

What's On

FRASER COAST MAGAZINE

98

OCTOBER 2025

MONTHLY
MAGAZINE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events

Tide Times

Gig Guide

Markets



Brooke McMullen presents

Dolly

*- I Will Always
Love You*

ACTOR
WAYNE BLAIR
KANGAROO

EXPLORE THE
FRASER COAST
ON FOOT

RealWay
PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

HBNC
Creating Connected Communities

THE SERVICES CLUB
MARYBOROUGH

blue sky
dental care

BIGSCREEN
CINEMAS
HERVEY BAY

The Boat Club

FX COFFEE

G&D ROSS
Bus Charters

DRESS ME WILD
WOMEN'S WEAR

TAKE
ME HOME



The Boat Club Hervey Bay Twilight Cruises

KIDS FREE*



Large Stable Boat - Full Facilities
*\$55 Adults + 1 Child FREE
Book: BoatClub.com.au

Everyone's welcome at



The Boat Club Hervey Bay



Café - All Day Dining
Coffee - Breakfast - Lunch & Dinner



The Boat Club Hervey Bay Whale Cruises



Large Stable Boat - Full
Facilities From \$110 Adult -
\$50 Child
From \$290 Family Pass 2A+2C
Book: BoatClub.com.au



The Boat Club Hervey Bay Cocktails



Cocktail Lounge
or Cocktails On The Deck



HarbourView Restaurant



Full à la carte Menu
Seafood, Steaks, Pasta, Pizzas
Daily ~ Lunch & Dinner



Johnny Spitz

LIVE & FREE Entertainment most days!



The Boat Club Hervey Bay Cinemas



Latest Movies
Prices from \$8.50 - \$14
Licensed Cinema

PHONE (07) 4128 9643
Buccaneer Drive, Urangan, Hervey Bay

BoatClub.com.au

Contents

WOFC Index	3
Editor's Note.....	4
OCTOBER: Inside this Edition	4
Feature Story: Dolly: I Will Always Love You	6-7
Connecting Communities - Don't make tasty treats the star of the show	12
Explore the Fraser Coast on foot	14
OCTOBER: Calendar of Events	16-17
OCTOBER: Gig Guide	18
Fraser Shorts Film Festival set to shine on the Fraser Coast..	19
Stephen King's Misery set to grip Z-PAC Theatre.....	19
Whale watching photos.....	20-21
Interview with Actor Wayne Blair – Kangaroo	22-23
Opinion Piece by Andrew Sadler – Locally produced goods...	24
LifeFlight - Miracle crash survivor helping others	25
Dungas dig deep to assist Amelia	26
Arise+Shine with Tania Comerford - Sacred Moments in Life...	27
Art exhibition - Creative Generation - featuring local students....	27
Social Pics	28-30
TIDE TIMES & FRASER COAST MARKETS	31



Food n Groove Fridays - Get Ready event - Hervey Bay 2023

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.



Food n Groove Fridays - Get Ready event - Hervey Bay 2023

Regular Contributors

Christian Berechree
Andrew Sadler
Tania Comerford

Photography

Kim Parnell
Stock photography (Pixabay/Unsplash)
Contributed

Cover photo: Brooke McMullen

What's On

FRASER COAST MAGAZINE

Produced and Published by Kim Parnell

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"

The What's On Fraser Coast Magazine is published monthly and distributed for free across the Fraser Coast region. The magazine is published by Kim Parnell (ABN 39762265534) and printed at Fast Proof Press.

Disclaimer: The information in this magazine is intended as a guide only and does not represent the opinion or view of the publisher. Advertising placed in this publication is assumed that the advertiser is not infringing any copyright, trademark, breach of confidence, or does not infringe the Trade Practices Act or other laws, regulations, or statutes. Whilst reasonable care is undertaken in producing content for this publication, the Publisher does not accept liability for any errors or omissions it may contain.



Hervey Bay Jazz & Blues Club presents the
Fraser Coast's Own
'TNT BIG BAND.'


Sunday, 26 October
2pm - 4:30pm

BYO alcohol,
soft drinks,
and nibbles

Maryborough Town Hall,
255 Kent Street

Tickets online through Humanitix ticketing, or at the door from 1pm
\$20 members, \$25 non-members, under 18's \$10, under 10yrs Free



Find us on 



Note from the Editor

In August, our community lost a dear friend and supporter, Dean Comerford, after a short battle with cancer. His passing, caused by a blood clot in his lungs, was a shock to all who knew him. Dean was the proud owner of Hervey Bay Hat Co., but more than that, he was a man who touched countless lives near and far.

I was privileged to know Dean both as a friend and as an advertiser.

I first met Dean and his wife, Tania, at Villa Cavour, a property they had just purchased. From the start, his larger-than-life personality and community spirit shone through. Dean loved connecting with people. Whether at local events, in casual conversations, or on stage, he spoke openly about his mental health journey, always with the hope of helping others.

Dean and I shared many chats, often long ones, since we both loved to talk! Our conversations covered everything from local happenings to the "big" issues of the world.

When Dean purchased the hat shop, he truly found his stride. With his cheeky humour and love of the camera, he brought Hervey Bay Hat Co. to life on screen. His videos lit up social media and brought smiles to many, while hat sales flourished.

Dean's wife, Tania, who is one of our valued writers, shares her heartfelt reflections in her column, *Sacred Moments in Life*, on page 27.

Dean lived life with the utmost faith, hope and belief and is sadly missed.

Inside this issue!

This month marks the **inaugural Fraser Shorts Film Festival**, a celebration of creativity, storytelling, creativity and community. Enjoy film screenings, Q&As, industry insights, and a glamorous awards night. Don't miss your chance to grab tickets!

Fraser Coast audiences, prepare for suspense! **Z-PAC Theatre** presents **Misery**, William Goldman's adaptation of Stephen King's classic. An intimate, edge-of-your-seat experience. Tickets on sale now!

Pop the kettle on, grab a slice of cake, get comfy, and turn the page!

Kim Parnell

Editor/Owner, What's On Fraser Coast



Mention the What's On Fraser Coast Magazine to receive a **10% discount**

An iconic shopping destination for the sunsmart and fashion conscious in glorious Hervey Bay. Our extensive range includes numerous brands and countless styles, offering something for everyone.

Let our friendly team find the right hat for you.

**Open daily, on the Esplanade,
at the Urangan Pier**

Ph. 0423 358 583   www.hatco.com.au



THE GREAT WESTERN PLAY N' STAY MUSICAL TOUR 2026

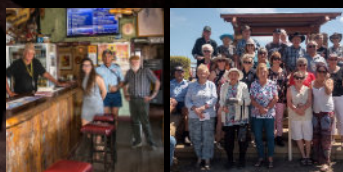
IN OUR
14TH
YEAR!

21ST SEPT -
1ST OCT 2026

\$3,500 PER PERSON

Including bus, bed, breakfast,
nightly meals & entertainment

**CALL 4129 7132 TO BOOK
YOUR SEAT TODAY!**



11 Day Musical Tour with 12 Country/Western, Rock n Roll Artists.
SEE THE OUTBACK, LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE!

For more information or enquiries please
contact Greg & Donna Ross.

Ph. (07) 4129 7132 Mob. 0427 297 132

G&D ROSS
Bus Charters

1197 Bidwill Rd, Maryborough Qld 4650
greganddonna@ganddrossbuscharters.com.au
www.ganddrossbuscharters.com.au

TAMWORTH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026

Waiting list for
Tamworth 2026 for
last 5 days -
**CURRENTLY
FULLY BOOKED**



FIRST 5 DAYS
**Thursday 15th -
Tuesday 20th
January 2026**

\$1,100
per person
Bus, Bed &
Breakfast

SINGLE/TWIN SHARE AVAILABLE



RealWay
HERVEY BAY

ARE YOU THINKING OF SELLING?

**OUR LISTINGS HAVE BEEN RUNNING HOT!
WE HAVE SERIOUS BUYERS AND NEED MORE
SALE PROPERTIES!!**

CALL US TODAY

FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE APPRAISAL!

**NO SALE
NO FEE
NO CHARGE
NO RISK**

Real Service - Real Results
Servicing the
Fraser Coast since 2004

Contact our Friendly
Sales Team on

4128 4255

363 Esplanade, Scarness



www.herveybay.realway.com.au

Brooke McMullen:

Celebrating Dolly with heart, soul, and sparkle

By Kim Parnell

At just 30 years old, tribute artist Brooke McMullen has already carved out a reputation as one of Australia's brightest stars of musical nostalgia. On Friday, November 7, she'll step onto the stage of the Brolga Theatre and Convention Centre in Maryborough with her dazzling show *Dolly: I Will Always Love You*, a heartfelt celebration of the songs, stories, and spirit of Dolly Parton.

