

What's On

FRASER COAST MAGAZINE

TAKE
ME HOME

109

OCTOBER 2026

MONTHLY
MAGAZINE

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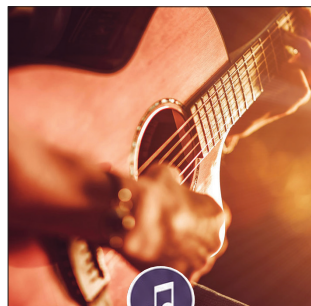
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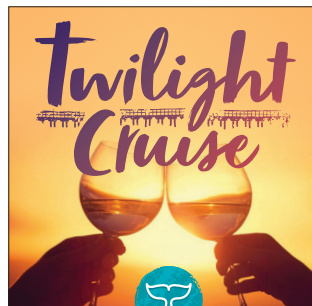
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Torbanlea Picnic Races 2023

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.



Torbanlea Picnic Races 2023

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Tania Comerford
Scott Rowe
Noah Carter

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Kim Parnell
Stock photography (Pixabay/Unsplash)
Contributed

Cover photo: Joy Butler

What's On

FRASER COAST MAGAZINE

Produced and Published by Kim Parnell

t/a What's On Hervey Bay

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"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.

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Note from the Editor

Welcome to another brand-new edition, hot off the press!

Each month, putting this magazine together is a mammoth undertaking, and it certainly isn't something I do entirely alone. My husband and I share the distribution, even though he already works full-time running his own business. I'd like to take a moment to sincerely thank him. He never complains, always puts his hand up to help, and makes an enormous difference when it comes to getting the magazine out into the community.

I personally deliver throughout Hervey Bay, a job that usually takes me around three days. I genuinely enjoy getting out and about, catching up with the business owners and managers at the many wonderful venues that serve as distribution points for the magazine.

For about two weeks each month, I don't get out much at all. It's a case of heads down, burn up as I work on layouts, gather content, photograph events, tackle the bookkeeping, write articles, coordinate advertising material for the businesses showcased in each edition, and manage everything else in between. In many ways, distribution is a welcome change of scenery and a lovely reprieve after weeks behind the computer.

I am also incredibly grateful for my wonderful designer, Jen from Jen Mulligan Design. Jen somehow makes sense of my many emails, ideas and requests, then brings everything together beautifully. She designs each edition with creativity, grace and endless patience.

I couldn't do what I do without Jen's talent behind the scenes—or my husband's unwavering support on the road. Together, they help me keep the wheels turning each and every month.

A sneak peek at what's inside this issue!

Firefighters will take part in a Move-it fundraiser event on November 1 by completing a **collective 60-kilometre walk at Ululah Lagoon for November**, honouring the 60 men lost to suicide globally every hour. The community is welcome. Meet fires, see fire trucks, support local business or walk a lap. (page 13)

The Lines in the Sand Festival is on once again in November where Fraser Coast readers, writers or creatives are invited to celebrate stories, ideas and imagination. Bookings are now open for a three-day program of author talks, workshops and creative activities for all ages. (page 22)

I also sit down with Fraser Coast locals Sammy Jayne and Kyle Davis, the musical duo behind **A Soft Focus**. We chat about their distinctive musical style, shared passion, live performances and experiences in music competitions. Discover what inspires this popular duo as they continue entertaining audiences across the region. (pages 6-7)

Kim Parnell

Editor/Owner, What's On Fraser Coast Magazine.



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We really do have such a special Dunga community.

I was incredibly honoured to receive recognition for **5 years as a Dungarian**, along with a beautiful serving board as a thank you for being on the Executive Committee.

Our team also received an award for raising **\$10,000+!**

A huge thank you must go to our amazing sponsors and supporters: **Craig McAdam – Active Security; Realway Property Consultants Hervey Bay; Beth Rachel - Green Finance; Erin and Travis – By the Rules Conveyancing; Shannon, Kyle and the girls from Remis by the Bay Carvery; Greg and Anita - Realway Australia; Simon @AB Equipment** and every single person who donated to our car **#38 – TEAM REALWAY** in 2026.

Without your incredible generosity and support, we simply would not have been able to raise so much for such a great cause.

Thank you for showing up, donating, supporting, laughing, celebrating and making Dunga what it is.

Here's to another amazing year of Dunga! 2026



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A Soft Focus

STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTES

By Kim Parnell

A Soft Focus
Photo credit - Joy Butler

The first time I saw Sammy Jay, she was commanding the stage at Z-PAC Theatre in Mosquitoes. I had no idea who she was, but among a talented cast, there was something magnetic about her performance. I remember thinking, “I could be sitting in a London theatre or watching a Broadway production.” Yes, she really is that good.

What I didn't know was that acting was only one of Sammy's talents. I had no idea she could sing—or that she was one half of a popular local duo.

Months later, while compiling the Gig Guide for this edition, a name caught my eye: A Soft Focus. It was intriguing and stayed with me. But it wasn't until I sat down with Sammy Jay and her partner, Kyle Davis, that everything fell into place. The moment Sammy spoke and that gorgeous English accent filled the room, recognition dawned.

I had seen this woman before—under the theatre lights.

Born in Milton Keynes, England, Sammy grew up surrounded by encouragement. Her parents supported her love of performing through private singing lessons and performing arts schools—and remain her biggest fans.

Sammy has called Hervey Bay home for three years. It was here that she met Kyle, appropriately enough, at Z-PAC Theatre during auditions for *The Lovely Bones*.

“We were the first two people to arrive,” Sammy recalls. We both got parts and our relationship grew from there.

Originally from Canada, Kyle has lived in Australia for almost 18 years and in Hervey Bay for around four and a half.

According to their friend Katie, there was an instant spark. Sammy and Kyle have been inseparable ever since, and it wasn't long before their shared creativity spilled beyond the theatre and into music.

“I'd always wanted to do music, but I'd never known anybody who could sing really well,” Kyle says. “Sammy isn't just a good singer; she's phenomenal. She inspired me to get back on the piano and do more with the guitar.”

A drummer in his younger years, Kyle began joining Sammy for relaxed jam sessions with friends. Those informal performances gradually evolved into A Soft Focus.

“The name came from our love of film, theatre and music,” Sammy explains. “The words ‘soft focus’ connects with all those things. We describe our sound as soft, jazzy and lounge-style. We experiment with different genres, but we like to keep things mellow.”

Their first official performance was at 8-Bit Bar in Scarness, and the duo has been steadily finding its place in the Fraser Coast music scene ever since.

Kyle believes Sammy's voice is central to what makes their sound distinctive.

“Her voice is powerful, elegant and highly refined,” he says. “From a technical musical standpoint, it is brilliantly executed. It's next level!”

Sammy believes their piano-led arrangements also give them a different flavour.

“There are many amazing guitar duos around town but having piano and vocals gives us our own feel,” she says.

Kyle currently plays keyboard and guitar, although he has plans to add a stomp box for a touch of percussion.

There may also be another musical project quietly taking shape.

“We've started putting pen to paper for some country songs,” Kyle reveals. “We'd eventually like to form a band, but that's a separate secret project.”

“It's not a secret anymore!” Sammy jumps in, laughing.

While their duo will remain the priority, they are open to exploring other styles, collaborating with musicians and occasionally venturing beyond their mellow lounge sound.

A Soft Focus recently stepped into the spotlight through Hervey Bay Unplugged, a competition showcasing emerging performers from across the Fraser Coast and Wide Bay. At the time of writing, Sammy and Kyle had earned a place in the Grand Final alongside six other bands, duos and solo artists.

"The competition has been phenomenal," Sammy says. "The amount of talent in this region is amazing. We feel incredibly lucky to have made the Grand Final."

"All the performers are fantastic," Kyle adds. "The judges have had a difficult decision in every round. Whoever wins will be very deserving."

For Sammy, entering the competition was about more than winning. It was an opportunity to push beyond her comfort zone, build confidence and introduce A Soft Focus to a wider audience.

