What's On



DECEMBER 2025/ JANUARY 2026

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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Gig Guide

Tide Times

Markets









blue sky











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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.

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hat's On

Produced and Published by Kim Parnell

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

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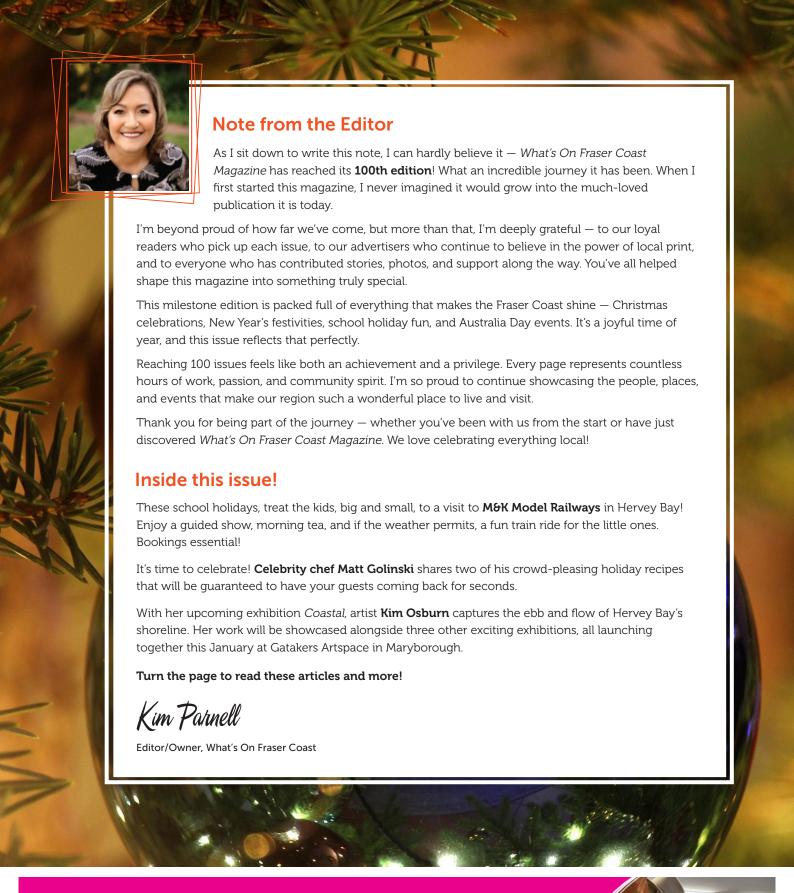
whatsonfrasercoast.com.au 0467 303 171

www.facebook.com/WhatsOnFraserCoast

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

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January 2026

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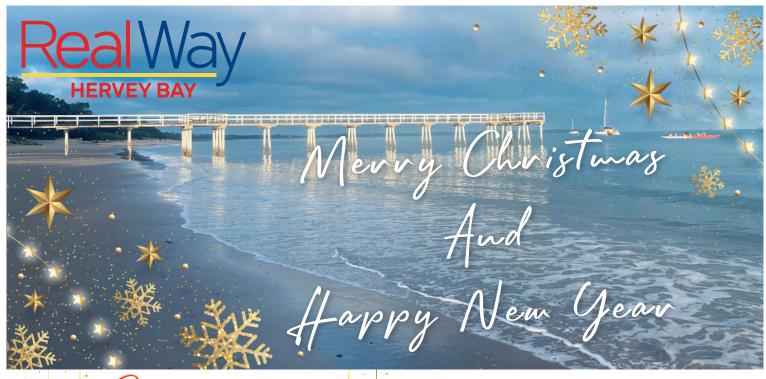
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Celebrating 100 editions



As What's On Fraser Coast celebrates its 100th edition, we're taking a moment to shine a well-deserved spotlight on six incredible local businesses. These long-term advertisers have grown alongside the magazine, supporting not only our pages but also the thriving Fraser Coast community that brings our stories to life.

To celebrate this milestone, we invited each of these advertisers to answer four questions about their business, their connection to the Fraser Coast, and their plans for the holiday season. These six people are a true reflection of the passion, creativity, and resilience that make our region shine.



What first inspired you to start your business?

My husband, Dean, was drinking a milkshake when he saw a lady dancing down the street in her new hat from the Hervey Bay Hat Co. He saw the business was for sale, and the rest is history.

In your eyes, what makes the Fraser Coast such a special place to live and work?

The Fraser Coast is heaven on earth. The stunning scenery, relaxed lifestyle, friendly people, variety of cafes and restaurants, and the majestic whales. I can't imagine living anywhere else.

What's one thing you've discovered about yourself through running your business?

It takes a lot of courage and determination to take the risk of owning and running a business. I'm so proud that Dean and I pushed through many obstacles and never gave up.

How do you plan to celebrate the holiday season this year?

I will be with my family in Southern New Zealand, celebrating Christmas on the same farm I grew up on. There is a lot of heritage for me there.





What first inspired you to start your business?

After working as a Property Manager for RealWay, I was reminded how rewarding it is to help people find a place to call home. I've always enjoyed working with the public and have a strong interest in the housing market, so taking over the business felt like a natural next step.

In your eyes, what makes the Fraser Coast such a special place to live and work?

The Fraser Coast offers a relaxed lifestyle, stunning beaches, and a strong community spirit. People here genuinely care for one another, making it a wonderful place to live and work.

What's one thing you've discovered about yourself through running your business?

I've learned I'm adaptable, a problem solver, and that with an amazing team beside me, I can achieve anything.

How do you plan to celebrate the holiday season this year?

This year, I'm keeping it simple and enjoying a laid-back Christmas with family, friends, and my grandkids, cherishing every moment together.



What first inspired you to start your business?

In 1989, we moved our family from Sydney to Hervey Bay to take over the ownership of the local tourist attraction Neptunes Reefworld aquarium. We were looking for a sea change from the busy lifestyle of Sydney. Since owning the Aquarium, we expanded the business by adding on the Waterfront Restaurant in 2005.

In your eyes, what makes the Fraser Coast such a special place to live and work?

We love living on the Fraser Coast and have watched our family grow since living here.

Hervey Bay has a beautiful coastline and has certainly grown over the years.

Slowly, we have gained much-needed entertainment, shopping and activities for the locals and tourists.

What's one thing you've discovered about yourself through running your business?

Resilience, owning a business in Hervey Bay over the last 35 years, has certainly come with many challenges.

How do you plan to celebrate the holiday season this year?

I plan to celebrate this festive season with family and friends. ..keeping it local.



What first inspired you to start your business? My lifelong love of fashion

In your eyes, what makes the Fraser Coast such a special place to live and work?

We are a vibrant community that love to travel the world and look lovely as well as smart. At home, we love casual and sometimes a beachy look that suits Hervey Bay.

What's one thing you've discovered about yourself through running your business?

My fashion boutique is the very best work I've done, and I am very proud of all I have achieved.

How do you plan to celebrate the holiday season this year?

Serving my many lovely customers and a champers or two with family on the day. I'm living my best life.



What first inspired you to start your business?

I wanted a change from Sydney, and this seemed perfect, if you don't want to work for someone except the taxman, what better place could you ask for?

In your eyes, what makes the Fraser Coast such a special place to live and work?

Firstly, the weather. As much as we complain about it being too hot or cold, we are really spoilt! Next, shorter distances to drive. Any more than five minutes, and you need your passport stamped.

What's one thing you've discovered about yourself through running your business?

You need to be patient and resilient; people accept you in their own time. Good people are few and far between; nasty people are rare, so treat them that way.

How do you plan to celebrate the holiday season this year?

I will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the family, after that it's open slather with our backs to the wall and chaos for about three weeks.



When did you join the Hervey Bay Boat Club?

I joined The Hervey Bay Boat Club in 1986, became a Board Member in the 90s, was elected President in 2001, and now I enjoy visiting the club almost every day.

In your eyes, what makes the Fraser Coast such a special place to live and work?

The tourism and building industries offer lots of work opportunities, and we are fortunate to have such a great climate, beautiful beaches and waterways, excellent boating facilities and of course, The Boat Club.

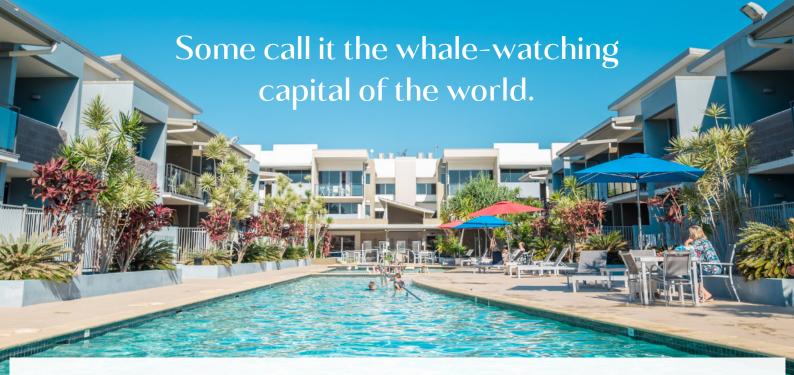
What's one thing you've discovered about yourself as a board member of the club?