But long before the wigs, rhinestones, and standing ovations, Brooke's childhood looked destined to follow the family tradition. Growing up in a harness racing household, there were always horses. Yet while she loved the animals, another passion was quietly tugging at her heart.

"From as early as I can remember, I was always dancing around the house whenever music came on," she says with a laugh. It was her Nan who recognised something special. A singer herself—who used to sing on the radio in Tamworth in her earlier days—Nan not only taught Brooke to sing but also introduced her to the music of Dolly Parton.

By the age of two and a half, Brooke was already performing in her first dance concert. She was so enchanted by the stage lights that she refused to leave until someone physically carried her off. "Mum recently showed me the old video," Brooke says. "It's hilarious, but I think it says a lot about where I was headed."

Her childhood soundtrack was a mix of country and the rock 'n' roll greats like Elvis and Buddy Holly. That blend of old-school influences shaped her and gave her a deep appreciation for storytelling through music.

Through her teens, Brooke threw herself into singing, dancing, and acting lessons, eventually breaking into the world of musical theatre. For years, she performed professionally in stage shows until a chance encounter shifted her path.

"I met a guy who was doing a Johnny Cash show," she recalls. "I ended up performing as June Carter, and I think I sang one Dolly song in those early shows. That's where it all started."

Noticing her natural connection to Dolly's music, her colleague suggested she create a full Dolly tribute. Brooke was just 22 when she began shaping a Dolly show.

Since then, the tribute show has grown and evolved. Brooke has performed around the country and is now touring a refreshed version of the production, the very one set to delight Fraser Coast audiences.

While she has dabbled in other projects—including tributes to Linda Ronstadt and The Eagles—Brooke's heart belongs to Dolly. And it's more than a performance: it's a full-time labour of love.

"I run everything myself," she explains. "Performing as Dolly is the fun part, but I also do all the bookings, marketing, promotion, and every detail behind the scenes. It's a massive job."

The hard work is paying off. Along the way, she's shared festival bills with some of her own idols, including the incomparable Rhonda Burchmore. Meeting Rhonda as a wide-eyed ten-year-old at a Debbie Reynolds concert was a dream come true, but performing on the same bill as her years later was surreal.

Capturing Dolly Parton's essence is no small task. Beyond the rhinestones and wigs lies the challenge of embodying her warmth, humour, and iconic presence.

"Dolly is such a gem," Brooke says. "She's quick, witty, and such a brilliant storyteller. I've studied her for years, but I also try to bring myself into the role—the parts of me that connect with her."

She sprinkles humour into her performances, weaving in Dolly's famous one-liners—what Dolly herself calls "Dolly-isms." Her goal? To make every audience member feel as though she's singing directly to them.



Photo credit -
Zane Taprell

"That's what Dolly does best," Brooke explains. "She makes people feel special, like she's talking just to you. At her core, she's just a country girl who loves people and loves life. That's what I try to capture."

Her theatre background makes slipping into Dolly's southern drawl second nature. Trips to Nashville and the Smoky Mountains have deepened her immersion, helping her perfect the accent.

The biggest challenge? The sheer scope of Dolly's catalogue. "There are so many songs, across so many styles—disco, pop, bluegrass, country. It keeps me on my toes. And her vocal range is insane; it's definitely made me a stronger singer."

Among all those songs, one remains closest to her heart: *Coat of Many Colors*. "It's the one my Nan taught me when I was little. Every time I sing it, I think of her. It's a very special song."

For Brooke, the thrill of walking on stage never fades. "The audience's excitement is infectious," she says. "As soon as I hear the clapping and cheering, I know we're all in it together. That energy carries the whole night."

Sometimes, the sweetest memories come from younger fans. A 14-year-old boy once handed her a handwritten song as a gift. Another time, a six-year-old girl in the audience was dressed as a butterfly and clutching a Dolly Parton storybook.

"I invited her on stage, and afterwards she spoke to me like I really was Dolly. I thought, oh no, she's going to tell everyone at school she met Dolly Parton! It was so adorable. Those moments stick with me."

Of course, no Dolly tribute would be complete without the glitter, gowns, and wigs. Brooke transforms meticulously for every performance, spending an hour on makeup before donning custom-made costumes created by a longtime family friend who used to make her dance outfits when Brooke was growing up.

The wigs are styled by a Gold Coast wig stylist—though she admits they're too tricky for her to manage alone. "It's like being a kid playing dress-up," she says. "Big hair, long nails, high heels, rhinestones, it's just so much fun."



Photo credit - Single Origin Creative

Shoes, however, have been less dependable. Brooke laughs as she recalls a cursed weekend in Sydney. "Two nights in a row, two different pairs, both broke during the first song. I ended up clenching my feet just to keep them on!"

Later this year, Brooke will tick off the ultimate dream: meeting Dolly Parton in Las Vegas. With meet-and-greet tickets in hand, she's already rehearsing what to say as she doesn't want to blurt out something silly!

And if Dolly ever came to one of Brooke's shows? "Just the thought of her sitting in the audience at one of my shows makes me emotional. I'd love for her to say, 'You did me well, kid.' That would mean everything."

Off stage, Brooke lives a grounded and healthy life. She's a Pilates devotee, eats as clean as possible, and dotes on her little Pomeranian, appropriately named Dolly.

"As a performer, your body is your instrument," she says. "You've got to look after it."

With her warmth, talent, and devotion, Brooke McMullen doesn't imitate Dolly Parton; she channels her, honouring a legend while adding her own sparkle.

And when she steps out under the lights at the Brolga Theatre, audiences won't just be seeing a tribute act. They'll be sharing in Brooke's lifelong love story with music, with her Nan, and with Dolly herself.


For tickets, head to www.brolgatheatre.org.



Photo credit - Zane Taprell

Quickfire Dolly Round

- ★ Audience favourite request?
"Nine to Five - always!"
- ★ Sequins or rhinestones?
"Rhinestones - never leave one unturned."
- ★ Dream duet with Dolly?
"Does He Love You - it would be incredible."
- ★ Heels or cowboy boots?
"Cowboy boots, always."
- ★ Favourite Dolly quote?
"If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours."



Some call it the whale-watching
capital of the world.

Hervey Bay offers a balmy subtropical climate, wide sandy beaches, and calm waters—making it an ideal seaside escape.

Located a three-and-a-half-hour drive north of Brisbane, Hervey Bay is also accessible by plane, with direct flights operating from Sydney and Brisbane to Hervey Bay Airport.

Situated just a ten-minute drive from the airport, Ramada Hotel & Suites Hervey Bay is your ideal base from which to explore the beautiful Fraser Coast.

RAMADA
BY WYNDHAM
HERVEY BAY

www.ramadaherveybay.com.au



DISCOVER LATITUDE25 FINAL HOMES NOW SELLING

Explore the final, brand new homes at Latitude25. All complete and ready to move in, with functional layouts and premium inclusions and finishes.

Each home offers a huge RV garage, with space for your caravan, motorhome, boat or hobby. Take a tour through our completed resort-style Clubhouse and Health Hub facilities, or see some of the beautifully maintained, pre-loved homes available in a number of different designs and price ranges.

If you are looking for the *perfect mix of home and lifestyle*,
book a tour of Latitude25 today.



SCAN HERE TO BOOK
A TOUR OR CALL OUR
TEAM ON 1800 025 025

visitlatitude25.com.au

Latitude25
RV Lifestyle Community

Breasties BREAST CANCER CHARITY Luncheon

THE SERVICES CLUB
MARYBOROUGH



MC
MICHELLE PASCOE

This luncheon holds special meaning for Michelle as cancer has touched her life profoundly, with both of her parents and all three of her brothers having battled the disease. Being part of this breast cancer charity event is a true honour and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the spirit that makes Registered Clubs such vital pillars of the community.

3 COURSE LUNCHEON
BUBBLES ON ARRIVAL

Enjoy our incredible Dessert Buffet!
LUCKY DOOR PRIZE - RAFFLES AND MORE

DATE: 24TH OCTOBER 2025
TIME: START 11AM
THE SERVICES CLUB

Book your table now and let's raise some much-needed funds for

Imater Checks in Pink

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

\$95pp
Or book a table of 8 for \$700

SCAN FOR TIX



SPECIAL GUEST
FIONA MCGARY

Fiona's performances have been part of The Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Adelaide Fringe Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, and The Sydney Comedy Festival.

Fiona is a hilarious, engaging and unforgettable keynote speaker.