"I've always wanted to be part of the music scene," she says. "Over the years, I've expressed myself through acting, theatre and musicals. When this competition appeared, I wanted to give Kyle and myself the opportunity to be seen and heard."

Kyle describes the timing as serendipitous. They had only recently begun performing more seriously when Sammy discovered the competition and applied.

Now, the pair is taking everything they have learned onstage and pouring it into the music. Sammy, who works as a drama and film teacher, draws upon years of developing confidence, stage presence and emotional connection.

"If I'm singing an emotional song, I need to feel it—not only in my voice, but within myself," she says. "Once you have that connection, the audience can connect with it too."

Kyle's musical influences are wonderfully varied. Growing up in the 1990s, he listened to Nirvana and Metallica and played in rock bands but also performed classical music in orchestras and toured competitively with marching bands across the United States.

"That gave me a wide range of influences," he says. "My musical horizons are still expanding all the time."

Sammy's musical beginnings arrived remarkably early.

"The first song I learned to sing, when I was three, was Whitney Houston's version of 'I Will Always Love You,'" she says. "Whitney became a vocal queen to me. And obviously, Dolly Parton is still the love of my life!"

Her soulful influences include Etta James and Aretha Franklin, followed later by Amy Winehouse and Adele. Rock and R&B also played important roles in shaping her voice.

"All those influences have come together in the way I sing," she says. "That music is timeless."

While their musical backgrounds differ, their goal is shared: to create a live experience that people genuinely feel.



Sammy Jay
Photo credit - Joy Butler

"We don't want people to simply observe us playing a song—you can turn on the radio for that," Kyle explains. "We want to connect with the audience and give them an experience they can only have while sitting in front of live performers."

"When I sing, I want the audience to feel something," Sammy adds. "I want them to walk away remembering it—but I also want them to have fun."

She admires contemporary artists such as Sienna Spiro, Olivia Dean and Adele for the way they draw listeners into a story.

"That's what I love," she says with a laugh. "I suppose that's the actor in me."

Their advice for other emerging performers is simple: enjoy the journey and resist the urge to measure yourself against somebody else's highlight reel.

"Comparison is the thief of joy," Kyle says. "Don't compare yourself to others. Just have fun discovering what you can do."

Looking ahead, Sammy and Kyle hope to perform for larger audiences, collaborate with other musicians and continue expanding the story of A Soft Focus.

"My ultimate dream is to make music my primary life," Sammy says.

With Sammy's unforgettable voice, Kyle's musicianship and their easy-going chemistry, that dream is already coming into focus.

If you haven't seen A Soft Focus perform, look them up in this month's Gig Guide and support them live. You may arrive expecting a few mellow songs—but you could walk away having felt something you won't soon forget.

Catch their next gig at the Hervey Bay Boat Club on Friday, October 9 at 6pm.

Instagram: @asoftfocusband

TikTok: @sammyjaycobar

Facebook: A Soft Focus – Piano Duo

Email: asoftfocusband@gmail.com



Kyle Davis
Photo credit - Joy Butler

EXPLORE THE REGION ON FOOT

CLIMBING TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT DOONGUL



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

The Bicentennial National Trail stretches about 5,330 kilometres from Healesville near Melbourne to Cooktown in Far North Queensland. Part of this very long journey goes

through the Fraser Coast. I often think what it would be like to set out on such a journey, but family and professional commitments make an odyssey like this improbable for now. What would be more viable would be a weeklong journey from where the trail enters the Fraser Coast near Miva and the heads north to the boundary near Biggenden. Maybe one day.

I do really enjoy shorter walks along it now. Such as the 10km round trip walk from the historic township of Musket Flat (also known as Elliot) to the summit of Mount Doongul. Musket Flat was once a very busy place, servicing the wagon coaches that passed through on the journey between Maryborough and Gayndah, and Port Curtis. The public house here, "The



The view from the summit of Mt. Doongul

Travellers Rest" opened in 1858 and the Post Office Hotel opened in 1873. The blacksmith shop alone once employed 20 men at its peak.

There is a good information sign with historic information and photographs beside the trail as it leaves the township heading north towards Mount Doongul (and ultimately Cooktown).

This walk takes in some very scenic forests through flat sandy tracks before a steeper ascent to the top of the small Mount Doongul which is 238m above sea level.

The final climb to the summit is a side track off of the National Trail which isn't signposted, so it is a good idea to have a solid understanding of the terrain and where you are heading; as the phone coverage is poor.

This short hike is a small section of what is massive trail, but it is an enjoyable way to experience the natural beauty of the Fraser Coast hinterland.



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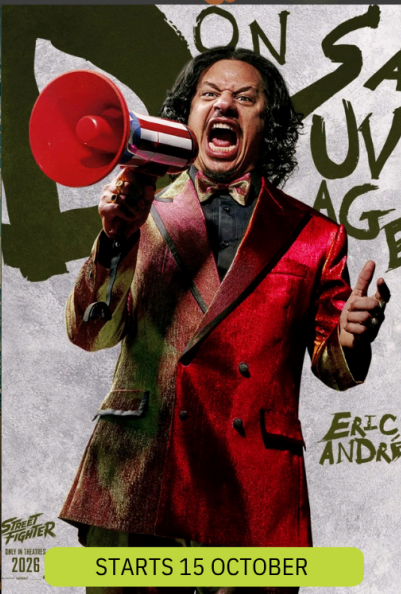
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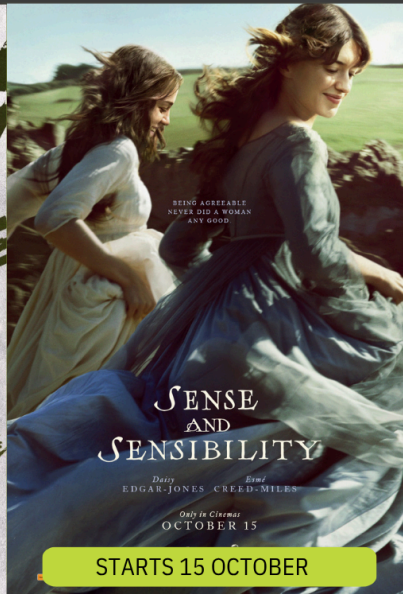
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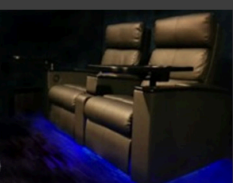


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UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO THIS OCTOBER? HBNC HAS A GREAT LINE-UP OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES & INTERESTS.

**06
OCT**

FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATE

10:30am

Master the essentials of community food safety in a relaxed evening setting.

**14
OCT**

LUNCH & LEARN

11:30am

Lunch and Learn is a monthly social and learning session over a delicious meal.

**15
OCT**

PUPPY PRESCHOOL

5:00pm

Give your puppy the best start in life with four weeks of fun, positive training, socialisation and confidence-building!

**24
OCT**

HALLOWEEN MAZE

5:00pm

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A New Way to Wander: Discovering Hervey Bay Through the Digital Gardens

There is something special about wandering through the Hervey Bay Botanic Gardens. The sound of birds in the trees, the changing light through the leaves and the feeling of slowing down all invite us to pause and take notice of the world around us.

Now, a walk through the gardens can lead to something more.

With a simple scan of a QR code, visitors can discover local stories, guided wellbeing experiences, nature education and moments of reflection, all inspired by the people, places and knowledge of the Fraser Coast.

The Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre (HBNC), proudly supported by Hervey Bay Community Bendigo Bank, is launching the Digital Gardens, an innovative project bringing together nature, technology, wellbeing and community storytelling in a uniquely local experience.

Throughout the gardens, QR code markers provide access to a growing collection of free digital experiences. Visitors might pause beneath the trees for a guided forest bathing experience with Nicole Harding, listen to Indigenous storytelling developed in partnership with BNTAC, take part in a sound healing experience with Alicia Wade, or settle in with a children's story read by local Mayor George Seymour at the newly established Read Bears Park.