I enjoy my interaction with my fellow Board Members and the management and staff of The Boat Club, and also enjoy the excellent facilities with my fellow members.

How do you plan to celebrate the holiday season this year?

I might go fishing and spend a lot of time at the Boat Club.

As we look back on 100 editions of What's On Fraser Coast Magazine, we're reminded that our success is built on the strong relationships we've formed with local businesses, readers, our writers and the wider community. To our long-term advertisers featured here — and to every business that has supported us along the way — we thank you. Here's to many more years of sharing stories, celebrating locals, and highlighting the very best of life on the Fraser Coast.



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.



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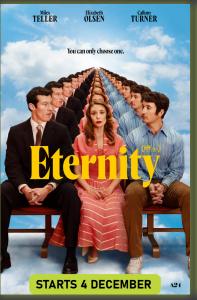
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Turning the page on 100 issues

By Kim Parnell

When I look back on the history of What's On Fraser Coast Magazine, I can hardly believe how far it's come. What began as a small local publication in 2017 has grown into something truly special — a vibrant, community-driven magazine that's still going strong. I never imagined we'd reach our 50th issue (and I'd be the cover girl for it!), let alone make it all the way to 100.

Running your own business as a sole trader is not for the faint-hearted. You need discipline, grit, and a knack for solving problems on the fly. Over time, you learn to grow a thicker skin —

because writing

JIMMY BAINES

Jimmy Barnes

about a wide variety of topics inevitably puts you in the spotlight. It's wonderful when things go smoothly, but challenging when they don't. I don't always get it right, but I give it everything I've got and own my mistakes. Print media is a tough and unforgiving medium, but it can also be very rewarding.

The life of a magazine owner, editor and publisher is never dull. Every deadline cycle is a whirlwind of layouts, interviews, photo shoots, ad sales, and endless cups of coffee. I decide what stories make it in, what needs writing, who I can call on to contribute, and which events to cover. I also handle the advertising side, which involves working with my clients right up until print.

Each month, I spend hours compiling events to create the region's most comprehensive calendar — yes, it's all hand-typed! Venues send me their gigs, and piece by piece, the magazine begins to take shape. Once all the content is

By the C 2018 - John Farnham

ready, it's sent to my wonderful graphic designer, Jen Mulligan of Jen Mulligan Designs, who works her magic to bring every page to life.

Then comes the proofing stage — the part that tests patience and eyesight! Every ad is sent to clients for approval, and I reread every article as it's designed. Sometimes I'll read the same paragraph twenty times and *still*

miss something. Once final adjustments are made, I approve the print file and off it goes to the printers.

After printing, the magazines are trucked from the printers to

Hervey Bay, where they wait patiently at a local business until I pick them up for distribution. Then begins the great magazine run — 5,000 copies delivered across the Fraser Coast. Until

Mary Poppins Festival 2017

recently, my husband helped with distribution, but due to health issues, lately it's been wonderful friends. Still, the rhythm continues — as soon as one issue is out, the next one begins!

Behind the scenes, there's also the bookwork to do to make things a little easier for my accountant at the end of each month. Once the magazine hits the streets, Sam Gould from Gould Marketing uploads it to our website.

The magazine has also proudly supported and sponsored many local events and organisations, including The Big Sing, Hervey Bay Woodcrafts Club, Sounds of Rock Music Festival, Excelsior Maryborough City's Sunday in the Park, Odyssey Festival, and Dunga Derby by Rally for a Cause (and that's just this year) Giving back to the community has always been at the heart of what I do.

I'm incredibly proud of what I have achieved with What's On Fraser Coast Magazine. Over the years, I've been lucky to work with some amazing contributors and writers and some wonderful advertisers, both past and present, who have become so much more to me. They are part of the What's On family!

When readers tell me how much they enjoy reading each edition and that it's their go-to guide for what's happening across the Fraser Coast, that makes it all worthwhile.

Some of my favourite magazine covers of all time are over the page, and each one has a story.

Thank you for being part of the journey. Here's to 100 issues!





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- Your banner displayed at the event
- **Certificate of Appreciation**

Interested in other Sponsorship opportunities for this event?







Creating Connected Communities

By Christian Berechree

Operations Manager Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre

Make connection vour resolution

New Year's Resolutions aren't for everyone, but as the year ends and a new one begins, it's always good to think about what lies ahead.

Christian Berechree

In recent years, we have faced at times stark reminders of how important community connection is - and what can happen when we don't have

So, this year, I hope you will spend some time thinking through ways to feel more connected to your community.

Be part of something

A simple step you can take to meaningfully connect with the community is to become part of a group, club or activity.

This year, why not sign up for that course you've been meaning to take, or join your local service club?

Being part of something leads to a true sense of meaning and belonging.

Fraser Coast Regional Council's Little Library is a wonderful resource for finding services and clubs to get involved with: https://thelittlelibrary.com.au/

You can connect with events and workshops through Fraser Coast Events, What's On Fraser Coast Magazine and HBNC's What's On page.

Generosity matters

One of the most powerful ways to connect is by giving back. If you're in a position to do so, make this year the year you look into volunteering, donating or sponsoring a worthy

Finding a local cause you believe in can be challenging, so signing up for the Fraser Coast Heroes Volunteer Database is a great option: https://tinyurl.com/3b93aa82

You'll get relevant volunteering opportunities delivered straight to your email inbox.

For those who have the means, seeking out a local event, charity or cause in need of donations or sponsorship could make a world of difference.

Get in touch with a group that resonates with you - it's almost guaranteed they could use the support.

As we look ahead to 2026, let's all make connection our resolution.



Dress Me Wild Janie Wild

Pialba Place - Opposite Big W 0409 266 966



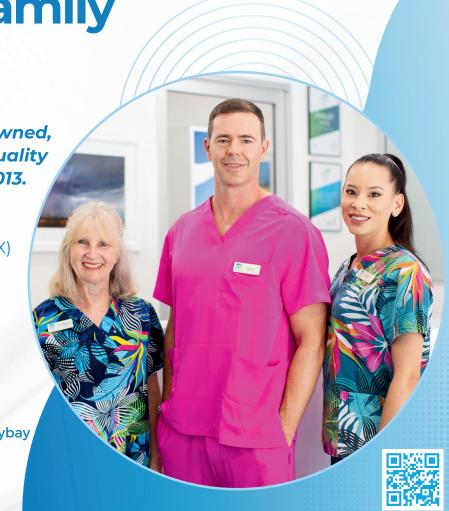
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A Corerone ON TRACK Photos by Kim Parnell

Karin and Malcolm (Mal) have shared a great relationship that's truly stood the test of time, a partnership built on hard work, dedication, and a shared passion that has delighted thousands of visitors over the years.

In April 2025, they celebrated 40 years in business with M&K Wide Bay Electronics and, a couple of years later, opened M&K Model Railways. With their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the horizon, there's even more to celebrate in the year ahead.

Their story begins quite literally next door.

"Malcolm's brother was a photographer," Karin recalls with a smile. "At my Auntie's wedding, he took all the photos, which were later displayed at Mal's house. I was only twelve at the time, but that's how he got to know my family. We moved from Victoria and ended up living right next door to him. We became good friends."

Mal laughs, adding cheekily, "You could say I've got an eye for these things."

When they married, the couple settled in Maryborough, where Mal worked as a technician for the Electricity Board. But it wasn't long before they realised they wanted more control over their lives. "There was so much outside work, everyone was calling Malcolm for jobs," Karin explains. "So, we decided to start our own business."

Their first venture was Tandy Electronics, a local shop that kept Mal's technical skills sharp. Around the same time, they began developing what would become M & K Model Railways — a business born from Mal's lifelong fascination with trains.

"We used to take our railway displays to shopping centres," Mal says. "The public's enthusiasm was incredible. That's when we realised there was a real interest — not just from kids, but from adults, too."

Karin, a keen gardener, began incorporating outdoor elements into their displays. "We even built a garden railway

outside," she says. "Buses used to come past here because there was a popular store called Polymetric Products at the end of the street. People would stop and look at our trains in the yard!"

Before long, the business became a local attraction — thanks in part to a little encouragement from tourism leaders. "John Craig-Gardiner, who was head of the Tourism Board at the time, really wanted businesses like ours to open to the public," Mal remembers. "This was before all the housing sprang up around here."

While M & K Model Railways grew inside, their other business, M & K Wide Bay Electronics, thrived outside. "We did a lot of work for the council," Mal says. "We built their electrical systems right up until they got their own team. We also worked for local and state government departments, fire brigades, and ambulances — installing and maintaining their two-way radio systems."

At one point, they had twelve staff. Today, it's just the two of them again, "We've come full circle," Karin says.

Mal's love of trains started long before all this. "Dad was a guard on the railway for 47 years," he says. "We lived across from the railway yards in Maryborough, so trains were part of my life from the start."

When he was seven, his brother gave him his first train set — a Triang Britannia Locomotive that still works today. "I had to get up at 4:30 in the morning to open it on Christmas Day," he laughs. "I had it all set up before breakfast. It still smokes — it's 65 years old now and comes out every Christmas."

Although Mal's father hoped he'd follow in his footsteps and join the railway, Mal's fascination with the electrics behind the trains led him down a different track — becoming an electrician. "It started as a boyhood hobby," he says, "but over time it evolved into what it is today."