Melbourne CUP Luncheon

Live music by *Got Friday*

Lucky door prize
Prizes - Best dressed

Delicious all drop Plated lunch & grazing table dessert buffet

Scan for tix

11.00am - Tues Nov 4th

Go 90pp

POP-PUNK LIVES ON

AUSTRALIA'S #1 TRIBUTE TO BLINK 182 DAY

The Services Club
25TH OCTOBER

Tix via Try Booking

FEATURING FAN FAVOURITES AND RARELY PLAYED GEMS FROM ENEMA OF THE STATE & DOKIE, ALONGSIDE ALL THE BIGGEST HITS!

October LIVE MUSIC

Friday's 7pm till late
Saturday's 2pm till late

- FRI 3 - DJ MOTO SAS
- SAT 4 - EMMA NEWMAN DUO
- FRI 10 - DJ NIXON
- SAT 11 - RHUBARB TARTS
- FRI 17 - DJ CROOKSY
- SAT 18 - DANCEFLOOR CONFESSIONS
- FRI 24 - DJ NIXON
- SAT 25 - BLINK 182 VS GREEN DAY
- FRI 31 - DJ MR SPARKLES

Nothing beats watching a movie on the BIGSCREEN!

FROM PRODUCER JORDAN PEELE

GREATNESS DEMANDS SACRIFICE

HIM

STARTS 2 OCTOBER

TRON ARES

STARTS 9 OCTOBER

RESTORED IN 4K

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Come dressed in theme
Sat 18 Oct

STARTS 16 OCTOBER

MORTAL KOMBAT

STARTS 16 OCTOBER

LICENCED BAR ■ CAFE ■ DELUXE SEATING

BIGSCREEN CINEMA CAFE

great coffee is just the beginning...

VIP

IN SELECTED THEATRES

Ask us about the VIP experience for your next movie you deserve it

128 Boat Harbour Drive, Pialba ■ mybigscreen.com.au

Check our Facebook and website for current sessions



BIGSCREEN CINEMAS
HERVEY BAY

get
ready
QUEENSLAND

Food n Groove FRIDAYS

EST. 2019 - HERVEY BAY

HERVEY BAY

Fri 17 October

City Park 4–9pm

**FREE
EVENT**

**FREE
EVENT**

MARYBOROUGH

Fri 24 October

Brolga Theatre Riverstage 4–9pm

Presented by
Fraser Coast
Tourism & Events

 **@fngfridays**

 **Queensland
Government**

 **Fraser Coast**
REGIONAL COUNCIL

 **STAGING-SOLUTIONS**
THAT'S IT!

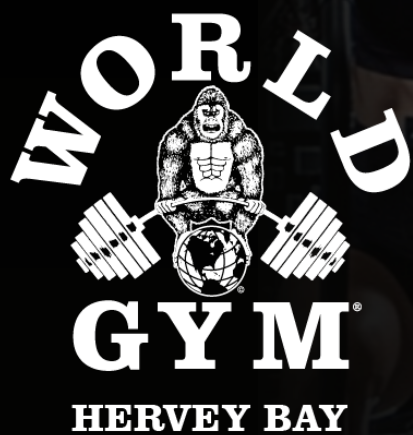
 **HANDY
HIRE**

 **What's On**
FRASER COAST MAGAZINE

 **zipprint**
AUSTRALIA

 **HIT**
101.9

 **TRIPLE**
103.5
FRASER COAST



NOW OPEN

24/7

176 MAIN STREET

www.worldgymherveybay.com.au



- Weights Area
- Group Fitness
- Childminding
- Functional Training
- Cardio Machines
- Comfort Zone

Events for October 2025



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

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 HERE

1 Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm
Pilates in Motion (Free) 5:30pm
Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 6:45pm

2 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am

3 Trauma Informed Yoga (Free) 7-8am

4 Belly Dancing (\$10) 2-3pm

5 Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 7:30am

6 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am
Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm

7 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am
Yoga with Vera (\$15) 12:30pm

8 Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm
Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 6:45pm
Pilates in Motion (Free) 5:30pm

9 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am
Lunch & Learn (\$10) 11:30-1pm

10

11

12 Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 7:30am

13 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am
Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm

14 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am
Riverbend Nature Connections - Kangaroos (\$5) 10am-12pm

15 Chat with Friends Morning Tea (\$5) 10:30am
Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm
Meditation (Free) 6:45pm
Pilates (Free) 5:30pm

16 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am
Rock Painting with Tash (Free) 10-12pm

17 Trauma Informed Yoga (Free) 7-8am

18 Belly Dancing (\$10) 2-3pm

19 Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 7:30am

20 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am
Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm

21 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am

22 Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm
Pilates in Motion (Free) 5:30pm
Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 6:45pm

23 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am

24

25

26 Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 7:30am

27 Grief Support Group (Free) 10am
Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 1:45pm

28 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am
Yoga with Vera (\$15) 12:30pm

29 Life Transitions Group (Free) 1-2pm
Pilates in Motion (Free) 5:30pm
Heartfulness Meditation (Free) 6:45pm

30 Crochet (\$5) 9:30am

31 Trauma Informed Yoga (Free) 7-8am

Creating Connected Communities

Don't make tasty treats the star of the show

By Christian Berechree

Operations Manager

Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre

"How many times have they mentioned the sausage sizzle?"

Back in my journalist days, this was a bit of an in-joke throughout the regional newsrooms I worked in.

It was a light-hearted dig at the fact that every community event organiser prominently featured a sausage sizzle on their agenda and expected the local newspaper to make a big deal out of it.

Never mind the often very worthy cause or tear-jerking personal stories behind the event – did I mention there will be a sausage sizzle?

Now don't get me wrong, I understand the point of highlighting drawcards like food, entertainment and raffle prizes when promoting events.

What I don't understand, however, is how some event organisers seem to lose sight of the true meaning and



Christian Berechree

purpose behind what they're doing.

If your flyers and social media posts are filled with messages like "FREE FOOD!" and "AWESOME PRIZES!" but there's no clear idea of what's happening - or why it's happening - you might be at risk of a bait and switch.

That is to say, drawing people in with shiny objects, then hitting them with something entirely different.

I see this a lot at fundraising events.

Guests are lured in by the food, music and games, before being blindsided by a big donation ask they weren't prepared for or given time to think about.

Imagine how much more effective these events could be if attendees were emotionally sold on the purpose before they signed up.

Sure, you might get fewer people along, but those who show up will be much more invested.

The same goes for learning or consultation sessions.

Basically, if you want something from someone, make sure they know what they're signing up for.

Help them understand why it matters and above all, have faith in what you're doing.

Food, entertainment and prizes are great supporting players, but they shouldn't take centre stage.

Green Finance Group



Local Finance Expert



Experience matters.

(G) FINANCE SPECIALISTS

- Home & Investment Loans
- Refinancing & Rate Reviews

Australian
Credit Licence
- ACL 517192



Beth Rachel
0403 192 552

beth@greenfinancegroup.com.au

Beth Rachel - Green Finance Group

[bethrachel_gfg](https://www.instagram.com/bethrachel_gfg)



CONTINENTAL DELI

Platters for all occasions

Great Coffee

Gelato

Fruit smoothies

All Day Menu

Breakfast | Brunch | Lunch

Gourmet Deli Sandwiches

Gift vouchers available

Eat in or Takeaway

For orders / bookings
0407391826

Trading hours:
Mon to Fri 7am to 5pm | Sat 7am to 3pm | Sun 7am to 12.00pm

Fashion forward for the young at heart



Dress Me Wild
by Janie Wild

Pialba Place - Opposite Big W
0409 266 966



EXPLORE THE FRASER COAST ON FOOT

TAKURA ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE

Written by
Fraser Coast Mayor,
George Seymour



Being able to walk into pristine wilderness and feel fully immersed in nature is something very special. As a society, I feel it is important that we have such enriching experiences within easy reach of our homes. Just 10 minutes outside of Hervey Bay is an interesting place which is ideal for short nature walks: the Takura Environmental Reserve.

This important site was purchased five years ago by the Fraser Coast Regional Council in order to preserve its environmental values and provide public access to enjoy and appreciate it. And it is truly a place to enjoy and appreciate.

The Takura Environmental Reserve is located at 42 Barnett Road, Takura.

On high ground, looking out over forestry to the mountains in the west and out to the ocean to the east, the site takes in over 56 hectares. It includes previously cleared agricultural land, but most importantly, it features remnant rainforest, vine thickets and woodlands.

Walking along the paths, it is immediately clear that there is an



Towering trees reach up to the sky at Takura



The track through the Takura forest is like a corridor

abundance of different life. About 190 plants and 57 bird species have been identified here. A wildlife camera project has documented the presence of the vulnerable, black-breasted buttonquail, as well as the noisy pitta. A host of other species, such as the short-beaked echidna, swamp wallaby, lace monitor and common brushtail possum, are also found throughout the reserve.