Each experience offers a different invitation to slow down, listen and connect. For HBNC CEO Tanya Stevenson, the idea came from an experience she encountered overseas and a simple observation: gardens are more than beautiful landscapes.

"They are places where people gather, reflect, learn and heal," Tanya said.

"The Digital Gardens invite people to slow down and wander differently. We wanted to create something that blended nature, wellness, storytelling and technology in a way that felt hopeful, calming and uniquely local."

The project also reflects a growing interest in wellness tourism and immersive experiences, offering both residents and visitors another way to experience Hervey Bay. Rather than simply seeing the gardens as a destination, the Digital Gardens encourage people to engage with them through stories, sound, knowledge and reflection.

Importantly, the project is designed to keep growing.

Throughout the year, HBNC hopes to welcome new contributions from community members, schools, artists, storytellers and local organisations. These future experiences will continue to build a digital collection that reflects the diversity, creativity, knowledge and character of the Fraser Coast.

In this way, the Digital Gardens are not simply about bringing technology into nature. They are about using technology to help people connect more deeply with the place they are in and the community they are part of.

Next time you find yourself wandering through the Hervey Bay Botanic Gardens, keep an eye out for the Digital Gardens markers.

You never know what story, sound or moment of discovery might be waiting just beyond the next scan.

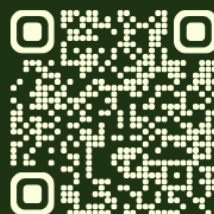
HBNC thanks Hervey Bay Community Bendigo Bank for supporting innovative community projects that strengthen wellbeing, connection and local identity, and acknowledges the Fraser Coast Regional Council for its valuable support of the Digital Gardens project.



Thank you to the Hervey Bay Bendigo Community Bank for funding the Digital Garden in partnership with the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre.



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FEAST FINDS WITH NOAH CARTER

Top of the Bay Bakery

By **Noah Carter, Food Influencer
& Content Creator**

**A pie and something
sweet is a pretty good
reason to stop at a local
bakery, and that was exactly
the plan on my latest visit to
Top of the Bay Bakery in Hervey Bay.**

There's plenty on offer here, with bread baked daily, pies, sausage rolls, cakes and pastries, along with slices, tarts and coffee. Whether you're picking up a loaf for home, grabbing lunch or chasing something for afternoon tea, they've got the bakery essentials covered. The difficult part is keeping your order to what you actually came in for.



I usually go for the cheese 'n' bacon pie, which is seriously good, but they were sold out this time. So, the plain beef got a run, and it was definitely a decent pie. Filling and satisfying, with lovely flaky puff pastry that was a highlight for me. A simple order, but one I was happy with.

Then came the apple turnover. I'd already sorted the savoury side of things, so it only seemed fair to give something sweet a turn too. It was good and rounded out the visit nicely. Sometimes a classic bakery combination is all you're after.

Beyond my order, the sausage rolls and range of sweet treats leave plenty to explore on another visit. I can only speak for what I've tried, but there's enough variety here to give you a reason to change things up occasionally, even when you've already got a favourite.

If you're in Hervey Bay and chasing a straightforward bakery feed, Top of the Bay is worth a stop. Grab something savoury, leave room for something sweet, and take a loaf home while you're there.

MOVEMBER - MOVE IT EVENT



Photo credit - Kim Parnell 2023

By Sharnte Butler

Firefighters from Maryborough, Hervey Bay and surrounds are excited to be running our annual **Movember – Move It** event this year on **Sunday, 1 November, from 0900–1100hrs at Ululah Lagoon.**

This year, local firefighters will be taking on the challenge of collectively walking 60km, representing the 60 men who lose their lives to suicide every hour across the globe. Firefighters will be completing the walk while wearing their full structural firefighting turnout gear and breathing apparatus, highlighting the physical and mental challenges faced by emergency service personnel and the importance of looking after our mates.

This event is particularly meaningful to our crew, as we sadly lost one of our own firefighters last year. Many of us will be participating in his memory and using the event as an opportunity to come together, remember him and



Event organiser - Senior Firefighter Sharnte Butler 2023
Photo credit - Kim Parnell

raise awareness around men's mental health.

We would love to see members of the local community come down and support the event. There will be an opportunity to meet local firefighters, chat with members of the emergency services, check out the fire trucks and equipment, support local businesses and even join us for a lap of the walk.

Whether you come down for a quick chat, bring the family, complete a lap with us, or simply show your support, everyone is welcome.

Most importantly, the event is about starting conversations and reminding the men in our lives that it is okay to ask for help and that no one has to face things alone.

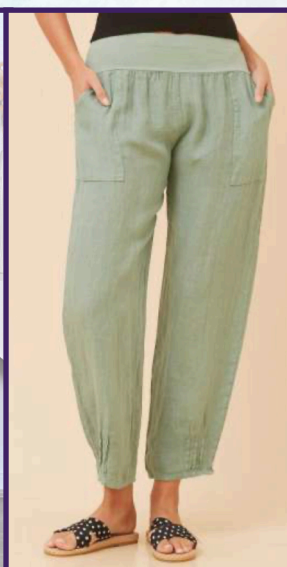
All funds raised through the event will be donated directly to the Movember Foundation, supporting programs and initiatives focused on men's mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

We would love your support in helping us make this year's event a great success and continuing to raise awareness for an issue that affects so many people in our community.

Together, we can move for those who can't.

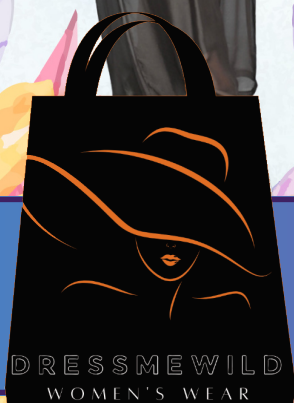
www.movember.com/t/qfes-maryborough

Fashion forward for the young at heart



Dress Me Wild
by Janie Wild

Pialba Place - Opposite Big W
0409 266 966



Impressed V

PRINTMAKING EXHIBITION

sponsored by Gatakers PrintSpace

By Carol Seeger

The Print Studio at Gatakers Artspace came into being in 2012 when two printmakers, Jennifer Rogers and Carol Seeger saw the need to establish a community printmaking space. At the time, there were only a few artists who were pursuing printmaking with no community space available to expand the numbers.

A combination of circumstances arose and after much discussion with Mrs Sue Flavell, the Print Studio was born. Sue's husband, Merv, who was a passionate printmaker, had passed away and his printmaking studio and equipment lay unused. The women saw the potential of a new life for Merv's equipment and after approaching the local Council, a home was found for it at Gatakers Creative Artspace precinct. The PrintSpace was born and since then, has flourished under the guidance of passionate printmakers who, along with Merv's gear, have found a space where they can explore the endless creative possibilities printmaking offers.

The idea of spreading the word about PrintSpace morphed into the introduction of a bi-annual art exhibition and in 2013, the first Impressed Exhibition was installed at the original Hervey Bay Regional Gallery. Printmakers from the regions exhibited works demonstrating a wide range of innovative techniques and subject matter, including 2 and 3D works as well as artist's books. Now, in its 10th year, Impressed V is about to be installed in the current Hervey Bay Regional Gallery, again featuring works from printmakers from across Queensland.

Visiting a 'real' gallery as opposed to viewing works online gives the opportunity to see the artworks in context. Size, texture and true colour in a gallery setting as well as discussions about the works is something that online



viewing cannot provide. A worthwhile experience, especially if the exhibitors are in the locale.

Printmaking is a very diverse art practice and since the advent of non-toxic materials, printmaking has become much more accessible to those who are interested in multi-disciplinary ways of working. The use of cast-off waste such as tetra pack and plastic packaging materials makes for inexpensive methods to create quite sophisticated prints. Experimenting with these materials as well as using water wash-up inks opens up exciting, contemporary art-making practices as new ways to explore both traditional and emerging concepts.