What it is today is something truly special — a miniature world that captures imaginations across generations. Visitors travel from near and far to see the meticulously detailed layouts that fill the couple's property. "It's frightening sometimes," Karin admits. "We're now seeing second-generation visitors — people who came as kids, bringing their own children. It's really touching."

The displays are by appointment only, with viewing sessions that include a guided show, morning tea, and a chance for the kids to enjoy a train ride — weather permitting. Bookings are advertised on their website and Facebook page.

Mal also opens the doors on Friday mornings from 9am to 12pm for anyone who wants to bring in their trains or chat about layouts. "It's free," he says. "We even provide morning tea. We get everyone — truck drivers, engine drivers, even a doctor who's mad about trains. It's just about sharing the hobby."

The on-site retail shop, open Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 4pm and Friday mornings, is a treasure trove for enthusiasts — stocked with everything from engines and tracks to miniature scenery. The couple even take their entire range to expos, with their next big trip planned for Bundaberg in March.



Keeping everything running smoothly is no small feat. "It's a full-time job just maintaining it all," Karin says. "There's so much cleaning involved — the trains, the tracks, the sets. It all needs constant care."

Each display is powered by an intricate web of electronics. "We've got about 20 miles of underground cables," Mal says proudly. "It took ten years to build it all. Everything is permanently wired in."

At Christmas time, the magic steps up a notch. On Friday and Saturday nights (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm) during the school holidays, both the indoor and outdoor layouts are lit up for the festive season — weather permitting, of course. "Unfortunately, last year the weather turned bad," Karin says, "but when it's clear, it's absolutely beautiful."

Visitors come from all walks of life — and all over the world. "We've had everyone from politicians to movie stars," Karin says. "Even the grandson of the Von Trapp family visited! But the one that really stuck with me was a little boy who went home and spent the night in his sleep going 'choo choo!' after seeing our show. Moments like that are the most rewarding."



Mal agrees. "It's the smiles that make it worthwhile. We even get visits from nursing homes and seeing the joy on people's faces — that's what keeps us going."

As for his prized possession? "That old Britannia locomotive," he says, eyes lighting up. "It's more than just a train — it's a memory. It's where it all began."

Now, as they approach 50 years of marriage, it's clear that Karin and Mal's journey has been more than just about trains. It's been about connection — to each other, to their community, and to the countless people who have found joy in their miniature world.

"We've seen so many changes over the years," Karin reflects. "It was easier being in business back then. But the passion — that's never changed."

Thousands have visited M&K Model Railways over the decades, many returning again and again. For them, it's more than a display — it's a place where memories are made.

And for Karin and Mal, it's the legacy of a life beautifully lived — side by side, on and off the tracks.

M&K MODEL RAILWAYS

- 📌 50 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- Priday, 9 am–12 pm (with morning teal)
- Trains: Viewing by appointment only bookings essential 4124 1979
- Visit <u>www.mkmodelrailways.com.au</u> or find them on Facebook



Calendar of Events DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

Tue, Dec 2

(Every Tuesday)

Sun, Dec 7

11am - 2pm

Sun, Dec 7

Fraser Coast Toy Run

Registration: 7am - 9am

Entry: Gold coin donation

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough

Free Entry

APEX Santa Fair

Queens Park, Maryborough

6pm

Free Tuesday Trivia

Hervey Bay Boat Club

Team Size: 2-6 brainiacs per squad

Sat, Nov 15 - Sun, Jan 4

Waste to Art Competition Exhibition

Sat. Dec 6

(Every Saturday)

Brief 6.50 am

Urangan Pier

Sat, Dec 6

2.30pm - 3.30pm

Sun, Dec 7

From 10am

Massive Toy Raffle &

Free Family Fun Day

Hervey Bay Boat Club

6pm - 8.30pm nightly

Hervey Bay Parkrun

FREE 5km timed event

(Don't forget your barcode)

Belly Dancing with Marta

Spaces limited/book now

The Tree House: Urangan

Community Wellness Centre

Photos with "Bluey" & "Santa"

Thu, Dec 11 - Tue, Dec 23

Christmas Lights Wonderland

Gold coin donation at the gate

Hervey Bay Botanic Gardens

\$10 per session - Event by HBNC

Gatakers Artspace, Maryborough www.gatakersartspace.com.au

Fri, Nov 28 - Sun, Dec 7 THEATRE: Tom, Dick, and Harry

(British Farce) Ticketed event Z-PAC Theatre, 15 Zephyr St,

www.zpactheatre.com.au

Maryborough Parkrun

(Every Saturday) Brief 6.50 am FREE 5km timed event Cheapside St

Sat. Dec 6

(Don't forget your barcode)

Sat, Dec 6

Toni Robinson's Dance School presents GLAM

Cost involved Brolga Theatre

www.brolgatheatre.org

Sun, Dec 7

Into the Emerald Gates By Dresens Ballet School

Cost involved Brolga Theatre

www.brolgatheatre.org

Sat, Dec 13

Maryborough Speedway

To see the lineup, head to www.maryboroughspeedway.com.au

Sat, Dec 13

Community Markets

(Presented by Burrum Heads Neighbourhood Centre) 8am - 12pm 203 Burrum St, Burrum Heads Enquiries: 4193 4441

Fri, Dec 5

Christmas Dinner at River Heads

5.30pm - 8pm Ticketed event All tickets need to be pre-booked and paid for

(River Heads Progress Association) Community Hall, 45 Ariadne St Find event on Facebook

Sat. Dec 6

Carols in the Village

\$2 entry - Kids under 14 free Gates open 5pm, Carols at 6pm Hervey Bay Historical Village & Museum

Sun, Dec 7

Maryborough Carols in the Park

5pm – 8pm

Cost: Free

Queen's Park, Maryborough

Thu, Dec 11

MUSIC: Morning melodies -Home For Christmas - Darren Coggan

11am - 12.15pm Ticketed event Brolga Theatre, Maryborough www.brolgatheatre.org

Sat, Dec 13

The Hervey Bay Carols by Candlelight

Gates open 3pm, pre-show entertainment 4pm, Main program at 6pm, Fireworks

Cost: Optional gold coin donation on entry Seafront Oval, Pialba

Sun, Dec 14

Busby Marou - Back on the Tools Acoustic Tour)

Ticketed event

Tickets via www.oztix.com.au Bay Central Tavern, Pialba

Sat. Dec 20 - Sat. Jan 3

The Ambulance Goods Wheel

Nightly from 7pm (except Christmas Day)

50 cents per ticket (bring your 50cent pieces)

Scarness Foreshore

Sat, Dec 20

Beyond Reality - Jaden Boon's **Comedy Hypnosis Show**

18+ From 8pm Ticketed event Hervey Bay Boat Club Tickets: www.jadenboonevents.com

Thu, Dec 25 **Christmas Day**



Sat, Dec 20

The Killer Queen Experience

8pm

Ticketed event Hervey Bay RSL

www.herveybayrsl.com.au

Sun, Dec 21 3pm - 6pm

MUSIC: Hillbilly Goats Show

Ticketed event – via trybooking Z-Pac Theatre, 15 Zephyr St, Scarness www.zpactheatre.com.au

Brought to you by What's On Fraser Coast

Full market list on page 38 | Gig Guide on page 18 & 19

Fri, Dec 26 - Sat, Dec 27

Maryborough Speedway

To see the lineup, head to www.maryboroughspeedway.com.au

Wed, Dec 31

New Year's Eve by the Beach

Torquay Beachside Twilight Markets – 2pm – 8pm Bill Fraser Park, Torquay Cost – Free

Fireworks display at 8pm



Wed, Dec 31

New Year's Eve Party

Live band: Venus Envy plus DJ Mr Sparkle

Free entry – 9pm

The Services Club Maryborough www.maryboroughservicesclub. com.au

Mon, Jan 5

The Unofficial Tribute Show: Taylor — A Tribute to the Eras of Taylor Swift Music

7pm – 9.15pm Ticketed event Brolga Theatre & Convention Centre www.brolgatheatre.org

Fri, Jan 9

ART: Coastal: Kim Osburn

Official Opening – 6pm Free event

Gatakers Artspace, Maryborough

Fri, Jan 9 - Sun, Jan 11 Community Flights Fundraising

From 9am

Flights

Hervey Bay Aeroclub Inc Find the event on Facebook

Sat. Jan 10

Return of the Medium by Peter Williams

7.30pm

The Services Club Maryborough

Ticketed event via www.trybooking.com

Sat, Jan 10

Punk Show in Hervey Bay

6pm Twelve Dollar Arches, Sagnar, Robbie Fraser Blazing Saddles, Torquay 6pm – Cost involved 18+ unless accompanied by a guardian www.tickets.oztix.com.au

Sat, Jan 17

Charity Music Bingo Night

(Presented by Hervey Bay Basketball & The Clubhouse) 5pm – 10pm Ticketed event, via www.events.humanitix.com The Clubhouse Hervey Bay



Mon, Jan 26

Australia Day Celebrations

9.30pm to 3pm

Entry: \$5 for adults

Kids under 14 are free

Hervey Bay Historical Village & Museum

Mon, Jan 26

Australia Day Family Fun Day And Cricket Match

9am – 3pm

River Heads Reserve

Mon, Jan 26

Australia Day Awards Presentation

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough For more info, go to www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/ australia-day



Running in the Shadows

Of Fleetwood Mac
Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre & Convention

Centre

www.brolgatheatre.org



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.