The 2.4km track is relatively flat and easy. Most of it is very closely surrounded by trees. It is this density of the forest, both beside and above the track, that totally occupies the senses and makes this walk so fulfilling and absorbing.

This gentle walk through the dense forest at the top of Takura provides the perfect break from the hustle of modern life. There is excellent interpretive signage right along the track explaining the surroundings, making the whole captivating experience both educational and enjoyable.

We're Celebrating - and You're Invited!

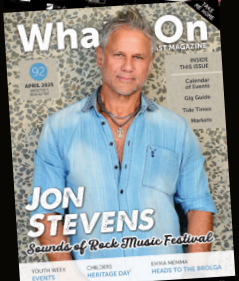
★ ★ ★
100th
Edition

With our Dec/Jan edition of the
What's On Fraser Coast Magazine
we hit **100 editions!**

Tell us what the magazine means to you,
your favourite memories, or why you love it.
Selected messages will be featured in our
milestone issue.

Email: whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com

Deadline: Nov 1, 2025





BAYSWATER BAR & GRILL

*The best view &
food in the bay!*

thebayswater.com.au
569 Esplanade Urangan, QLD
(07) 4194 6444


BAYSWATER
BAR & GRILL

@bayswater_herveybay
@bayswaterhotel



Quality Family Dentistry

**Blue Sky Dental Care is a locally owned,
boutique dental clinic providing quality
care to the Wide Bay area since 2013.**

- General, Emergency, Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry (including All-on-X)
- DVA
- CDBS

We accept all health funds

4128 9276 blueskydental.com.au
blueskycares @blueskydental_herveybay
Shop 2, 1 William Dean Avenue, Urangan
Airport Service Centre



Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 2025

October

Seniors Month

For local events, head to
www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/seniors-month

Tue, Oct 2

Free Tuesday Trivia

(Every Tuesday)
 6pm
 Team Size: 2-6 brainiacs per squad
 Hervey Bay Boat Club

Fri, Oct 3

Human Nature – Motown 20th Anniversary Regional Tour

8pm – 10pm
 Ticketed Event – Maryborough
 Brolga Theatre & Convention
 Centre
www.brolga.org.au

Fri, Oct 3

Over 50's Lifestyle Expo

9am – 2pm
 Hervey Bay Baptist Church,
 Nikenbah
 Entry \$2 per person

Fri, Oct 3

An Afternoon with Fatty & Sterlo

11.30am
 Ticketed event – via oztix
 Maryborough Sports Club

Sat, Oct 4

Linda Ronstadt and Friends A Tribute

3pm – 5pm
 Ticketed Event – Maryborough
 Brolga Theatre & Convention
 Centre
www.brolga.org.au

Sun, Oct 5

Matinee by the Mary (Operetta and Musical Theatre)

2pm – 3.30pm
 Ticketed Event – Maryborough
 Brolga Theatre & Convention
 Centre
www.brolga.org.au

Sat, Oct 4 - Sun, Oct 12

Queensland Mental Health Week

Tue, Oct 7

The Mayor's Picnic

11am – 1pm
 Cuppa & sausage sizzle
 Hervey Bay Historical Village &
 Museum
 Scarness
 Cost: Free

Thu, Oct 9

Uniting for Community Mental Health Expo

9am – 1pm
 Maryborough City Hall
 All ages welcome

Fri, Oct 10

The Fraser Coast Mates Annual Pink Dinner

6pm
 Venue & cost TBA
 Find the event on Facebook

Fri, Oct 10 - Sun, Oct 26

Theatre: Misery

Z-Pac Theatre, Scarness
 Ticketed event
www.zpactheatre.com.au

Fri, Oct 17

Food n Groove Fridays – Get Ready Hervey Bay

4pm – 9pm
 City Park, Charles St
 Find the event on Facebook

Fri, Oct 17 - Sun, Oct 19

Lines in the Sand: Behind the Lines

(Premier Event)
 Fraser Coast Libraries
www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/libraries

Fri, Oct 17

Fundraiser: Pialba Scout Group Trivia Night

6.30pm – 10pm
 Ticketed event
 Pialba Scout Hall – 9 Andrew St
 Tickets via trybooking



Fri, Oct 17

Fundraiser: Interact Movie Night

Presented by Riverside Christian
 College
 5.30pm – 8.30pm
 Ticketed event via Humanitix
 Riverside Christian College
 Grounds

Sat, Oct 18

Energy Expo

9am 4pm - \$5 entry
 Brolga Theatre & Convention
 Centre

Sat, Oct 18

Demonstration Day QCDA Hervey Bay Branch

(Qld Cake Decorators Assoc)
 8.30am – 4pm
 Ticketed event – via trybooking
 Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre

Sat, Oct 18

Fundraiser: Monster Garage Sale

Maryborough Military Aviation
 Museum Association (MMAMA)
 7am – 12pm
 Maryborough Airport

Sat, Oct 18

Torbanlea Picnic Races

Gates open at 8.30am
 Ticketed event
www.trybooking.com



Sat, Oct 18 - Sun, Oct 26

Fraser Shorts Film Festival

For tickets and more information
 Head to www.frasershorts.com.au

Sat, Oct 18

Glitz & Glamour

Presented by Glamour Crystals
 7pm – 9.30pm – 18+ event
 (Cocktail event) – Ticketed event
 Hervey Bay Golf Clubhouse
 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, Oct 19

Walk to Defeat MND – Hervey Bay
9am – 12pm
Scarness Esplanade
Register here:
www.mndqld.org.au/events/260/w2d-hervey-bay

Wed, Oct 22

Theatre: 1984 by George Orwell
Presented & adapted by Shake & Stir Theatre
Ticketed Event - Maryborough
Brolga Theatre & Convention Centre
www.brolga.org.au

Fri, Oct 24 - Sun, Oct 26

**Annual Convention
Wide Bay Burnett Potters
Association**
Find the event on Facebook
Or call: 0412 788 932

Fri, Oct 24 - Sun, Nov 2

**Ashton's The Great Australian
Circus**
Maryborough Cricket Club
Ticketed event, via ozitix

Fri, Oct 24

**Fundraiser: The Travellers –
Special Screening**
World Polio Day – Rotary
Ticketed event – 1.30pm – 4pm
Hervey Bay Boat Club
www.events.humanitix.com

Fri, Oct 24

**Food n Groove Fridays –
Get Ready Maryborough**
4pm – 9pm
Brolga Theatre, Riverstage
Find the event on Facebook

Fri, Oct 24

**Fundraiser:
Bresties Charity Luncheon**
11am – Dress in pink
Ticketed event, via trybooking
The Services Club Maryborough

Sat, Oct 25

Live Pro Wrestling – Fight or Die
6pm – 9.30pm
Tickets: www.stickytickets.com.au
Maryborough City Hall

Sat, Oct 25

Torbanlea Swap Meet
5am
Torbanlea Race Course

Sat, Oct 25

**Music: Blink 182 & Greenday
Experience**
From 8pm
Ticketed event – via trybooking
The Services Club Maryborough

Sun, Oct 26

**Sunday in the Park +
Band Hall Handcraft Markets**
9am – 1pm
Queens Park, Maryborough

Sun, Oct 26

The TNT Big Band
Presented by Hervey Bay
Jazz & Blues Club
2- 4.30pm – Ticketed event
Maryborough Town Hall
Find the event on Facebook

Tue, Oct 28

Mayoral Heritage Morning Tea
(Presented by MADCOTA
Community Hub)
9am – 12.30pm
Ticketed event – via Humanitix

Fri, Oct 31

**Theatre: Mamma Mia
Brolga by the Bay**
7pm – 9.35pm
Seafront Oval, Pialba
Ticketed event
www.brolga.org.au

Fri, Oct 31 - Sun, Nov 2

**Championship Dog Show -
Maryborough Kennel Club**
8am – 4pm
Free to Spectators
For more info, find the club on
Facebook



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.



TIME OUT
DISABILITY SERVICES

Looking beyond disabilities!