During the year, a range of printmaking workshops are held to provide opportunities for novices to try their hand as well as for more experienced printmakers to learn new techniques and approaches from highly qualified practitioners. This year, we have had several highly successful printmakers run workshops – Kay Watanabe from Brisbane, Kaz Stanton from Maryborough as well as others, both local and from other areas. Please keep your eyes out for further notice of upcoming events and workshops via Gatakers Artspace social media pages.

Impressed printmakers are based at the Print Studio in Gatakers Creative Space on Kent Street, sharing the same precinct as Gatakers Art Gallery. The studio is equipped with a range of printmaking presses, including the impressive Albion press, manufactured in England in the late 1800s. It is a working space, and visitors are welcome to come in, have a chat and do some printmaking as well.

Run by experienced printmakers, the Print Studio is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am – 2pm.

Please feel free to pop in, say hello and see the printmakers in action. We welcome you to make it a regular event if you find yourself itching to learn more.



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Fraser Coast
Tourism & Events

**get
ready**
QUEENSLAND

Food n Groove FRIDAYS

EST. 2019 - HERVEY BAY

HERVEY BAY

**FREE
EVENT**

Fri 9 October

Seafront Oval 4–9pm

**FREE
EVENT**

MARYBOROUGH

Fri 30 October

Brolga Theatre Riverstage 4–9pm

 **@fngfridays**

 **Fraser Coast**
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND**



**Queensland
Government**

These events were developed thanks to support from the Queensland Government's Get Ready Queensland program. For more information, visit getready.qld.gov.au


Hervey Bay Ford


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AUSTRALIA

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 2026

Thu, Oct 1

CONCERT: Vika & Linda
"Where Do You Come From?"

7.30pm – 9.30pm

Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough
www.brolgatheatre.org

Fri, Oct 2 - Sun, Oct 18

Theatre: Blith Spirit

By Noel Coward

Directed by Leslie Reid

Z-Pac Theatre, Scarness

Bookings –
www.zpactheatre.com.au

Fri, Oct 2

Hervey Bay Milky Way Masterclass

5.30pm – 9.30pm

(Photographer David Magro)

Cost involved

www.davidmagro.com

Fri, Oct 2

KIDS: The Quizzical Mr Jeff

1pm – 2pm

Kids aged 5+

Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough
www.brolgatheatre.org

Fri, Oct 2

Over 50's Lifestyle Expo

9am – 2pm - Free entry

Free door-to-door pick-up service
(bookings essential)

For pick-up service bookings call
the Halcro Street Community
Centre on 4194 2441.

Hervey Bay Baptist Church,
Nikenbah

Sat, Oct 3

**Point Vernon Foreshore
Reserve Parkrun**

(Every Saturday)

Brief 6.50 am

FREE 5km timed event

Opposite 138 the Esplanade

(Don't forget your barcode)

Sat, Oct 3

Maryborough Parkrun

(Every Saturday)

Brief 6.50 am

FREE 5km timed event

Cheapside St

(Don't forget your barcode)

Sat, Oct 3

Candy's Cabaret Show

7.30pm – 18+ event

Ticketed event

Hervey Bay Hotel

Tickets via trybooking

Sun, Oct 4

Australian Variety Show

2pm – 4.30pm

Poetry & Song

Gregory North – Matt Scullion

Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough
www.brolgatheatre.org

Tue, Oct 6

Guy Sebastian

100 X Around Australia Tour

SOLD OUT

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough

Tue, Oct 6

The Mayor's Picnic

11am – 1pm

Seniors Month Event

Free event – Everyone's welcome
Join Mayor George Seymour for a
cuppa and sausage sizzle at the
Hervey Bay Historical Village and
Museum.

Wed, Oct 7

Latin Dance Afternoon

3 to 5pm – Free event

Event by Bachata n Beach

The Hervey Bay Boat Club

Fri, Oct 9

Food n Groove Fridays

Get Ready Hervey Bay

4pm – 9pm

Emergency services, advice, live
music, Licensed bar, street food &
Markets

Seafont Oval, Hervey Bay



Fri, Oct 9

**Movie Mystery Night:
Are Ewe Ready to Crack the Case?**

4pm – 7pm

Recommended for children 8+

Free event: Tickets must be booked
PopCorn and snacks will be available
Urgan Community Wellness Centre

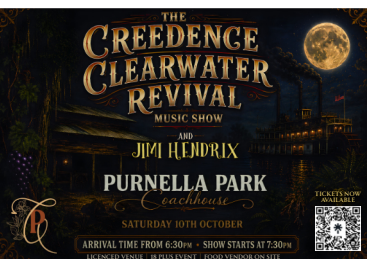
Fri, Oct 9

**The Fraser Coast Mates Annual
Pink Dinner**

6pm – 12pm

Cost involved

Funds raised on the night go
directly to mental health initiatives
Tickets via humanitix.com



Sat, Oct 10

**The Creedence Clearwater Revival
Music Show and Jimi Hendrix**

Arrival time is from 6.30pm

Ticketed event via Eventbrite.com

Purnella Park Coachhouse

Sat, Oct 10 - Sun, Dec 13

**Art Exhibition:
Archie Moore: MĪAL**

A celebrated Kamilaroi and
Bigambul artist

(During gallery open hours)

Hervey Bay Regional Gallery

Sat, Oct 10 - Sun, Oct 11

Bonsai Show

Sat: 9am to 5pm

Sun: 9am to 3pm

Adults \$3, Under 15yrs – Free

The Neighbourhood Hive, Hervey Bay

Sun, Oct 11

Breast Cancer Fundraiser Ride

9am – 1pm (ride departs 10am)

BP, William Dean Avenue, Urgan
Ride open to all motorcyclists and
car clubs

Gold coin donation to enter
Event by Fraser Coast Ulysses Club
Find the event on Facebook

Fri, Oct 16

**Author Talk with Monica
McInerney**

Part of Lines in the Sand

(Fraser Coast Libraries)

10am – 11am – Hervey Bay

Free, but bookings are essential

Tickets via Eventbrite.com.au

Fri, Oct 16

Concert Classics

(Presented by the Fraser Coast
Orchestra)

7.30pm – 9.30pm

Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough
www.brolgatheatre.org



Brought to you by What's On Fraser Coast

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

Sat, Oct 17

Torbanlea Picnic Races

8.30am – 5pm

Live entertainment

Torbanlea Racetrack

Tickets via trybooking.com



Sat, Oct 17

Bravo! – Opera Queensland

7pm – 8pm

Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough

www.brolgatheatre.org

Sat, Oct 17

Bravo! – Opera Queensland

7pm – 8pm

Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough

www.brolgatheatre.org

Sun, Oct 18

80's & 90's Drag Trivia

5pm – 8pm – 18+ event

Dress Code: Your best 80s or 90s fantasy

Ticketed event

Kondari Hotel, Urangan

Wed, Oct 21

Chamber Breakfast

6.15am – 8pm

Cost involved

The Clubhouse, Hervey Bay

Tickets via trybooking.com

Fri, Oct 23

Frenchy: Never Been Before Tour

(Comedy show)

7.30pm

Ticketed event

Tickets:

www.frenchycomedy.com/tickets

Hervey Bay RSL

Sat, Oct 24

The Eagles Band

The Ultimate Eagles Experience

Ticketed event

Doors open 7pm

Show starts at 8pm

Hervey Bay RSL, Hervey House

Sat, Oct 24

Two Fires Chisel Barnes Show

8pm – 10.30pm

Maryborough Sports Club

Tickets via humanitix.com

Sat, Oct 24

Doing It Tuff Dinner

With Fraser Coast Mates

6pm – 11pm

Ticketed event via humanitix.com

The Carriers Arms Hotel,

Maryborough

Sat, Oct 24

Comedy Night with Dave O'Neil

(Funny Coast Comedy)

