emotionally driven and then often do the wrong thing - ironically thinking we're doing the right thing - and disempower them even more in trying to help them out. We often help others so that we feel better, rather than doing what's best for them.

When we use wisdom before compassion - we often realise we need to use tough love for the right reasons.

When we use wisdom before compassion - we realise it's best to give a hand up (advice or direction) and not a hand out (doing it for them).



When we use wisdom before compassion - we can break negative cycles and patterns rather than making them worse.

What are the areas in your life that you can implement using wisdom before compassion? It'll feel very uncomfortable in the short-term (because you're placing emotion last), but it'll be so worth it in the long-term.

Tania Comerford

Arise+Shine

Transformational Life Coach + Retreat Mentor

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9-1 Free Entry
Brolga
Theatre
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around the Fraser
Coast Region*



SOCIAL SNAPS

Out and about on the Fraser Coast!



SOCIAL SNAPS

Out and about on the Fraser Coast!



Odyssey Festival 2025
Maryborough Showgrounds
Photos by Kim Parnell





New fashion twist for Waste to Art in 2025

A bold new Wearable Art category and fashion parade is set to take centre stage in this year's Waste to Art Competition, with entries now open across the Fraser Coast.

Now in its eighth year, the annual competition invites people of all ages to reimagine waste by transforming discarded items into creative and meaningful works of art.

Deputy Mayor and Arts spokesperson, Cr Sara Diana Faraj, said the Waste to Art competition continues to challenge how we think about waste. "Art has the power to change how we see the world around us, even the things we throw away," Cr Faraj said. "It's inspiring to see how local artists breathe new life into old or unwanted materials, creating pieces that are both thought-provoking and visually striking. "Whether it's a sculpture made from scrap metal or a gown stitched together from old curtains, the Waste to Art competition invites people to imagine new possibilities from everyday materials. "The competition aims to inspire a shift toward a circular economy, where waste is reduced, and materials are kept in use for as long as possible."



Resource Recovery spokesperson Cr Michelle Byrne said the introduction of the new Wearable Art category aims to highlight the issue of textile waste, one of the fastest-growing waste streams globally.

"Each year, Australians send over 200,000 tonnes of clothing to landfill," Cr Byrne said. "This new category is a fun and

powerful way to raise awareness about clothing and textile waste. "Entrants are encouraged to think creatively and push the boundaries of traditional fashion - surprise us with how you transform unexpected items into bold, expressive, and wearable works of art.

"The goal is to spark a conversation about the waste we create in daily life and ways materials can be reused or repurposed. That could mean donating or selling items in good condition, repairing or upcycling into something new, or recycling items properly."

Participants in the Wearable Art category will showcase their designs during a live runway parade at the exhibition opening at Gatakers Artspace on Saturday, 15 November. All garments must be safe to wear and modelled by someone provided by the entrant.

Across all categories, artworks must be made primarily from items destined for landfill or sourced from op shops, tip shops, or second-hand stores. Judges will assess entries on creativity, durability, and demonstration of reuse and repurposing.

A \$5,000 prize pool in Buy Local Gift Cards is up for grabs, thanks to the generous support of sponsors Hyne Timber, Cleanaway, the Reuse and Recycle Group, and Nugrow.

Entry is free and open to Wide Bay residents. All artworks will be displayed at Gatakers Artspace in Maryborough from 15 November 2025 to 3 January 2026. The People's Choice Award will be announced at the close of the exhibition.

Key dates:

- Entries open: 31 July 2025
- Entries close: 16 October 2025
- Exhibition: 15 November 2025 - 3 January 2026
- Winners announced: 15 November 2025
- People's Choice winner: 3 January 2026

Find entry forms and more information at:

<https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/waste-to-art>

TIDE TIMES URANGAN

SEPTEMBER

Time	m	Time	m
1 0238 2.32		16 0418 2.48	
0850 1.50		1020 1.22	
MO 1606 2.81		TU 1656 3.35	
2256 1.67		2345 1.23	
2 0412 2.37		17 0535 2.72	
1010 1.41		1128 1.03	
TU 1715 3.00		WE 1755 3.54	
2355 1.47			
3 0518 2.54		18 0035 1.02	
1110 1.22		0627 2.97	
WE 1802 3.23		TH 1221 0.85	
		1841 3.69	
4 0038 1.25		19 0115 0.86	
0607 2.77		0708 3.17	
TH 1200 1.00		FR 1306 0.73	
1843 3.47		1920 3.77	
5 0116 1.04		20 0151 0.76	
0649 3.00		0745 3.30	
FR 1246 0.79		SA 1346 0.68	
1919 3.69		1956 3.78	
6 0153 0.84		21 0222 0.71	
0730 3.22		0818 3.38	
SA 1330 0.60		SU 1424 0.69	
1956 3.86		2028 3.74	
7 0230 0.66		22 0249 0.68	
0811 3.41		0849 3.41	
SU 1415 0.48		MO 1459 0.74	
2032 3.96		● 2057 3.64	
8 0307 0.53		23 0315 0.67	
0853 3.56		0918 3.41	
MO 1459 0.43		TU 1531 0.84	
○ 2109 3.96		2125 3.50	
9 0344 0.46		24 0338 0.70	
0935 3.65		0946 3.38	
TU 1542 0.48		WE 1603 0.97	
2145 3.84		2150 3.32	
10 0419 0.47		25 0401 0.76	
1018 3.66		1015 3.32	
WE 1625 0.62		TH 1635 1.14	
2222 3.62		2216 3.11	
11 0453 0.58		26 0427 0.88	
1104 3.59		1044 3.21	
TH 1711 0.85		FR 1710 1.33	
2300 3.32		2245 2.88	
12 0529 0.75		27 0454 1.04	
1156 3.46		1118 3.06	
FR 1803 1.13		SA 1752 1.53	
2346 2.97		2318 2.64	
13 0613 0.97		28 0528 1.24	
1258 3.31		1206 2.90	
SA 1912 1.39		SU 1901 1.70	
14 0051 2.63		29 0005 2.42	
0716 1.19		0614 1.44	
SU 1413 3.20		MO 1331 2.78	
● 2045 1.53		2045 1.75	
15 0230 2.43		30 0149 2.27	
0851 1.30		0748 1.58	
MO 1538 3.21		TU 1513 2.81	
2229 1.45		○ 2208 1.64	

Fraser Coast Markets



MARYBOROUGH

Maryborough Rotary Markets

Adelaide and Ellena St, Maryborough
Every Thursday - 7am to 12pm

Sunday Mixed Markets

Tinana Markets on the Field
Every 2nd Sunday of the month
7am - 12pm - 0447 407 008
Tinana Football Club - Soccer Fields
maryboroughsmm@gmail.com

HERVEY BAY

Torquay Beachside Markets

Opposite the Torquay Hotel
Every Saturday
7am to 1pm

Koala Markets - Kruger Court

Every 2nd & 4th Sunday
6am to noon

HERVEY BAY

Nikenbah Markets

Hervey Bay Animal Refuge
Nikenbah-Dundowran Rd, Nikenbah
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month
6am to 12 noon

Markets at the Pier

Pier Park, Urangan, (in front of Jetty)
Every Wednesday & Saturday
7am to 12pm

OTHER AREAS

Glenwood Community Produce Markets

Pepper Rd
2nd and 4th Sunday of the month
8am to 9:30am

Brooweena Markets

Historical Village, Smith Crescent
4th Sunday every 3rd month
8am to noon

OTHER AREAS

Bauple Markets - Band Hall Road

4th Saturday of the month
7am - noon

Howard Country Markets

Howard Community Centre,
Steley St, Howard
1st Saturday of the month
7am to 12 noon

For all Market submissions or corrections please contact:
What's On Fraser Coast on

Ph 0467 303 171

or email: whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com

DISCLAIMER: The market guide is offered as a free community service. Markets can be relocated or cancelled at any time without our knowledge. If you are interested in attending a market listed here, find the market on Facebook to get the latest updates. For all market submissions or corrections please email whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com.



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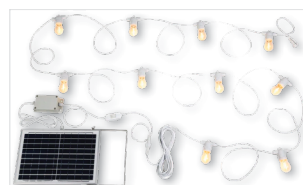
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