Ph: 07 4334 0444



✉ admin@timeoutds.com
f timeoutdisabilityservices

7 Day Flat Rate Pricing
Social Activities
Capacity Building
In Home Support
Community Inclusion

Supported Travel & Transport
Fishing & Camping



GIG GUIDE

LIVE MUSIC ON THE FRASER COAST

October
2025

Brought to you by
What's On Fraser Coast

HERVEY BAY

Hervey Bay Boat Club

Fri 3, 6.00 pm, Shane Allsop
Sat 4, 6.00 pm, Joel Spence
Sun 5, 2.00 pm, Shaun Beckett

Fri 10, 6.00 pm, Darren Marlow
Sat 11, 6.00 pm, Shannon Young
Sun 12, 2.00 pm, Brian Speirs

Fri 17, 6.00 pm, Darren Marlow
Sat 18, 6.00 pm, Frank Benn
Sun 19, 2.00 pm, Emma Newman

Fri 24, 6.00 pm, Derek Smith
Sat 25, 6.00 pm, Brian Speirs
Sun 26, 2.00 pm, Aaron Westlake

Fri 31, 6.00 pm, Joel Spence
Sat 1, 6.00 pm, Foreign Currency
Sun 2, 2.00 pm, Darren Marlow

Hervey Bay RSL

Fri 3, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 3, 6pm, Joel Spence
Sat 4, 8pm, Rhubarb Tarts

Fri 10, 11.30am, Billy Guy
Fri 10, 6pm, Emma Newman

Sat 11, 8pm, Forbidden Road

Fri 17, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 17, 6pm, Frank Benn
Sat 18, 8pm, Bad Attitude

Fri 24, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 24, 6pm, Brian Speirs
Sat 25, 8pm, Red Betty
Sun 26, 12pm, Sam Maddison

Fri 31, 11.30am, Billy Guy
Fri 31, 6pm, Aaron Westlake

Beach House Hotel

Fri 3, 9pm, Tony Spencer
Sat 4, 9pm, DJ Crooksey
Sun 5, 2pm, Shannon Young

Fri 10, 9pm, Drama Queen Duo
Sat 11, 9pm, Shane Allsop
Sun 12, 2pm, Treva Scobie

Fri 17, 9pm, Just Dez
Sat 18, 9pm, DJ Nixon
Sun 19, 2pm, Dogwood Duo

Fri 24, 9pm, The Boys Duo
Sat 25, 9pm, Marshall Brothers

Sun 26, 2pm, Franky Busta

Fri 31, 9pm, The Wannabees



Emma Newman

The Clubhouse Hervey Bay

Fri 6pm, Aaron Westlake
Sat 7, 6pm, Mia Hinsch

Fri 10, 6pm, Kev Carroll
Sat 11, 6pm, Joel Spence

Fri 17, 6pm, Brian Speirs
Sat 18, 6pm, Joel Spence

Fri 24, 6pm, Sam Maddison
Sat 25, 6pm, Bevan Spiers

Fri 31, 6pm, Doug Edwards

MARYBOROUGH

Carriers Arms Hotel

Fri 3, 8pm, TBA
Sat 4, 9pm, Dogwood Crossing
Sun 5, 2pm, Open Mic with Dave & Dizzy

Fri 10, 9pm, TBA
Sat 11, 8pm, Drama Queen Trio
Sun 12, 2pm, Open Mic with Dave & Dizzy

Fri 17, 8pm, TBA
Sat 18, 8pm, Red Betty
Sun 19, 2pm, Open Mic with Dave & Dizzy

Fri 24, 9pm, TBA
Sat 25, 9pm, Saltwater Cartel
Sun 26, 2pm, Open Mic with Dave & Dizzy

Fri 31, 9pm, Halloween DJ Nixon

Maryborough Services Club

Fri 3, 9.00 pm, DJ Moto SAS
Sat 4, 8.00pm, Emma Newman DUO

Sat 4, 2.00pm, Oktoberfest Band
Sun 5, 2.00pm, Franky Busta

Fri 10, 9.00pm, DJ Nixon
Sat 11, 8.00pm, Rhubarb Tarts

Sun 12, 2.00pm, Doug Edwards

Fri 17, 9.00pm, DJ Crooksy
Sat 18, 8.00pm, The Febs
Sun 19, 2.00pm, Suzanne Malone

Fri 24, 9.00pm, DJ Nixon,
Sat 25, 8.30pm, Blink 182 The Greenday Experience
Sun 26, 2.00pm, Luke Korolak

Fri 31, 9.00pm, DJ Mr Sparkle

Maryborough Sports Club

Fri 3, 12.00 pm, Fatty & Sterlo Show
Tix \$150

Fri 3, 7.30 pm, Dianne Coombes
Sat 4, 7.00 pm, Graeme Jensen

Fri 10, 7.30 pm, Neil Wenck
Sat 11, 7.00 pm, Rock n Rolla Billys

Fri 17, 7.30 pm, Brad Sorensen
Sat 18, 7.00 pm, Drag Queen Bingo
Tix \$27.75

Sun 19, 1.00 pm, Andrew Copland

Fri 24, 7.30 pm, Red Betty
Sat 25, 7.00 pm, Billy Guy
Sun 26, 12.00 pm, Billy Guy

Fri 31, 7.30 pm, Brian Speirs

**Entertainment is
subject to change
at any time*

Fraser Shorts Film Festival set to shine on the Fraser Coast

The Fraser Coast is rolling out the red carpet this October for the very first Fraser Shorts Film Festival, a celebration of creativity, storytelling, and community. Over four days, audiences will enjoy film screenings, Q&A sessions, industry insights, and a glamorous awards night to close the festivities.

Screen Fraser Coast co-chair Samantha Gould said the event marks a milestone for the region.

"This is a major step forward for the Fraser Coast. The festival creates opportunities for filmmakers to showcase their work, for audiences to engage with incredible stories, and for our community to be recognised as a hub for creativity and the screen industry."

The festival opens on 18 October with



Sam Gould & Amy Friesen

a screening of *Is This Forever*, followed by a Q&A with its creator, Charlie DiStefano, and Bob Davis from Operation Hard Yakka. The evening will also feature an Industry Panel Discussion with Charlie DiStefano, Amy Friesen, Nicole Payten-Betts, and Tanya Ellen from Screen Queensland, offering audiences a behind-the-scenes look at the art of filmmaking.

The program continues with public screenings across the region:

- **24 October, 6.30pm** – St Mary's Catholic College, Maryborough
- **25 October, 3.30pm** – Student Screening at Bigscreen Cinemas, Hervey Bay
- **25 October, 7.30pm** – Adult Screening at Bigscreen Cinemas, Hervey Bay

The celebration will culminate on 26 October at 6pm with the Awards Night at The Clubhouse, Hervey Bay, where finalists and winners will be honoured in a formal evening of recognition and celebration.

Screen Fraser Coast co-chair Amy Friesen said the event is about more than just film.

"Fraser Shorts highlights the stories and voices that make our region unique. We're proud to showcase this talent on a festival stage and bring world-class film experiences to the Fraser Coast."

For more event details and to book your tickets, visit frasershorts.com.au.



SCREEN FRASER COAST
EST. 2024



STEPHEN KING'S MISERY SET TO GRIP Z-PAC THEATRE

Fraser Coast audiences are in for a chilling theatrical experience this October as Z-PAC Theatre presents *Misery*, adapted by William Goldman from Stephen King's acclaimed novel. Running from 10–26 October, the production promises edge-of-your-seat suspense in an intimate community theatre setting.

Directed by Jonathan Canning—who impressed audiences last year with *Tracks*—*Misery* brings together a powerhouse local cast. Kyle Davis stars as novelist Paul Sheldon, whose life takes a terrifying turn after a car accident leaves him in the care of his self-proclaimed "number one fan," Annie Wilkes, played by Katie O'Neill. Stuart Waters joins the cast in a pivotal supporting role as the Sheriff.

For Kyle, stepping into Paul's shoes has been both challenging and rewarding. "Paul is a character who has to summon resilience in the face of fear. Playing him means finding that strength while also showing his vulnerability—it's a thrilling challenge as an actor."



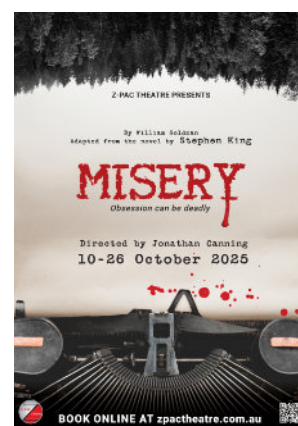
Katie says bringing Annie Wilkes to life requires walking a fine line, "Annie is infamous for a reason. She's terrifying, yes, but she's also complex and human. My job is to show both sides so the audience is unsettled, but also fascinated by her."

A major highlight will be the striking set created by a team led by Roger Jennings. Built with incredible attention to detail, the set recreates Annie Wilkes' isolated home, immersing audiences in the claustrophobic tension of the play.

Jonathan says this production is an exciting chance for Z-PAC to push creative boundaries: "*Misery* is about more than scares—it's about tension, psychology, and human fragility. We want it to be an unforgettable experience."