Doors open 7pm – 10.30pm

Hervey Bay Hotel

Tickets via humanitix.com

Sat, Oct 25

Sunday in the Park

+ Band Hall Handcraft Markets

9am – 1pm

Brass band from 10am, train rides, music

Queen's Park, Maryborough

Sun, Oct 25

CONCERT: Music Of The Night

2pm – 4.30pm

Ticketed event

Brolga Theatre, Maryborough

www.brolgatheatre.org

Fri, Oct 30

Food n Groove Fridays

Get Ready Maryborough

4pm – 9pm

Emergency services, advice, live music, Licensed bar, street food & Markets

Brolga Theatre Riverstage, Maryborough

Sun, Oct 31 - Sun, Nov 1

**Christmas Sale
Hervey Bay Woodcrafts Club**

7am – 1pm

187 Bideford St, Torquay



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

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



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Fishing & Camping



GIG GUIDE

LIVE MUSIC ON THE FRASER COAST

October
2026

Brought to you by
What's On Fraser Coast

HERVEY BAY

Hervey Bay Boat Club

Thu 1, 3.00 pm, Neil Wenck
Thu 1, 6.00 pm, Derek F Smith
Fri 2, 6.00 pm, Ladybyrd Duo
Sat 3, 6.00 pm, Joel Spence
Sun 4, 2.00 pm, Suszi Simmons
Mon 5, 5.30 pm, Darren Marlow
Tue 6, 12.00 pm, Neil Wenck
Wed 7, 6.00 pm, Derek F. Smith
Thu 8, 3.00 pm, Neil Wenck
Thu 8, 6.00 pm, Brian Speirs
Fri 9, 6.00 pm, A Soft Focus
Sat 10, 6.00 pm, Scott Angeles
Sun 11, 2.00 pm, Shane Allsop
Mon 12, 5.30 pm, Doug Edwards
Tue 13, 12.00 pm, Neil Wenck
Wed 14, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray
Thu 15, 3.00 pm, Neil Wenck
Thu 15, 6.00 pm, Aaron Westlake
Fri 16, 6.00 pm, Derek F. Smith
Sat 17, 6.00 pm, Cass Ford
Sun 18, 2.00 pm, Rebecca March
Mon 19, 5.30 pm, Peter Baker
Tue 20, 12.00 pm, Neil Wenck
Wed 21, 6.00 pm, Shane Allsop
Thu 22, 3.00 pm, Neil Wenck
Thu 22, 6.00 pm, Frank Benn
Fri 23, 6.00 pm, Diamonds & Rust
Sat 24, 6.00 pm, Rockin Riot
Sun 25, 2.00 pm, Just Us Duo
Mon 26, 5.30 pm, La Belle
Tue 27, 12.00 pm, Neil Wenck

Wed 28, 6.00 pm, Daren Marlow
Thu 29, 3.00 pm, Neil Wenck
Thu 29, 6.00 pm, Cass Ford
Fri 30, 6.00 pm, Nick Rolfe
Sat 31, 6.00 pm, Dean Gray

Hervey Bay RSL

Fri 2, 11.30am, Brad Sorrenson
Fri 2, 6pm, Frank Benn
Sat 3, 8pm, Red Betty
Fri 9, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 9, 6pm, Joel Spence
Sat 10, 8pm, Dancefloor Confessions
Fri 16, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 16, 6pm, Emma Newman
Sat 17, 8pm, Insufficient Funds
Fri 23, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 23, 6pm, Bevan Spiers
Sat 24, 8pm, Kick Arse Country
Sun 25, 11.30am, Sam Maddison
Fri 30, 11.30am, Trevor Judge
Fri 30, 7pm, Rock N Roll Boys
Sat 31, 8pm, Forbidden Road

Beach House Hotel

Main Bar

Fri 2, 9pm, Tasch & Tones
Sat 3, 9pm, DJ Aydo Walker
Sun 4, 2pm, Emma Newman
Fri 9, 9pm, Dust Trio
Sat 10, 9pm, DJ Crooksy

Sun 11, 2pm, Derek Smith
Fri 16, 9pm, Insufficient Funds Duo
Sat 17, 9pm, Red Betty
Sun 18, 2pm, Brian Speirs
Fri 23, 9pm, Dance Floor Confessions
Sat 24, 9pm, The Wannabees
Sun 25, 2pm, The Boys
Fri 30, 9pm, Tasch & Tones
Sat 31, 9pm, Dogwood Crossing

Scarborough Bar

Sat 3, Doug Edwards
Sat 10, Frank Benn
Sat 17, Tiffany Grace
Sat 24, Mia Rose
Sat 31, Shane Allsop

The Clubhouse Hervey Bay

Fri 2, 6pm, Joel Spence
Sat 3, 6pm, Brian Speirs
Fri 9, 6pm, Emma Newman
Sat 10, 6pm, Shannon Young
Fri 16, 6pm, Trevor Judge
Sat 17, 6pm, Brad Turner
Fri 23, 6pm, Aaron Westlake
Sat 24, 6pm, Frank Benn
Fri 30, 6pm, Doug Edwards
Sat 31, 6pm, Kev Carroll

MARYBOROUGH

Carriers Arms Hotel

Fri 2, 8pm, Shannon Young
Sat 3, 8pm, Insufficient Funds
Sun 4, 2pm, Open mic
Fri 9, 8pm, Bad Attitude Band
Sat 10, 8pm, The Wannabees
Sun 11, 2pm, Open mic
Fri 16, 8pm, Merlin
Sat 17, 8pm, Saltwater Cartel
Sun 18, 2pm, Open mic
Fri 23, 8pm, Dogwood Duo
Sat 24, 8pm, Lewis McKee Duo
Sun 25, 2pm, Open mic
Fri 30, 8pm, Derek Smith
Sat 31, 8:30pm, DJ Aydo Walker

Maryborough Services Club

Sat 5, 8pm, Sunset Nova
Sat 12, 8pm, Insufficient Funds
Sat 19, 8pm, Rhubarb Tarts
Sat 26, 8pm, Saltwater Cartel



Derek F Smith

Maryborough Sports Club

Fri 2, 7.30 pm, Rock n Rolla Billys
Fri 9, 7.30 pm, Neil Wenck
Sat 10, 7.00 pm, Ol Daze
Fri 16, 7.30 pm, Brian Speirs
Sat 17, 7.00 pm, Kick Arse Country
Fri 23, 7.30 pm, Brad Sonrensen
Sat 24, 8.00 pm, Chisel Barnes Show
Tickets \$25
Sun 25, 12.30 pm, End Of Month With Billy Guy
Thu 29, 7.30 pm, Open Mic Night
Fri 30, 7.30 pm, 2EZ

**Entertainment is
subject to change
at any time*

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

November is bursting with entertainment, creativity and sporting action across the Fraser Coast. Whether you love classic rock, imaginative fashion or an exhilarating physical challenge, there is something to get you out and about. Here are three fantastic events to add to your calendar—start planning, gather your friends and book early!

ROCK & ROLL NEVER FORGETS — THE BOB SEGER & SILVER BULLETS EXPERIENCE

Sunday, November 1

Turn up the volume for a powerhouse celebration of Grammy Award winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Bob Seger. This nine-piece band performs 100 per cent live, bringing timeless anthems including 'Old Time Rock n Roll', 'Against the Wind' and 'Still the Same' to the stage.

Frontman Lance Friend and The Silver Bullets deliver an energetic rock 'n' roll spectacular unlike anything you will see or hear outside Detroit, Michigan.

Visit www.brolgatheatre.org.



WEARABLE ART SHOWCASE 2026

Saturday, November 7, 4pm–7pm
Brolga Theatre, Maryborough

Prepare to see art come alive as the Wearable Art Showcase makes its Brolga Theatre debut. Artists will send their imaginative creations down the runway, competing for the coveted title of Wearable Art winner.

Doors open at 4pm, with the showcase beginning at 4.30pm. A licensed bar and light refreshments will be available. Entry is free, but tickets are essential to secure your seat.

Visit www.brolgatheatre.org.