GIG GUIDE

LIVE MUSIC ON THE FRASER COAST

HERVEY BAY



Fri 5, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray Sat 6, 6.00 pm, Shannon Young Sun 7, 3.30 pm, Derek F. Smith

Fri 12, 6.00 pm, Foreign Currency Sat 13, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray Sun 14, 4.00 pm, Shaun Beckett

Fri 19, 6.00 pm, Aaron Westlake Sat 20, 6.00 pm, Brian Speirs Sun 21, 2.00 pm, Peter Baker

Fri 26, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray Sat 27, 6.00 pm, Frank Benn Sun 28, 2.00 pm, Darren Marlow

Wed 31, 4.30 pm, Dean Gray Wed 31, 8.00 pm, Shane Allsop

JANUARY

Fri 2, 6.00 pm, Shannon Young Sat 3, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray Sun 4, 3.30 pm, Shaun Beckett

Fri 9, 6.00 pm, Derek F. Smith Sat 10, 6.00 pm, Frank Benn Sun 11, 2.00 pm, Peter Baker

Fri 16, 6.00 pm, Insufficient Funds

Sat 17, 6.00 pm, Brian Speirs Sun 18, 2.00 pm, Darren Marlow

Fri 23, 6.00 pm, Shane Allsop Sat 24, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray Sun 25, 2.00 pm, Aaron Westlake

Fri 30, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray Sat 31, 6.00 pm, Brian Speirs Sun 1, 2.00 pm, Darren Marlow



The Beach House Hotel

DECEMBER

Fri 5, 9pm, Just Dez Sat 6, 9pm, DJ Crooksy Sun 7, 2pm, Franky Busta

Fri 12, 9pm, Tasch & Tones Sat 13, 9pm, Marshall Brothers Sun 14, 2pm, Dan Hodgson

Fri 19, 9pm, Dogwood Crossing Sat 20, 9pm, DJ Nixon & DJ Brazzle Sun 21, 2pm, Dogwood Duo

Fri 26, from 2pm, Shane Allsop, DJ Two Face & Red Betty Sat 27, 9pm, Dogwood Crossing Sun 28, 2pm, The Boys

Wed 31, 9pm, Dancefloor Confessions downstairs & DJ's Nixon & Brazzle upstairs

JANUARY

NOT SUPPLIED

Hervey Bay RSL

DECEMBER

Fri 5, 11.30am, Trevor Judge Fri 5, 6pm, Brian Speirs Sat 6, 8pm, Late Lacey

Fri 12, 11.30am, Trevor Judge Fri 12, 6pm, Sam Maddison Sat 13, 8pm, Red Betty

Fri 19, 11.30am, Trevor Judge Fri 19, 6pm, Emma Newman Sat 20, 8pm, GR8 Co

Fri 26, 11.30am, Trevor Judge Fri 26, 6pm, Brad Turner Sat 27, 8pm, Forbidden Road Sun 28, 12pm, Doug Edwards

Wed 31, 8pm, Rhubarb Tarts

JANUARY

Fri 2, 11.30am, Trevor Judge Fri 2, 6pm, Emma Newman Sat 3, 8pm, The Lowdown

Fri 9, 11.30am, Trevor Judge Fri 9, 6pm, Bevan Spiers Sat 10, 8pm, Rhubarb Tarts

Fri 16, 11.30am, Will Ramage

Sat 17, 8pm, Dogwood Crossing

Fri 23, 11.30am, Trevor Judge Fri 23, 6pm, Kev Carroll Sat 24th, 8pm, Trainwrecks Sun 25th, 12pm, Shannon Young Mon 26th, 11.30am, Doug Edwards

Fri 30th, 11.30am, Trevor Judge Fri 30th, 7pm, Dodgie Rockers Sat 31st, 8pm, Red Betty



The Clubhouse Hervey Bay

DECEMBER

Fri 5, 6pm, Aaron Westlake Sat 6, 6pm, Will Ramage

Fri 12, 6pm, Doug Edwards Sat 13, 6pm, Mia Hinsch

Fri 19, 6pm, Shannon Young Sat 20, 6pm, Frank Benn

Fri 26, 6pm, Nicko Rolfe Sat 27, 6pm, Emma Newman

Wed 31, 6pm, Doug Edwards

JANUARY

Fri 2, 6pm, Brad Turner Sat 3, 6pm, Nick Rolfe

Fri 9, 6pm, Aaron Westlake Sat 10, 6pm, Shannon Young

Fri 16, 6pm, Scott Angeles Sat 17, 6pm, Emma Newman

Fri 23, 6pm, Doug Edwards Sat 24, 6pm, Mia Hinsch

Mon 26, 12.30pm, Honey Bees

Fri 30, 6pm, Brian Speirs Sat 31, 6pm, Frank Benn

DECEMBER 2025 -JANUARY 2026

Brought to you by What's On Fraser Coast

MARYBOROUGH

Maryborough Sports Club

DECEMBER

Fri 5, 7.30 pm, Brad Sorensen Sat 6, 7.00 pm, Drag Bingo \$25 Sun 7, 1.00 pm, Andrew Copland

Fri 12, 7.30 pm, Neil Wenck Sat 13, 7.00 pm, Billy guy Sun 14, 12.00 pm, Xmas Draws W/ Billy Guy

Fri 19, 7.30 pm, Red Betty Wed 24, 6.30 pm, Neil Wenck Fri 26, 1.00 pm, Red Betty

Wed 31, 8.00 pm, Kick Arse Country



JANUARY

Sat 3, 7.00 pm, Rock n Rolla Billys

Sat 10, 7.00 pm, A2Zed

Fri 16, 7.30 pm, Brian Speirs

Fri 23, 7.30 pm, Graeme Jensen Sat 24, 7.00 pm, Billy Guy

Sun 25, 12.30 pm, Billy Guy

Fri 30, 7.30 pm, Saltwater Cartel

Maryborough Services & Citizens' Memorial Club

DECEMBER

Fri 5, 9.00pm, DJ Crooksy Sat 6, 8.00pm, Bad Attitude Sun 7, 1.00pm, Aaron Westlake



Fri 12, 9.00pm, DJ Nixon Sat 13, 8.00pm, Emma Neuman Sun 14, 1.00pm, Doug Edwards

Fri 19, 9.00pm, DJ Mr Sparkle Sat 20, 8.00pm, Rhubarb Tarts Sun 21, 11.00pm, Maria Whittaker

Fri 26, 9.00pm, DJ Nixon Sat 27, 8.00pm, Marshall Bro Sun 28, 1.00pm, Ryan Hurricane

Wed 31, 8.00pm Venus Envy + DJ Mr Sparkles

JANUARY

Fri 2, 9.00 pm, DJ Nixon Sat 2, TBA

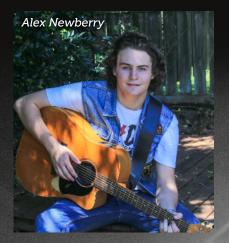
Sun 4, 1.00pm, Aaron Westlake

Fri 9, 9.00pm, DJ Crooksy Sat 10, 8.00pm, Bad Attitude Sun 11, 1.00pm, Shannon Young

Fri 16, 9.00pm, DJ Nixon Sat 17, 8.00pm, TBA Sun 18, 1.00pm, TBA

Fri 23, 9.00pm DJ Crooksy Sat 24, 8.00pm, Retro Room Sun 25, 1.00pm, TBA

Fri 30, 9.00pm, DJ Nixon Sat 31, 8.00pm, Rhubarb Tarts



Carriers Arms Hotel

DECEMBER

Sat 6, 8pm, Dust Trio

Sat 13, 8pm, Trainwrecks

Sat 20, 8pm, The Lowdown

Sat 27, 8pm, TBD

Wed 31. TBD

JANUARY

NOT SUPPLIED



TORQ DELICAFÉ:

Ataste of passion on the Fraser Coast

The Torq Deli Café has quickly become a local favourite on the Esplanade in Torquay. Established in 2024 by Nat and Mark Albert, the café and deli combine a love of fine food with a strong sense of community.

Before settling in Hervey Bay, Nat and Mark spent many years in Sydney, where they created their own range of chilli sauces using the fiery Carolina Reaper Chilli. After moving to Queensland, they began growing their own chillies and selling their products at festivals and markets. It was during this time



that they noticed something missing from the Fraser Coast — a quality deli with continental flair. With a bit of research, a lot of taste-testing, and perfect timing, The Torq Deli Café was born. The pair have never looked back.

This Christmas marks their second festive season at The Torq, and Nat says the excitement is building.

"This time of year, is always buzzing! We're starting to order in our Christmas goodies and promote our Christmas Grazing Platters — the festive spirit has well and truly begun."

Inside the deli, you'll find a tempting range of condiments, infused olive oils, sauces, and European delicacies — perfect for gifting or entertaining. Nat and Mark also



offer complimentary gift wrapping on hampers when you purchase three or more items. Locally grown figs are among their seasonal favourites and will feature in their popular Christmas platters.