With limited performances and strong anticipation already building, all are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment.

***Misery* runs at Z-PAC Theatre from 10–26 October with shows on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday matinees. Tickets are available now through the theatre's website zpactheatre.com.au.**





Hervey Bay Where Whales Come to Play

Photos by Kim Parnell

**As Close as you
can get without
getting wet**

Spirit
OF
HERVEY BAY

Craving plenty of personal space and freedom to explore? Our Underwater Viewing Rooms offer spine-tingling moments, while six levels of viewing decks provide spectacular panoramic views—all before you even witness the awe-inspiring humpback whales.

Additional fantastic features include our waterline viewing platform and an underwater hydrophone to listen to the whales' melodic songs. Enjoy kids' educational activities, free Wi-Fi, and complimentary courtesy pickup or marina parking.



*Join us aboard the luxurious Spirit for a
fantastic whale of a time experience.*

BOOK NOW ON 4125 5131 OR ONLINE @ WWW.SPIRITOFHERVEYBAY.COM

The premium experience Calm Waters. Gentle Giants. Your Escape **Freedom Whale Watch**

9.30am - 3.30pm Daily

Fab morning + afternoon tea + lunch included
Sightings guaranteed



More than a cruise - It's a reset

Book direct for the lowest price
www.freedom3.com.au Phone 1300 388 688
Berth 4A, Great Sandy Straits Marina, Urangan QLD



Up Close with the Humpbacks

Photos by Kim Parnell



Waterfront Restaurant

Stunning uninterrupted ocean & island views
are perfect for your next breakfast or lunch date.

Fresh local produce & seafood.

Award winning wedding venue.



PHONE: (07) 41946733

ON THE BEACH - DAYMAN PARK, URANGAN, CNR KENT & PULGUL ST

EMAIL: WATERFRONTHERVEYBAY@GMAIL.COM

*Where you're so close to
the reef you can touch it!*

REEFWORLD AQUARIUM



*Swim with
the Turtles!*

OPEN 7 DAYS / FROM 9:30AM
DAYMAN PARK, URANGAN

41 289 828

KANGAROO

A story of heart, community, and connection

It was an absolute honour to chat with acclaimed actor, director, and producer Wayne Blair, a creative powerhouse best known for *The Sapphires*, *Top End Wedding*, and *Mystery Road*. Blair is a man of many talents, with a career that spans stage and screen, but at his core, he remains grounded in family and community.

Now, Wayne appears in the brand-new heartwarming film *Kangaroo*, which opened to audiences across Australia in mid-September, including right here in Hervey Bay. There is a local connection too, as Wayne's mum, Aunty Julie Blair, proudly calls Hervey Bay home.

"Last month, Mum organised a private screening with family and friends at the Hervey Bay Boat Club," Wayne said with a smile. "She did the same thing for *The Sapphires*. Back then, Mum and Dad were living in Rockhampton, and even though the film was showing around the world, we brought a screening home to the local cinema. We repeated it for *Top End Wedding*, and now, we've done it here in Hervey Bay. It's special. Mum organised everything and prepared all the food platters so everyone could relax and enjoy the film together."

That sense of family and shared celebration seems to echo the themes at the heart of *Kangaroo*.

A story that touches the heart

Kangaroo tells the story of Chris Masterman (played by Ryan Corr), a television weatherman who finds himself stranded in a small town just outside Alice Springs. There, he meets Charlie, a spirited 12-year-old Indigenous girl portrayed by rising star Lily Whiteley. Their friendship, unlikely at first, blossoms as they join forces to rescue and rehabilitate orphaned joeys. In the process, they learn as much about themselves as they do about the fragile creatures in their care.

The film boasts an outstanding ensemble cast including Deborah Mailman, Brooke Satchwell, and Roy Billing. But what makes *Kangaroo* particularly special is its inspiration—the life of Chris "Brolga" Barns, founder of Kangaroo Sanctuary in Alice Springs.

Wayne Blair was drawn to the script immediately and takes on the role of Ralph, a warm, lovable character who seems to have an uncanny knack for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. For Blair, the film's message was irresistible.

"The movie is about a community—those who are new and those who've been there for generations," he explained. The story is a gift to the world."



Wayne with Harry & Kangaroo

Finding the heart of the story

Blair spoke about the magic of stories that linger long after the credits roll.

"When we think of the films we loved as children, they stay with us," he reflected. "That's what *Kangaroo* is about—the connection between Ryan and Lily's characters, two people from very different backgrounds who come together, not because they want to, but because they have to—to protect something greater than themselves."

It's this idea—of connection across differences, and of finding common purpose in the most unexpected of places—that gives *Kangaroo* its universal appeal.

Balancing creativity and life

While many know Wayne Blair as an actor, his creative reach extends much further. He is also a writer and producer, a man constantly juggling projects while trying to stay true to his storytelling instincts. But he admits that balance hasn't always come easily.

"It's only in the last three or four years that I've become better at it; it's still a bit of a dance," he said. "Ninety per cent of the battle is knowing the type of stories I want to tell. I hadn't written for a while, but now I'm working on something new. Creating boundaries is key; time for acting, time for directing, time for family. When I spread myself too thin, it feels impossible, but when I focus, everything flows so much better, and I am healthier because of it."



Wayne Blair

"At the end of the day, family is everything. I can't let outside pressures overshadow that. Family is the heartbeat of who I am."

A message for regional voices

With his ties to Hervey Bay, it felt natural to ask Wayne whether he thought regional communities could play a bigger role in Australia's creative industries. His answer was passionate and encouraging.

"Absolutely. There are amazing voices in places like Hervey Bay. If you're given an opportunity, take it with both hands. And if one doesn't come, do it anyway, start writing, producing, creating, because there are others just as hungry to tell their stories. Organisations like Screen Queensland or Screen Fraser Coast can also support you along the way."

It's advice that carries weight. Blair himself has walked the long road of creative work and knows how powerful it can be when a story is told from a unique, authentic perspective.

Kim experienced the film firsthand

I was lucky enough to be in the audience and to see *Kangaroo* myself, and from the very first scene, I knew it was something special. Having watched the trailer a few times, it had been high on my "must-see" list, so finally settling into the cinema seat was a thrill in itself.

The cinematography was nothing short of breathtaking. It was shot on country with its sweeping shots of Alice Springs and its rugged surrounds, the vast red desert stretching out

in all its glory, and, my personal favourite, the unforgettable "kangaroo highway."

But it wasn't just the scenery that left me spellbound. *Kangaroo* is a film that pulses with emotion. It is heartwarming, deeply moving, and funny. The cast brought each character to life with richness, wit, and charm, making it impossible not to be swept up in their journey.

Long after the credits rolled, three words stayed with me: *community, connection, belonging*. These themes are at the core of the story and are universal themes that resonate with us all.

And of course, there were the joeys. Utterly adorable, their innocence lit up the screen and captured hearts in a way only animals can. They made the story not only believable but unforgettable.

Coming home

Wayne Blair is a proud Batjala, Mununjali, and Wakka Wakka man, with country running deeply through his veins, shaping the stories he tells. For Wayne, returning to Hervey Bay is more than just a visit—it's a homecoming.

"I love walking Urangan Pier, heading to the beaches—Scarness is a favourite—and getting out to K'gari whenever I can," he shared. "When I'm here, it's about stopping and just being present."

This stretch of coastline and K'gari, especially, holds a special place in his heart. It's where his family's story is rooted. His mum and dad first met on Miller Street and got married in Hervey Bay. Wayne spent many holidays here, creating the kind of memories that linger for a lifetime.

Perhaps that's why *Kangaroo* feels so authentic. At its core, it's about slowing down, paying attention, and recognising the value of what surrounds us—whether that's a family gathering at the Boat Club, the friendships we forge, or the joeys that remind us of life's fragility and wonder.

Kangaroo is more than just a film. It's a celebration of family, of community, and of the connections that bind us all. It's a story for every generation, one to watch with your children, your parents, and your grandparents. And it's a story that will stay with you long after you've left the cinema.

See the movie NOW at Big Screen Cinemas Hervey Bay: www.mybigscreen.com.au and the Boat Club Cinema: www.boatclubcinema.com.au.





OPINION PIECE: LOCALLY PRODUCED GOODS

By Andrew Sadler

In this article, I am going to be a little self-indulgent; some may say, so what's new?