BEACH HOUSE HOTEL HUNDY FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 21–Sunday, November 22
Scarness

The Hervey Bay Triathlon Club presents an action-packed weekend of multisport events along Hervey Bay's beautiful foreshore.

Saturday brings the HitFM Hervey Bay 50.

Sunday's Beach House Hotel HB100 features a two-kilometre swim, 80-kilometre bike ride and 18-kilometre run. There's also the Aquabike.

Swimmers can tackle the iconic Barge2Beach on the Saturday—travelling offshore aboard a whale-watching catamaran before jumping in and swimming two kilometres back to shore.

Register at www.hb100.com.au.



What's On

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GHOSTS, LEGENDS & DARK TALES OF MARYBOROUGH

- By L.Perrier

By daylight, Maryborough's heritage streets and grand old buildings are reminders of its prosperous river-port past. But behind that history are darker tales, strange encounters and mysteries that have survived for generations.

And one extraordinary story from 1876 reads almost as though it were written for Halloween.

Sometimes truth can be stranger than fiction — and this ghost story even made the newspapers.

THE GHOST WHO NAMED HER KILLER

In March 1876, Annie Gordon Rixon died only days after marrying Alexander Rixon.

An initial inquiry attributed her death to natural causes.

The matter might have ended there.

But an extraordinary story soon appeared in the newspapers.

A man named Adamson claimed he was crossing a reserve when he noticed what looked like a heap of black earth.

As he approached, he thought it was a large black dog.

Then the shape changed.

Before him stood an apparition — and Adamson recognised the face as Annie Rixon.



According to the 1876 account, the apparition spoke: "I am the murdered wife of Rixon!"

The figure placed one hand over its mouth and the other against its throat. Then it disappeared.

Adamson reported the encounter to police the following morning.

Then came another disturbing development. Lydia Quipps told police that Rixon had said to her, "I have been and done for my wife," before gripping her by the throat and demonstrating how he claimed to have done it.

Annie's body was exhumed and examined again. Dr Little said the findings were more consistent with suffocation than apoplexy, but he could not determine the cause of death with certainty.

On 10–11 April 1876, Alexander Rixon stood before Judge Lutwyche at the Maryborough Assizes, charged with murdering his wife.

Despite the testimony presented against him, the jury found Alexander Rixon not guilty.

Did Adamson truly encounter Annie Rixon's ghost that night?

History cannot answer that.

But the fact that this extraordinary apparition story spread to newspapers across five Australian colonies while the case itself was still unfolding makes it one of Maryborough's most fascinating dark tales.

And perhaps one question still lingers almost 150 years later:

Could Annie's spirit still be restless, searching for the justice she never received?

Annie Rixon's is far from the only strange tale hiding behind Maryborough's historic streets.

For those curious enough to uncover more, Lantern Shadow Tours' "Ghosts of Old Maryborough" self-guided walking tour reveals the darker history, local legends and ghost stories connected to the places you pass every day. With your phone and headphones, follow your cinematic guide through Maryborough's historic streets, discovering stories in the very places where they unfolded.

Go at your own pace, after dark if you dare.

No groups. No bookings. Start anytime.

Simply download the Lantern Shadow Tours app, choose "Ghosts of Old Maryborough."

GHOSTS OF OLD MARYBOROUGH

A self-guided walking ghost tour... with a twist.

Explore Maryborough's haunted tales, dark history and whispered legends — your smartphone becomes your guide.

No groups. No bookings. Start anytime.

Lydia
Your Ghost Tour Guide

Welcome to Maryborough.
Let's uncover the stories that still linger.

Start Tour

Available on the App Store

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Lantern Shadow Tours

LanternShadowTours.com

ADVERTORIAL

PALMA DE COCO brings big-brand shopping to Hervey Bay

I've always believed there's something special about living regionally. We have a wonderful sense of community here in Hervey Bay, familiar faces and a relaxed way of life that's hard to beat. But I've never believed that choosing to live regionally should mean compromising when it comes to shopping.

For too long, accessing some of Australia's best-known brands has meant travelling to Brisbane or shopping online. As Hervey Bay continues to grow, I believe our retail offering should grow with it.

The idea for Palma de Coco really began with our existing Go Girl store in Torquay. Over time, we found ourselves introducing more labels and wanting to offer our customers an even greater variety of brands and products. As that demand continued to grow, so did the idea of creating something new. A completely different retail experience with its own identity and vision.

That vision became Palma de Coco, our new lifestyle boutique at Pialba Place Shopping Centre.

I wanted to create a store that felt like something you would expect to find in a major city. A contemporary space filled with brands people already know and love, while still offering the friendly, personal service we value here in Hervey Bay.



I'm particularly proud to bring Country Road women's, men's and children's collections to our local community, alongside Mimco bags and accessories and a carefully selected range of much-loved fashion, footwear, homewares and lifestyle brands.

There's something you simply can't replace about shopping in-store. Seeing the latest collections, feeling the fabrics, trying things on and having someone there to help.

Since opening our doors, I've been incredibly thankful for the support we've received. To everyone who has visited, shopped with us or simply stopped by to see what we've created, thank you. We can't wait to welcome even more people through our doors.

I truly believe great retail shouldn't be reserved for capital cities. Palma de Coco is our way of showing that regional retail is ready for more.

- *Vanessa Muldrew*

Owner - Palma de Coco

PALMA DE COCO



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9am - 2pm



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LINES IN THE SAND FESTIVAL

brings stories to life

- Fraser Coast literary festival returns with authors, workshops and activities for all ages
- Events to be held at both Maryborough Library and the new Hervey Bay Library
- Bookings now open for author talks, workshops and creative sessions



Debra Oswald

Fraser Coast readers, writers and creative minds are invited to celebrate stories, ideas and imagination at the 2026 Lines in the Sand Festival, with bookings now open for a three-day program of author talks, workshops and creative activities for all ages.

The annual Fraser Coast Libraries festival will run from Friday 13 November to Sunday 15 November, with events being held at Maryborough Library and the new Hervey Bay Library at the Hervey Bay Community Hub.

Fraser Coast Mayor George Seymour said Lines in the Sand continued to showcase the power of storytelling to inspire creativity, connection and learning.

"Libraries are places where people come together to discover new ideas, develop new skills and share their creativity, and Lines in the Sand is a wonderful celebration of that," he said.

"The festival brings together talented authors, creators and storytellers, giving our community the opportunity to hear their stories, learn from their experiences and be inspired."

This year's program features a diverse line-up of guests, including:

- **Richard Glover** – writer, broadcaster and ABC presenter known for his long career in Australian radio, journalism and satire.
- **Debra Oswald** – author, playwright and screenwriter whose television credits include the popular Australian drama series *Offspring*.



Richard Glover
Photo credit - Joy M Lai - State Library of NSW

- **Declan Fay** – comedy writer, producer and podcast creator, known for his work across Australian television, radio and comedy programs.
- **Huda the Goddess** – Australian Poetry Slam Champion and acclaimed spoken-word artist.
- **Dr Lara Cain Gray** – children's book specialist, author and educator passionate about the power of stories for young readers.
- **Peter Carnavas** – children's author and illustrator known for his much-loved books for young readers.
- **Kate Mildenhall** – author and creative writing educator whose novels explore themes of history, place and community.
- **Sally Piper** – author and writing mentor who will share her experience of crafting stories and bringing landscapes to life on the page.
- **Lamisse Hamouda** – author and memoir writing facilitator who supports people to share their personal stories.

The festival will also celebrate local creative talent through a Local Author and Illustrator Showcase, highlighting writers and artists from across the region.

Council Libraries spokesperson Cr Michelle Govers said the festival offered something for readers and creators of all ages.

"Whether you are an avid reader, an aspiring writer, a young person wanting to explore your creativity or a family looking for an inspiring activity, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved," she said.

"The 2026 festival also marks an exciting milestone, with events being held at the new Hervey Bay Library at the Hervey Bay Community Hub for the first time.