"For anyone wanting to impress guests with a gourmet platter, you can't go past our in-house Pepper Brandy Pate," Nat says. "It's always fresh and delicious, paired with



To avoid disappointment, Nat recommends placing Christmas orders early. "The earlier, the better — it helps us keep stock levels just right and ensures no one misses out."

Of course, it's not all about platters. "Our best seller by far is our freshly brewed barista coffee with a bacon and egg roll for just \$12," Nat says proudly. "Our coffee is our own signature blend, and the bacon is thick, smoked traditional butcher's bacon, while our eggs are local and free-range, supplied by Brother Brother Organics."

For those entertaining at home, Nat's top tip is to let The Torq do the hard work. "We'll put together the platters so you can sit back and enjoy Christmas with friends and family — it's always fun to try something new and interesting."

When it comes to the festive season, Nat and Mark describe themselves as *good old-fashioned food and wine lovers* who appreciate new flavours and ideas from here and abroad.

"We love food, we love wine, and we love discovering new flavours and ideas — whether they come from right here on the Fraser Coast or from across the world."



Looking ahead, they're hoping to secure their liquor licence in time for Christmas, paving the way for The Torq's upcoming wine and cheese nights.

"We can't wait to offer our customers a true taste of Australia and beyond — boutique wines, imported cheeses, and local favourites, all in one relaxed evening setting," Nat adds.

The Torq Deli Café continues to evolve, driven by a shared passion for great food, genuine hospitality, and community connection.

Visit The Torq Deli Café at Shop 4/432 Esplanade, Torquay, Hervey Bay and follow them on Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram for updates and new arrivals.



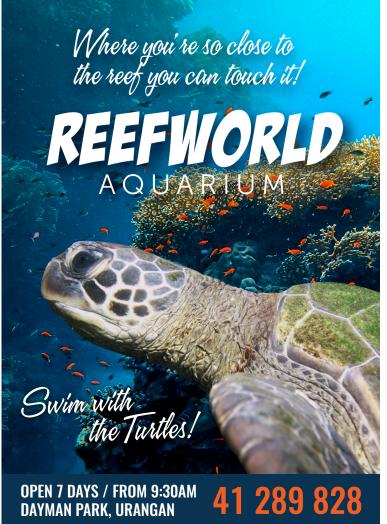




PHONE: (07) 41946733

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

EMAIL: WATERFRONTHERVEYBAY@GMAIL.COM





By Kim Parnell

Get ready, Swifties! The Unofficial Tribute Show -Taylor: A Tribute to the Eras of Taylor Swift Music, presented by Showtime, stars New Zealand's Josette alongside an international band and dancers in a glittering celebration of Taylor Swift's biggest hits. Expect more than 20 songs from every era — from Shake It Off and Love Story to Anti-Hero, Cruel Summer, and You Belong With Me - complete with shimmering costumes and high-energy choreography.

When I caught up with Josette, she was midway through a New Zealand tour, performing in Auckland and preparing to head to her hometown of Christchurch.

"We're touring the whole country until just before Christmas," she says. "It's such an adventure — we get to see so much of New Zealand, and the crowds have been amazing!"

Becoming "Taylor" came about naturally. Josette was performing backing vocals in Showtime Australia's ABBA tribute when talk began of a new Taylor Swift project. With her long blonde hair, fringe, guitar skills and plenty of talent — plus being a lifelong fan - she was the perfect fit. "It all lined up perfectly," she smiles.

Josette has always admired Taylor's bond with her fans. "The Swifties are incredible — so loyal and full of love."

With so many eras to explore, Josette says her favourite changes with her mood. "Each one brings something special - Lover is soft and romantic, Reputation is bold and fierce, and 1989 is reflective pop perfection. But Fearless is my favourite to perform. It's country pop at its best, and I get to play guitar with the band, which I love."

Audiences, she adds, always go wild for Shake It Off and You Belong With Me. "Those songs get everyone dancing and

singing — it's pure joy."

Capturing Taylor's iconic energy takes preparation. "It's not easy performing at full energy every night," Josette admits. "Before every show, I warm up with Pilates and stretching, do my hair and makeup, and listen to Taylor's songs to get her voice and vibe in my head. I also watch clips of her tours — she embodies such unique characters in each era, and I want to honour that."

When the show hits the Fraser Coast, it will be Josette's first visit. "I can't wait! The Aussie crowds have been so lovely — the kids dress up, trade friendship bracelets, and really bring the energy," she says.

The production features two dancers, two vocalists, and a powerhouse live band from South Africa, Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. "It's a true international mix. There are lights, smoke, and bedazzled costumes - everything a Swifty could dream of!"

While Josette captures Taylor's signature moves and presence, she adds her own twist. "I'm not Taylor — I'm a fan celebrating her with other fans. I keep her iconic gestures and style but let my personality shine through too."

If Taylor herself ever came to a show, Josette knows what she'd want her to see. "Shake It Off. I'd love her to feel the happiness it brings. And if I could perform with her? Definitely Enchanted — that song gives me chills."

Josette can't wait to meet Fraser Coast Swifties. "Whether you're seven or seventy, come dressed up, make friendship bracelets, and get ready to sing your heart out. With Taylor's new album The Life of a Showgirl and docuseries The End of an Era coming this December, it's an exciting time to be a fan!"

Don't miss your chance to relive the ultimate pop concert experience — a night of music, sparkle, and pure Taylor joy. Book now and let's shake it off together!

Fan-sponsored event – not endorsed by or affiliated with TAS Rights Management.

> The Unofficial Tribute Show: Taylor - A Tribute to the Eras of Taylor

Monday, January 5 | 7.00 pm Brolga Theatre, Maryborough Tickets: www.brolgatheatre.org





FESTIVE FLAVOURS

With Celebrity Chef Matt Golinski

Embracing the festive spirit, Matt shares two of his crowd-pleasing holiday recipes with us—guaranteed to have your guests coming back for seconds! *Kim Parnell. Editor.*



Hot Smoked Salmon, Kipfler Potato, Celery Heart and Caper Salad



SERVES FOUR

Ingredients:

300gm hot smoked salmon, flaked 600gm kipfler potatoes 4 inner stalks of a bunch of celery

4 inner stalks of a bunch of celery ½ cup inner leaves of a bunch of celery

50gm small capers

1 tbs dill, chopped

1 small red onion, finely sliced

2 tsp whole seed mustard

50ml lemon juice

100ml olive oil

100gm crème fraiche

Method:

Wash the potatoes and boil in their skins until they are just cooked.

Drain and allow to cool for 5 minutes. While they're still hot, use a small knife to scrape and peel the skins off. Allow to cool completely, then cut into 1cm thick slices.

Wash and slice the celery stalks finely.

Whisk together the mustard, lemon juice and olive oil.

Toss the potatoes, salmon, celery, celery leaves, capers, dill and red onion together and dress with the lemon dressing.

Season with salt and pepper.

Divide between 4 plates.

Spoon small dollops of crème fraiche on each salad.

Roasted Baby Beets, Grilled Haloumi, Chickpeas, Orange and Mint

SERVES FOUR

Ingredients:

2 bunches baby beets 200gm haloumi, cut into ½ cm slices

1 x 400gm tin chickpeas, drained and rinsed

1 red onion, cut into wedges

2 oranges, peeled and cut into 8 pieces

½ cup fresh mint leaves

2 tbs Orange Marmalade

1 tsp Dijon mustard

30ml red wine vinegar 60ml olive oil

Salt and pepper

Method:

Lightly rub the beets with vegetable oil and roast at 180° for 20 -25 minutes or until tender when pricked with a knife.

Rub off the skins with your hands or scrape off with a small knife and slice into circles or wedges.

On a separate tray combine the chickpeas and red onion and drizzle with olive oil and salt, and roast for 20 minutes or until the onions are soft.

Whisk together the marmalade, mustard, vinegar and olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Lightly oil the haloumi slices and grill in a hot grill pan on both sides until crispy.

Toss with the beets, chickpeas, red onions, orange, mint and dressing and serve while the haloumi is still nice and hot.



No matter how you celebrate, these festive favourites are all about bringing people together over great food and good times. So, gather your loved ones, pour a glass of cheer, and enjoy every delicious moment.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

CAROLS IN THE VILLAGE

Where: Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum, 13 Zephyr Street, Scarness

Cost: \$2 entry - Children under 14 free Time: Gates open at 5pm, Carols start at 6pm

Enjoy a special visit from Santa, plus live entertainment, raffles, and plenty of fun for the kids. Bring your own blanket or chair, sit back, and soak up the festive atmosphere. Food and drinks will be available for purchase, with all proceeds supporting the ongoing maintenance of the museum.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

THE HERVEY BAY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Where: Seafront Oval, Pialba

Cost: Optional gold coin donation on entry

Time: Gates open at 3pm, pre-show entertainment from 4pm, Main program begins at 6pm, Active Agents Fireworks at 8pm

Hervey Bay's favourite Christmas tradition. Food, drinks and glow candles are available for purchase. BYO rugs and chairs. Feel free to bring along a picnic. With special guest Bella Taylor Smith, The Voice Australia 2021 Winner.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

CAROLS IN THE PARK-**MARYBOROUGH**

- Loice Australia, 2021 Winner Where: Queen's Park, 16 Sussex St

Cost: Free

Time: 5pm - 8pm

Get ready to sing, sparkle and celebrate the season at Carols in the Park!