Over the last several months, we have been working hard to change a lot of our products over to Australian-owned, produced, and preferably where possible, grown. Most will know of our Charley's Chocolate, grown, produced and manufactured in Mission Beach here in Queensland. It was at this point that I realised what is available when you look. Zokoko Chocolates are an example, not grown in Australia but manufactured by a long-standing small Australian owner who puts quality above quantity. Grounded Pleasures flavoured Hot Chocolate, Ballarat owned and manufactured Hot Chocolate Flavours like mint, orange and our personal favourite, chilli. Plus, they make marshmallows to die for.

Then the next major change was our Soft Drinks, always a sore point as I didn't realise just how parochial people are over their soft drink

selections. Well, we came up with the perfect scenario; after talking with Brendon from Cooks Soft Drinks in Pittsworth, Queensland, he makes the Cooks Old Fashioned Soft Drinks along with the "Dad's Old Style" drinks like Double Sars, Lemon Lime and Bitters and Ginger Beer. The people who have tried them all come back with the same line, "They have so much more flavour!" A winner if ever there was one.

Tea is always a difficult one, but I think we've nailed our Native Tea range, arriving soon with a selection of native products indigenous to Australia, plus our staples of English Breakfast and Earl Grey.

Coffee, well, we are known for our full-bodied coffee, perfect for your early morning pick me up, so this one was going to be a difficult choice; it had to be able to withstand a barrage of taste buds that can be both fickle and picky. So, as our own blend is so well sought after, we are going to keep it, even though it is an international blend; it is roasted here in Australia. What we are going to do is rotate through Australian-grown, produced, roasted single-origin beans that offer a wonderful array of flavours from milk chocolate to ripe berries with a little acidity to aid with the milk. They are approx. 20% lower in Caffeine than imported coffee as there are no pests to interfere with the production of the plants, yet it has a nice robustness that says, "I'm Australian." As a black coffee, it is at its best.

Come and try Aussie first and enjoy the difference. Locals supporting locals.



"Locally, freshly roasted coffee, served quickly — with a touch of sarcasm and humour, if you're lucky."



Open 7 Mornings per week | Fraser Street, Torquay

FX of Coffee

LIFEFLIGHT

Miracle crash survivor helping others

Dozens of Toowoomba and Brisbane medical professionals kept Zach Nightingale alive, but it was the quick thinking of the first two people by his side that saved him.

Zach's right leg was amputated when he came off a motorcycle on 16 December 2017. Severely wounded, many of his internal organs were exposed, and he lost litres of blood.

Banking executives April Cavanagh and John Debenham were driving and saw the devastating accident.

The pair had just travelled more than 1000 kilometres and were 15 kilometres from home. April was working on her laptop, but something made her look up.

She saw the moment Zach's leg smashed into a moving vehicle.

April dialled Triple Zero (000) and in the minute it took her

Photo credit - Josh Thies

and John to run from their car, the bitumen was already covered in Zach's blood. He was in the middle of the road, drifting in and out of consciousness.

They knew they needed to stop the bleeding. April took instructions from a Triple Zero (000) operator while John was on the phone to his nurse wife.

Before help arrived, April applied pressure on Zach's wound, which played a massive role in saving his life.

He was treated on the scene by QAS paramedics and the LifeFlight medical crew before he was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery.

Zach is now 29 and encouraging others to learn what to do in a medical emergency before help arrives.

"I think it's a pretty crucial skill that everyone should know some emergency medical training," Zach said.

"You've got no idea what you'll come across in your day-to-day life. So, you might be the reason why someone actually survives if they ever suffer some type of traumatic incident."

LifeFlight's free trauma training workshops teach participants what to do when the unexpected happens.

Attendees learn how to stop bleeding, treat burns and snake bites and much more.

To register for a class, visit firstminutesmatter.org.au.



Photo credit - Josh Thies

Fraser Coast
Lines in the Sand
Inspiration for Readers and Writers



**Author Talk with
Judy Nunn**

**Wednesday
5 November 2025
6pm**

UniSC Auditorium



PILBARA
Where the country can make you... or break you

Celebrating the release of *Pilbara*

Scan to book your ticket



UniSC Fraser Coast LIBRARIES STATE LIBRARY QUEENSLAND

Public libraries are a partnership between Local Government and the Queensland Government through State Library of Queensland



DUNGA DERBY by RALLY FOR A CAUSE



DUNGAS DIG DEEP TO ASSIST AMELIA

By Scott Rowe
General Manager, Rally for a Cause

She may have been a stranger initially, but Amelia from Murgon, in the South Burnett, and her family were quickly welcomed into the Fraser Coast Dunga Derby family through a special display of love and generosity.

Amelia, 9, lives with a number of conditions, including quadriplegic cerebral palsy, dysphasia and global development delay. She receives hydration via PEG, is non-verbal, non-weight bearing and suffers from regular seizures.

Amelia is dependent on an adult for every aspect of her daily life and requires a significant amount of equipment and assistive technology.

But with a smile that lights up a room, Fraser Coast Dungas were given the opportunity to meet the family and support Amelia on the final night of the 2025 event at Dusty Hill Winery.

Parents Emma and Chris, and Amelia's younger brother Tyler and sisters Eliza and Briana joined the Dungas for dinner and one of the most successful fundraising nights in Dunga Derby history.

"For a group of strangers to come out to us and do what they did was simply incredible. They are the greatest group of people, and we will never forget them and what they have done to help us," Emma said.



"They were so welcoming and kind, we were overwhelmed. They are simply a great bunch of people with massive hearts going above and beyond to support others, even strangers. They are what we call our everyday heroes."

Rally for a Cause general manager Scott Rowe said the timing of the support was ideal, with the family recently being immobilised due to a car accident.

"The family were unable to leave home for three weeks after an accident where the family vehicle hit a kangaroo and the vehicle was written off.

"Hopefully, this assistance will help get the family back on track and enjoying their life again."

On departure from the winery for the final day of the 2025 Fraser Coast Dunga Derby, Amelia and her extended family farewelled the Dungas with thank-you signs of appreciation.

"They must have gone home that night, stayed up and made these thank you signs and then battled the cold to come down and thank each and every one of us. Just beautiful and another example of how the Dunga family always leave a community better than the way we found it."

Rally for a Cause raises funds for people diagnosed with life-limiting medical diagnosis and other tragic circumstances beyond their control.

For more information on the charity, visit www.rallyforacause.org.au

HERVEY BAY WOODCRAFTS CLUB

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

THE CLUB IS OPEN
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY
AND MOST PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FROM
7.00AM - 11.30AM AT
187 BIDEFORD ST TORQUAY.



TEL 0413344498 EMAIL HERVEYBAYWOODCRAFTS2@GMAIL.COM

Arise+Shine

with Tania Comerford

Sacred Moments in Life

When my husband spoke to audiences, he would sometimes ask, "How often have you had moments that took your breath away?" Dean often recalled the moment when he first looked down into the Grand Canyon, or the moment when our first child was born. These are sacred moments in life.

Very sadly, my husband passed away suddenly in August, due to a blood clot in his lung. Despite having cancer, Dean lived with such incredible hope. What a way to go! We had no regrets, Dean sought sacred moments in life - he lived life to the full.

Sacred moments – are moments etched into your heart and soul that never leave you. Moments you feel truly alive.

Seek moments that live on beyond you. Sometimes they are the big things in life, sometimes they are small but impactful - like turning up when it matters. Many people told me they wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for Dean, many said they wouldn't be married if it wasn't for Dean. Dean was simply being a mate and helped



Dean & Tania Comerford



Tania Comerford

others when they were struggling. Do the little things that have a lasting impact. My husband lived five lifetimes in his 58 years.

There are so many sacred moments in life. When a child is born. When someone takes their last breath. When a tiny hand reaches up to hold yours. When a tear trickles down your cheek. Seeing our magnificent whales. A butterfly brushing your skin. Looking into the beautiful eyes of a baby. Falling in love.

Have a beautiful sense of wonder and awe. Childlike curiosity. Going with your gut. Listening to that voice that won't leave you. Turning your face to feel the warmth of a sunrise. Stopping to notice the intricate details in a flower.

"How often have you had moments that took your breath away?" Seek more sacred moments in life.

Tania Comerford

Arise+Shine

Transformational Life Coach + Retreat Mentor

Follow me on Facebook

CREATIVE GENERATION

Local students within the North Coast Region (expanding from Gympie to Agnes Water) are bringing colour, creativity, and fresh perspectives to our community through the Creative Generation Visual Art program. Their artworks, proudly displayed at the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery, are more than just student projects – they are powerful expressions of imagination, identity, and the issues that matter to young people today.

Showcasing student art that is of a high standard serves an important purpose. It celebrates the talent and dedication of our emerging artists, giving them well-deserved recognition beyond the classroom. When their work is displayed, students see that their creativity has value in the wider world, boosting their confidence and encouraging them to keep exploring their artistic potential.