"The new library has been designed as a place for learning, creativity and connection, and Lines in the Sand is a great example of the types of community experiences that will be available in this new space."

Cr Seymour encouraged residents to explore the program and book their preferred sessions.

"All sessions are free, but bookings are required, so I encourage people to check out the program and secure their place," he said.

For more information and to view the full program, visit: <https://www.ourfrasercoast.com.au/Lines-in-the-Sand>



SHORT FILMS. BIG MOMENTS.

A WORLD OF FILM ON THE FRASER COAST

Fraser Shorts is back, bringing
local and global stories to
Hervey Bay and Maryborough
screens.

October 23–25, 2026
frasershots.com.au



PARTNER WITH US!

**Want to be part of
Fraser Shorts?**

Now seeking
passionate local
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PARTNERS IN CARE TOGETHER

Local People, Local Impact

In every thriving community, there are quiet achievers working behind the scenes to make life better for those who need it most. Partners in Care Together is one of those organisations - the truly local charity dedicated to supporting the Wide Bay hospitals and Health Services. Partners in Care Together raises money to purchase medical equipment not funded by Queensland Health.

Their mission is simple yet powerful: local people supporting local patients. Through donations, sponsorships, and community partnerships. Partners in Care Together has already contributed significantly to improving healthcare outcomes across the Fraser Coast, North Burnett and Wide Bay regions. From life-saving equipment to enhanced nursing education, their impact is felt by families every single day.

One of the most meaningful ways locals can support this work is through Partners in Care Together's Wishlist - a collection of essential hospital and medical needs and programs requested directly by doctors, nurses and medical teams. Items range from specialised recliner chairs and portable ultrasound machines to comfort aids like sensory blankets and paediatric distraction tools to ease anxiety for children.

A program proudly funded by Partners in Care Together's Wishlist funding is the Therapy Dog Program, which brings trained therapy dogs into hospital wards to provide comfort,



reduce anxiety and lift the spirits of patients, families and staff. These visits become a cherished part of the hospital experience, offering emotional support and helping to create a calmer, more positive environment.

Each Wishlist item represents a practical improvement in patient care, and donors can choose exactly what they'd like to help fund. To explore the current list of Wishlist items and to learn more about how you can support Partners in Care Together, visit www.partnersincaretogether.org.au. Or visit their Facebook page.

Your contribution today helps shape a healthier tomorrow for the Fraser Coast.

COOL COUNTRY

Social Music Club Inc.

A 'Not for Profit' Incorporation located in Hervey Bay.
Our aim is to bring people and music together and raise funds for other 'Not for Profit' organisations in the district.

OPEN DAY CONCERT ★ **PRACTICE NIGHTS**

2nd Sunday of each month
Open at 10am for
10.30am start
Members \$5
Non-Members \$7

Entertainment by Club's
Live Band & Members
Walk-ups Welcome
Cakes/Sandwiches/Sausage
Sizzle & Refreshments
Lucky Door Prize & Raffles

Every Thursday
at 4.30pm
Admission: \$5
ALL VISITORS WELCOME

Country - Rock n Roll - Folk - Blues

Venue: Hervey Bay Citizens Centre
Cnr Denmans Camp Rd & Totness St, Torquay
For more info phone: 041 876 7521
Email: coolcountry.herveybay@gmail.com
www.coolcountrymusicherveybay.com.au

Fraser Coast Lines in the Sand

Inspiration for Readers and Writers

2026 Festival

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 November

Bringing together celebrated authors, local writers and passionate readers for engaging panels, workshops, author talks and special events.

Scan to book your ticket

Fraser Coast Regional Council LIBRARIES
Writing Australia
Australian Library and Information Association
STATE LIBRARY QUEENSLAND
Public libraries are a partnership between Local Government and the Queensland Government through State Library of Queensland.

Lenny Jansen MEMORIAL DAY

Burrum Recreation Reserve Association Inc

SATURDAY 17TH OCT

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The Alan Madders Memorial Cup
 GATES OPEN AT 8.30AM

No BYO alcohol or glass - licensed venue security checks at gate

We invite all local small business who wish to showcase their products and services to contact us at torbanlearaces@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

Arise+Shine

with Tania Comerford

PRIDE

How often do you stop and look back on the last year and say, "I'm proud of me"? Let me encourage you to take the time to do it - it's so worth it!!

In the past year I've walked through hell with a smile on my face! One year ago, my husband passed away. It was a shock! He was sick but we hadn't planned for his passing. Yet in one year I have achieved so much.

None of it was from striving and flogging myself. I absolutely believe in treating ourselves with love and respect. Being busy does not equal productivity! Productivity flows from being smarter, calm, focused and from caring for ourselves!

I only prioritised what really mattered. I grew three businesses as well as having a total of three months overseas. And I have spent more time with my family than I have ever done before.

I have not lived the normal life of someone who just lost their soul mate. I believe in a life of more - of abundance - of freedom - and I firmly believe that we are capable of so much more as human beings!!

I have focused on having fun, on self-care. I have always

seen a bright future, my life will continue getting better and better.

I've learned a lot about mindset. What we focus on is what we get! I knew the kind of life I wanted, and I pursued it without compromise.

I hadn't noticed everything I had achieved in a year, I just focused on the next step, and it wasn't until the anniversary of my husband passing that I stopped and looked back and thought "Wow I've achieved a lot!"

I'm proud of me! It's actually okay to be proud of yourself! We need to do it more! Pause now and be proud of all you've achieved despite some tough times too.

Tania Comerford

Arise+Shine

Transformational Life Coach + Retreat Mentor

Follow me on Facebook





Recipient mum cooking bbq



Recipient family with Dunga



DUNGA DERBY by RALLY FOR A CAUSE



DUNGAS SPREAD LOVE TO STRANGERS

By Scott Rowe
General Manager, Rally for a Cause

Leaving a community in better shape than they found it is a long-held philosophy of the award-winning Dunga Derby and that was again the case during an overnight stop in Kenilworth of part of this year's 2026 event.

Everybody loves a surprise but the Soule family they were left overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers when they were volunteering their time to help feed the 270 visiting Dunga Derby participants at the Kenilworth Showgrounds.

Their daughter Maddison, 11, battles severe Factor VII deficiency, the only known case of her severity in Australia. It is an extremely rare bleeding disorder caused by inherited genetic mutations passed down from both parents.

Dunga Derby president Tom Richers said the Dunga Derby was all about spreading hope and support wherever the route takes them.

"It was an absolute pleasure for the Fraser Coast Dunga Derby to present the family with \$10,000 to help them during their extensive hospital stays and costs of travel to

and from Brisbane Children's Hospital," Tom said.

Madison's mother Emma said the donation would help support Maddison's medical journey and the uncertainty that lies ahead.

"We honestly cannot thank the Dunga Derby organisers, your sponsors and everyone involved enough. You have no idea what this means to our family," Emma said.

"For a little girl who has had so much taken away from her childhood, having people and a community behind her means the absolute world.

"The donation was a complete surprise; we had no idea this was happening and we were overwhelmed. What a wonderful group you are from the Dunga Derby."

Madison is a social butterfly and, before all of this began, was an active dancer doing jazz, ballet and acro.

"She loved motorbikes, had just started learning to ride a mountain bike, loved going on hikes and, most importantly just loved just being a normal, active kid.

"We were told by her specialist that Madison's case was the only one in Australia at her level of severity. Her doctors had to research internationally, including information from just three comparable cases in the UK, to help determine the best way to treat her.

"This will help her in her ongoing treatment and we are forever grateful."

Emma, Ben, Lachlan, Jack and Madison

For more information on the Dunga Derby or Rally for a Cause visit www.rallyforacause.org.au



Recipient Maddison in Dunga



Recipient Maddison

DOCTOR TRADES CHILLY SWEDEN FOR COASTAL QUEENSLAND TOWN

After working near the Arctic Circle, Swedish doctor Stefan Sjödin has flown across the world to work as one of LifeFlight's newest critical care doctors in Bundaberg.