Gather your friends and family for an evening filled with festive fun, live entertainment, delicious food, twinkling lights and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Enjoy roving performers, tasty treats from local food vendors and a special visit from Mr & Mrs Claus - all leading up to a dazzling fireworks finale!

What's happening

Live pre-show entertainment from 5pm Community carols sing-along from 6pm Fireworks lighting up the night sky at 8pm

What to bring

Picnic blanket or low chair Cash/card for food vendors Your best singing voice and Christmas spirit!

Good to know

Family-friendly and free for all ages Please, no BYO alcohol



FOR ALL OTHER CHRISTMAS EVENTS, HEAD TO THE WHAT'S ON FRASER COAST MAGAZINE'S FACEBOOK PAGE.

Spin the wheel for charity

For over 65 years, the Hervey Bay Local **Ambulance Committee's Annual Goods Wheel** has been held on the Scarness Foreshore over the Christmas holidays. This year, the muchloved event will run from Saturday, December 20 to Saturday, January 3.

The evenings have become a tradition for many local families and holidaymakers. The event is held nightly from 7 pm (Except Christmas Day).

Tickets have not gone up in price for many years and are still just 50 cents each, with 100 tickets being sold before the wheel is spun. All winning ticket holders get to choose their own prize from the huge range on display. Prizes include toys, kitchen and homewares, linen, electrical items, camping, gardening, fishing, auto items, and so much more. All prizes are sourced and purchased locally by the Hervey Bay LAC.

On Christmas Eve, Santa will make an appearance.

The Ambulance Goods Wheel could not run without support from local service clubs and groups, who volunteer their time each night to sell tickets.

Proceeds from the Goods Wheel support Queensland Ambulance through the Local Ambulance Committee.



This year, there will be a Community Engagement Van at the wheel, These Vans are being supplied for the use of Local Ambulance Committees to assist their communities to prepare for and prevent the occurrence of injury and illness through the delivery of community education and engagement programs such as CPR Awareness, RESQ Rooo's, First Aid Awareness, Mental Fitness, Stop the Bleed and Snakes Alive.

Please note:

- All patrons are to bring their own chairs and/or picnic blankets.
- A limited number of prize winners will be allowed on the stage at one time.

The Hervey Bay Goods Wheel is the only one still running in Queensland! So come on down, bring your folding chairs and 50-cent pieces, and join in the fun.

COASTAL:

Capturing the ever-changing beauty of Hervey Bay

By Kim Parnell

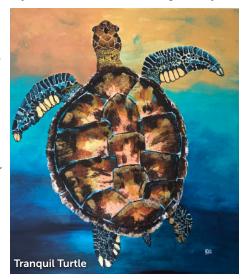
Local artist Kim Osburn has a gift for seeing magic in the everyday. With her upcoming exhibition Coastal, she captures the ebb and flow of Hervey Bay's shoreline — a place that has long held her heart. Her exhibition will be one of four unveiled at the same time at Gatakers Artspace in Maryborough this January.

Before calling Hervey Bay home, Kim spent almost 25 years living in the Northern Territory, where she was captivated by the raw beauty of the desert and its resilient wildlife. Her early works often featured charcoal drawings of the unique creatures she encountered there. "The Territory was such a different environment — harsh but beautiful," she recalls. "It really shaped my early artistic journey."

Nearly five years ago, Kim made the move to the Fraser Coast — a place that already felt familiar. "My grandparents came here in the early 1970s, so I've been visiting Hervey

Bay for over 50 years," she says with a smile. "I just love the area. It's home."

Now settled by the sea. Kim's muse has shifted from the red desert to the ocean's edge. Her days often begin with long walks along the beach, soaking up the colours, patterns, and movements that inspire her



work. "I try to get down to the beach every day if I can," she says. "I love studying the animals, birds, and marine life. I'm partial to turtles, whales, and birdlife — they all have such wonderful personalities. I take photos for reference, but I also paint from memory — moments that stick with me. Like when you're on the pier and see manta rays jumping, or when a turtle glides by. No two days are ever the same."

Kim's fascination with turtles runs deep. She says they are one of her favourite subjects to draw and paint. "Green sea turtles are incredible — their shells, their markings, their movement. Each one is similar, but no two are ever the same," she explains. "I've been lucky enough to see them up close at Shelley Beach and Scarness. Once, one popped up right beside me in the water — we both got a fright and took off in opposite directions!" she laughs.



It's these fleeting moments that Kim loves to capture - the subtle shifts in light, tide, and texture that define coastal life. "The coastline is everchanging with each new tide," she says. "You can walk the same stretch of beach a thousand times, but there'll always be something different — a shell, a washed-up fish, a new pattern in the sand. It's endlessly inspiring."

In her studio, Kim often works with acrylics and inks, mediums she describes as vibrant and unpredictable. "I love that they have a life of their own," she says. "Sometimes I start with a clear idea of what I want to create, but other times I let the materials guide me. I'll add ink, water, and diluted paint to the canvas and just let it do its thing. When it dries, I interpret what's appeared and build the image around it. It's a bit like finding shapes in the clouds — you see where it takes you."





Her latest series, *Coastal*, also features gold, copper, and silver leaf, adding a luminous quality that changes with the light. "I wanted to try something new, something that would make the paintings pop," she says. "Depending on how much metallic I use — whether it's just a hint or a lot — you get a completely different reflection when the light hits it. It brings the artwork to life, almost like it's moving."

Kim's artistic journey has taken her across Australia, from the Northern Territory to the Western Downs, and now to Hervey Bay. Each landscape, she says, has influenced her creative evolution. "The environment definitely shapes the art," she reflects. "In the Territory, it was about the land and native animals — that sense of rugged endurance. In the Western Downs, it was more about the birdlife, the flora and fauna, the diversity of colour. There were so many talented artists there, too, and it was wonderful to see how each person interpreted the same subjects so differently."

Now, on the Fraser Coast, the ocean has become her greatest muse. Through *Coastal*, Kim hopes to share that sense of place and emotion with others. "I think art is very much about connection — to memory, to emotion, to the world around us," she says. "Hopefully, when people see the exhibition, it will trigger a memory — maybe of a turtle they've spotted, a whale on the horizon, or just the feeling of being by the sea. I want it to bring a sense of familiarity and wonder."

Kim believes strongly in the value of community and creative spaces. "The local art community is so important," she says. "It brings people together and gives us all a place to share ideas. Having somewhere like Gatakers Artspace, where artists





can showcase their work and people can experience it firsthand, is invaluable. It keeps creativity alive in our region."

As the official opening of *Coastal* approaches, Kim is filled with both excitement and gratitude. For her, painting isn't just a passion — it's a daily joy. "To get up in the morning, walk into my studio, and paint — that's happiness," she says. "Then to have people come and see the work, connect with it, and maybe even take it home — that's incredibly rewarding. When someone buys one of my paintings and tells me where they'll hang it, knowing it's going to be part of their world, it means so much. It's like sharing a little piece of my heart."

With Coastal, Kim invites viewers to see Hervey Bay through her eyes — a place of light, movement, and endless transformation. Just like the tides she paints; her art reminds us that no two days — or moments — are ever quite the same.

Coastal: Kim Osburn

Official Opening: Friday, January 9 – from 6pm (free event) Exhibition Dates: January 10 – February 21 Gatakers Artspace, 311 Kent St, Maryborough



4

OPINION PIECE: SUPPORTING LOCAL PRODUCTS

By Andrew Sadler

Congratulations, Kim, on the printing of this 100th edition. I was going to celebrate by roasting her in a typical light-hearted way. Alas, I don't quite think it appropriate. So, my little butterfly-loving, crazy car driver, shall escape the heat today.

I have been reading lately how many consumers around the country are demanding to know the product origin, this of course makes a change from the product price. As we slowly change our product list to Australian-grown, produced and or manufactured, we are getting very positive feedback, supporting local products should be on everyone's list of requirements. So, if you're looking for a secret Santa, drop in and grab something a little different. (Personal Plug)

I am a firm believer that if you are proud of your products, then they will sell. This was definitely put to the test this year, when all of a sudden, for no truly apparent reason, I started to doubt myself. Were my products up to standard? Were we up to standard? Will I be able to maintain the pace needed to run my business much longer? It ended up taking me to a place I didn't enjoy, forcing myself to go to work, and continually questioning myself as to why.

The change came when it was pointed out to me that my café has been running for 11 years, no mean feat in itself. Success is not necessarily measured by how rich you've become, but by the path of good deeds you have left behind by supporting the community. What value do your customers get, and why do they come in each day and happily part with their money?

Make them happy, have a laugh, solve the world's problems over a coffee or just recognise the fact

that we live somewhere pretty special. Sometimes, what we worry about in the grand scheme of things is pretty trivial. As the old saying goes, "Take a moment to stop and smell the roses" Enjoy what we do have and treasure what and who are around us. We have lost far too many people way too early in life, which reminds us that nothing is forever, no matter how hard we try.