For the community, these exhibitions are equally rewarding. They create a vibrant cultural connection between schools and the public, offering residents the chance to see life through the eyes of young people. From bold explorations of colour and form to thought-provoking reflections on social and cultural themes, student artworks enrich our shared spaces and spark conversations.

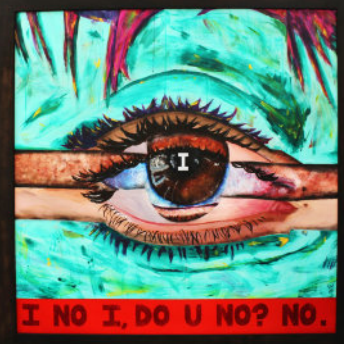
This public display also has the power to inspire. Younger

students, peers, and even adults may be encouraged to pick up a brush, pencil, or camera after engaging with the works on show. In this way, Creative Generation exhibitions nurture not only the artists themselves but also a broader culture of creativity within the community.

Most importantly, these displays highlight the value of arts education. They demonstrate the skills, ideas, and confidence that young people develop through creative learning. By celebrating their work in a public arena, we affirm that the arts play a vital role in shaping innovative, thoughtful, and connected communities.

When you pass by a Creative Generation Visual Art display, take a moment to stop and look closer—you might just see the future of art in our region.

Creative Generation runs from Saturday, October 4 (Official opening at 12pm) to November 16 at the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery.



Patrik Plains - The I - Hervey Bay State School

SOCIAL SNAPS

Out and about on the Fraser Coast!

Pseudo Echo's
Brian Canham
didn't
disappoint



Eurogliders
Grace Knight
rocks the stage



**Sounds of Rock Music Festival
Seafront Oval, Hervey Bay
NUI Events**

Photos by Kim Parnell



The crew from Fraser Coast
Mates were ready to party

Jon Stevens
performed songs
from INXS &
Noiseworks



Local band Sagnar experienced
performing on the big stage

SOCIAL SNAPS

Out and about on the Fraser Coast!



Local musician Tim Earle from Dogwood Crossing belts out a tune



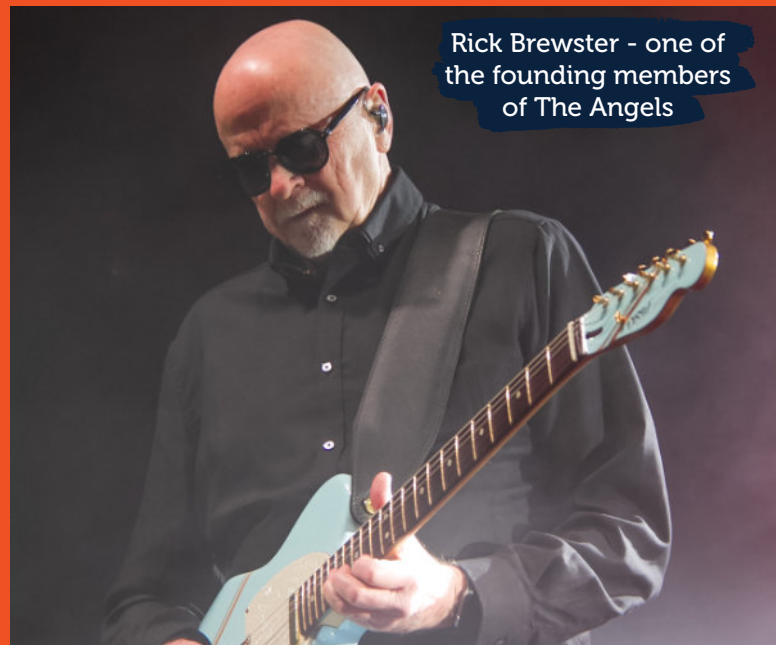
Jason Singh performs with Taxiride



The Running Man poses with event goers



The crowd bop to Dragon



Rick Brewster - one of the founding members of The Angels

excelsior
Maryborough City

Major Sponsor: **What's On**

Community Sponsor: **Fraser Coast Regional Council**

Community Sponsor: **DUNNINGS Warehouse**

PLUS FRASER COAST HIGHLANDER PIPE BAND

MARKET STALLS

Bring the family down for a fun day in the park!

Sunday in the Park

+ Band Hall Handcraft Markets

9am - 1pm* | Sunday October 26 | Queen's Park, Maryborough

BRASS BAND | TRAIN RIDES | HOT FOOD/COLD DRINKS | JUMPING CASTLE | MARKETS | FOOD & TRAIN RIDES FROM APPROX. 9AM | EXCELSIOR BAND FROM 10AM | PIPE BAND FROM 12.15PM

APPROX. TIMES

SOCIAL SNAPS

Out and about on the Fraser Coast!



This gorgeous dog enjoyed the paddle out too!



Paddling out for awareness, connection, and conservation

Paddle Out for Whales Torquay Jetty Photos by Kim Parnell



Paddles up for a minutes silence



Darren Everard from the HBSLC carefully carries the wreath to the dingy



Yoga with a view

TIDE TIMES URANGAN

OCTOBER

Time	m	Time	m
1 0337	2.35	16 0518	2.81
0930	1.50	1111	1.12
WE 1626	2.98	TH 1724	3.45
2311	1.43		
2 0446	2.57	17 0001	1.01
1038	1.29	0605	3.06
TH 1719	3.22	FR 1200	0.98
2359	1.19	1809	3.53
3 0539	2.85	18 0039	0.88
1131	1.05	0645	3.25
FR 1803	3.46	SA 1245	0.89
		1847	3.56
4 0039	0.94	19 0112	0.78
0623	3.14	0720	3.39
SA 1220	0.82	SU 1324	0.86
1844	3.67	1922	3.54
5 0117	0.71	20 0142	0.72
0706	3.41	0752	3.48
SU 1307	0.64	MO 1401	0.87
1922	3.81	1955	3.49
6 0155	0.52	21 0209	0.67
0748	3.65	0823	3.53
MO 1354	0.53	TU 1438	0.91
2001	3.86	● 2025	3.39
7 0232	0.39	22 0235	0.65
0830	3.82	0852	3.54
TU 1441	0.50	WE 1514	0.97
○ 2041	3.80	2054	3.27
8 0309	0.34	23 0300	0.68
0914	3.91	0920	3.51
WE 1529	0.55	TH 1549	1.06
2120	3.64	2122	3.12
9 0345	0.39	24 0327	0.75
0959	3.90	0947	3.44
TH 1616	0.70	FR 1624	1.19
2201	3.39	2149	2.96
10 0421	0.54	25 0354	0.86
1046	3.78	1017	3.33
FR 1709	0.92	SA 1701	1.33
2245	3.08	2220	2.79
11 0500	0.76	26 0424	1.01
1140	3.60	1052	3.19
SA 1809	1.16	SU 1747	1.47
2339	2.76	2256	2.63
12 0546	1.02	27 0458	1.18
1245	3.41	1138	3.04
SU 1922	1.35	MO 1849	1.58
		2345	2.47
13 0057	2.50	28 0543	1.37
0657	1.28	1248	2.94
MO 1400	3.28	TU 2003	1.61
2046	1.42		
14 0239	2.42	29 0110	2.38
0841	1.38	0657	1.51
TU 1519	3.26	WE 1414	2.94
● 2210	1.34	2114	1.53
15 0412	2.57	30 0248	2.44
1009	1.29	0836	1.51
WE 1630	3.34	TH 1525	3.06
2315	1.17	● 2216	1.36
		31 0402	2.65
		0954	1.35
		FR 1623	3.23
		2310	1.12

Fraser Coast Markets



MARYBOROUGH

Maryborough Rotary Markets

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

MARYBOROUGH

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

HERVEY BAY

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

HERVEY BAY

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

OTHER AREAS

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

OTHER AREAS

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.



SCREEN FRASER COAST
EST. 2024

PRESENTS

OCTOBER 18 - 26



SHOW US YOUR SHORTS!

DO YOU HAVE A CREATIVE SPARK AND A CAMERA?

**ENTER YOUR SHORT FILM INTO FRASER SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2025!
WE'RE SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR REGION'S UNIQUE VOICES AND
LOCAL TALENT.**

**ENTRIES TO FRASER SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL
CLOSE 21ST SEPTEMBER**

**SPECIAL
SCREENINGS+
Q&A**

**FILM FESTIVAL
SCREENINGS**

**FILM INDUSTRY
PANEL
DISCUSSION**

**AWARDS
NIGHT**

FOR MORE INFO TO ENTER OR TO BOOK A TICKET

FRASERSHORTS.COM.AU

Thank you to our sponsors