The new retrieval registrar who will be flying out to missions in the Fraser Coast region said he's used to working close to the polar circle.

"I normally work in the northern part of Sweden, with not a lot of chances to work as a retrieval doctor," Dr Sjödin said.

"To be able to work in a climate like Australia and work on a retrieval service, it was too good not to."

Dr Sjödin said it's already starting to feel like home.

"It seems like a very beautiful place with nice people and I'm very interested in the local history and getting to know the people," he said.

Dr Sjödin completed a week of intensive aeromedical training at the LifeFlight Training Academy in Brisbane in preparation for the new role.

The program put him to the test through clinical scenarios, winching, Helicopter Underwater



Dr Stefan



Dr Stefan

Escape Training (HUET) and sea survival, helping ensure he's rescue ready from day one.

During HUET, he was taken through multiple scenarios simulating a helicopter crash into water and how to safely exit the aircraft.

LifeFlight HUET Manager Mick Dowling said the specialist training gives doctors the necessary skills to work safely on board a helicopter.

"Our mission is to have the doctors skilled with the confidence to be able to deal with any aviation situation that they may be faced with," he said.

"The common response we get from them after the completion is that it was challenging and uncomfortable, but overall, an amazing experience."

After being tumbled upside down through the water and learning how to survive out on the open water, he was taken through winching procedures.

LifeFlight Deputy Chief Aircrew Officer Todd Seymour said the winch training prepared them for the unpredictability of the role.

"No two days are the same for us at LifeFlight."

"They are forever part of our families":

FRASER COAST WALK TO REMEMBER RETURNS

The Fraser Coast community will come together on Saturday 31 October 2026 to remember babies and children who are no longer with us, including those lost through pregnancy loss and stillbirth.

The 4th annual Red Nose Fraser Coast Walk to Remember, held at the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre, offers families a place to honour their babies and children, share their stories and connect with others who understand the unique journey of grief.

Organiser Kristy Barbour says the walk is about remembering that love doesn't end with loss.

"You don't have to explain your grief to someone who understands. You can simply come as you are, remember your child and know that you are not alone."

Red Nose CEO Amy Cooper says:

"At our Walk to Remember events, Red Nose aims to bring together families, friends, and support networks, helping to break the stigma surrounding pregnancy, baby, and child loss."

Families are invited to arrive from 9:30am for a 10am start. The morning will include a Welcome to Country by Auntie Karen Hall, remembrance service, readings, reflections and our symbolic Walk to Remember, along with bubbles, face



painting, crafts and more. The service will conclude around 12pm.

Families are then invited to continue to the beach, where at 1pm, floral tributes will be released into the ocean in front of Enzo's, honouring the children who are forever loved and missed.

Living siblings, extended family and the wider community are warmly invited to join us.

Tickets are \$10 and include a pinwheel. Groups of three or more are capped at \$30.

Sponsored tickets are available for families experiencing financial difficulty.

Tickets: Register at www.stickytickets.com.au/qkocug

Walk T-shirts: Personalised 2026 Walk to Remember shirts are available through Above Byron Printing, with a portion of each sale donated to Red Nose.

<https://www.abovebyronprinting.com.au/>.

The Red Nose Grief and Loss Support Line is available 24/7 for anyone affected by the loss of a pregnancy, stillbirth or death of a baby or child on 1300 308 307.

SOCIAL SNAPS

Out and about on the Fraser Coast!



Paddle Out for Whales
Part of the Hervey Bay Whale Festival
Torquay Jetty, Hervey Bay
Photos by Kim Parnell



SOCIAL SNAPS

Out and about on the Fraser Coast!



SOCIAL SNAPS

Out and about on the Fraser Coast!



Hervey Bay Masters Carnival 2026
Hervey Bay Surf Life Saving Club
Photos by Kim Parnell



TIDE TIMES URANGAN

OCTOBER

Time	m	Time	m
1 0505 0.86 1145 3.43 TH 1806 1.24 2334 2.77		16 0459 1.15 1144 3.03 FR 1850 1.58 2345 2.46	
2 0552 1.08 1252 3.29 FR 1921 1.41		17 0539 1.37 1253 2.88 SA 2005 1.65	
3 0050 2.52 0706 1.28 SA 1411 3.23 2051 1.45		18 0109 2.32 0645 1.57 SU 1423 2.84 2118 1.62	
4 0240 2.45 0852 1.33 SU 1533 3.29 2220 1.32		19 0255 2.34 0836 1.62 MO 1537 2.91 2222 1.48	
5 0419 2.61 1019 1.17 MO 1645 3.45 2328 1.09		20 0410 2.50 0957 1.49 TU 1634 3.06 2314 1.30	
6 0528 2.89 1124 0.96 TU 1742 3.63		21 0504 2.74 1054 1.31 WE 1720 3.22 2355 1.09	
7 0017 0.87 0617 3.17 WE 1216 0.78 1829 3.75		22 0548 3.00 1142 1.12 TH 1800 3.36	
8 0100 0.71 0700 3.39 TH 1303 0.68 1910 3.79		23 0031 0.89 0629 3.26 FR 1226 0.96 1836 3.47	
9 0136 0.60 0739 3.54 FR 1347 0.65 1947 3.75		24 0107 0.71 0708 3.51 SA 1311 0.83 1914 3.53	
10 0209 0.56 0815 3.62 SA 1429 0.70 2022 3.64		25 0142 0.56 0747 3.71 SU 1356 0.75 1952 3.53	
11 0239 0.55 0849 3.64 SU 1508 0.79 2055 3.49		26 0217 0.47 0828 3.86 MO 1442 0.73 2030 3.47	
12 0305 0.59 0922 3.60 MO 1545 0.92 2126 3.30		27 0254 0.45 0910 3.92 TU 1530 0.76 2112 3.34	
13 0331 0.66 0954 3.51 TU 1624 1.08 2156 3.09		28 0330 0.50 0954 3.89 WE 1621 0.86 2156 3.15	
14 0359 0.78 1026 3.38 WE 1703 1.25 2227 2.87		29 0409 0.63 1043 3.78 TH 1717 1.00 2245 2.93	
15 0427 0.95 1100 3.21 TH 1748 1.43 2300 2.66		30 0451 0.83 1139 3.62 FR 1820 1.15 2345 2.72	
		31 0545 1.05 1245 3.48 SA 1929 1.24	

Fraser Coast Markets



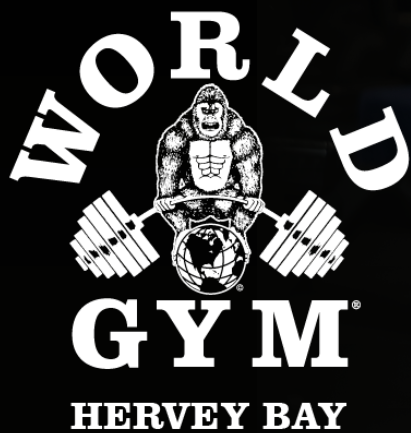
MARYBOROUGH	MARYBOROUGH
Maryborough Rotary Markets Adelaide and Ellena St, Maryborough Every Thursday - 7am to 12pm	Sunday Mixed Markets Tinana Markets on the Field Every 2nd Sunday of the month 7am - 12pm - 0447 407 008 Tinana Football Club - Soccer Fields maryboroughsmm@gmail.com
HERVEY BAY	HERVEY 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 BAY
Nikenbah Markets Hervey Bay Animal Refuge Nikenbah-Dundowran Rd, Nikenbah 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month 6am to 12 noon	Markets at the Pier Pier Park, Urangan, (in front of Jetty) Every Wednesday & Saturday 7am to 12pm
OTHER AREAS	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 AREAS
Bauple Markets - Band Hall Road 4th Saturday of the month 7am - noon	Have a market you'd like added to our Market List? We'd love to hear from you! Please email Kim at whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com with your market details.

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

Ph 0467 303 171

or email: whatsonfrasercoast@outlook.com

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



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