So please, take my advice this festive season, enjoy yourself, remember those who are truly precious to you, and perhaps try to give back to your community in some little way. Enjoy the festivities, but if you've had a few red sherbets, call a cab; don't become a statistic. Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year, enjoy everything the bay has to offer and remember if someone annoys you, stop, take a breath and walk away. They're not worth it.



"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

EXPLORE THE FRASER COAST ON FOOT WATERFALL CREEK

Written by **Fraser Coast Mayor**, **George Seymour**

Across the Fraser Coast region, we have a number of really special national parks to explore.

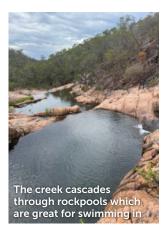


At the western boundary with the North Burnett Regional Council is the Mt Walsh National Park. This is a rugged and scenic landscape that is a really exciting natural environment to explore. The section of the park that is within our area is called the Waterfall Creek Section.

It is not the easiest place to get to, but it is worth travelling to. It is also known informally as Utopia Falls.

The Waterfall Creek Section of Mt Walsh National Park is at Boompa, which is between Brooweena and Biggenden.

It's a short walk, twenty minutes each way, but it is a very interesting one, which begins in hoop pine dominated dry rainforest and







vine thickets before rising up into open forests and grassy woodlands. It is not a difficult walk, but there are times when you need to scramble over rocks and be careful to not slip.

It is enjoyable with changing scenery and much wildlife.

This is a journey with a destination, though and as you get near the end of the walk, you can hear the sounds of rushing water through the rocky gully.

The creek here cascades through a series of rockpools formed into the granite. It is quite spectacular. I always time my visits to this special place after there has been some rain so that I know the creek will be running and the pools will be enjoyable to swim in. There is even a slide between the pools! The water is clear and cool and provides a really refreshing experience after the walk.

Before heading out to the Waterfall Creek section, it is best to have a good understanding of the route to get there along Innooroolabar Road and Utopia Road, as there is not very good mobile coverage in the area.

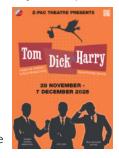
Hilarious farce "Tom, Dick, and Harry" set to delight Z-PAC audiences

Get ready to laugh until your sides hurt! Fraser Coast audiences are in for a side-splitting theatrical experience this November as Z-PAC Theatre presents Tom, Dick, and Harry, a frantic farce by the celebrated duo Ray and Michael Cooney. Running from 28 November to 7 December, the production promises an evening of non-stop laughter, quick-fire dialogue, and escalating chaos in the intimate surrounds of Hervey Bay's beloved community theatre.

Directed by seasoned Z-PAC director Roger Jennings, the play follows the unfortunate Tom Kerwood, who is trying to adopt a baby with his wife. What should be a calm, respectable day turns into absolute bedlam when his two well-meaning but disastrous brothers arrive to "help." Dick shows up with a van full of contraband, Harry turns up with

a dead body, and Tom is left frantically juggling lies, cover-ups, and absurd coincidences as he tries to convince a stern adoption agent and an eversuspicious police constable that everything is perfectly normal.

A major highlight of this production is the meticulously designed set, created by a team led by Roger. With its multiple



doors, hidden compartments, and clever sightlines, the set becomes a key player in the action—perfectly suited for the play's trademark slapstick, sudden entrances, and lightning-fast timing. Every door slam and misplaced body adds another layer of hilarity as the plot spirals further out of control.

Roger says audiences can expect pure escapism. "We all need a good laugh, and this play delivers exactly that," he says.

"It's classic British farce—fast-paced, witty, and brilliantly absurd. The script is a masterclass in comic timing, and our cast has embraced the madness with enthusiasm. We can't wait to share that energy and laughter with the Fraser Coast."

Tom, Dick, and Harry runs at Z-PAC Theatre, with performances on Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday and Sunday matinees. Tickets are available now via zpactheatre.com.au. Book early to secure your seat for this laugh-out-loud hit!

Top Spots for families these school holidays

The Fraser Coast is bursting with beauty, character, and things to see and do. From family adventures to local gems, there's something here for everyone to enjoy. Narrowing this list down to just 12 must-visit spots was no easy task, but each one promises fun, discovery, and memories to last a lifetime. How many can you tick off?

The Story Bank Maryborough

Step into The Story Bank Maryborough, where the magic of storytelling comes to life. Discover the fascinating world of P.L. Travers, the Maryborough-born author who created Mary Poppins. Explore her life, her family, and the inspirations behind her timeless tales. Wander through enchanting displays, meet beloved characters, and immerse yourself in the whimsical settings of the Mary Poppins stories. You might even be inspired to uncover a little magic of your own!

Cost involved - Find out more at www.ourfrasercoast.com.au/The-Story-Bank.

Mary Ann Steam Engine

All aboard the Mary Ann Steam Engine!
Every Sunday, this replica of Queensland's
first steam engine (built in 1873) takes passengers
from Macalister Station, off Wharf Street, on a delightful
ride around Maryborough's Queens Park.

Cost involved: \$6 for adults, \$4 for a child, \$18 for a family of four.

Fraser Coast Wildlife Sanctuary

For animal lovers, the Fraser Coast Wildlife Sanctuary in Maryborough is an absolute must-visit. Here, you'll encounter an incredible variety of native creatures, from kangaroos and emus to colourful birds and even

snakes. Pack a BBQ lunch to enjoy amidst the scenic surroundings or grab a tasty bite at the on-site canteen—either way, you're in for an unforgettable wildlife experience!

Cost involved - For more information, go to

www.frasercoastwildlifesanctuary.org.au.

Mini Golf Hervey Bay

Tee off for fun at Mini Golf Hervey Bay!
Located on the corner of Bideford and Truro
Streets in Torquay, this multi-million-dollar,
3,300sqm course is perfect for a family day out.

Play on the 18-hole shaded course surrounded by lakes, landscaped humps, water features, and sand traps — or enjoy a magical game under the lights at night.

Cost involved: www.minigolfherveybay.com.au.

Throw a line in!

Grab a fishing rod and head down to one of the jetties in Hervey Bay located off the Esplanade. While fishing, you may find Garfish, Trevally, Bream and even Blue Fin Tuna. You can also head out to Toogoom, River Heads, and Maryborough's iconic Mary River. Don't forget your bait!



In Maryborough, there is SplashSide water play park located at Anzac Park. This park has interactive water features, including cosmic cannons, stream jets, and a waterfall. It also features all-inclusive play equipment such as a sensory wall, roller slide, and an in-ground trampoline guaranteed to bring hours of enjoyment for the whole family.

For opening hours and more information, go to: www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/splashside.



Step back in time at the Hervey Bay Historical Village & Museum, where history comes to life for kids and adults alike. With more than 27 heritage buildings filled with fascinating exhibits from across the Fraser Coast and Wide Bay region, there's something to discover around every corner. Wander through a slab cottage built in 1898, explore the old railway station and church, and watch sparks fly in the fully equipped blacksmith shop. It's a fun, hands-on way for kids to learn about the past — without even realising they're learning!

Entry fee applies: www.herveybaymuseum.com.au.

M&K Model Railways, Hervey Bay

All aboard for fun at M&K Model Railways in Hervey Bay! This charming indoor and outdoor attraction will captivate both the young and the young at heart. Watch the miniature trains weave their way through detailed landscapes and tiny towns — a true delight for railway enthusiasts and curious kids alike. Viewings are by appointment only.

Cost involved: www.mkmodelrailways.com.au.

Toogoom Mountain Bike Trails

Hit the Toogoom Mountain Bike Trails in the Vernon State Forest for an adventure the whole family can enjoy! These purpose-built tracks cater to all skill levels and are designed specifically for mountain bikes. Don't forget to ride safely, wear your helmet and safety gear, and always ride with a responsible adult.



Susan River Homestead is a great place to visit or to stay, but even a day here is unforgettable. Set on 1,660 acres of beautiful countryside, this much-loved spot has been welcoming visitors since 1978. One of the highlights is horse riding — anyone aged five and up can join a scenic trail ride, while younger kids will love the gentle pony rides through the picturesque landscape.

For more information, head to www.susanriver.com.

Wetside Water Park, Esplanade, Hervey Bay

To cool down, head to Wetside Water Park on the Esplanade, Pialba. Slide down the waterslides, try out the Aqua Ninja adventure course, and have fun in the water play area. For those under five, there is TotSide. Entry into WetSide is free; however, there is a cost for the Waterslides.

For opening hours and more information, go to: www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/wetside-water-park.

Reefworld Aquarium, Hervey Bay

Discover the magic of the ocean at Reefworld Aquarium in Hervey Bay! One of the few all-natural aquariums in the world, Reefworld uses only sand-filtered seawater and natural sunlight. It's home to Green Sea Turtles, colourful tropical fish, large reef fish, and plenty of hidden treasures like tubeworms, crabs, shrimp, and starfish — a perfect family adventure for your next holiday.

Cost involved: www.reefworldherveybay.com.

Make the most of the summer holiday!









DUNGA DERBY by RALLY FOR A CAUSE



DUNGA DERBY DRIVES INTO HALL OF FAME

An event founded to help one local family in need has grown to have now assisted more than 415 and has been inducted into the Fraser Coast Tourism and Events 'Hall of Fame'.

Dunga Derby, the annual four-day fundraising mystery tour which raises funds for the charity Rally for a Cause, has been bestowed the honour of winning their category three times at the annual awards.

The Dunga Derby, which celebrated its 11th year in 2025, has helped raise more than \$5 million to provide support to eligible recipients diagnosed with life-limiting medical conditions and other tragic circumstances beyond their control.

Dunga Derby Fraser Coast president Tom Richers said the achievement belonged to the entire community.

"Dunga Derby started out as a novel way to help raise funds for one local family in their time of need and has been embraced by sponsors, participants and the entire community. This honour of being inducted into the Hall of Fame belongs to each and every one of them.

"Nobody could have thought that the Dunga Derby would





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.





be so successful, and now we are heading into our 12th annual event, which takes more than 270 people from coast-to-country to celebrate their fundraising efforts.

"We live in such a caring and considerate community that has rallied around the cause and continued to support the event and charity. For that, we are sincerely grateful."

Dunga Derby becomes only the second event to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, alongside FraserPop pop Culture Festival, which was inducted in 2021.

The award honours outstanding regional events that demonstrate exceptional participation, innovation, organisation, and the creation of a memorable experience for attendees, all whilst contributing significant economic benefits to the region.

Dunga Derby is also the current Fraser Coast Regional Council Australia Day not-for-profit charity of the year, and the charity Rally for a Cause is the current Queensland Community Achievement Awards 'community group of the

"To think that a little event that started on the Fraser Coast by a small group of concerned friends is now acknowledged statewide is a true reflection of the hearts and generosity of those wanting to help others in their time of need."

For more information on Dunga Derby, visit www.dungaderby.com.au or the charity www.rallyforacause.org.au

Arise+Shine

with Tania Comerford

The Pursuit of Happiness...

The 100th issue is exciting and definitely worth celebrating, so I decided to write this month's article on happiness.

What is happiness for me:

It's healthy relationships where you are free to be yourself, with lots of laughter, fun, kindness and respect. Relationships with clear, open communication.

It's a home that you love coming home to. Size doesn't matter as long as it warms your heart each time you arrive home.

Work that you love, that doesn't feel like work at all. Work you can't believe you get paid to do.

Living in a location that's good for your soul and suits the lifestyle you love. It's living in an environment where what you see, hear, feel, smell, and taste brings you delight.

A slow pace of life, with time to relax, and spend time as you choose

Freedom of choice.

Having a healthy mindset where you know who you are, and what you want, and can easily say no, and can easily say yes.

It's living a life that aligns with your core values every day.

It's about being excited for what's next, and not letting your current environment dictate your future.

It's knowing the simplicity of your life's purpose; it's easy and light, and you love fulfilling it.

It's being surrounded by people you love and having the right balance of space for you, and also connection and time with others.

It's knowing you're connected to something much bigger than yourself. Knowing you are a vital piece in a bigger picture.

It's knowing that you matter and have value and worth, no matter what happens in life. It's having such a deep sense of belonging that you know you'll never feel alone, no matter where you are in the world.

Tania Comerford

Arise+Shine

Transformational Life Coach Follow me on Facebook

New Year's Eve Community Celebration

DECEMBER 31

Ring in the New Year

New Year's Eve is more than just a date on the calendar; it's that magical moment when we say goodbye to the year that was and welcome the one ahead with open arms. It's a time to celebrate wins, laugh off the challenges, and look forward to new adventures. Across the Fraser Coast, the pubs and clubs will be full of parties and live entertainment as everyone counts down those final glittering seconds together.

Here is one FREE event that is perfect for the whole family.

Keep an eye on the What's On Fraser Coast Magazine Facebook page for other events as they are created and listed. Look under the 'events' tab to keep up to date.

*No other NYE Community event details were released at the time of print.

New Year's Eve by the Beach

Location – Bill Fraser Park, Torquay

Time – Torquay Beachside Twilight Markets – 2pm – 8pm

(Opposite the Torquay Hotel)

Cost - Free

Get ready for an afternoon and evening full of fun and live entertainment! From 2pm. Music will include The Train Wrecks and Emmera Mendoza. The evening will finish with a bang with a fireworks display at 8pm.

There'll be plenty to keep the little ones entertained, too, with kid-friendly activities running from 2pm.

For everyone's safety, the road between Tavistock Street through to Bideford Street will be closed from 10am to 10pm, allowing easy, pedestrian-friendly access throughout the event.

To make getting there even easier, a free courtesy bus will be running. Wide Bay Transit will be travelling in a continuous loop from Stockland Shopping Centre to Torquay and Urangan every 15 to 20 minutes from 4pm to 10pm.

Stay up to date with all the latest event details by following the Torquay Progress Association's Facebook page — the official organisers of this community celebration.



AUSTRALIA DAY

at the Hervey Bay Historical Village & Museum

Don't miss out on this unforgettable day! Join the lively crowd and immerse yourself in the heart of Aussie culture at the Hervey Bay Historical Village & Museum. Discover the charm of traditional Aussie bush crafts, create your own unique souvenirs, and enjoy a fun-filled family day with something for everyone. It's a true taste of Australia you won't want to miss!

Each year, there are always new attractions, new photo opportunities, real "Aussie" dampers, and yes, you can expect all the old favourites to be there. Here's a sneak peek at what you might enjoy:

- Try your hand at log sawing and witness the fascinating branding process.
- Contribute to the creation of a 10-meter sisal rope.
- Experience a glimpse of schooling a century ago.
- Make your own peg doll.
- Craft your own souvenir rope.
- Witness the skill of Spinners and Weavers in action.
- Admire the display of vintage cars.
- Entertain the kids with an exciting tractor ride.
- Buy a raffle ticket.
- Plus, other planned attractions!

It's important to note that this entire event is made possible by dedicated volunteers who generously give their time to ensure visitors have a great day out.

The festivities run from 9:30am to 3.00pm, with an affordable entry fee of \$5.00 for adults, and kids under 14 get in for free. Apart from food and drinks, all other attractions are FREE! Don't miss this opportunity to connect with history and revel in the spirit of Australia Day!

What's On

AUSTRALIA DAY **FAMILY FUN DAY AND** CRICKET MATCH

Monday, January 26, at the River Heads Reserve.

There will be a cricket match between Booral and River Heads, with players encouraged to arrive at 9 am on the day to sign up and play. The inaugural annual trophy will be up for grabs.

Free face painting will take place from 11am to 1pm, and there will be live music performances by Hervey Bay City Musicians. A free BBQ will be served from 12 noon by the River Heads Progress Association.

The family fun includes:

- Thong throwing competition
- Balloon blowing competition
- Hula Hoop competition (BYO hoop)
- Chalk drawing competition
- Quoits
- Putt putt
- Dancing competition
- Prizes for best dressed
- Raffles
- And a treasure hunt



We are looking forward to welcoming all the community and encourage local businesses to come along and share their business cards at our Channel 7 marguee.

*At the time of print, there were no other Australia Day Community events submitted or found.

Special memories from over the years







ROLGA

Special memories from over the years













World's Greatest Pub Fest 2017, Maryborough

Photos by Kim Parnell







Advertise in the What's On Fraser Coast Magazine!

Looking to grow your business and reach a large audience? The What's On Fraser Coast Magazine is your gateway to connecting with the dynamic community across the Fraser Coast region. Our magazine is the go-to guide for locals and tourists, showcasing everything from events, attractions, and local businesses to lifestyle, entertainment, and more!

Why Advertise with Us?

• Targeted Reach:

Directly engage with a highly engaged audience across the Fraser Coast area, including Hervey Bay, Maryborough, and beyond.

• Fantastic Exposure:

Our magazine is distributed to key locations including pubs and clubs, cafes, hotels, and tourism hotspots, reaching thousands of potential customers.

Support Local:

We are passionate about supporting and showcasing our beautiful region and all that is on offer.

• Print and Digital:

The magazine is available in print and online, ensuring that your ad gets maximum exposure.

 Social media: When you advertise with us, you get to tap into our social media audience of between 50,000 to 70,000 people building great brand awareness.

Contact us for rates and advertising packages designed to meet your needs!

- **L** Call Kim on 0467 303 171
- Email whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com
- mww.whatsonfrasercoast.com.au

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





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

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

HERVEY BA

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

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

OTHER AREA

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.



TIDE TIMES URANGAN

DECEMBER				JANUARY	
	m	Time	m	Time m Time	m
1 0521 1122 MO 1718 2357	3.34 TL	0630 1244 1816		I 0655 3.85 I 0 0728 TH 1319 1.06 FR 1400	1.05 3.52 1.24 2.90
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3 0045 0706 WE 1321 1908	0.89 TH	1413	0.87 3.57 1.18 2.96	3 0205 0.54 18 0200 0835	0.83 3.71 1.09 3.08
4 0130 0755 TH 1419 2001	0.82 FF	0818	0.82 3.62 1.14 2.96	4 0253 0.50 19 0237 0907 SU 1606 0.79 MO 1550 2115	0.75 3.77 1.03 3.16
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9 0521 1202 TU 1849	0.92 3.68 24 1.08 WE	0436 1108 1806 2329	1.19	9 0632 1.33 24 1201	1.07 3.45 1.06
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